



SPU Manila INTER-OFFICE BULLETIN

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FILIPINOS GO TO THE POLLS

Today, 9 May 2016, we Filipinos will write history... the history of our country for the next six years, and perhaps even longer, as we go to the polls to choose our national and local government officials.

For the sake of future generations of Paulinians, who might look back at this momentous time of our lives, we are sharing the pastoral letter of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) on the 2016 elections:

My dear countrymen:

We address you as we get nearer the crossroads of our journey as citizens of this land and citizens of heaven. We bring to you a message of truth that may be painful but hopefully liberating. We offer you a hand to unite and our prayers to the Lord to heal our land and people divided by politics.

This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches about Church pronouncements on political issues: It is a part of the Church's mission "to pass moral judgments even in matters related to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it. The means, the only means, she may use are those which are in accord with the Gospel and the welfare of all men according to the diversity of times and circumstances." (CCC 2246)

Discerning Our Choices

The nationally telecast debates as well as the publicized utterances and actuations of our candidates, particularly those who vie for the high office of President of the Republic, have given us all a glimpse of who they are, what they represent and the causes they champion—or reject.

There is a fundamental difference between right and wrong, and not everything is fair game in politics. A choice for a candidate who takes positions that are not only politically precarious but worse, morally reprehensible, cannot and should not be made by the Catholic faithful and those who take their allegiance to Christ and his Kingship seriously. One cannot proclaim Christ as King and at the same time accept the governance of one whose thoughts, speech and demeanor are diametrically opposed to the demands of submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The desire for change is understandable. Our people have suffered from incompetence and indifference. But this cannot take the form of supporting a candidate whose speech and actions,

whose plans and projects show scant regard for the rights of all, who has openly declared indifference if not dislike and disregard for the Church specially her moral teachings.

The Catholic Church has never asked any political candidate to seek its endorsement, but the Catholic Church has always demanded of Catholic voters that they cast their votes as an act not only of citizenship but also as a public declaration of faith. We ask this most earnestly of all of you, Catholic brothers and sisters, in the forthcoming election.

A Nation at Prayer

We commend the various initiatives of our Catholic laity and other youth associations to come together and pray for guidance in choosing the right leaders. In particular, we encourage you to pray the rosary every day and receive Holy Communion starting May 1 until May 9. In this novena of rosaries and Masses, we claim from the Lord the gift of a godly electoral process. With the permission of the bishops, the Blessed Sacrament may be exposed for public adoration to beg the Lord for the gift of peaceful elections.

To you our dear candidates, we plead.

In less than two weeks, the sovereign people will choose who should govern them. It is this that makes us a free people. We, your bishops of this country, therefore ask of you to allow each Filipino the free and untrammled right to an informed choice. This means, among other things, that you cannot deceive or mislead the people by proffering them falsehoods, much less defraud the nation.

The campaign period has been rancorous. This is regrettable. Many wounds have been inflicted. This is true not only of candidates but also of their supporters. Even close friends have parted ways because of differences in political persuasion and in the choice of candidates to support. As we advise our voters, so we also say to you dear candidates: Pray! Pray not only to win but pray that the Lord may show by His signs His chosen leader for this nation, this nation who calls on Him at the crossroads of its national life.

Time to Unite

When the elections shall have been concluded and winners proclaimed in accordance with law, we beg you all, in the name of Jesus Christ, to be instruments of peace, reconciliation and healing. Let those who prevail rise in nobility above the hurtful words that may have been uttered by opponents, and draw them rather into a government of unity, but unity that firmly rests neither on expediency nor compromise, but on truth and justice.

We ask all who shall be sworn in to remember that when they take the oath that the law requires of them, they call on God as their witness—and even if they may not expressly do so, they swear in the sight of God's People. Every public official swears to uphold and to defend the Constitution and to do justice to every man and woman. Not whim then, nor arbitrariness, not vendetta nor revenge, but the rights of God's people enshrined in the Constitution and their demand for justice, unity, progress and peace to which every law must respond!

Whoever wins honestly, whoever takes the oath of his or her office seriously, whoever strives to heal the wounds of the divisiveness of politics, whoever respects the rights of all and is earnest in his or her fear of God and is zealous for his precepts has the support of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, and we will do everything together with our priests so that all our people, to the remotest barangays to which we minister, may rally around a just and God-fearing government that visits no vengeance on foes but is characterized by mercy and compassion for all, not only for allies!

Prayer

I invoke the Blessed Mother to cover our nation with her maternal love and to beseech her Son to grant us all the favor of meaningful, peaceful elections and a government thereafter that unifies our people in the sight of God and in accordance with His will. Lord, heal our land. Lord, heal our land.

From the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, May 1, 2016

+SOCRATES B. VILLEGAS
Archbishop of Lingayen Dagupan
President, Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines



LOOKING BACK

Institutional Outing for SPU Manila Employees

Date : 26 April 2016
Time : 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.
Venue : Camp Benjamin
Target Participants : All Employees

SPU Manila held its annual institutional outing right after the grace-filled Administrators, Faculty, Academic Non-Teaching and Staff retreat. It was held on 26 April 2016 in Camp Benjamin, Alfonso, Cavite.



The outing started with a quick orientation, followed by a teambuilding activity. The teambuilding aimed to promote unity, support, trust, and respect for one another's individual differences. The employees were divided into six groups and named as White, Blue, Green, Red, Yellow, and Black Teams.

The six teams were given five tasks to accomplish. The first group to finish the tasks and submit the flag to the main facilitator would be declared winner.



After the teambuilding activities, the employees were given time to rest and have some leisure within the resort.

Some went on swimming, while others took the opportunity to ride the zipline and bubble slide and go sightseeing.

Tribute was given to Sr. Joseline Lasala, SPC, Vice President of Administrative Services. Certain faculty and staff who are close to Sr. Joseline gave their respective messages. Sr. Joseline will be transferred at St. Paul University Dumaguete as the new University President.



Right after the tribute to Sr. Joseline, the employees had lunch and were again given time for rest and leisure activities.



In the afternoon, tribute was also given to Dr. Aireen Presas (School Physician), Stephanie Medel Mendoza (School Nurse), Mariya Magiliw Manalili (IRO Assistant), for they will no longer be with the school starting SY 2016-2017 and Ms. Rosario Reyes (Faculty), as she will have her early retirement. Some employees also gave their messages and wishes of luck.



Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, University President, gave her message to the said employees. She also expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all in making the school year successful and her hope for their support in the upcoming school year 2016-2017.



Winners of the teambuilding were announced and the White Team was awarded the 1st Place. Prizes were given to all winners.

PS...

Following are some pictures of the research presentation by Dr. Elizabeth D. Ramos, Dean of the College of Business and Management, presented a research paper in the Augustana Conference on Undergraduate Research and Innovative Teaching (ACURIT) held on 25-26 April 2016 in the University of Alberta , Augustana campus, Camrose, Canada.



Dr. Ramos at the University of Alberta entrance...

...presenting her research

...and interacting with other delegates

ALUMNAE GATHERING

**High School 1965
Caracol Street Dancing Festival
4 May 2016
Rosemarie Sapugay's Residence
With Nora Villanueva, Sherry Alingod, Rosemarie,
MOM, Cocoi Andal, and Lahla Laforteza**



Condolences

The Paulinian Family condoles with the Siazon sisters on the passing of their brother, former Ambassador Domingo Siazon Jr.

