

IN THESE PANDEMIC TIMES... SPU MANILA IN ENROLLMENT CRISIS

This letter from Sr. Evangeline, SPU Manila to the alumni says it all:

Dear SPU Manila Alumni,

Peace!

In less than two weeks, the new school year will begin. It is quite worrisome that our enrollment is still very low compared to that of the previous school year, as shown in the table below.

LEVEL	SY 2020-2021	SY 2021-2022
GRADE 11	142	100
GRADE 12	348	126
TOTAL SHS	490	226

COLLEGE	FIRST SEMESTER SY 2020-2021	FIRST SEMESTER SY 2021-2022
ARTS AND SCIENCES	136	41
EDUCATION	13	6
BUSINESS MANAGEMENT	201	25
MUSIC & PERFORMING ARTS	25	0
NURSING	76	35
TOTAL COLLEGE	451	107

Of the 107 enrolled in college, 56 are incoming freshmen. Majority of the upperclassmen have not enrolled yet, but we are hoping that they will register within the next two weeks. Our target enrollment for First Year college this school year is at least 180. We have not even reached half of our target.

The downtrend in enrollment in the college department actually started in 2016 during the K-12 transition. There were only a handful of freshmen who enrolled in SY 2016-2017 and we did not admit any First-Year student in SY 2017-2018 because the law says we can only admit those with 12 years of basic education. We were hoping to get a good number of Freshmen in SY 2018-2019 but our hopes were dampened when the government schools started to give FREE tuition fees to college students. We managed to get only 170 Freshmen (See the table below). The 32% increase in the number of Freshmen the following school year 2019-2020, which is shown in the table below, could

be attributed to the good quality of education in SPU Manila; thanks to the competent and very creative team of leaders, managers, and faculty members. We were expecting that the upward trend would continue but, alas! The pandemic came. Many of the parents of our students either lost their jobs or their businesses had to close. Some students even wanted to drop out but they decided to stay when we offered them tuition fee subsidy.

Less than two weeks away from the first day of classes, the enrollment in First-Year college is not catching up, as shown in this table.

FIRST YEAR COLLEGE ENROLLMENT				
COLLEGE	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
CASE	44	87	44	19
CBM	88	97	51	16
CMPA	9	14	3	0
CNAHS	29	26	19	21
GRAND TOTAL	170	224	117	56

There has been an upsurge in number of inquiries in our Facebook page about our college offerings within the past month. However, when they get to know about the tuition fee, they back off. This is an indication that the problem is really financial.

Recognizing the seriousness of the low enrollment turn-out this year, the Core Team came up with these strategies:

1. Lower the down payment to Php 4,000 just to entice more enrollees.

2. **GABAY PAULINO, LUNTIANG PUSO**

This is a PHP 10,000 tuition fee financial assistance program to be extended to 100 graduates of St. Paul University Manila's Senior High School Program who wish to enroll in any college program in SPU Manila. The subsidy will be sourced out from the HOPE Ablaze Scholarship Program. For now, there are donated funds available to cover the tuition fee subsidy for this initial semester. However, we are not sure if there will be enough funds to sustain the needed financial support for the grantees in the subsequent semesters.

We would like to appeal to you, our dear alumni, to pledge your support for these grantees in the form of scholarships to be made available for them. You can, individually or by batch or group, sponsor one student at P30,000.00 per semester or P60,000.00 per school year, sent in full or in staggered tranches.

You may reply directly to me at sreanastacio@spumanila.edu.ph or through messenger; or to Mrs. Martinez, who is coordinating this drive, at marionnettemartinez@yahoo.com or through messenger also.

Alumnae and friends who are interested to help may fill out the Google registration form through this link: <https://forms.gle/DKF8cVSvGiWuk9kLA> or may scan the QR Code below. You may verify

through this email spumhopeablaze@spumanila.edu.ph whether your form went through successfully.

