



## PAULINIAN RESPONSE TO THE PANDEMIC

Paulinians everywhere do whatever they can to help out during this pandemic crisis. In the US, an alumna, Florina Reynoso-Ray (HS 1965, BSN 1970) chaired an outreach project of the Philippine Nurses Association in Metro DC.

Nina shares news about this project:

### Reaching out through the pandemic wall

by Nina Reynoso-Ray, BSN, RN, ACM

Chairperson, Community Outreach/Events Committee, PNA MDC

*"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." ... Mahatma Gandhi*

In March, as the coronavirus ravaged the northeast corridor of the US, grim death statistics climbed up daily. Affected communities within and nearby the hot spots went into a panic mode of buying, hoarding basic needs to non-essentials. Toilet papers, paper towels, hand sanitizers and disinfectants topped everyone's shopping list.

The members of the Philippine Nurses Association, Metro DC Inc., like everybody else, were following up the salient information by the medical experts headed Dr. Fauci and members of his Covid Task team. Being nurses, they felt compelled to know more about this novel virus pathogenesis and its recommendation for safety.

The chapter members, in one introspective pause during their monthly meeting, asked themselves, "What can we do to fight this pandemic?" This light bulb moment created an idea of forming an ad hoc action group – The Covid Task Force.

Led by current President Lourdes Careaga, volunteers within the chapter agreed to undertake the challenge of fighting this invisible enemy. Volunteer members: Prima Colburn, Carol Robles, Amabelle Estreba, Mizpah Amados, Aida Imperio, Nina Reynoso-Ray, Christine Pabico, and Joy Arellano, together they connected via zoom to discuss and strategize the ad hoc committee's goals.

With CDC guidelines as its north star, the members agreed to undertake the "Mask for the Homeless Project." The project was conceived to help mitigate the spread of this virus, protecting oneself as well as protecting another in the community. The group decided that one vulnerable population that may have a need for facial coverings were the homeless shelters, including orphanages and shelters for domestic violence victims.

The members decided to make a list of all the existing shelters within the tri-states: Washington DC, Maryland, and Virginia. Distribution of the cloth masks were divided into phases to keep track of the structured acquisition and distribution of the items. Logistically, a campaign for monetary donations as well as actual cloth masks was waged within the chapter and among families, friends, organizations, and other generous donors. The Task Force was able to generate the amount of \$3,000.00 from generous private donors Donated

cloth masks sewn by skilled RNs began to pour in, adding to the inventory list, in addition to the other donors like the Love Sweatshop, the Lubag Mercado Mission, and Angelie Sarzuelo, RN. Additionally, three members of the task force- Aida Imperio, Prima Colburn, and Nina Reynoso-Ray, acquired machines and self-learned to create different models and sizes of the colorful masks for kids, teens, and adults.

Currently, The Covid Task Force has delivered approximately 1195 cloth masks at the following shelters, among these are the Carpenter’s Shelter (VA), Patrick Henry Family Shelter (VA), Christ House (VA), Bailey’s Crossroads (VA). House of Ruth (DC), National Shelter for Children and Families (DC), Central Union Mission (DC) St. Anne’s Shelter (MD), Shepherd’s Table (MD), Robert J. Fuller House (MD).

**CLOTH MASKS NEEDED  
CALL FOR DONATION**

**Masks for the Homeless Project**

*Background: A number of community-based homeless shelters in Metro DC (MD, VA and DC) that PNAMEC has reached out to expressed a dire need for cloth masks. These cloth masks are needed for the homeless people and shelter staff.*

Help PNAMEC fill these needs for cloth face masks for homeless shelters with your tax-deductible donation.

**Join the fight against COVID-19**

**Sew. Donate. Protect.**

Contact a Task Force member for pick up or drop off of cloth masks donation.

Mail your check donation to:  
Mizpah Amados - PNAMEC Treasurer  
16621 Radcliffe Lane, Woodbridge, VA 22191

Donate via <https://bit.ly/2LH5k3H>

**CONTACT US**  
Ivy Arellano - (301) 520-5189  
Lourdes Careaga - (240) 893-9127  
Prima Colburn - (301) 412-2217  
Anabelle Estroba - (301) 633-2716  
Aida Imperio - (703) 677-2851  
Christine Palaco - (302) 271-8249  
Nina Reynoso-Ray - (571) 405-1709  
Carol Robles - (240) 481-1048

[www.pnamdc.org](http://www.pnamdc.org)



## SPU MANILA HOLDS PLANNING SEMINAR

After the SPC Education Ministry conference held online last week on the theme, "Paulinian Education: New Wine into New Wineskins," SPU Manila held a planning seminar, also via zoom on the theme, "Tranquil Daring to Be\* All to All for Christ" (\*Beyond Expectations).



