OPENING MASS

St. Paul University Manila through the Christian Formation Office celebrated the 2015 Christian Formation Week. This year’s theme was “Pamayanang Paulino, Nagsasabuhay ng Salita, Kumakalinga sa Dukha.” The celebration began with a creative recitation of the Holy Rosary, which was followed by the celebration of the Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Wency Cerafica, Parish Priest of San Isidro Labrador.

During the Mass, Sr. Jesusa D. Taccad, SPC, Vice President for Christian Formation, formally launched the weeklong celebration. The launching was followed by a dance animation by the PLA Dance Ministry.
“Details: Gaze at the Crucified Christ in this Year of the Poor”

September is a very special month for us Catholics, in which we commemorate the nativity the greatest mother of all, the mother of the Church and our mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary. Catholics around the globe celebrate the feast of the nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. One of the highlights of the week was a photo exhibit of the historical landmark, the Chapel of the Crucified Christ, which was mercilessly bombarded in 1945, and a photo exhibit of the poor. The photo exhibits featured the unnoticeable details of the chapel, which were likened to our dear poor brethren, the marginalized and abused sector of the society.

Students, faculty and guests attended the opening of the exhibits, and the College of Music and the Performing Arts, headed by their Dean, Sr. Ma. Anunciata Sta. Ana, SPC rendered some inspirational songs.

After the morning activity was the Heritage Tour for the first year students and the Pilgrimage for the second year students. These were simultaneously done in the afternoons until the 10th of September.
The first year students visited the beautiful Heritage Center of the SPC Sisters in Our Lady of Chartres Convent in Antipolo, Rizal. There the students learned about the SPC congregation’s roots and their present ministry in the mission of the Catholic Church.

CHURCH TOUR

- Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene (Quiapo)
- Our Lady of Pillar (Sta. Cruz)
- Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Intramuros)
- Our Lady of Remedies (Malate)

The second year students went on a church pilgrimage in celebration of Christian Formation Week. The churches visited were Quiapo Church, Sta. Cruz Church, Manila Cathedral, and Malate Church.

The Minor Basilica of St. John the Baptist Church, more commonly known as Quiapo Church, is known for the January 9th celebration of the transferring of the Black Nazarene or the Nazareno, called translasyon, which is both famous and infamous—famous to its devotees and infamous to the critics, who see it as idolatry and blind worship. The Minor Basilica, however, sees these mistakes in a number of their devotees and strives to correct this misconception through seminars and workshops.
The second church visited was the Sta. Cruz Church, close to Quiapo Church. On entering the church, one will immediately see its most prominent sight, the altar, which has a huge painting with a night sky background and a lamb emanating from the Host. The Baroque church has gone through many reconstructions and repairs, with its last reconstruction in the 1950’s.

The Manila Cathedral, also called the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, was the third church visited. The cathedral has had a long and arduous journey to what it is today. Bombarded by natural and man-made destruction, the basilica we know is the eighth reconstruction. A notable feature is the bells generously donated by Germans. In the basilica’s glorious days, the bells could be heard all the way to Cavite. The resting places of past archbishops can be found in tombs beneath the altar. There, the students prayed and sang to celebrate the birth of our dear Mother Mary.

Malate Church, the last church in the pilgrimage, is also known as the Church of Nuestra Señora de los Remedios. The church is an example of Philippine history and environmental sustainability. It boasts of a museum filled with records, figures, paintings, sculptures, and various artistic works that promote awareness of the little known but direly important facts in our history and biodiversity, may it be fauna or flora.

Church pilgrimages to our local parishes are a great way to show our support and interest and to learn more about the land we call our home. It is necessary for us to acquaint ourselves with magnificent structures that hold so many answers to the questions of how and why we are here today.

Looking forward to more church pilgrimage in the next Christian Formation Week!

The week-long Share-A-Meal Program and Gift-Giving were just among the activities that enfleshed this year’s Christian Formation Week, themed “Pamayanang Paulino, Nagsasabuhay ng Salita, Kumakalinga sa Dukha.”

