



MAPSA
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SPECTRUM



MANILA ARCHDIOCESAN AND PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
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MAPSA@45

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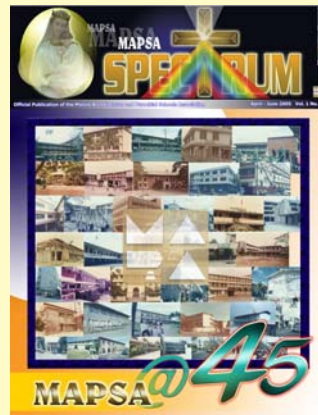
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COVER DESIGN STORY

MAPSA @ 45



In the face of various pressures besieging private schools in the early 1950's, the then Archbishop of Manila, the Most Reverend Rufino Santos moved to organize the parochial schools in the Archdiocese. These numbered 29 and by 1956, the Archbishop took a more definitive step by creating a Committee which was mandated to plan and draw the framework for the envisioned organization. It

was, however, on 15 November 1960 that he issued the decree creating the Manila Archdiocesan and Parochial Schools Association and ratifying its Constitution.

By 1967, its membership increased to 38, to 47 in 1982, and to 79 in 1996 with the diocese of Malolos and Antipolo joining the Association. By this schoolyear, 2005-2006, MAPSA has 94 schools which are spread out in the Archdiocese of Manila and in the Dioceses of Malolos, Antipolo, Novaliches, Parañaque, Kalookan, Cubao and Pasig.

Were these school buildings (which mostly literally began as schoolhouses) depicted in the cover of this issue of the MAPSA Spectrum able to speak, they would relate the odds, challenges and complexities which MAPSA school administrators, faculty and personnel overcame in the past and continue to overcome each day as they strive to contribute towards renewing the face of the earth and making it a home worth living in for future generations while situating their efforts within the context of the reign of God and the mission of the Catholic school of bringing it about.

As MAPSA ages beyond 45, these physical structures were given life, stand in realization that evangelization is the reason for their being.

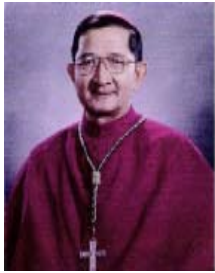


THE MAPSA SPECTRUM LOGO

The white light passing through the Cross signifies God's Infinite Love and Wisdom and His desire to bring human life to its fullness. By the Redemptive act of Christ, this Love is transformed, symbolized by the 7 prismatic colors, into the sanctifying, enlightening, empowering, invigorating, forgiving, reconciling and healing powers of the Eucharist all of which MAPSA endeavors to infuse in the young to enable them to make a marked difference in their lives and those of others.


Of the original MAPSA Spectrum logo, to its left, is placed an image of Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom. This is to stress, as St. Louis de Montfort said, that the best means to obtain and keep Divine Wisdom is through a tender and true devotion to the Blessed Mother. She knows and loves God most, contemplating Him in the universe. She is the secret to possess Divine Wisdom as she was the only one found worthy to conceive and give birth to Eternal Wisdom.

messages



In its almost forty-five years of existence, MAPSA has done a lot of good to its member schools in the Ecclesiastical Province of Manila. It has helped raise the standard of education in its member schools and was able to make them cooperate with each other and work together. Because of this spirit of solidarity, the schools enjoy the fruits of their unity and cooperation.

I hope that MAPSA will continue to help upgrade the Christian formation being given in its member schools. After all the main reason why the Church is putting up schools is the evangelization and Christian formation of the students. All the sciences and arts taught in a Catholic school should lead to and should be integrated by faith and love for Christ our Lord.


+MOST REV. GABRIEL V. REYES, D.D.
Bishop of Antipolo



As we start the new school year, may we be guided by the theme of MAPSA that is *the service for the fullness of life*. Indeed Catholic Institutions should always promote life from conception to old age. However, life does not only mean living it but rather living it in the light of the Gospel of Jesus which is the Gospel of Life.

Every Christian is entitled to a decent life.

Let me point out several things that you, my dear administrators, teachers and students, should strive for in living a decent and Christian life. First, the love for truth is important. Our country right now is suffering from economic and political crisis because people do not know anymore what is true or false. A Christian must always remember what Jesus said: *I am the way, the truth and the life*. Even at His trial Jesus was insisting on Pilate to seek the Truth.

Secondly, this year is also the Year of the Eucharist. May our Catholic schools give importance to the celebration of the Eucharist, *as the summit and fount of Christian activity*. In the Eucharist, we experience the self-giving of Christ to us and our sharing in the Eucharistic banquet. May we also learn to share especially with the less fortunate. The school should not only confine itself to its four walls but must reach out to others. As Christ gave himself, so too may we learn to give ourselves in all the activities that we have to undertake this school year.

May Mary the first Tabernacle of Christ guide us and intercede for us.


+MOST REV. JOSE F. OLIVEROS, D.D.
Bishop of Malolos



My warmest congratulations to MAPSA!

This year, MAPSA is marking 45 years of service to the Church. There is no doubt that, as an association of parochial schools, MAPSA has been the creative and moving force in the Local Church's desire to provide parish-based Catholic formation to the youth.

What opportunities await MAPSA today? Parish communities are confronted with so many challenges in forming young minds. There are two trends to take note of: on the bright side, family life and marital spirituality are gaining ground as primary concerns in lay formation, thanks to the appeal of the Marriage Encounter Program, the Couples for Christ's Christian Life Program and the Parish Renewal Experience. The married couples who undergo these programs go home committing themselves more to placing God at the center of their family life. How can parish-based Catholic education support these parents in their resolve to develop and nurture in their children a lively and deep faith?