The seminar-workshop was facilitated by Mr. Xavier Alpasa of Xavier and Associates. He is a TED Fellow Ingenuity Coach passionate about Development—Personal, Organizational and National, listed by Esquire Philippines as One of the Country's Best and Brightest for 2011. He is also Rockefeller Bellagio Residency Fellow invited as a recognized Practitioner having founded and mentored various social enterprises including multi-awarded Rags2riches, Heroic Leadership, Solarsolutions, Kawiltours and Fennel, among others. Cordes Fellow and ICNC LIN Fellow forming talents through Graduate Studies in MBA of various Business Schools, delivering Keynote Speeches/Talks, Seminar-Workshops locally and internationally.

Following is the program of activities of the two-day seminar-workshop:

### **Strategic Planning for AY 2020-2023 July 25-28, 2020**

Date: July 25, 9:00-11:00 A.M.

Attendees: Mr. Alpasa, President's Council, PQA Team

Objectives:

- Draft Broad-Stroke Resolutions on Pre-Session Survey Results
- Present recommendations on how to articulate the SPCEM Strategic Directions in the SPU Manila Strategic Plan
- Draft the "Look of Success" for each SPCEM KRA for SPU Manila

Schedule:

- 9:00 Opening prayer
- 9:05 Short introduction of participants (particularly the new VPs)
- 9:10 Presentation of Pre-Session Survey Results and drafting of Broad-Stroke Resolutions.  
Presentation of recommendations on articulating the SPCEM KRAs in SPU Manila  
Drafting of the "Look of Success" for each KRA for SPU Manila.
- 10:50 Recap of resolutions
- 11:00 Closing prayer (*Oratio imperata*)

Date: July 27, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 NN

Attendees: Mr. Alpasa, Management Team, PQA Team, Representatives from the Faculty, Staff, and Students

Objectives:

- Present Broad-Stroke Resolutions on Pre-Session Survey Results
- Finalize the "Look of Success" for each SPCEM KRA for SPU Manila
- Draft the SPU Manila Strategic Plan

Schedule:

- 9:00 Opening prayer
- 9:15 Presentation of objectives/perspective setting

- 9:20 Presentation of the Broad-stroke Resolutions on the Pre-Session Survey Results
- 9:30 Introduction of Mr. Alpasa
- 9:35 Strategic planning
- 12:00 Closing prayer (*Oratio imperata*)

Date: July 28, 9:00 A.M.-12:00 NN

Attendees: Mr. Alpasa, Management Team, PQA Team, Representatives from the Faculty, Staff, and Students

Objectives:

- Present outputs per KRA

Schedule:

- 9:00 Opening prayer
- 9:10 Presentation of plans (per KRA) and comments from the body
- 12:00 Closing prayer (*Oratio imperata*)

To maximize participation, attendees were assigned to break-out sessions, and the groups' inputs were reported in plenary sessions. Groups were assigned to draw up LEAD—Programs answering the HOW to achieve the LAG—Outcome/Result, and Strategies for four Key Result Areas: Paulinian PRISM (Roots, Identity, Spirituality, and Mission), Outcome Based Learning, Innovations, and Sustainable Management.

At the end of the seminar-workshop, a certificate of appreciation was given to Mr. Alpasa.

Following is the speech given by Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, at the SPCEM On-Line Conference on 23 July 2020:

**Welcome Remarks and Perspective Setting  
SPU Manila Pre-Opening Online Conference  
July 23, 2020**

Eight days more and the month of July will be over. At this time in the past years, July was a time when teachers and students usually wrapped up the special term and got ready for the incoming school year. It was a time when many of us looked forward to a new academic term after having been energized by a leisure foreign trip or a relaxing vacation in some tourist spots in the country. July was a time when the malls were bustling with shoppers, especially for those who were getting ready with their school supplies.

But Year 2020 is different.

