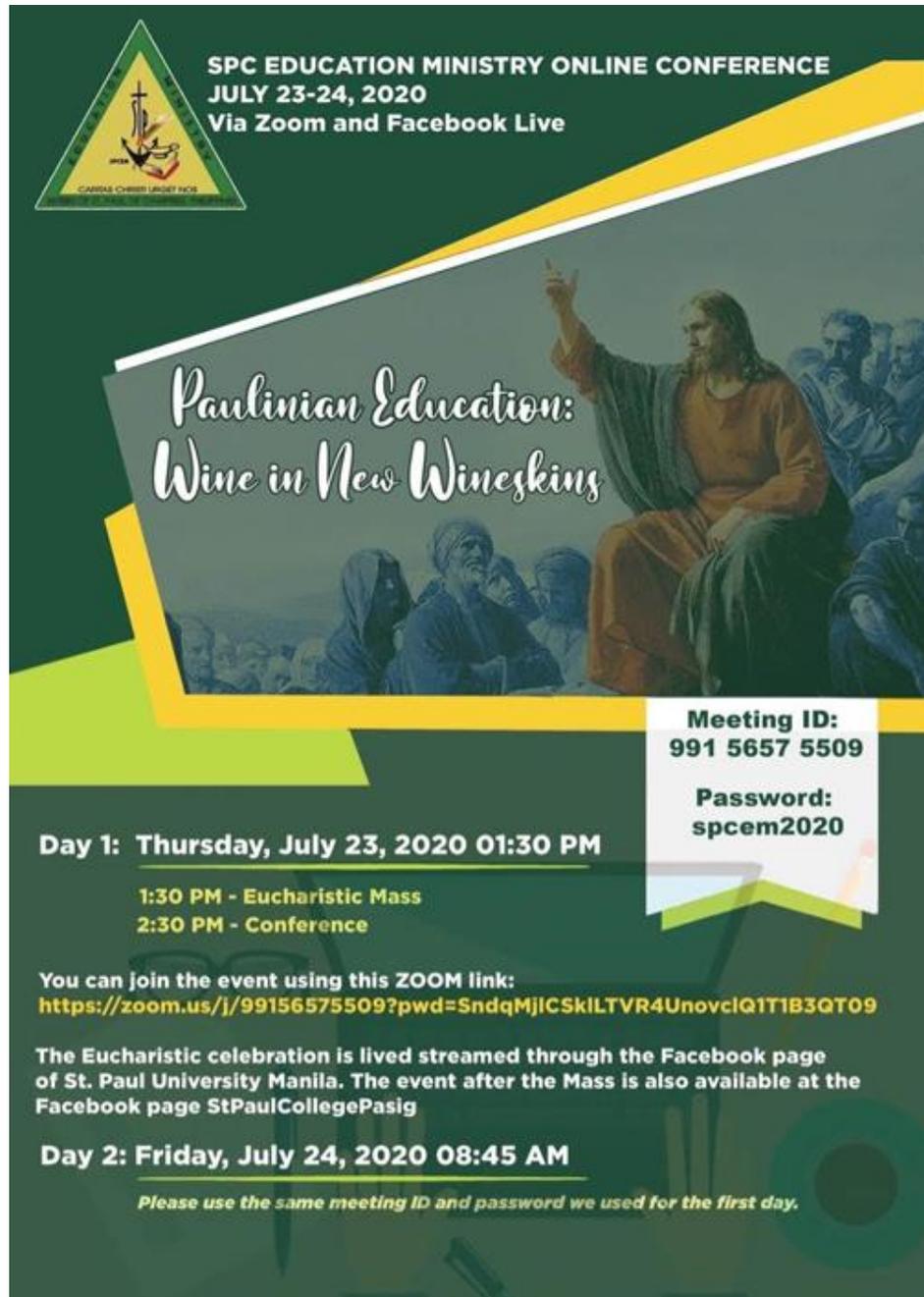


SPCEM HOLDS ONLINE CONFERENCE

The SPC Education Ministry, which has been holding conferences every year in preparation for the incoming school year, held an online conference on 23-24 July 2020 on the theme, "Paulinian Education: New Wine into New Wineskins."

This is the first time the conference was held online via Zoom and Facebook Live, as dictated by present conditions.



