27th SPC NATIONAL AND 12th SPC INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS HELD

The SPC Education Ministry of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, Philippine Province spearheaded the 27th SPC National and 12th SPC International Congress, held on 12-14 May 2016. The congress, which was held in the Mere Marie de Tilly Convention Hall of St. Paul College Pasig, was attended by Sisters and lay administrators of SPC schools all over the country, as well as in Tokyo, Bangkok, Hong Kong, and Saigon. (See photo below.)

The Opening Ceremonies included the presentation of local and international delegates; Welcome Address of Sr. Dedicacion Rosario, SPC, Directress of SPC Pasig; Perspective Setting by Sr. Ma. Nilda Masirag, SPC, Assistant Provincial for Education and Chair of the Congress Steering Committee; and Message from Sr. Lilia Thérèse L. Tolentino, SPC, Provincial Superior.

Keynote speakers were Bishop Arturo Bastes, SVD, DD, of Sorsogon, on “Educating with the Shepherd’s Care”; and Fr. Renato Molina, SDB, Rector of Mary Help of Christians House of Spirituality, on “Shepherd the Youth.”

In the afternoon session, selected Paulinian alumni talked on “Experiencing the Shepherd’s Care the SPC Way”: Mr. Richard Caluyo (SPU Dumaguete), Ms. Antoinette V. Molina (SPC Vigan), Ms.
Ma. Corazon Arevalo (St. Paul Suringao), Ms. Marvi Santos (SPC Pasig), and Fr. Rannielle Pineda (St. Paul San Miguel). This was followed by international delegates—Sr. Erlinda Gesilva, SPC (St. Joseph Convent, Bangkok); Ms. Mei Tak (Principal of Lam Tin in Hong Kong), and Sr. Marie Minh Thu, SPC (from Vietnam), who spoke on “Experiencing the Shepherd’s Care the SPC Way.”

The first day ended with an original musical, “Caritas Christi,” presented by St. Paul Pasig students.

Highlights of the morning of the second day were: talks on “Response of the Church to the Extraordinary Year of Mercy” by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, DD of Cubao; on “Response of the Laity to the Extraordinary Year of Mercy” and “Effective Shepherding in the Classroom” by Dr. Roberto Guevara, Associate Dean for Student Formation of the Ateneo de Manila; and on “The Family: The First School of Mercy and Compassion” by Reginald and Joanna Polancos and daughters.

Concurrent sessions were held in the afternoon of the second day: A: “Helping Skills for the Shepherds Handling Special Groups (OFWs)” by Fr. Nilo Tanelaga, SJ, Founder of the UGAT Foundation and “Shepherding the Shepherds” by Fr. Victor de Jesus, SJ, Chaplain of the Ateneo School of Medicine and Public Health. B: “Inclusive Education; Shepherding Believers and Non-Believers” by Msgr. Manuel Gabriel, Parish Priest of the Resurrection of Our Lord Parish, “21st Century Skills in Curriculum Supervision” by Sr. Felicitas Bernardo, SPC, Dean of Education and SHS Principal, SPU Manila; and “21st Century Classroom: Optimizing Digital Technology” by Dr. Debbie Lacuesta and team, SEAMEO-INNOTECH.

On the third day, there were concurrent sessions again: A: “Updates on Christian Formation: Campus Ministry” by Sr. Mercedes Bacaoco, SPC, Chair of the Campus Ministry Team; “Research Seminar: Qualitative Research” by Mr. Jerome Cleofas, Senior Researcher, SPU Manila; B: “Updates on Christian Formation: Religious Education” by Sr. Gemma Moralita, Chair of the Religious Education Team; “Research Seminar: Qualitative Research” by Mr. Rene Nob, Research Associate, SPU Manila. Research presentations on varied topics were likewise held concurrently.

The Closing Ceremonies had the following parts: Synthesis of Congress Output by Sr. Rosanne Mallillin, SPC, Chancellor of the SPU System; Presentation of Evaluation Results by Mrs. Cristina Price, Quality Assurance Officer of SPU QC; Presentation of Certificates and Tokens to Foreign Delegates; Presentation of Certificates to Exhibitors; Closing Remarks by Sr. Nilda C. Masirag; and Closing Mass, presided over by Fr. Francis Salcedo.

The success of the congress is attributed to the Steering Committee: Chair-Sr. Ma. Nilda C. Masirag, SPC; Co-Chairs-Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC; Sr. Dedicacion Rosario, SPC; and
Sr. Teresita Agana, SPC; Members-Sr. Helen Malubay, SPC; Sr. Veneranda del Rosario, SPC; Sr. Rosanne Mallillin, SPC; Sr. Aileen Bonifacio, SPC; Sr. Cecilia Sto. Tomas, SPC; Sr. Emelita Alvarez, SPC; Sr. Jesusa Taccad, SPC; Sr. Gemma Moralita, SPC; Sr. Angeles Ilagan, SPC; Sr. Alegria Avellaneda, SPC; Sr. Mercy Bangot, SPC; Sr. Dahlia Dabu, SPC; and Mrs. Cristina Price.