Another concern that MAPSA must consider is that more and more, quality education is becoming inaccessible to a big part of the population because of the worsening economic condition in the country. How can parochial school education become a true alternative for the poor to gain quality education? How can the poor be convinced that the Church really prioritizes their needs and not the needs of a handful who have the financial resources to achieve quality education? The good Lord has blessed MAPSA with so many graces for the past forty five years. I am confident MAPSA will be blessed with the grace to find ways by which quality education will always be within the reach of the economically disadvantaged.

I wish MAPSA all the best!

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, this 2nd day of June, in the Year of Our Lord, 2005.


+MOST REV. ANTONIO R. TOBIAS, D.D.
Bishop

MAPSA@45

In the Service of the Fullness of Life

The Manila Archdiocesan and Parochial Schools Association (MAPSA) envisions itself as a communion of schools, in mission of promoting evangelized globalization in the light of the Church's love and preference for the poor.

True to the foregoing vision of MAPSA is the mission spirit of relentless stewardship and vigorous advocacy in promoting not only quality and excellent instructional programs but also the values of spirituality, faith and morals among its school members and constituents.

Through the glorious years since the promulgation of a decree by the then Archbishop of Manila Rufino Cardinal Santos, DD, creating MAPSA on November 15, 1960 and followed thereafter by the ratification of the Constitution, much have been accomplished in terms of systematizing and upgarding procedures which ran under various chairmanships - Msgr. Justino C. Ortiz in 1968, Bishop Leonardo A. Legaspi in 1980, Bishop Manuel Sobreviñas in 1984 and in 1993, Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos who is presently President of the MAPSA Executive Council and Superintendent of the schools of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Through glorious years, the Association has embarked on a number of significant organizational operations such as programs for professional upgrading of teachers and administrators, the MAPSA Retirement Plan for Academic/Non-Academic Personnel, Manuals Development, Formation Programs for Teaching and Non-Teaching Personnel, updating Instructional Programs, Formulation and Revision of the MAPSA Vision-Mission Statement with Core Values, the establishment of centers for integral evangelization (cie), building responsible stewardship in the areas of financial and human resource management, assignment of working groups to include commissions, committees and subsidiaries, and official affiliation of the various dioceses for MAPSA membership, among many others.

To date, MAPSA continues to re-affirm its noble stand of upholding its Vision and Mission in the light of its sustained evangelical mission that touches not only what is academic but also the hearts and the generous hands of all school community members in answer to the Church's program for the preferential option for the poor - the "*Pondo ng Pinoy*" Movement.

As stewards of God's creations, we can gather wisdom from Bertrand Russell's inspiring lines, thus: "*The passions, simple but overwhelming strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind.*"

When confronted with the pressing reality brought about by economic upheavals and difficulties today, MAPSA at 45 takes on a steadfast and unwavering commitment of providing a milieu of excellence and faith that can be realized through developmental synergistic interaction among its institutions and community members.

For unto whomsoever much is given, of one shall be much required: and to whom men and women have committed much, of one they will ask the more.

- Luke 12:48

MAPSA Participates at PnP Rites

Representatives from MAPSA schools attended the First Year Anniversary Celebration of the Pondo ng Pinoy. This was held at the Cardinal Sin Auditorium on Saturday, 11 June 2005 with the delegates coming from the following dioceses and apostolic vicariates: Malolos, Antipolo, Novaliches, Parañaque, Kalookan, Cubao, Pasig, Imus, San Pablo, Daet, Taytay and Puerto Princesa, aside from the Archdiocese of Manila. Also present were members of religious congregations, seminaries, the military ordinariate, CEAP and MAPSA, and RCAM employees.

The Mass which was preceded by animation and reflection was concelebrated with His Excellency, Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, D.D. as the main celebrant and homilist. Reports in 3 parts were rendered on the PnP movement: Catechism of the Crumbs by Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos which was a briefing on the 10 modules meant to facilitate integration and sustain commitment to the lifestyle of Christ; Gathering of



maisakatuparan ang Pondo ng Pinoy at ang mga layunin nito: sa pamilya, sa parokya, sa paaralan, sa diocesis, sa pribadong sektor?

MAPSA participants all concurred that the PnP movement is active in their respective schools and point to the need for preliminary and sustained support regarding it so that it may not be simply "*ningas-kugon*".

According to the groups of MAPSA delegates, deepening and re-orientation of the PnP vision as well as support and possible integration in the other areas of discipline shall help make it more meaningful and beneficial. Participants shared knowledge of students skipping snacks to be able to give to the PnP as well as encouraging members of their families also to contribute. Visible, constant and all-out support by the parish priest is of tremendous effect.

The activities were capped with the affirmation rendered by Archbishop Rosales, Bishop Ongtioco, Bishop Arigo, Bishop Tagle, and Bishop Reyes and the blessings given to the Congregation.



the Crumbs by Fr. Antonio Cecilio Pascual whereby he presented an update of the activities undertaken to spread the PnP and the overwhelming response of those who were asked to actively involve themselves; and the Distribution of the Crumbs by Bishop Luis Antonio G. Tagle who rendered a briefing on the guidelines to be observed when proposing projects to the PnP.

A one-hour workshop was held in 37 classrooms where, in groups of 5, delegates discussed their written responses to 5 questions posed:

1. Ang Pondo ng Pinoy ba ay naipatupad sa inyong Parokya/Paaralan/Diyocesis?
2. Paano naisasakatuparan o naisasagawa ito?
3. Anu-ano ang mga nakakatulong sa pagpapatupad ng Pondo ng Pinoy?
4. Anu-ano ang mga balakid sa pagpapatupad nito?
5. Anu-ano ang inyong mga mungkahi upang



Pondo ng Pinoy

ONE YEAR OLD AND STILL GROWING

(Homily delivered by His Excellency Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, D.D. at the Mass celebrating the First Anniversary of the Launching of the Pondo ng Pinoy held at the Jaime Cardinal Sin Auditorium, Paco Catholic School, Paco, Manila)



A year ago the Archdiocese of Manila together with its Suffragan Dioceses launched an innovative approach to evangelization catechesis. The unique catechesis remained true to the purpose of making people understand and accept the Lord into their lives but couched in more easily understood forms and relevant to the urgent needs of people in their present situation.