SPC EDUCATION MINISTRY ONLINE CONFERENCE
JULY 23-24, 2020
Via Zoom and Facebook Live

*Paulinian Education:
Wine in New Wineskins*

Meeting ID:
991 5657 5509

Password:
spcem2020

Day 1: Thursday, July 23, 2020 01:30 PM

1:30 PM - Eucharistic Mass
2:30 PM - Conference

You can join the event using this ZOOM link:
<https://zoom.us/j/99156575509?pwd=SndqMjICSklTVR4UnovclQ1T1B3QT09>

The Eucharistic celebration is lived streamed through the Facebook page of St. Paul University Manila. The event after the Mass is also available at the Facebook page StPaulCollegePasig

Day 2: Friday, July 24, 2020 08:45 AM

Please use the same meeting ID and password we used for the first day.

Following is an overview of the conference, including its objectives:

**PRE-OPENING ACTIVITIES, SY 2020-2021
SPCEM ONLINE CONFERENCE**

PAULINIAN EDUCATION:
**New Wine in
New Wineskins**

JULY 23 & 24, 2020
VIA ZOOM WEBINAR & FACEBOOK LIVE

July 23 Morning Session
Zoom Meeting Room
Meeting ID: 927 327 3963
Password: 111861

July 23 Afternoon Session & July 24 Morning Session
Zoom Meeting Room
Meeting ID: 991 5657 5509
Password: spcem2020

Facebook Live: www.spumanila.edu.ph



OBJECTIVES:

- 1.** Reflect on the Paulinian Christocentric Paschal Spirituality in the context of our current challenges
- 2.** Understand and own the redesigned SPCEM Strategic Directions
- 3.** Give recommendations on how the SPCEM Strategic Directions can be carried out through the Strategic Plans of SPU Manila



ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY
MANILA
(ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM)

The program for the two-day conference follows:

 **ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY
MANILA**
(ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM)

**PRE-OPENING ACTIVITIES, SY 2020-2021
SPCEM ONLINE CONFERENCE**

PAULINIAN EDUCATION:
New Wine in New Wineskins

DAY 1: JULY 23, 2020

TIME:	ACTIVITY:
8:30 AM	Registration
9:00 AM	Opening Prayer Opening Remarks Introduction of Management Team
10:00 AM	Orientation <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Health, Safety, & Student Serviceso Finance Serviceso Christian Formationo Academic Serviceso General Serviceso Data Privacy Guidelines
11:20 AM	Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 PM	Holy Spirit Mass
2:30 - 2:40 PM	Opening Remarks Sr. Maria Nilda Masirag, SPC Provincial Assistant for Education
2:40 - 3:00 PM	Message Sr. Lilia Thérèse Tolentino, SPC Provincial Superior
3:00 - 4:30 PM	<i>Paulinian Christocentric Paschal Spirituality in the Context of the Current Challenges</i> Sr. Emily Louise Del Castillo, SPC SPC First Assistant General
4:30 - 5:00 PM	Open Forum
5:00 PM	Closing Liturgy

**SPU Manila Coordinators:
Dr. Ma. Encarnacion A. Dychangco & Mr. Oliver Rodriguez**





ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY
MANILA
(ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY SYSTEM)

PRE-OPENING ACTIVITIES, SY 2020-2021 SPCEM ONLINE CONFERENCE

PAULINIAN EDUCATION:

New Wine in New Wineskins

DAY 2: JULY 24, 2020

TIME:

8:00 AM

8:45 AM

9:00 AM

10:00 AM

11:00 AM

11:30 AM

ACTIVITY:

Registration

Opening Liturgy

Presentation of SPCEM Strategic Plan

Open Forum

Individual Reflection

What action step can I recommend on how the SPCEM Strategic Directions can be carried out in SPU Manila?

Use this link to submit your response and recommendations:

- <https://forms.gle/L6nBWTWk5xxu4p2WA>

Lunch

IMPORTANT LINKS TO REMEMBER:

Pre-Opening Attendance Form Link:

Day 1: <https://forms.gle/aqEppqEeeyhqs2u9H9>

Day 2: <https://forms.gle/8Z8kT1SG75eAQB5u>

SPU Manila Pre-Opening Evaluation Form

Link: <https://forms.gle/LNKXcipPARDdbY4f6>

SPU Manila Coordinators:
Dr. Joanne Osea-Popanes & Ms. Maridel Negradas



Sr. Lilia Therese Tolentino, SPC, Provincial Superior, gave an inspiring message:

I greet everyone participating in this two-day online conference with God's peace and love! I pray that this innovative mode of sharing will meet the objectives of the conference and prove to be just as engaging and powerful as the traditional face-to-face conferences.

We are living in challenging times. We are presently faced with a gargantuan educational crisis, what is probably one of the greatest threats in our lifetime. As of March 28, 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused more than 1.6 billion children and youth in 161 countries to be out of school. This is close to 80% of the world's enrolled students. This pandemic has the potential to worsen these educational outcomes even more if we do not act fast enough.