**Focus on...**

**Sr. Nilda explains congress theme, activities**

Contributed by Ms. Louisa May A. dela Fuente

Resonating the importance of the new theme for the 27th SPC National Congress and 12th SPC International Educators’ Congress and how it cascades in the different talks and discussions, Sr. Nilda Masirag, SPC, Assistant Provincial for Education, set the perspectives for Paulinian educators attending the three-day event being held in St. Paul College, Pasig, May 12-14, 2016.

This year’s theme, “Educating as Shepherding: The Passion of the Paulinian Pedagogists,” Sr. Nilda said, would “deepen our passion and understand our educating more.”

Particularly, the academic gathering aims to reaffirm the shepherding role of every Paulinian educator, to deepen commitment to build a culture of compassionate caring in all Paulinian schools, and to adopt pastoral initiatives in the areas of instruction, research, community service, and support services.

Sr. Nilda also recalled the vital role that Catholic educators play as evangelizers (evangelii gaudium) and stressed that teachers should resonate mercy and should not be afraid to become creative tools in proclaiming Christ to others.

Meanwhile, Directress of host school, St. Paul College Pasig, Sr. Dedicacion Rosario, SPC, in her welcome message also emphasized the rationale of the theme and explained the logic—parenting is shepherding, educating is parenting; therefore, educating is shepherding. She also expressed hope for the congress to serve as an oasis, a period of recollecting and reconnecting.

**Are we shepherds or mere hirelings? – Sr. Lilia**

Contributed by Ms. Louisa May A. dela Fuente

Both inspiring and challenging the delegates to the 27th SPC National Congress and 12th SPC International Educators’ Congress, Sr. Lilia Thérèse L. Tolentino, SPC, Provincial Superior, Philippine Province, underscored in her message the difference between a hireling (one who tends to the sheep only for the money as it is his job) and a shepherd (one who does it because he loves the sheep), and strongly expressed that for Paulinian educators, shepherding makes all the difference.

"Have a heart for your sheep,” Sr. Lilia said. “The heart of the leadership lives in the hearts of leaders and how one leads others directly reflects the condition of his heart,” she added.

Sr. Lilia explained that to appreciate the concept of shepherd leaders and teachers, one needs to understand shepherding in cultural contexts. She enumerated the actions of shepherds—feeding, restoring, guiding, protecting, shaping, resourcing, and empowering, which all serve as metaphors of how leaders function as a body of Christ.
The Provincial Superior further helped participants to understand how to apply the concepts of shepherding by sharing the Principles of Shepherd Leadership from the book, *The Way of the Shepherd*.

These principles are as follows:

First, know the condition of your flock. This, she said, requires following the status of your people at work to get to know your flock and engaging people on a regular basis.

Second, discover the S.H.A.P.E of your sheep. As a leader, one should know the people’s strengths, heart or passion, attitude, personality, and experiences.

Third, help your sheep identify with you. Your sheep have to see your authenticity, compassion, and integrity for them to build their trust.

Fourth, make your pasture a safe place. To do this, avoid rivalry, motivate and empower, raise people’s morale, and ensure that people are fulfilled and satisfied at work.

Fifth, use the staff of direction. Shepherd leaders do the right nudging or directing, set boundaries, identify stranded sheep, and encourage sheep to be closer.

Sixth, use the rod of correction. While shepherd leaders protect, they also correct or discipline and inspect their sheep.

Lastly and most importantly, lead with the heart of the shepherd. As a leader, place great value on the worth of the flock and decide every day who pays the price for your leadership, you or your people.

**ALUMNAE GATHERINGS**

**High School 1962**
Birthday Treat of Fe Umale-Zapanta
Casa Alba
11 May 2016
L-R: Boots Alvero, Fely Santos, Sherry Alingod, Patsy Concepcion, Fe Zapanta, Jocelyn Montemayor, Tere Marfori, Cecilia Sason, Susan Grau, MOM, and Amor Nunez.

**High School 1964**
Joint Birthday Celebration
Residence of Lydia Ochoa
14 May 2016
Seated: Lydia Ochoa, MOM, Evelyn Rivera, Fe Umali, Menchu Cammayo, Erlinda Gonzalez, Connie Torres.
Standing: Baby Sarmenta, Marilen Ponce, Arlene Enriquez, Ninì Icasas, Cora Trinidad, Mila Godinez, Millie Calaquian, Doris Lopez, and Baby Doble.