It is the adaptation perhaps that made the catechesis interesting or the richly imaginative way of presenting big things in little ways (similar to the ways of the kingdom) that has long been lost due to the excessive analysis and outstandingly rich expression of eternal, yet simple truths that should have been easily assimilated by simple

people that the Master truly wanted to touch.

The trick was in the adaptation. "By design, this Catechism does not set out to provide the adaptation of doctrinal presentations and catechetical methods required by the differences of culture, age, spiritual maturity, and social and ecclesial condition among all those to whom it is addressed. Such indispensable adaptations are the responsibility of particular catechisms and, even more, of those who instruct the faithful." (CCC, 24).

PONDO ng PINOY is that adaptation of the Good News that is Jesus to people's present situation and needs particularly with respect to the direction in life and its many limitations and even severe enslavement.

The Filipino people have long been victims of foreign, local and our own self-imposed bondage. We have compounded our sufferings by being our own self-torturers.

For if we engage in vice do we not by that matter cause our own misery? For if we take shepherding or leadership lightly and even cause it to be applied wrongly have we not by that matter encouraged our own disadvantage. Historically there have been many things and people who have caused our distrust of people, things and systems. And now after nearly everything has failed, we ask, have we truly accepted Jesus Christ and tried his ways, his strategies, above all, love?

This is what PONDO ng PINOY is all about. PONDO ng PINOY is the clarification of our attitudes, the renewal of our true motivation, the purification of our values, the direction of our love for God and its committed expression as compassion to the poor, as our sisters and brothers. Doing so or following the catechesis of PONDO ng PINOY we realize that the life given to us and to our brothers and sisters is nothing but our share in God's image and likeness (Genesis 1:27) thus lending us the dignity that is His, even as we enjoy the gift of life.

Life is more than economic (interest); neither could it be properly satisfied nor developed by sheer ideological and political (causes). What protection and encouragement have the other institutions given the people? What assurances of progress or even simple stability, granting that little forward motion is presently available to the Filipino? Do we see obstacles or can we discover in every horizon an opportunity? Are we surprised to know that every human development effort begins with the challenges put forward by limitations and obstacles? Is not the championing of knowledge occasioned by ignorance? Good health challenges sickness; while charity and compassion answer the selfish attitudes and choices of humans.

If it does not liberate from what is evil or bring you or someone out of suffering and even error and sin, the nit cannot be liberation and forgiveness. Development brings blessings only because it frees humans from limitations and enslavement.

Daily we are confronted with all forms of enslavements. Ignorance. Some people are not aware that they have rights (karapatan); because they do not know, they cannot exercise it; they cannot demand what is theirs.

Evangelization is making people aware that God gave them life, dignity and rights. But they also have obligations for the simple reason that other people have and do enjoy what all others have. We need to be educated, formed, encouraged and accompanied. This is what PONDO ng PINOY is trying to do. Overcome in ourselves and in others:

Poverty;
Sickness;
Selfish Attitudes;
Selfish Values;
and Sin.

We have much to do for others...but always with Christ.

We have just begun.

We need every Bishop to be an evangelizer.

We need every priest to be a partner in evangelization.

It is an urgent obligation and responsibility that every teacher, parent, the young as also every practitioner of whatever trade or livelihood or perhaps of none of these --- to be agents of change of self, family and the transformation of society.

We will finally overcome. The time is now to begin. With Christ Jesus, we will reach the end of the journey and the quest and reward of our vision. 🙏

school-based news



on Ervy Atienza is not an ordinary student. This 11 year old from Sta. Rosa Catholic School (SRCS) Grade Six Batch of 2004-2005 is the son of Architect Felix and Joyce Atienza. Ervy, who dreams of becoming a surgeon, gives an outstanding performance in his day-to-day work. In spite of being the most responsible brother in the family, and the top not only of his class but of his entire batch, he still manages to excel in other activities.

Atienza has won several quiz bees and competitions in the school. For the first time, he competed off campus by representing SRCS in the "25th National Super Quiz Bee" during the Pasig-San Juan Division Round last October 2, 2004 at the Robinson Galleria. He won over the other participating schools earning the honor to be the representative of the Division in the contest which was telecast on ABC5 last November 20, 2004. This brought honor to his school and his family.

He admits, however, that he did



Von Ervy Atienza (3rd from left) during the 25th National Super Quiz Bee

THIS STAR'S BEEN SHINING BRIGTHER THAN EVER

not achieve by himself for he is supported by his hardworking coaches, Mrs. Nerma

Velarde and Mr. Rollie Ver A. de Real, his parents and relatives, fellow classmates and the entire SRCS family. Without their faith and confidence, his diligence would have been anything but better.

While studying different cultures, arts and world history at such an early age, Atienza still keeps his focus on his daily lessons and on his most favorite subject which is science.

So what does it take to be an achiever? From Atienza, one learns to start with oneself. He prepares, studies hard and keeps in mind that he is not the only one concerned whenever he

competes. He makes it a point to be optimistic and to have confidence in himself.

This star shines bright in SRCS. More than being just cute, Atienza is substance.



The winner of the 25th National Quiz Bee together with his family and principal, Ms. Amelita Berdan



The new speech laboratory of CSPB

CSPB: Educator For Life

Because education is always close to the heart of every individual it came as no surprise that a new Catholic school, Eskwela Catolica, was born on February 11, 1913. After some years, from Eskwela Catolica her name was changed to San Pascual Institute which now is the Colegio de San Pascual Baylon (CSPB). After 92 years, CSPB stands as a resilient witness to every success and all the pains and hardships which all provided lessons to be learned in the management of an educational institution.

