

IN THESE PANDEMIC TIMES...

THERE IS STILL TIME FOR REJOICING...



St. Paul University Manila had the soft launching of its 110th Founding Anniversary Celebration on 21 June 2021. The theme for this year's celebration is "In God's Kairos, Goodness Overflowing."



The celebration kicked off with a Mass at 9:00 A.M. in the Chapel of the Crucified Christ with Bishop Broderick S. Pabillo, D.D. as the main celebrant, seen in the photo with Sr. Lilia Tolentino, SPC Provincial Superior.

Livestreaming was held via the official Facebook pages of St. Paul University Manila and ONESPCEM.

It was also the 110th anniversary of SPC Formation in the Philippines, and Sr. Lilia gave a very enlightening speech on its history. [We shall include this in next week's IOB.]

Sr. Evangeline Anastacio, President of St. Paul University Manila, gave the following speech at the soft launching of the school's 110th Founding Anniversary:

His excellency, Most Reverend Broderick Pabillo, Sr. Lilia Thérèse Tolentino, SPC, our Provincial Superior, and the members of the Provincial Council, Sisters, Faculty, Staff, and Alumni of St. Paul University Manila, Good morning!

How time flies! It does not seem that long ago when Sr. Lilia and the previous administration, faculty, and staff of this university started the preparation for the Centennial Celebration in 2012. Now, 10 years after the centennial, we find ourselves starting the preparations for the year-long celebration of the 110th Foundation Anniversary of St. Paul University Manila.

Our preparation period and the year-long celebration of our 110th anniversary is a time for remembering and giving thanks: for the opening of the novitiate that evolved into the school; for the first school head, Mother Marthe de St. Paul Legéndre, SPC; for the humble beginnings of the then, St. Paul Institution; for the pioneer Sisters, faculty, and staff who had served the school through the years; for the joys, successes, and the glory, as well as the pains, sorrows, and difficulties that the school had gone through.

Today, we look forward to celebrating the 110th Foundation Anniversary of this Paulinian educational institution, with the most fitting theme—SPU MANILA@110: In God’s Kairos–Goodness Overflowing. Circumstances are making the preparation for this celebration more difficult but not less joyful. We enjoin everyone who has become part of the life of St. Paul University Manila—the Sisters, teachers, staff, alumni, parents, and students, those who are here with us and those who are joining us virtually from various parts of the country and the world—to join us in our preparation from today until December 2021 and in our year-long celebration from January to December 2022.

It is my singular honor and privilege to formally declare open the preparatory activities for the celebration of the 110th Foundation Anniversary of St. Paul University Manila!

Papuri sa Diyos at mabuhay!

* * * * *

On the same day, we also celebrated the 311th Death Anniversary of our holy founder, Fr. Louis Chauvet. This is the day our Superior General chose to hold the congregational tree planting project, dubbed “325 Trees for 325 Years,” to commemorate the 325 years of mission and service of the Sisters of St. Paul of Chartres in the world.

As the text of the commemorative plaque says, the tree “parallels the spiritual journey of our congregation from the tiny seed of Levesville, germinating in the heart of Fr. Louis Chauvet, our founder, to a tree widespread and far-flung to various continents—teaching, healing, and touching lives. A symbol of grace, growth, and hope, this tree affirms God’s power to create, redeem, and sustain all of Creation.”

At the tree planting ceremony in SPU Manila, Sr. Evangeline gave this interesting rationale for the choice of the Golden Shower as the school’s tree:

We in St. Paul University Manila feel so fortunate and delighted to have chosen to plant the Golden Shower, one of the beautiful and brightly colored flowering trees in our country. Our choice is, in fact, serendipitous because of the many parallels and symbolisms between the tree and the congregation.

First. The Golden Shower tree, or Cassia Fistula, also called April Shower, is an erect, medium-sized tree, which sheds its leaves every year. Its special feature is its fragrant and bright yellow flowers, which, when in bloom, give the tree a majestic look. These characteristics are much like the paschal spirituality of the SPC Sisters, who pass through difficulties and tribulations—like the yearly shedding of the tree’s leaves—but hold on to their faith and hope, and having overcome the challenges and trials, exude joy and love—like the bright yellow flowers of the Golden Shower.



Second. Just as this tree is found not only all over the Philippines but also in the Southeast Asian region and in other countries around the world, the SPC Sisters are found all over the country, from northern Luzon to Mindanao, and in different parts of the globe, making interculturality a part of our life.

Third. Aside from its decorative beauty, the Golden Shower is also highly regarded as one of the most important medicinal plants, having anti-tumor, antioxidant, anti-allergic, anti-diabetic, anti-bacterial properties, and many more. Due to its many medicinal uses, the Golden Shower is known in India as aragvadhā, meaning "disease killer." In a world wounded by division and physical, emotional, and moral maladies, the medicinal property of the Golden shower symbolizes the SPC Sisters' earnest desire and zealous endeavor to be "healers" and "peacemakers."

Fourth. Just as the golden flowers of the tree attract a lot of honey bees and are beneficial hosts to butterflies, it is our prayer that many more young ladies be attracted to join our Congregation and that many more learners of all ages find in our schools a place of safety, where they can become the best persons that they are called to be.

We, indeed, made the right choice to plant the Golden Shower Tree. Let us plant this tree with joy and thanksgiving; let us nurture it with water and sunshine and watch it grow and flourish—as our congregation and our school also grow and flourish, with the water of God's grace and the sunshine of His everlasting Love.

CONDOLENCES



The Paulinian Family is one with the Filipino nation in condoling with the family of Former President Benigno Simeon Aquino III, who died last week. The reserved scion of one of Asia's most famous political families died Thursday, 24 June 2021. He was 61.

Aquino, who was in office from 2010 to 2016, was the only son of the late Former President Corazon Aquino and her assassinated husband, Senator Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino, both revered for leading the struggle to restore democracy in the archipelago nation. Aquino's father and namesake was killed at the Manila International Airport upon his return from exile in the US in 1983. The assassination was seen as an impetus for the popular revolt and Marcos' ouster three years later.

* * * * *

The Paulinian Family also condoles with:

the family of Fe Sarile Valera (College 1969)

Enriqueta Villaluz (HS 1964) on the death of her brother, Carlito

the family of Rosario Carballo-Singian.