Donations may be deposited to the following bank accounts:

BANCO DE ORO:

Account Name: St. Paul University Manila
Account Number: 000-480-156-158

GCASH

Account Name: Sr. Maria Vicenta Estrella, SPC
GCASH Number: 09771154637

**BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
(PESO)**

Account Name: St. Paul University Manila
Account Number: 3693-0392-65

**BANK OF THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS
(DOLLAR)**

Account Name: St. Paul University Manila
Account Number: 3694-0001-09
SWIFT CODE: BOIPHMM

Do take a screenshot of your deposit slip and send it to us so we can give you an OR.

It is very touching to witness the alumni showing their all-out support for their alma mater. High School Batch '86 and Batch '67 have given their donation. Alumnae from High School Batches '62, '63, '64, and '65 and AB '74 have also pledged their support for the scholarship program through Mrs. Marionette Martinez. Hopefully, other batches will follow suit.

We know that not everyone can give financial assistance because these are hard times. You can still help SPU Manila by promoting the PauliEDGE Webinars among your business partners, co-workers, and friends. It would be a big help if you can promote following Outcome-Based Certificate Courses. Posters may be found in our PauliEDGE FB Page at <https://www.facebook.com/PaulinianEDGE365/>.

- Research Method Certificate Program
- Knowledge-Based Management
- Creative Life Skills Certificate Program

You are truly a blessing to St. Paul University Manila. As you have been our “lifeline” during our times of need in the past, we are confident that you will continue to be our lifeline during this time of crisis.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,

A. Evangelina Anastacio, SPC
Sr. Ma. Evangelina Anastacio, SPC
University President



...IT'S STILL ABOUT COMMUNITY PANTRIES

When the Pantry Goes Mobile

by Sr. Donnalynn Marie Morta, SPC



We praise and thank God for the gift of the Community Pantry. What started with the St. Paul University Manila and Brgy. 697 in April 2021 was sustained by the Lord through generous hearts of the alumni, employees, family and friends. July came with the gift of a partnership with the MMDA (Metropolitan Manila Development Authority) not only to sustain the provisions in the pantry but more importantly address the care of our common home and at the same time for the further formation of the recipients of the pantry. Goods will be provided corresponding to the amount of recyclables turned in.

After orienting the people and coordinating with our partners, UP Manila Ugnayan ng Pahinungód and Brgy. 697, August came with the threat of DELTA. This new COVID-19 variant brought about massive amount of positive cases in such a short time, thus causing the declaration of another ECQ (Enhanced Community Quarantine) here in the metro and in other parts of the country. This virus once again disrupts all plans. With this disruption, we are caught in a dilemma between avoiding gatherings and further transmission of the virus for both the organizers and the recipients, VERSUS the heightened need of the urban poor, the daily wage earners, and the unemployed for this period of the ECQ.

It was an answered prayer when Sr. Maria Evangeline Anastacio, SPC, SPU Manila President, and Sr. Maria Vicenta Estrella, Vice President for Administration and Finance Services, came up with the idea to utilize the outpouring of donations to pack cooked meals to be distributed to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. It is not as much as what they could receive in the usual pantry but this idea of having the pantry to “go mobile” is the leading of the Lord to address the immediate need of our urban poor without sacrificing the safety and protection of all.

The response of the people on August 12, 2021 was very telling of the reality of poverty around us. Setting out ready with our masks and shields, we left SPU Manila around 9:00 AM. In less than hour we had distributed 130 packs of rice, dried fish, sardines, and hard-boiled eggs. We saw familiar faces, our new found friends in the pantry. It was heart-breaking to see families living in all sorts of make shift houses. There was even a homeless man who candidly asked upon receiving the packed meal: “Meron bang tubig?” Do you have water? These people do not have access to the most basic of needs that even a simple packed meal meant everything to them.

We wish we could have given them more. We keep ourselves available during times like this. May our good Lord continue to use all of us as channels of hope and love to all those in need.