Colegio de San Pascual Baylon, a well-known school in its community, offers courses from Nursery to College. It is located in the heart of Obando, Bulacan, a town known for the *fertility dance* in honor of her patron saints, Santa Clara and San Pascual Baylon, and Our Lady under the title, Nuestra Señora de Salambao.

The school continues to improve her way of educating young men and women by providing them new and modern facilities to better enhance their knowledge and develop their talents and skills. These new facilities include fully equipped science, computer and speech laboratories, a centralized library, an improved school canteen, and a newly-built gymnasium... all for the welfare of the Paschalians.

Their formation, however, extends beyond the confines of the campus of CSPB. Its students are also trained and sent to districts and provincial competitions, such as the BulPRISA and MADICSA Meet Competitions.

Furthermore, Colegio de San Pascual Baylon remains a pioneer in building the future through quality education, as "journey of a thousand miles begins with us.... CSPB".

Malate Catholic School Celebrates Graduation

Called to celebrate the Eucharist: "OUR LIGHT AND LIFE"- this was the theme of this year's graduation exercises held March 17, 2005 for the grade school, and March 18, 2005 for the high school. The celebrations started with the processional march of the graduates together with the administration and faculty.

The distribution of diplomas and awarding of certificates and medals were held after the Mass.

This year's graduation exercises were made more significant because of the leadership and Academic Excellence awards given by the Board of Directors of the Parents - Teachers Advisory Council (PTAC) to the First Honors of the Grade School and the Valedictorian of the High School. A speech from the First Honors awardees of the Girls Grade School and the Pledge of Loyalty led by the High School awardees concluded the graduation ceremony.

The rest of the MCS Community conveyed their congratulations to assure the graduates of prayers as they journey beyond MCS.

CSPB:

Sa kanyang patuloy na pag-unlad

Maraming pagbabago ang naganap sa Colegio de san Pascual Baylon hindi lamang sa mga bagong pasilidad nito tulad ng San Lorenzo Ruiz Gym, Speech Laboratory at mas hi-tech na Computer rooms; kundi maging sa ilang mga programa nito.

Unang Linggo ng buwan ng Marso, ginanap sa bagong San Lorenzo Ruiz Gym ang eleksyon ng mga mag-aaral upang pumili ng bagong pamunuan ng Student Council. Ito ay bilang paghahanda para sa taong pampaaralan 2005-2006. Mas maagang isinagawa ang nasabing eleksyon upang lalong mapaghandaan ng bagong pamunuan ang kanilang tungkulin nang mas maayos at masigasig sa pamamagitan ng pagdalo sa mga Leadership

Training Seminar upang makalikha ng ilang programa para sa kapakanan ng kanilang kapwa mag-aaral na sakop ng kanilang pamunuan.

Samantala, noong ika - 30 ng Marso ginanap ang pagtatapos ng mga mag-aaral sa Sekundarya at Kolehiyo. Ito ay naging makabuluhan at makasaysayan lalo't higit sa mga nagsipagtapos, sa mga magulang at mga tagapamalakad ng paaralan. Si Obispo Jose F. Oliveros, Obispo ng Diocese ng Malolos, ang siyang nanguna sa pagdiriwang ng Banal na Misa ng Pagtatapos. Paksa ng pagdiriwang ang "Our Long Awaited Moment" na talaga namang dama sa bawat



sulok ng bulwagan. Naging madamdamin ang kanilang paghihiwalay subalit naroon ang pag-asa ng lahat na mabibigyang katuparan ang lahat ng kanilang pangarap at sa pagtatapos na iyon magsisimula ang panibagong landasin ng kanilang buhay.

Inaasahan pa ang ilang mga pagbabago sa

pamumuno ng mahal at masipag na direktor, Reb. Padre Danilo G. delos Reyes para sa ikagaganda at ikaaayos ng paaralan para lalo itong makalikha at makalinang ng mga mag-aaral upang maging ma-produktibong mamamayan na may takot sa Diyos at pag-ibig sa kanilang kapwa at bayan. 🇵🇭

Pagdiriwang Ng Ika-53 taong Pagkakatatag ng Quiapo Parochial School

Ika-27 ng Nobyembre, nang ang buong komunidad ng QPS ay nagdaos ng banal na Misa sa pangunguna ng kanilang direktor, Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos, bilang isang pagdiriwang ng ika-53 taon ng pagkakatatag ng QPS. Ang tema ay "Learning, Celebrating, Living the Eucharist With Mary".

Pangunahing layunin nito ay ang paggunita sa mga kagalang-galang na taong tumulong at nagpasimula sa pagtatag ng institusyong ito, kabilang sina Msgr. Vicente Fernandez, Msgr. Jose Abriol, Msgr. Bienvenido Mercado at Bishop Teodoro Buhain, Jr. Isa pa sa layunin ng banal na Misa ay ang pagpapasalamat sa



Panginoon sa pagbibigay ng mahabang panahon sa paaralan upang ipagpatuloy ang pagtulong at pagbibigay serbisyo hindi lamang sa kasapi ng paaralan, pati na rin sa mga taong nangangailangan ng tulong.

Magandang simula na naman ito spagkat nakikita sa bawat mag-aaral, guro, non-teaching personnel at mga magulang ang buong siglang pakikiisa at partisipasyon sa

pagdiriwang ng banal na Misa. Isa na namang magandang aral ang iniwan ng Director na naibigan naman ng lahat. Ito ay ang mga katagang: "For all that has been, thanks Lord, thanks! For all that will be yes Lord, yes!"

Kasabay din nito ay ang pagdiriwang ng kapistahan ng ating Patron ng QPS Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. Tulad ng nakagawian, nagpamigay ng mga

binasbasang medalya ng Miraculous Medal, na ayon kay Msgr. Gerry ay nagsisilbing gabay at proteksyon ng sinumang may dala nito.