The theme of your two-day online conference, "Paulinian Education: New Wine into New Wineskins," resonates very well with how we should respond and cope with the present pandemic crisis. Fernando M. Reimers, Director of the Global Education Innovation Initiative in the Harvard Graduate School of Education, said, "What the COVID-19 pandemic will change in education depends on the thoughtfulness of education responses today." The pandemic has caused the most serious disruption to education worldwide. The studies and lives of students have already been impacted in multiple ways, some of which we still have to analyze and understand.

I support and commend the objectives of this two-day conference. I recognize with much appreciation all the efforts you have expended in meeting the challenges, needs, and demands posed by the pandemic, especially in preparing for the new school year, which will be like no other we have ever done or experienced in the past. In the midst of our efforts to find the most effective ways and means to deliver Paulinian education under the "new normal," we need to always contextualize our acts and doings in the light of the nature and mission of Paulinian education. What I am trying to drive at is the integration of the Paulinian spirituality in our institutions, processes, and programs. I know that this is a big challenge you are facing. You have humbly admitted that efforts of integration that should be reflected in lesson plans, in policies, in relationships, and in school operations and services, for the most part still remain abstract and theoretical and that you are still exploring and grappling with the right paradigm or strategy to make the desired integration a reality.

The current challenges faced by everyone else in the world take a different meaning to us, Paulinians, who understand the pattern and cycle of the living out of our Christocentric Paschal spirituality. You are in the process of redesigning your educational strategic directions and the School Recovery and Readiness Plan for all Paulinian Schools. I am sure all other educational institutions elsewhere are doing the same. And everyone else is facing the dilemma of not knowing what will truly work and how things should be done. I guess everybody must be ready to accept that not all efforts will meet success and achieve the desired educational goals.

The critical concern of all education systems now is the same. It is to respond to the pandemic the whole world is experiencing. The challenge today is to reduce as much as possible the negative impact this pandemic will have on learning and schooling. All schools are trying to cope with this crisis. They are also thinking of how they can recover fast, how

they can make sense of the confusing and baffling things that are happening, how they can bridge the gaps in opportunities, and how they can assure that all students will have the same chances for quality education that is now delivered differently. Tools, resources, tips, guidelines, and recommended strategies are plentiful, but we are faced with the dilemma of finding out what will really work. It will somehow be a "hit and miss" endeavor.

The available recommended alternative modalities of instruction during this period of home schooling will still be tried and tested. There will be different and contrasting scenarios. The online modalities established by school systems will most likely work well for children whose parents have more education, who have more social advantages, and who have access to resources, especially online connectivity and devices. But for the many children who are not fortunate to have these resources, the period of physical distancing is likely to result in very limited opportunities to learn.

This will be a time of experimentation. On a more positive light, it will, however, create an avenue or opportunity for greater autonomy for children's self-learning, for more self-direction, for the development of greater personal responsibility, and for the experience of productive and pro-active collaboration among the principal actors—the students, the teachers who guide them through the power of online learning, and the parents. This scenario, however, will not be the case for the majority of students. The longer the period of physical isolation from other students and teachers, the harder it will be to recover from lost opportunities that schooling offers. These educational losses will eventually result in economic and social disadvantages to society.

"New wine into new wineskins!" Matthew 9:17 says: "People do not put new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise the skins burst, the wine spills out, and the skins are ruined. Rather, they pour new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved." This is what Pope St. John XXIII called for in 1962 when he opened the Second Vatican Council. He became a prophet when he launched the Church on a great adventure of the Spirit. He said: "I want to throw open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and the people can see in." He said it was time to "open the windows and let in the fresh air." He also said: "What is needed now is a new enthusiasm, a new joy." What a marvelous and beautiful metaphor! The Church of the 1950s was indeed in a deadened space, with very little opening to the issues of the world or to other faith traditions. In a similar light, Pope Francis spoke of the need for new wineskins. The newness, he said, is rooted in the newness of the Gospel that "goes beyond us." It renews us and "renews the structures."

We need new ideas. Sometimes it is easier to say "no" to a new idea than to say "yes." And we can offer many valid reasons: too expensive, not enough time, teams not trained well enough, not the right kind of equipment, we have never done it before, and so on. But for many of us, this pandemic has compelled us to reconsider ideas or processes that we may not have previously considered. Sometimes, we just have to make something work, regardless of the potential unexpected and disconcerting challenges or new discoveries. In the spirit of the "new wine into new wineskins," old excuses no longer hold water. The previous ways of doing things will not quite work in the new normal. We are invited to move forward instead of looking for reasons that an idea will not work or should not even be considered. We are invited to be open-minded and to choose to look for ways to make a new idea work.