There is no special term to wrap up because we had to cancel it. Leisure trips, relaxing vacations, visits to tourist spots... these were impossible to have with the ECQ, GCQ, and total lockdown. For many of us, shopping has become one of our dreaded activities; we would rather stay home than run the risk of catching the virus.

This pandemic has given us important realizations:

1. We realize that we, human beings, are not in control of the world around us. As Joshua Becker, author of *The Minimalist Home*, aptly puts it: "A tiny virus, invisible to the naked eye, has brought the world to a screeching halt, disrupting everything in its path—even life as normal... The world, it feels, has spun into chaos."
2. We live in this era of the fourth industrial revolution, where a fusion of advances in artificial intelligence, robotics, 3D Printing, genetic engineering, quantum computing, and other technologies are supposed to happen. But look at where we are now. Amidst all these advances in sophisticated technology, we realize we are finite beings. We are mortal. And if even just a minute protein invades our system, even a strong man's invincible physical strength, a super genius' intelligent mind, a health professional's therapeutic and healing powers can be easily be overpowered by death.
3. This health crisis has shown us that we are all equal. All are affected, regardless of gender, culture, religion, or economic status. And this brings us to our fourth realization...
4. We are stronger when we work together. As one young UNICEF reporter says, "We humans are fragile by ourselves. Our strength lies in being part of a community... This virus has connected us in a way. It showed us that we should stick together." This crisis is a time to share...it is a time to show that we care.
5. There is good in every evil.

Is there something good that can possibly come out in a pandemic that has infected more than 14M people all over the world, killing more than 600,000, several of them, doctors and health workers, themselves? Here is the answer: Was it not good to witness thousands of volunteer health workers, military men, and other essential workers who chose to be in the frontline during the crisis despite the risk? Was it not good that hotels and schools, including SPU Manila, offered free use of accommodation facilities to doctors and nurses during the lockdown? Was it not a blessing that several parishes and schools hosted the homeless during the whole duration of the ECQ without expecting anything in return? Is it not edifying that many philanthropic groups and individuals have generously supported the PPE campaigns for hospitals and feeding programs for the poor during this crisis? Indeed, in this disordered situation, many stood out as heroes.

This crisis puts our existence as an educational institution at risk. But it can also be an opportunity, not only for us as individual schools but together as one Paulinian school system.

1. It is an opportunity to appreciate our Paulinian identity and spirituality. What better time can we see our Christo-centric Paschal Spirituality alive than now—holding on to our faith and our hope even in such seemingly extremely challenging and hopeless situations?
2. It is an opportunity to tap our inner resources and talents. When we find it impossible to deliver quality education using the usual familiar ways, this is when educators devote their time, energy, and creativity to explore alternative education models so that learning and growth may continue to happen among all learners in all levels.
3. This crisis situation is an opportunity to innovate. As Plato said long, long ago, "necessity is the mother of invention." This is a time to courageously think out of the box and do something we have never done before, like sharing our educational programs together;

or allowing the smaller Paulinian schools to access the online classes of the bigger and more able Paulinian schools; or having a unified formation or faculty training program or a system of faculty sharing among Paulinian schools.

4. This pandemic is an opportunity to work together and come out stronger. I believe that our strength as Paulinian schools lies in being part of a community made up of 37 SPC-run schools all over the Philippines, spread out from as far up north as Aparri to as far down south as Davao.

Today, we are very happy to join the 36 Paulinian schools in this SPCEM Online Conference. This afternoon, we will come together to offer the Sacrifice of the Holy Eucharist in our very own Chapel of the Crucified Christ to thank God that we are all still here and to invoke the Holy Spirit's guidance on us as we start the new school year. After the Mass, we shall listen to Sr. Lilia's inspiring message for us and to Sr. Emily del Castillo as she enlightens us about the "Paulinian Christocentric Paschal Spirituality in the Context of the Current Challenges." Tomorrow, the strategic directions of the SPC Education Ministry, which will be the basis for our SPU Manila strategic planning, will be presented to us.

It is with joy that I welcome you to our two-day SPU Manila Pre-opening Activity and the SPC Education Ministry Online Conference. Thank you and good morning!

### **SPU MANILA CELEBRATES SR. ANUNCIATA'S BIRTHDAY: 2 AUGUST 2020**



**Happy birthday, Sr. Anunciata!  
We love you!!!**