Pagkatapos ng Misa, nagkaroon ng Field Day Demonstration na kung saan ay nagpakitang gilas ang mga mag-aaral.

Sadyang naipakita ng bawat mag-aaral ang kani-kanilang talento sa pagsayaw. salamat sa mga guro lalung-lalo na sa MAPEH Department. Kitang-kita naman ang saya sa ngiti ng mga taong nakasaksi matapos nila itong matunghayan. Hindi dito natapos ang selebrasyon sapagkat ipinagpatuloy ng mga mag-aaral ang kasiyahan sa pamamagitan ng pagsakay ng mga rides, panonood ng film at pagpapalipat-lipat sa mga food booths. Isang taon na naman ang nagdaan at panalangin ng lahat naway magpatuloy ang tagumpay ng QPS sa layuning maglingkod sa tao. 🇵🇭

The ECS 48th Foundation Day

The Ermita Catholic School (ECS) celebrated its 48th Foundation Day with a big bang. The affair took place on the 17th and 18th of February with its theme "...Celebrating 48th Year in a Festive Mood."

The merry celebration began with a Thanksgiving Mass, officiated by its school director, Rev. Fr. Sanny C. de Claro. It was followed by a parade along the streets of Ermita which was participated by teachers and students in their colorful costumes. The ECS Drums and Lyre Corps provided lively music during the parade placing everyone in an upbeat mood.



Highlighting the event was the presentation of the different Philippine Folk Dances interpreted and performed by the elementary and high school students. Each dance showcased the life, culture, and tradition of Filipinos. The Kinder and Prep Classes did Paru-parong Bukid; Grades I and II danced to the music of Alitap in newly created, well-applauded steps suited to their level. Polka sa Nayon was another well-executed number coming from Grades III and IV pupils. The Grades V and VI Classes gave their best as they impressed the spectators with their choice of dance - Mazurka Boholana. The Freshmen interpreted Tiklos, a dance originally from the peasants of Leyte while the Sophomores and the Juniors also displayed their dancing prowess through Karatong, a popular dance from the Southern Tagalog Region. The Karatong dancers were jubilant for they were asked to do a repeat and were eventually chosen by the Officers of the Parent-Teachers' Association as the Best Performing Group. Finally, the Seniors clad in classy attire did the La Jota Moncadena which they said was their swan song.

The afternoon of Day 1 signaled the opening of different booths. Championship games also started on this day and these continued to the next day. Parlor games were also prepared exclusively for Kinder/Prep and Primary pupils. The school also provided a room with complete lights and music for those who preferred afternoon disco dancing. The yearly raffle draw was a big success. To discover and hone ECS talents, the PTA Officers sponsored a singing contest wherein a Sophomore emerged champion. The Alumni and the Varsity Team had their exhibition game. The day ended with the awarding of trophies, medals, and certificates to the winners of the different indoor and outdoor games. The principal, Sr. Ma. Elisa N. Forbes, RVM congratulated the winners and expressed inspiring words to everyone.

On the 19th, the first ever Grand Alumni Homecoming was held. It was truly a nostalgic evening for everyone. Seeing former students most of them successful, is proof that ECS had guided and molded them properly. These Alumni thanked and honored their Alma Mater and felt great at seeing their former teachers who deserved the adulation given them. The retired teachers who came were Mr. Antonio Rodrigo, who rendered a song and, Ms. Erlinda Ayson, Mrs. Fer. Manuel, and Mrs. Merle Oresco. Based on the number of attendees, the Homecoming was a success!

Everyone in Ermita Catholic School looks forward to more years of quality service to God and to fellowmen. With the help of their patroness, Our Lady, Nuestra Señora de Guia, their source of strength and inspiration, ECS is confident that it shall never fail in its mission to spread His KINGDOM here on earth.✠

MALATEANS Win in Interschool Competition

Once again, talented students from the High School Department brought glory to Malate Catholic School when they won in the interschool competition.

Arvin Nepomuceno, a second year student won first place in the inter-school Poster Making Contest sponsored by the Rotary Club of Bagumbayan. The theme of the contest was "The Youth's Fight Against Drug Addiction".

UP Political Science Society, sponsored an interschool History Quiz Bee which was participated by students from several schools in Metro Manila. Two MCS senior students, Adrian Jay Hicarte and Jezalin Panaligan got the second place. The contest was held in UP Manila.

Another pride of MCS, April Patigas won second place in the inter-high school quiz bee, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Chinatown. She competed with seventy other students from different schools in Metro Manila.✠

CIE Evaluation Planning

The Commission on Integral Evangelization held its Evaluation-Planning Workshop in the St. Michael's Retreat House from March 15-17, 2005. In attendance were 16 members of the Commission representing different Districts and Dioceses. It was facilitated by Msgr. Manny Gabriel and graced by the attendance of three able advisers: Msgr. Mariano Balibago, Fr. Rene de Guzman and Fr. Venusto Suarez.

The following Five Key Result Areas (KRA's) surfaced after the group's evaluation of the Commission's activities:

1. Intensification and Professionalization of Religious Education

and Formation with focus on the Integral Evangelization Series - SHEKINAH;

2. Putting up and strengthening faith formation programs, liturgical services, and professionally-managed Campus Ministry (CM) in all MAPSA member schools under the direction of the CIE;

3. Re-orientation, refocusing and paradigm shift in MAPSA from Community Outreach to Pastoral Ministry;

4. Moving forward with the directors, principals and administrators towards the realization of the primary mission of MAPSA to make Religion "Core of the Curriculum."

5. Reviewing and restructuring

the CIE communication network among the MAPSA/Dioceses/schools in view of the changes the Ecclesiastical Province of Manila.

