LOOKING BACK...

President Yamanouchi on a Goodwill Visit to Manila
A Special Report from the International Relations Office
Contributed by Sr. Flordeliza Deza, SPC

St. Paul University Manila opened its doors to Shirayuri Women's University on November 21-25, 2015 for the visit of President Kaotaro “Paul” Yamanouchi. With him were Prof. Hideyuki Muroki, Ms. Hiroko Sasaki, and Sr. Maria Kobayashi, the only Sister of St. Paul currently assigned in the Tokyo-based university. The five-day visit aimed at strengthening relations between St. Paul University Manila and other Paulinian schools in the Philippines and the Shirayuri schools in Japan—especially with Shirayuri University, Midorigaoka, Tokyo—which share common Paulinian origins, as they were established and are run by the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres.

Former SPU Manila President, Sr. Lilia Thérèse Tolentino SPC, Provincial Superior and personal friend of Pres. Yamanouchi, headed the welcome, together with Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, current University President; Sr. Jesusa Taccad, SPC, Local Superior; Sr. Flordeliza Deza, SPC, Director for International Relations and the Language Development Center; Sisters, Deans, and representative faculty members and students. The guests were first brought to the University Chapel for the Magnificat and offering of flowers (See photo above.). A formal reception and welcome program followed in the HRM Training Center, where the guests were billeted for the duration of their stay.
Shirayuri University President, Dr. Koutaro “Paul” Yamanouchi, communicated his eagerness to meet and to talk with the Sisters, to hear from them, to learn from the experience of the St. Paul schools in the country on how to remain faithful to the mission of a Catholic university. He spoke of the difficulty they currently face in their university where majority of the students and the faculty are not Catholics and where the spirit, value system, and present day realities have become vastly different from those of the time of their foundation. (The Sisters of St. Paul arrived in Japan and began their apostolate in 1878.)

Ms. Sasaki, spokesperson of the group, said they wanted especially to know how the Philippine schools do things, what they are doing for the students in order to motivate, maintain, nourish and sustain the Catholic spirit in a modern and increasingly secular milieu. Ms. Sasaki also said the group wanted to experience the “joy of faith” mentioned by Pope Francis in one of his letters, the joy which seems to come so naturally for Filipinos in contrast to the more serious stance and approach of the Japanese.

A well-planned itinerary had been prepared for Pres. Yamanouchi and party to provide them a feel of Paulinian and Filipino life. Paulinian institutions included in the itinerary were 1) St. Paul University Manila, where they took “A walk through Paulinian time” in the University Museum and Archives; 2) St. Paul College Pasig, where aside from meeting students and touring the school, they participated in a “Rite for Peace”;

At the Rite for Peace (above)

and at the Heritage Garden (left).
3) **Fr. Louis Chauvet Foundation School** (an outreach program of St. Paul Pasig), where the scholars from the local community welcomed them with a short program and offered them a taste of *hopia* and other culinary produce of the mothers of the children.

Their visit to the 4) **SPC Vigil House** allowed for some meaningful encounters with the elderly and retired Sisters.

Significant was their visit to 5) **Our Lady of Chartres Convent**, Provincial House and House of Formation where they received a warm welcome from Sr. Lilia and the SPC community; offered flowers at the *Garden of Peace* where Sr. Philomene de los Reyes (Filipina Sister missionary who was much loved in Japan) had been laid to rest (See photo right.); and enjoyed musical numbers from the Sisters in formation.
A touching moment was when Sr. Lilia gifted Pres. Yamanouchi with a carved wooden statue of *Our Lady of Chartres*, something he had secretly wished for (See photo left.). Topping their visit to OLCC was a tour of the *SPC Heritage Center*, established in the centenary of the Congregation in the Philippines, where they had a panoramic view of SPC life and mission not only in the Philippines but in the whole world. Ms. Sasaki said she will need to come back to consult with Sr. Flor for a similar project in Japan.

The highlight of their experience was the visit to 6) the *St. Paul Renewal Center* in Alfonso, where they met with the SPC High School Principals who were in session and where they sat down with the seven heads/Presidents of the *St. Paul University System* in a rich moment of exchange on the purposes they came for. *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*--the Heart of the Catholic University--by Pope John Paul II became the spring board for the discussion on the nature and mission of the Catholic university which serves as challenge for all.

The group led by Sr. Rosanne, SPUS Chancellor, appreciated the predicament of Shirayuri university while Pres. Yanaouchi and his companions were grateful for the sharing of experiences and possible strategies and projects they could initiate or undertake.
The visit would not have been complete without an experience of Philippine culture and a visit to some areas of interest, e.g. Intramuros, Luneta, and the PICC Complex.

Tagaytay Highlands offered some refreshing time while Taal Vista provided a showcase of Philippine traditional dances and local and international cuisine.

In Tagaytay Highlands (above) and Taal Vista Lodge (left).

A brief visit to the Kultura Filipina in the Mall of Asia and Balikbayan Handicrafts gave the group a chance to shop for some Philippine souvenirs.

A thanksgiving Mass was likewise celebrated before the departure of the guests and an evening spent with the community of Sisters at SPU Manila.

All too soon, the five-day goodwill visit ended with a Sayonara Program with messages of appreciation and thanks.

President Yamanouchi’s promise to come back for a follow-up visit was received with delight by Sr. Lilia and all who were present.
ALUMNAE GATHERINGS

SPMAFI MEETING
1 March 2016
2nd Floor Function Room, HRMTC

and Induction of Officers

High School 1962
Lunch for balikbayan, Joy Carlos-Garcia
Lutong Macao
27 February 2016
L-R: Margot Ripoll, Tere Marfori, Susan Grau, Joy, and Fely Santos

Second Birthday Party of Lara (MOM’s Apo)
28 February 2016
L-R: Dinggay IaO, Jane Fields. Sherry Alingod, Wynna Medina, and MOM
**SPC US**
Chinese New Year Celebration
New York City
With Marilyn Abalos, Patsy Schultz, Grace Clark, Elizabeth Ocampo and alumnae from other Paulinian schools: Guia and Myrna from SPUQC and Pierre from SPUP Tuguegarao

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**SPC US in NYC**
Patsy Schultz, Paz Calero, and Marilyn Abalos

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**College Buddies**
Mini-Reunion in Honolulu
With Rocylie Romero, Liberty Smith, Abby Samaja-Rebustillo, Eileen Tortuga, and Anna Reyes-Fuji

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**HS 1963**
Birthday of Cecile Santi Aracama, BGC
4 March 2016

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**CONDOLENCES**

The Paulinian family concedes with the families of...

- Carolina Valencia (High School 1964)
- Delia Buenaventura-Rogness (High School 1951)
- Ma. Pilar Balda-Guevarra (High School 1961)