



CHRISTENDOM CELEBRATES FEAST OF STS. PETER AND PAUL

The Christian world celebrated the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul on 29 June 2019. We are reproducing a part of the homily of Pope Francis for the reflection of all Paulinians:



The Apostles Peter and Paul stand before us as witnesses. They never tired of preaching and journeying as missionaries from the land of Jesus to Rome itself. Here they gave their ultimate witness, offering their lives as martyrs. If we go to the heart of that testimony, we can see them as witnesses to life, witnesses to forgiveness and witnesses to Jesus.

Witnesses to life. Their lives, though, were not neat and linear. Both were deeply religious: Peter was one of the very first disciples (cf. Jn 1:41), and Paul was "zealous for the traditions of [his] ancestors" (Gal 1:14). Yet they also made great mistakes: Peter denied the Lord, while Paul persecuted the Church of God. Both were cut to the core by questions asked by Jesus: "Simon son of John, do you love me?" (Jn 21:15); "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4). Peter was grieved by Jesus' questions, while Paul was blinded by his words. Jesus called them by name and changed their lives. After all that happened, he put his trust in them, in one who denied him and one who persecuted his followers, in two repentant sinners. We may wonder why the Lord chose not to give us two witnesses of utter integrity, with clean records and impeccable lives? Why Peter, when there was John? Why Paul, and not Barnabas?

There is a great teaching here: the starting point of the Christian life is not our worthiness; in fact, the Lord was able to accomplish little with those who thought they were good and decent. Whenever we consider ourselves smarter or better than others, that is the beginning of the end. The Lord does not work miracles with those who consider themselves righteous, but with those who know themselves needy. He is not attracted by our goodness; that is not why he loves us. He loves us just as we are; he is looking for people who are not self-sufficient, but ready to open their hearts to him. People who, like Peter and Paul, are transparent before God. Peter immediately told Jesus: "I am a sinful man" (Lk 5:8). Paul wrote that he was "least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle" (1 Cor 15:9). Throughout life, they preserved this humility, to the very end. Peter died crucified upside down, since he did not consider himself worthy to imitate his Lord. Paul was always fond of his name, which means "little," and left behind his birth name, Saul, the name of the first king of his people. Both understood that holiness does not consist in exalting but rather in humbling oneself. Holiness is not a contest, but a question of entrusting our own poverty each

day to the Lord, who does great things for those who are lowly. What was the secret that made them persevere amid weakness? It was the Lord's forgiveness.

Let us think about them too as witnesses to forgiveness. In their failings, they encountered the powerful mercy of the Lord, who gave them rebirth. In his forgiveness, they encountered irrepressible peace and joy. Thinking back to their failures, they might have experienced feelings of guilt. How many times might Peter have thought back to his denial! How many scruples might Paul have felt at having hurt so many innocent people! Humanly, they had failed. Yet they encountered a love greater than their failures, a forgiveness strong enough to heal even their feelings of guilt. Only when we experience God's forgiveness do we truly experience rebirth. From there we start over, from forgiveness; there we rediscover who we really are: in the confession of our sins. (from Salt and Life Media)

SPU MANILA FORGES TIES WITH CHINESE NURSING SCHOOLS

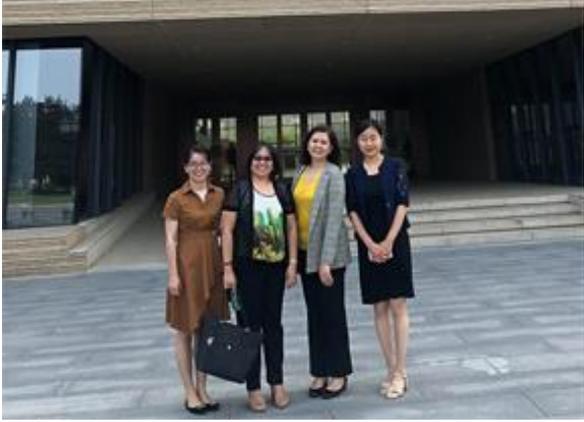
A delegation of SPU Manila administrators and alumnae recently went to China to forge ties with Chinese Nursing Schools. The group was composed of Dr. Marichen Dychango, Vice President for Academic Services; Dr. Jenny Olivar, Dean of the College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences; and two alumnae, Geraldine Dimalibot (BSN 1990), Senior Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer of St. Luke's Medical Center, and Joy Carmel Gorospe (BSN 1993) Deputy Nursing Director of Manila Doctors Hospital.

On 24 June 2019, the group met with officials of Shanglou University for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two universities. Dr. Dychangco gave a presentation on Philippine Nursing Education Today...the OBE Way.

The next day, they visited Xi'an Gaoxin Hospital, where Dr. Olivar gave a presentation on Becoming a Nursing Specialist. A meeting with Guangxi University with Chinese Medicine and MOU signing, followed by a Thesis Seminar, took place on 27 June.

Following are some pictures of the China trip:





ALUMNAE GATHERINGS

High School 1969 Birthday Treat

L-R: Maritess Pardo-Panlilio
Tessie Cuevas-Mallari
and Emily Palanca-Pimentel



High School 1966 Mini-Reunion in Florida

Christine de la Cruz-Wright
and Linda Tobias



BSN 1970 Mini-Reunion and Birthday Celebration

Isabel Xerez-Burgos Rosal,
Marie Virata-Halloran,
and Erlinda Ramos-Ymas



Lunch of Southern Belles

Sherry Alingod, Wynna Medina,
MOM, and Lahla Laforteza