It was really "hard days' nights" for the Commission members with the MAPSA Executive Council Evaluation of Plans Workshop only a few days ahead. 📅



IES-Shekinah (Grade School) Mission Accomplished

The IES (Integral Evangelization Series) - SHEKINAH Grade School is finally complete: Prep to Grade 6. For those schools that ordered the complete series, deliveries are now in progress at costs as of last year. This time the project contributors and coordinators sigh: "Mission accomplished!", offer sincere regrets for the delay of the materials for Grade 5 & 6 and convey gratitude to those who emphasized with them. Their orders support the MAPSA Religion Teachers Formation Program and the CIE forthcoming projects.

As part of the CIE Formation Program for Religion teachers, Fr. Rene de Guzman, together with a team of Shekinah contributors, will be giving seminars not only on the use of the series but also on updating and familiarizing teachers to the new methodology. Seminars will be held for the different Districts and Dioceses. 📅

IES - SHEKINAH Experience ... Concern ...

The writing of textbooks for MAPSA Schools has been one of the dreams of the Commission for Integral Evangelization since it's revamp in 1998. In the Year 2000, at the MAPSA Evaluation-Planning Workshop in Baguio, the writing of the texts was launched as there was this duty to ensure that the Love of God is made known to everyone. A way to achieve this was to produce textbooks which will cater to the development of students.

The original plan was really to come out with a series from Nursery to

School series has so far materialized. This even came out in installments. In the first year 2003-2004, only the Prep to Grade 4 were released. The following year, 2004-2005, the Grade 5 & 6 series were distributed but only in parts. Nevertheless, this school year, the series has been completed.

Thanks be to God for all the people who gave their time and effort to accomplish the project. The proponents also thank Him for the experience as of a Paschal Mystery - Suffering, Death and Resurrection. The Series and all the people

College; but due to some problems and setbacks, only the Grade

behind this project went through sacrifices and "lots of dying and resurrection." Some of the schools who opted to use the series also underwent difficulties using only the teacher's guide without the text, confronted with criticisms and complaints from parents and administrators as a result of the delay in the release.

The experience is also likened to the Faith experience of Abraham and the Chosen People of God. Like them there were hardships which led to the point of almost giving up and going back and resorting to the use of the old book and the old system. Like the Israelites, the proponents wanted "to go back to Egypt," but like Abraham some held on and believed that the books will be delivered.

Based on the original plan, the

From the Commission on Early Childhood Education (CECE) . . .

A recent update from the CECE has been released. The following make up its core group:

Chair: Msgr. Claro "Matt" Garcia

Asst. to the Chair: Tita Dechavez

Heads:

Dr. Loida Hilario - Manila

Sr. Mary Rose Alejo, OP - Malolos

Fe Semana - Antipolo

Marilyn Caño - Novaliches

Gert Mendoza - Kalookan

Sahlee Villaruel - Cubao

Angie Esguerra - Pasig

So far, there is no representative from Parañaque. Recently, Fr. Roderick Caabay of the Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay in Palawan was welcomed. He attended the May 18-19, 2005 seminar during which the Handbook for MAPSA ECE Administrators and Teachers was ratified. The CECE gratefully acknowledged the support given them by Paco Catholic School Director Msgr. Domingo Cirilos, Jr. as well as by the Rex Group of Companies.

This seminar was part of the Annual Early Childhood Educators' Assembly which was held at the Jaime Cardinal Sin Auditorium of Paco Catholic School. The theme of the Assembly was "Enhancing Skills and Updating Practices in ECE." Dr. Miriam Covar explained the philosophy and approaches in ECE. The participants were challenged to reformulate their own school's philosophy on Early Childhood Education. ERC President Emmanuel Harder oriented teachers on Effective Security & Safety Measures, while Former Chief of DepEd Private School Services Dr. Porfiria Ferrer talked about ECE Learning Competencies and Content.

Earlier in April 4-5, 2005, CECE conducted a 3-Year (2005-

2008) Developmental Planning Session at the Bayview Manila. Dr. Miriam Covar who is the former Dean of the UP Family Life and Child Development Department facilitated and updated the Commission on the latest trends and future directions of ECE in the country. With Mrs. Frances Leonen Garcia, the draft of the CECE Handbook was reviewed and subsequently presented to the MAPSA schools' Early Childhood Education administrators and principals.

One other activity of note was the CECE visit to St. Martin de Porres Catholic School in Paombong, Bulacan during which the group had the opportunity to thank outgoing Malolos Diocesan ECE Coordinator Sr. Susana Bondoc, OP for her contribution to the CECE. ☒



The MAPSA ECE teachers during their General Assembly 2005

series is not yet in its final form. It is in its pilot stage and can be said to be "already not yet" - escathologically speaking. It will be re-written in about 2 years after undergoing rigid evaluation. The idea is to solicit opinion and ideas so that this series may best address the needs of students while ascertaining that catechesis will be according to the



norms and teachings of the Catholic Church so that finally all MAPSA schools will be coordinated in the teaching of Religion. Eventually, it shall rightly be said that the IES-SHEKINAH series was written by MAPSA Religion Teachers saying in unison: "Kaya ito ay sariling atin at handang ibahagi upang ang bawat gumagamit nito ay maging tunay na SHEKINAH - Temple of God."

Each one concerned is expected to answer objectively and honestly the evaluation sheets and to give feedback on the merits and demerits of the series. It is also requested that users of the book take note of what must be given attention and corrected. ☒

his eminence, jaime cardinal i. sin

A special place in his heart..... special words.....

MAPSA has a special place in his heart. Here are excerpts from the homily delivered by our dearly departed Jaime Cardinal Sin on the occasion of the closing of the MAPSA Annual General Assembly held April 18, 1996 at the Development Academy of the Philippines in Tagaytay City:



“COMMUNION: The Journey Continues...” What a beautiful theme! Today where there is a serious moral crisis affecting the lives of many of our young people making them wander aimlessly and without hope, and often conditioned to look for instant gratification, we need to muster all our forces and resources in order to work effectively in delivering the message of the gospel in their young minds and incarnate it in their very lives....

