

# The History and Work of the Precious Blood nuns and their Spirituality

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## (A) History and Work of the Sisters of the Precious Blood

The Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious blood came from the Daughters of Charity of the Canosian Institute, which was founded in 1808 at Verona, Italy. The Canosian nuns came to Hong Kong in 1860 and the first two Chinese women joined the congregation in 1861. Their mission was Education, Pastoral Work, Medical and Social Welfare work. After some time, it was felt that a special group should be formed to concentrate their work for the Chinese. Thus, the “Third Order” of the Canosian Institute was formed to become the Congregation of the Sisters of the Precious Blood (of Christ). These Chinese nuns began to spread their work into the southern parts of China (寶安、惠陽、海豐 etc.) The spirituality of the nuns is sacrifice and reconciliation, imitating their Master, the Christ on the Cross. They also practise the Chinese characteristics of a simple, hard-working life and being filial to their ancestors. On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1890, Bishop Raimondi allowed the formation of this “Third Order” of the Canossian nuns. In 1922, Rev. Msgr. Pozzoni (with consent of the Vatican) permitted the separation of these Chinese nuns from the Canosian Institute and officially formed the Sisters of the Precious Blood. The mission of the Sister of the Precious Blood remained the same Education, Pastoral Work, Medical and Social Welfare work:-

- (i) Education – kindergartens, primary schools and secondary schools
- (ii) Medical – 1931 – Shamshuipo clinic  
1937 – Precious Blood Hospital  
1993 – Precious blood Hospital, management taken over by Caritas
- (iii) Social Work – 1932 – first orphanage  
1952 – Fanling orphanage  
Now cater to looking after neglected girls
- (iv) Pastoral Work – 1923 the sisters were assigned by the local bishop to evangelize with missionary priests in southern China. Their footsteps can be found in many parts of China.

The interesting and informative talk was illustrated with many slides with historical photographs from different areas in China.