



30 Years in the Operating-Room with the Original Resolve

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When I was a child, there was a TV cartoon called “Little Sweet”, which I liked very much and was deeply affected. Little Sweet is a nurse, I made a decision to become a nurse since then. I feel that the nursing profession can take care of patients. It is a job to help others, and it can also take care of the health of my family.

Moving toward this goal, I came to study at Tzu Chi Institute of Technology (now Tzu Chi University of Science and Technology) in Hualien from Yilan, and decided to complete my studies with scholarships in order to reduce my parents’ burden. There were joys and tears during the college years. Finally, I graduated successfully and passed the nurse license exam, then entered Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital in 1992.

At the time of graduation, I only wanted to enter a specialty unit to become an expert, so my top three choices were: emergency room, intensive care unit, and operating



room. At that time, the hospital lacked nurses, and the operating room was the worst. As long as anyone volunteered, they would get what they want. And so, I became a team member in the operating room unit.

I remember during the probation period, my sister colleague saw me skinny and small, she arranged me to study surgery in ENT (Ear, Nose, and Throat). But I preferred to study in a department with high complexity, so orthopedics became my first choice in the operating room. That was the beginning of my on-the-job education on sterilization techniques.

After working for four years, I entered the department of Nursing of Tzu



Chi University in 1996, and continued my job training. In the eighth year of my career, due to marriage and childbirth, I switched to plastic surgery and have been serving as a team leader ever since.

Being an Operating Room Nurse at Tzu Chi Hospital in Hualien is my first job and my only job. Today, it has been exactly 30 years in 2023.

I am often asked, “Why did you stay in the operating room for so long?”

My answer is to work with different experts in medical, anesthesia, and nursing. We strive to solve patients’ problems, reduce patients’ pain. It makes me feel I can contribute my expertise and values. The sense of accomplishment accumulates, so I like my job very much.

Looking back at my 30 years of nursing career in the operating room, I had the opportunity to participate in difficult surgeries (many are international), including: The first Filipino conjoined baby Lea and Rachel split surgery in 2003, the second conjoined baby Rose sisters split surgery in 2010, Indonesian Novemthree Siahaan (with gigantiform cementoma, which caused his face looked like a hippo that it’s the largest recorded facial tumour) tumor resection in 2011, Indonesian Sofyan Sukmana regenerative osteoma resection, the third pair of Filipino conjoined Jennelyn and Jerrelyn Mendoza De Guzman in 2015 and many organ donation surgeries...

Every time, I completed the duties in the operating room in fear, with vigilance and devotion. In the process, I felt that Tzu Chi’s charity and medical care were integrated. It really is like a global village.

One of the surgeries that I remember vividly during the COVID-19 epidemic is an organ donation operation in 2021. The patient was pronounced dead, but completed a directive to donate all organs, including liver, kidney, bones, skin, etc. At the end of the operation, doctors and nurses, without words but working in harmony, very tacitly cleansed the patient’s body, followed with dressing, then we bowed deeply to thank the cadaver before releasing to the family. After which the team bowed and blessed again. While bowing, I shed tears, touched and admired by the kind act of the donor and family.

I love my job as a nurse in operating room. In the future, I want to keep going with my original resolve because I am proud of my work.