....(MAPSA) It is first and foremost a communion of schools. a communion of schools assisting one another in becoming efficient evangelizers and educators. If this is so, then we must also say that these are schools of communion. These are schools where

communion is a reality to be witnessed right from the level of the administrative staff, to the academic and non-academic personnel down to the students. It is therefore a challenge to our school directors or school heads to be effective spiritual animators, peace-makers, bridge builders of relationships among the school personnel, students and also their parents...

....Our focus is on Christ, in knowing Him, in learning from Him, in working like Him, and being with Him...

....It is therefore a must that we study the universal catechism from the school head down to the school personnel so that our knowledge of faith may deepen. Hold regular prayer sessions for the faculty and non-teaching staff, and engage in activities of fellowship and community building so that the grace of one is shared and communicated to the others....

....Let us always move forward, forward and never backwards....

...God will find in our hands a throng of young people who are now active and enthusiastic proclaimers of the word for we have shown to them in our witnessing the joy and the greatness of this call of Jesus....

AMEN, Your Eminence. With God’s grace and through the intercession of His Blessed Mother, we shall do our best.



his eminence, jaimie cardinal i. sin

Vamos a servir....

JAIME CARDINAL SIN

Jaime Lachica Sin was born on August 31, 1928 in New Washington town, Aklan province, on Panay Island. Jim or Amie as was fondly called was the 14th of the 16 children.

Sin's father Sin Puat Co (Juan), from Xiamen, settled in the Philippines and became a prosperous businessman. His mother Maxima Lachica was from landed gentry in Kalibo town, Aklan. His father was Buddhist who converted to Catholicism upon his marriage to Maxima but became as devout a Catholic as his wife.

Ordained on April 3, 1954 after studies for the priesthood at the St. Vincent Ferrer Archdiocesan Seminary in Jaro, Iloilo.

Appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Jaro on February 10, 1967.

Ordained Bishop of the Titular See of Obba on March 18, 1967.

Appointed Co-adjutor Archbishop of Jaro on March 15, 1972 taking on administrative roles and concurrently was created Archbishop of the Titular See of Massa Lubrense.

Assumed Archbishop of Manila on January 21, 1974 and installed at the Manila Cathedral on March 1974.

Summoned to the Holy See on May 24, 1976 by Pope Paul VI to be raised into membership of the College of Cardinals and was created Cardinal Priest of the Titular

Church of Santa Maria ai Monti.

Elected President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in January 1977; was re-elected to the post in July 1979.

Remained the youngest member of the College of Cardinals until 1983.

Published works are "The Revolution of Love" (1972), "The Church Above Political Systems" (1973), "A Song of Salvation" (1974), "Unity in Diversity" (1974), "The Future of Catholicism in Asia" (1978), "Christian Basis of Human Rights" (1978), "Separation, Not Isolation" (1978) and "Slaughter of Innocents" (1979).

Unceasingly challenged school directors to be living examples of simplicity and responsible stewardship.

Generously provided in the year 2000 the current home of the MAPSA and the Archdiocesan Catechetical Ministry offices by granting that they occupy the 6th floor of St. John Building of Paco Catholic School.

Retired as the Archbishop of Manila on September 15, 2003.

Died of renal failure on June 21, 2005 at 6:15 a.m. at the age of 76.



Homily delivered by His Eminence Gaudencio B. Rosales, Archbishop of Manila during the Mass for the Holy Spirit at the Manila Cathedral on June 22, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.



.....Msgr. Gerry Santos, MAPSA Schools Superintendent,
Dear Monsignori, Priests,
The Honorable Mayor of the City of Manila, Lito Atienza
Honorable Former Ambassador and Mrs. Howard Dee,
Government Officials,
Religious Brothers and Sisters, Friends in Education
All Beloved in Christ,

This morning all of a sudden our convoked Mass or the Eucharist in honor of the Most Holy Spirit is in a sense not deflected but instead enriched by the memory we bring to this Eucharist because the Eucharist is meant by Jesus to be His prayer to His Father while bringing with Him in every celebration the giftedness the community has received. And I say this morning because of the passing away of our beloved shepherd of 30 years, the Archdiocese of Manila together with the dioceses around and why not also those of the country remember that there is so much to thank for today.

Jaime L. Cardinal Sin is a gift who has been given to the Church, and to the Filipino people during those moments when we

needed guidance, strong direction and heroic accompaniment. Jaime Cardinal Sin gave those to the Church and to the country. To many of us who are here in the Cathedral, this is a Mass for educators and students in Catholic institutions. Many of you represent the youth when the Church had to make decisions like those made by our shepherd Jaime Cardinal Sin which were for the good of the young and the future of the Country. So rightly do we include this intention in today's Mass for the Holy Spirit. We still need guidance and we still need the Holy Spirit and we still need to travel in fact perhaps on farther grounds... in order to reach that developed state of a people who believe in God and who trust one another.

How do you develop a people? My dear educators, in this Cathedral today, how do you develop a people? How do you make people progress? The Church has a teaching. Oh, by the way the Church is the oldest teaching institution in the world and has been so long before there were governments. The monastic communities of Bernard, Benedict and Augustine were the schools of the community long before there were kingdoms, long before there were sovereignties, long before there were governments. The school system found its first walls within the shadow of a monastic community; and, therefore, the Church has the right to ask; how do you make progress? It is the teaching of the Church and I bring thus, to this Cathedral this morning the doctrine of the Church regarding progress, culling from *Populorum Progressio* of the late Paul VI of happy memories. He said and I quote: "there will be no development without basic education." So you want to be developed? You want to make progress? Be educated. And when we say educated, I do not mean being able to read or to write or to count. That is what they call literacy.

