

THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL

Today, 25 January, we celebrate the Conversion of St. Paul, our Patron. As Paulinians, we commemorate this blessed event in his life and the life of the Church:



St. Paul the Apostle was the greatest of the early Christian missionaries. He first appears in the Acts of the Apostles under the name of Saul. Saul was raised in the Jewish faith as a Pharisee trained in the strict observance of God's Law. He believed the Law should be obeyed by himself and all Jews. Saul was upset by the early Christian Church, believing that the early Christians had broken away from their Jewish traditions. He actively persecuted the Church in Jerusalem. As the first Christian martyr Stephen was being stoned to death, Saul watched the cloaks of the persecutors (Acts 7:58).

Paul then traveled to Damascus to further persecute early Christians. On the road to Damascus Saul had an encounter with the Risen Jesus Christ (Acts of the Apostles 9:1-19, Galatians 1: 13-14). Jesus asked, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" Paul replied, "Who are you, sir?" Jesus responded, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9: 4 - 5). Jesus then sent Saul into Damascus to wait for further instructions. Saul was shaken and blinded by the experience. When a Christian named Ananias came and baptized Saul, his blindness went away. As a result of this encounter Saul became a follower of Christ. He was now convinced that fellowship with the risen Jesus Christ, not the observance of the Law, was all that was needed to receive God's promise of salvation. (Galatians 1:11-12; 3:1-5)

Saul, whose name now became Paul, went to Jerusalem to consult with Peter (Galatians 1: 18). After his first missionary journeys, Paul was called by Jesus to proclaim the Gospel to the Gentiles. He spent the rest of his life journeying on his missions, establishing local churches, and writing to them when he heard of their accomplishments and failures. Paul's letters are the earliest records of the life and history of the early Church. As inspired by the Holy Spirit Paul's letters are part of the Canon of the New Testament. As a record of the happenings in the early Church they are in invaluable record of the expansion of the Christianity. (Loyola Press)

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Due to the pandemic, the celebration today is limited to a Mass in the Our Lady of Chartres Convent (OLCC) in Antipolo, after which Sr. Lilia Tolentino, SPC, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, will make the following announcement:

In this time of God's special visitation in the life of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres throughout the world and the Filipino Christians, in the presence of His Excellency the Most Reverend Charles John Brown, Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines and our main celebrant; His Excellency the Most Reverend Francisco de Leon, Bishop of the Diocese of Antipolo, and concelebrants the members of the SPC Provincial Administration, all those gathered here today and all who are with us virtually, I now officially declare OPEN our celebration of the 325th foundation anniversary of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres, the 110 years of SPC religious formation in the Philippine Province, and 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

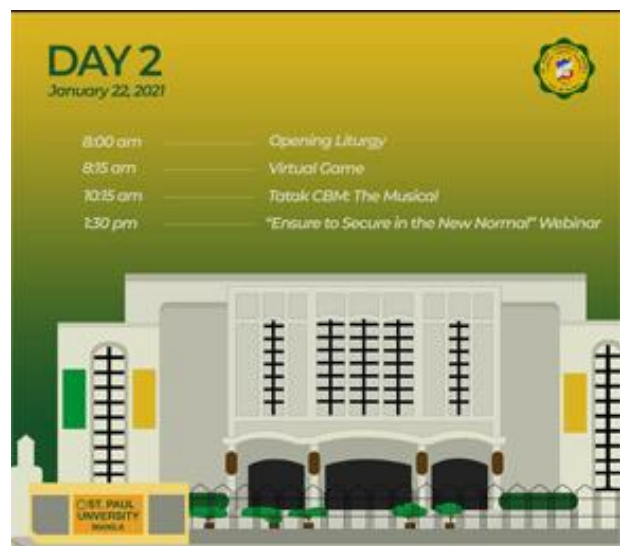
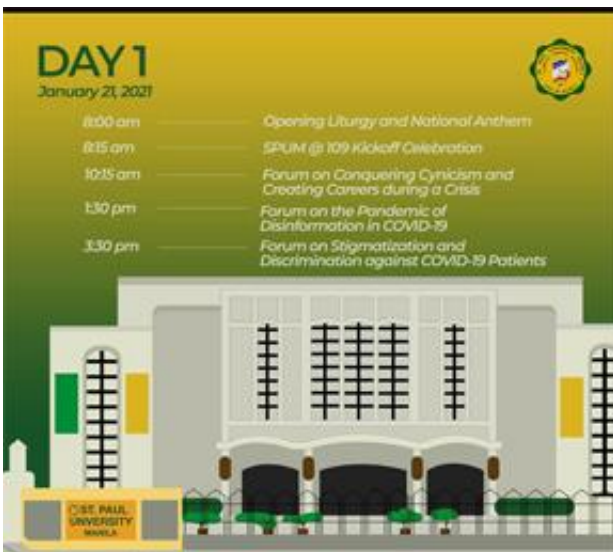
SPU MANILA CELEBRATES UNIVERSITY WEEK