The spirit of the "new wine into new wineskins" also invites us to form new relationships. In a crisis moment such as we are experiencing now, sometimes we have to get rid of preconceived notions and prejudices. For instance, co-workers we previously had issues with may now be seen in a different light because of how well we see them leading their areas during times of difficulty. Or leaders we may have had differences with are now deserving our respect and admiration because of how they are leading the institution through a very delicate and challenging situation. We can open our eyes to see things through new lenses. Where we had previously been cynical and prejudiced about people and things, perhaps now we can be more gracious, understanding, and compassionate. Where we had previously built up a negative perception about some people, maybe now we can see their positive attributes shine through. Perhaps now there is a better relationship and understanding between us and our leaders, where we now feel the level of value and respect we had been missing. This can be an opportune time to handle people differently and learn to see them at their full level of value. I underscore the importance of connecting ourselves to people who are experiencing the same crisis. Our lives can only find meaning from relationship with God and one another.

In normal times, we all have preferences about how we operate, where we spend our time, energy, and focus. But in the face of global crisis, we often have to reassess where we put our focus in the first place. Perhaps certain events, endeavors, or projects really were not that critical or essential to our mission. Perhaps it is valuable to spend more time investing in people than working on projects. When we are forced to make choices due to scant time and resources, then it is time to ask ourselves what should be a long-term decision, not one made for just a short-term benefit.

God has promised that He will work all things out for the good. The best way for us to extend this into our own life is to ensure that we prioritize a time of prayerful reflection and evaluation to see what changes need to be done. As we look back to evaluate, we need to press forward with a different mentality to create the desired future. The old has gone and the new has come. With eyes of faith, let us see that God is doing a new thing and telling us something new.

COVID-19 has become a catalyst for educational institutions worldwide to search for innovative solutions. The signs of the times call for shifts in educational approaches; for new creative solutions for much-needed innovations; for mutual collaboration; for clear thinking to know and discern what is truly urgent, essential, and important; for selfless commitment to share and put in more work; for humble listening; for sacrifice of one's ego for the well-being and greater good of others; for patience, for humility, for perseverance; and for more appreciation and affirmation.

I extend my felicitations to and prayers for Sr. Ma. Nilda Masirag and her team for organizing this called for two-day online conference. I pray that all of you may be given the wisdom to know how to distinguish what is really new and what is now old and useless. I also pray that you will be able to read through the signs of the times the new things and message that Jesus brings through the pandemic. To be able to see and read God's message for us in this crisis, we need a new heart, one that resembles Jesus' own heart—meek, humble, trustful, compassionate, open to God and to others. Some things are always new;

they never grow old and useless, especially the new commandment to love as Jesus loved us. Like good wine, they even improve with age. I, therefore, enjoin you to continue to be creative, to engage with joy and enthusiasm, and to draw from your faith the inner resources you need.

During this unforgettable "historical" period in our life, when many people, families, and communities have been hit hard, by mourning, illness, loss of work, and isolation, let us think about them, keep them in our prayers, and express our solidarity with them. Let us continue to believe that God is not absent, that He is very much present. It is we, His believers, His Paulinian disciples, who will make Him visible and present during these hard moments of darkness. Let others perceive His closeness and His Easter promise through us by sharing with them our God-experience through gestures of concern and concrete services of love.

In conclusion, I invite all of you to be one in asking the Lord for a New Pentecost for our world. I quote the Catholic Charismatic Renewal International Service, who organized an international ecumenical prayer on the Vigil of Pentecost on May 26 this year: "We are in need more than ever of a new Pentecost for our world. In this moment, when we see well that many things are going to change after the crisis we are going through, it is imperative to ask for the Holy Spirit, to pray to Him to guide us, to guide our leaders so that we can build together a civilization of love, respectful of nature, in peace and respect of the dignity of all, in particular, of the poorest."

Thank you very much for your kind listening and attention. May you have a fruitful and meaningful conference. God bless us all!

July 25: Happy Birthday, dear Sr. Martha!



IOB TURNS ANOTHER YEAR OLDER

Today, the SPU Manila Inter-Office Bulletin (IOB) turns a year older and begins Volume XIV. It will be recalled that the IOB was initiated after a planning session held in Bangkok in 2008 as a means to improve communication and information dissemination among school offices and divisions. We request offices and divisions to continue sharing information on their recent and future activities through the IOB.