On 8-10 September 2015, 29 academic managers, faculty members, and staff from the College of Business and Management; College of Arts, Sciences, and Education; College of Nursing and
Allied Health Sciences; and College of Music and the Performing Arts were actively involved in the preparation, cooking, and distribution of food to 249 PGH patients’ watchers.

On the other hand, the SPC Sisters, headed by their Local Superior and VP for Christian Formation, Sr. Jesusa Taccad, SPC, went to the PGH Cancer Institute and Isolation Room on 12 September 2015 to visit 60 cancer patients and distribute gift packs containing fruits, Milo, and milk.

The Community Development Center also facilitated the distribution of gift packs to 82 street dwellers during the week-long celebration. Items distributed, such as canned goods, noodles, biscuits and Milo came from the Religious Education students. The SPC Pastoral Center in Bagac, Bataan through Sr. Adele Bonzon also received a box of assorted goods intended for their poor patients who come to their clinic for free medical check-up and medicines.
CLOSING MASS

The Closing Mass was held in the Chapel of the Crucified Christ. Fr. Ryan Barrios, who is from the Archdiocese of Leyte and who is presently studying in La Salle, presided over the Mass.

One activity that made everyone happy was the dance mob, which the PLA Dance Ministry performed in front of the chapel.

Contributors: Mr. Fausto Bariuan Jr., Francois Gem Muncal, Ms. Elvira Manalansan, Jecily Escorpiso, Radhica Kumar, and Alyssa Maquiling

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL FEATURE: HIGH SCHOOL 1968 ANNUAL US REUNION
Contributed by Jazmin Gaite-Moral

The St. Paul Manila High School 1968 annual reunion was held this year in the Fox Hills Resort in Mishicot Wisconsin. Twelve batch ’68 girls met in the Chicago airport on 29 August 2015. They came from Manila, Los Angeles, Sacramento, Seattle, New York, Washington DC, and Arkansas to spend a week together. This activity was the 15th annual reunion the class has held in the USA. They have been to Lake Chelan in Washington State, Hawaii, Orlando and Fort
Lauderdale Florida, Hilton Head in South Carolina, New York, Washington DC, Tennessee, Virginia, Ramona, California, Tacoma, and Washington State. Attendance at this reunion: from Manila—Odette San Juan and Malou Reyes; from Los Angeles—Marissa Acuna, Maribel Escover, and Jazmin Gaite; from Sacramento—Evelyn Sta. Romana; from Seattle—Mary Joy Ruiz and Tet Alcid; from New York—Idad Ochoa and Flor Siazon; from Washington DC—Teofila Taganas; from Arkansas—Cecilia Sevilla.

It always is fun to be with your classmates from 50 years ago counting from kinder, no matter the venue. It just helps that Mary Joy has all these time shares. So we get to use them once a year wherever there is room for all of us. We book the timeshare a year in advance hence we know and can plan ahead. Jazmin is always the driver, Marissa the planner and coordinator, Teofila the substitute driver, Evelyn the one who gives the driver a massage every night. We take turns cooking breakfast and dinner. Lunch is always out. After 15 years doing this we have pretty much perfected running it. Twelve is about the lowest attendance; sometimes we are 20. We meet again next year in White Mountains, New Hampshire, 4-11 September 2016.

High School 1965
Celebration of third quarter birthdays
Home of Mildred Magboo, Tagaytay

Seated L-R: Yvonne Vergara, MOM, Josie Guytingco, Marilen Ruiz, Helen Dabao, Socorro Ramoso, Teresita Meneses. Standing L-R: Mildred Magboo, Sherry Alingod, Nora Ebro, Millie Braganza, Dottie Lucasan, Cooi Andal, her mom, Annie Salita, Angie Santiago, and Carolle Agbulos.

High School 1965
Lunch for Elvie Reyes-Sison
Buffet 101, Glorietta

L-R: Elvie Sison, Laah Laforteza, Sherry Alingod, Helen Dabao, Corrie Dichoso, Millie Braganza, Dottie Lucasan, Yvonne Vergara, MOM, and Ella Valencerina.