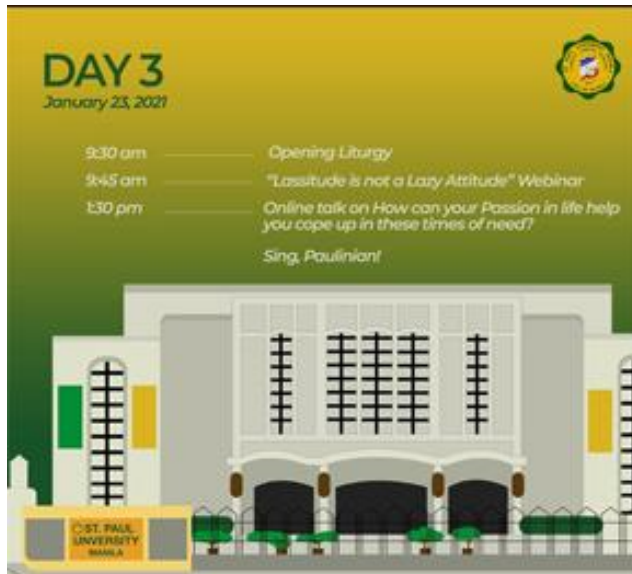
Just as the Grinch was not able to steal Christmas, the COVID-19 virus was not able to steal University Week from SPU Manila. Following is the schedule of the celebrations:



SPUManila @ 109: Strengthened in Faith, Empowered to Rise, Gifted to Give through the Years.

The logo is a mix of all the themes in one image. The creative minded will see the intersecting of themes. The numbers 1, 0, 9 are blended around the elements. The cross signifies our being "Strengthened in Faith." The sun drawn by the edge of the number nine signifies hope for the coming days. The laurel leaves taken from the official SPUM logo symbolize sharing the sufferings of Christ, conquering the pains, and prevailing. This signifies the "Empowered to Rise" part of the theme. The laurel leaves connect the hands, which symbolize "Gifted to Give."





AND THE ALUMNI HOMECOMING

Again, the COVID-19 virus has not been able to steal the Annual General Alumni Homecoming from the Paulinian graduates of St. Paul Manila. But the celebration on Sunday, 31 January 2021, will also be virtual.

According to Sherry Lara-Alingod, President of the St. Paul Manila Foundation, Inc. (SPMAFI), the homecoming will start with a Mass, officiated by Fr. Dave Concepcion, in the Chapel of the Crucified Christ at 3:00 P.M.; followed by her welcome greetings; address on the state of the University by Sr. Ma. Evangeline Anastacio, SPC; and a simple program, including numbers by some jubilarian classes—Golden HS 1971, Golden Nursing 1971, Emerald HS 1966, and Diamond HS 1961; greetings of hope from some alumnae; message from the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown; and Paulinian Hymn.

The SPMAFI has sent out the following invitation:

St. Paul Manila Alumni Foundation, Inc. (SPMAFI) invites all St. Paul Manila alumni to the First Virtual Annual Alumni Homecoming Sunday, January 31, 2021 3:00 P.M. Philippines Facebook live streaming: [fb.com/spumanila](https://www.facebook.com/spumanila) Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/93718461126>... Meeting ID: 937 1846 1126 Passcode: SPUM2021 SEE YOU ALL, FELLOW PAULINIANS!

CONDOLENCES

The Paulinian Family condoles with

Marissa and Nannette Ocampo (AB grads) on the death of their father,
the family of Sr. Lucila Perpinan, SPC,
the family of Sr. Mary Cyril Corpus, SPC, former President of SPCM.

