

玫瑰聖母

自從北京條約於一八六零年簽訂後，九龍半島界限街以南便由英國管治。傳教士於週末到九龍英兵軍營舉行宗教儀式。數十年間，紅磡及油麻地一帶逐漸發展了工業，從香港搬到九龍居住的人漸漸多起上來。嘉諾撒修女分別在油麻地、紅磡和尖沙咀開辦了共三間學校。

一九零零年義和團運動在國內反洋人、反教士，英國為了派兵到北京，從印度調派了幾營軍隊駐紮在九龍。士兵中約有百名天主教徒，傳教士要求修女借出學校其中一個課外活動場所改為小堂。暫作舉行主日彌撒聚會的地方。

其後，和主教一位葡籍朋友甘曼斯醫生 (A.S. Gomes) 將他贏得的一筆巨額獎金捐了出來興建新聖堂。一九零五年建成，以龐貝聖母 (Our Lady of Pompeii)，玫瑰之后命名，紀念這位醫生的親人。德若翰神父 (G. M. Spada) 和盧鏡如神父 (Paul Lu) 駐堂服務。

龐貝是一座古城，位於意大利南部，維蘇威 (Vesuvius) 火山以南近海的地方。公元七十九年由於火山爆發，將這個當時已有六百年歷史的羅馬古城和約二萬居民掩蓋在火山灰燼下，完全被人遺忘了近一千七百年。從一七四八年考古發現了龐貝的遺址，斷斷續續地發掘至今的二百五十多年間，三分二的遺址已從火山灰燼中掘了出來。

龐貝聖母又名玫瑰聖母（五月八日為慶日），源於一幅在那波里隱修院收藏的圖像（一米濶，一點二米高）。聖母右手抱著嬰孩耶穌，嬰孩耶穌伸出右手將玫瑰唸珠交給聖道明，聖母的左手向下垂，手中的玫瑰唸珠交給聖加大利肋·西亞納。隱修院的修女將這幅圖像送給於一八七二年來到新龐貝推廣頌唸玫瑰經的一位名叫龍果 (Bartolo Longo 1841-1926) 的意大利律師。這位律師後來籌建了一座教堂，存放這幅圖像，信眾在這圖像前祈禱，有人求得奇蹟，於是從各地不斷有人來龐貝朝聖。龍果後來於1980年被教宗宣為真福。

玫瑰經相傳最初由聖道明 (1170-1221) 推廣。自此玫瑰經便和聖母再分不開。教宗額我略十三世 (1572-1585) 特訂十月七日為玫瑰聖母慶日；教宗良十三世 (1878-1903) 訂十月為聖母玫瑰月；教宗若望保祿二世 (1978-2005) 訂二零零二年為玫瑰年，並於原有玫瑰經十五端中增訂「光明五端」，當時教宗特意請到了龐貝的玫瑰聖母圖像，供奉在羅馬聖伯多祿大殿中。

夏其龍神父

Rosary Church, Tsim Sha Tsui

The Rosary Church at Tsim Sha Tsui was built in 1905 with a generous donation from a Portuguese Catholic, Antonio Simplicio Gomes, M.D. His wish was to commemorate his parents by offering this church to Our Lady of Pompeii.

Pompeii was an ancient Roman town situated near Naples, Italy. By the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. the then 600-year-old town with its 20,000 more inhabitants was buried under the thick volcano ashes and forgotten for about 1700 years. By the excavation starting from 1748, two-thirds of the town emerged as a witness to the lights and shadows of the Roman civilization.

The picture of Our Lady of Pompeii, also called the Queen of the Rosary (feast day on 8th May), is one meter wide and 1.2 meter high, previously kept in a monastery at Naples. It portrays Mary holding the baby Jesus with her right arm and the right hand of the baby Jesus is giving a Rosary to St. Dominic while Mary's left hand pointing downward, is giving St. Catherine of Siena a Rosary. A Sister of the monastery gave this picture to a young Italian lawyer, Bartolo Longo (1841-1926) who had come to Pompeii to promote the recitation of rosary. Later Longo built a church to keep the picture and attracted people making pilgrimages from everywhere to say prayers before this picture, many of them claimed to have witnessed miracles. Longo was later beatified in 1980 and was called a "man of Mary". He holds that popular piety speaks in the language of theologians in the Rosary.

The beginning of the Rosary prayer, composed of 150 Angelic salutations and 15 Our Fathers, was accredited to St. Dominic (1170-1221) in the time of Albigensian heresy. Thereafter, Rosary is almost inseparable from the devotion to Mary. Pope Gregory XIII (1572-1585) established 7th October as the Feast of the Rosary. Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) dedicated the month of October to the Holy Rosary. Pope John Paul II (1978-2005), proclaimed 2002 as the "Year of the Rosary". At that year he also added the "mysteries of light" to form the fourth chaplet in addition to the traditional three chaplets. At that year, the icon of Our Lady of Pompeii was at St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican, by the explicit order of the Pope.

Fr. Louis Ha

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