



ALUMNA MEETS POPE FRANCIS TWICE

Cynthia Cruz-Asinas, High School 1964, was recently blessed to have met Pope Francis twice. Cynthia was here in January 2014 to attend the golden jubilee of her class. Her story was featured in a publication in Los Angeles. We are reprinting it here to inspire other alumnae.

OLA couple honored to meet Pope Francis... twice!

OLA Parishioners Cynthia and Robert Asinas had remarkable encounters with Pope Francis this spring which they related to our parish leadership at its monthly meeting.

The story begins with the couple's friendship with Fr. Anthony Lee, former associate pastor at OLA and professor at St. John Seminary. He had invited them to return to the Holy Land to visit other places following his completion of sabbatical studies at the Tantur Ecumenical Institute just outside of Bethlehem. Together they trod the road to Emmaus and visited many biblical sites associated with Jesus' passion in Jerusalem. The highlight was a private Mass celebrated by Fr. Anthony at the tomb of Jesus at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The couple also renewed their wedding vows at Cana.

The trio's return trip brought them to Rome. Cynthia had taken the initiative of requesting in advance a ticket to attend morning Mass at Casa Santa Marta. The daily Mass at the chapel is limited to 25-20 guests who must submit to a careful selection process before receiving a personal invitation. The homily preached by Pope Francis at this location is disseminated around the world.

"We rose very early the morning of March 24 and had to pass three security checkpoints," Cynthia recounted. "We carried our letter of invitation from the Vatican and showed it to the Swiss Guard." Finally they made their way into the chapel and were seated in the front row!

"Pope Francis is able to make an instant connection to his audience," the couple explained. "He is always smiling, and his demeanor is peaceful, not rushed." The Pope presided at Mass, gave his homily and then prepared to personally address and bless each guest in the room.

The top photo taken by the official Vatican photographer depicts the couple's first encounter with Pope Francis. They spoke of their personal concerns, including Cynthia's struggle with cancer. The pope listened attentively blessed them both, then held Cynthia's hand, saying, "I will pray for you. You pray for me, too."

The next day, Cynthia and Robert were back at the Vatican for a public audience with Pope Francis. He stood on an elevated stage and spoke his message to thousands gathered in St. Peter's Square. Once again,

the couple had secured special tickets that allowed them a seat just to the right of the Pope. All persons seated in this section would receive a personal greeting and gift from the Pope following his address to the crowd.

As pope Francis approached Fr. Anthony, Cynthia and Robert, he exclaimed, "I remember you from our meeting yesterday!" The bottom photo shows clearly how the Pope grasped Cynthia's arm, looked deeply into her eyes and said, "Please pray for me." This is the message that has come directly from Pope Francis to us.



Servizio Fotografico L'Osservatore Romano



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Story told to Jean McKenna. Official photos by Servizio Fotografico L'Osservatore Romano.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP IN PUBLIC SERVICE CONFERENCE

(from the Philippine Information Agency)

MANILA, July 1 -- "It is now, more than ever, necessary that political leaders be outstanding for honesty, integrity and commitment to the common good..." Pope Francis, January 2015.

Responding to the call of Pope Francis on leadership, the Serviam CCC Foundation held the second of its conference series entitled "Servant Leadership in Public Service" on 2-3 July 2015 in the Grand Ballroom of Crowne Plaza, Manila Galleria in Ortigas Center, Quezon City.



The conference imparted the meaning and relevance of Servant Leadership in public service. It aimed to instill among the participants the desire and commitment to practice Servant Leadership as a calling in one's personal life. The conference opened up points for discussion and for action once back in public service after the conference.

The 2015 conference is the 2nd of a series of conferences on Servant Leadership as part of Serviam CCC Foundation's advocacy to propagate Servant Leadership as a way of life in all facets of society, i.e., the family, in government, business, church, media, etc. The 1st conference was held in June, 2013 at SMX Convention Centre on the theme, *Servant Leadership in the Year of Faith* with Church leaders as participants.

The keynote speaker was the chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Serviam CCC Foundation, His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, who talked on *Servant Leadership for the Common Good*. Other speakers were: Bishop Broderick Pabillo on *Public Service in the Scriptures*, Dr. Jess Estanislao on *Responding to Pope Francis' Challenge on Leadership*; Secretary of Education Armin Luistro on the *Practice of Servant Leadership in Government*, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco, Jr. on *Building Public Trust through Responsible Governance*, and Ret. Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. on *Servant Leadership and Social Justice*.

The Conference was organized by the Serviam CCC Foundation, which is headed by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle as Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Tom Carrasco as President, Fr. Anton C. T. Pascual as Spiritual Director and Bai de los Reyes as Advisor. The organizing committee for the 2015 Conference was headed by Ding Sanchez, Foundation Trustee.



Four Paulinians, High School 1965—Lulu Espiritu-Carrasco, Socorro Andal, Marilen Medina-Ruiz, and Annie Salita—attended the conference.

ALUMNI GATHERINGS



**High School 1980
Birthday of Judith Azarcon
With Rissa Calica-Gimenez, Michi Calica Sotto,
Rudolf Villa-Real Yaptinchay, Angela Luz,
Ida F.Hontiveros, and Susan Brigida M. Orendain.**

**High School 1969
Get-Together
With Teresita Cuevas-Mallari,
Loowee Andal, Lolita Uy,
Chonnette de Leon, Aileen Batican,
and Marilyn Garcia-Bautista**



**High School 1965
Mini Reunion in North Seattle
Imogene Benityez-Usison,
Beth Pineda-Concepcion,
and Agnes Torres-Condez**

**High School 1965
Reunion for Teresita Pugeda
With Dolly Gabriel, Lahla Laforteza,
Rosario Maria Asunta Macapinlac,
Millie Braganza, and Tere Filipina
in Cuenca, Batangas.**