Sometimes, we pride ourselves by saying that the Philippines is the most literate country in Asia next to Japan Be careful. Literacy is not education. Education is beyond being able to count and to read. Education brings you to values which may as yet be untouched by many institutions

and this is exactly what *Populorum Progressio* is saying: "There will be no progress without basic education."

And now we are faced with the greatest challenge. Are we making progress as a people? As a nation? And here we are educators inside this Cathedral. Are we here as a people? As a country? Even as Christian communities? How come the Church keeps on repeating that if we want to progress, we must repair our values.

I just want to make this homily very relevant. I was just talking to the Mayor of Manila, just there, and let me tell you what he told me. He said he installed lights in one bridge, beautiful lights. A few weeks afterwards all the lights were destroyed. How do you explain that? It is the city of Manila. I'll tell you an experience because we are all here educators, sisters, brothers, priests. I was once traveling; I was on my way to Rome and I took an airplane that was to pass by the Middle East. I was were in Bangkok on a stop over. I waited there for the big jumbo which was to take me to Europe passing by Riyadh to Saudi Arabia. And while waiting for my flight, I noticed 4 or 5 young men speaking in Filipino in that transit lounge. They did not know that I was a priest and neither did they know that I was a bishop. I was as far from them as that electric fan is from me so I could hear what they were talking about. I supposed they never suspected that I was a Filipino. They were speaking in Tagalog. They were smoking and were dropping ashes to the floor. I took a look. When they were through, they dropped both ashes and lighted cigarette to the floor and stepped on the cigarettes to put off the light. And I took a look. And they said in Tagalog "ang layu layu naman ng ash tray" but the ashtray was up to that hall. What made it worse brothers and sisters is that the transit lounge was carpeted with carpet as thick as this. And I keep thinking educators, will this group of people ever develop?

I ask you all who are in this cathedral: Will that kind of people develop? With that kind of mentality? It was as what the Mayor was saying a while ago. I asked you already: Will persons of that mentality

□ CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

MAPSA and CEAP-NCR Schools June 22 Mass Offering

Heads and administrators, faculty, academic & administrative support services personnel, and students of MAPSA and CEAP-NCR schools gathered at the Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception (Manila Cathedral) in Intramuros last Wednesday, 22 June 2005 for the school year 2005-06 Mass of the Holy Spirit. This Eucharistic Celebration also was an offering for His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal Sin who passed away the day before, 21 June 2005.

With Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, DD as the main celebrant, about 40 priests, mostly Superintendents and heads of schools, were co-celebrants. Their walk towards the altar was preceded by the entry of the banners borne by respective bearers. Representatives from some schools were assigned as readers, prayer leaders, bearers for the Offertory procession and collectors. During his homily, Archbishop Rosales acknowledged the presence of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

The Cathedral was filled to capacity. Except for media staffs who tried as inconspicuously as possible to move about to record the rites on camera, almost everyone was in devout prayer reflecting on the "greatness" of the humility of the man whose remains were there at the foot of the altar. Those present, were also touched by the message of Archbishop Rosales who stressed what it meant to be educated *vis-a-vis* to be simply literate, stressing how it was but fitting that the Catholic school communities carry on the tradition of invoking the guidance and protection of the Holy Spirit. He also cited instances to underscore that the development of our people is a function of our attitude and disposition towards character and discipline. 🙏



Thanksgiving Message of Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos given after the Mass celebrated June 22, 2005 Honoring His Eminence, Jaime Cardinal L. Sin



Today we gather young people from Catholic Schools together with administrators, teachers and catechists to begin the school year with the Mass of the Holy Spirit. By the stroke of Providence, our gathering this morning turns into mourning and grief. Today, we honor a man of the Spirit. A man whose life has been guided by the Spirit of the Risen Christ. We know him as His Eminence, Jaime L. Cardinal Sin, pastor and prophet.

It is good to gather around the altar of sacrifice to give thanks to the Lord for the gift of Cardinal Sin to the Church and Nation. It is good to say "thanks" Lord for Cardinal Sin as a man you have chosen to guide our people during the turbulent times of our Nation's history. Thank you Lord for sending us Cardinal Sin as PASTOR of the Church in Manila. As pastor, he was a gift to the catechists who taught in our parishes and schools. As

pastor, he looked after the needs of catechists who gave themselves to the children and the youth of the public schools. As pastor, he nurtured the school by challenging us priests to be responsible stewards of these institutions of learning known as the diocesan and parochial schools.

We thank you Lord for the gift of prophecy you have instilled in Cardinal Sin. Prophecy was his gift - he denounced dehumanizing structures and proclaimed the gospel of justice and peace. He criticized selfish and corrupt attitudes and called people to renewal of lives along the way of Jesus. I remember the days of EDSA I: A new Filipino self emerged with a higher level of reflective power and a greater impulse that moves forward in the direction of freedom, truth and justice.

Our catechists and schools continue your legacy - the legacy of Jesus, only Jesus, always Jesus. Our catechists and schools continue to proclaim our love for Jesus and for his poor. Our schools and catechists will continue to love the Church as you did and to love our pastors in the person of the Holy Father, the bishops and priests. We pledge once again our loyalty to your successor in the person of His Excellency, the Most Reverend Gaudencio B. Rosales.

May I ask everyone to stand and give His Eminence a big round of applause for a mission accomplished in the name of Jesus! 🙏

Execom Holds Annual Evaluation of Plans Workshop

Last April 5-7, 2005 the MAPSA Executive Council held its end of the year workshop at the Capuchin Retreat Center in Lipa City. Specifically taken up were the 3-year (2005-2008) strategic plans which were drafted by the MAPSA Commissions and Committees. These were presented by respective Chairmen for critiquing, evaluation and approval of the ExeCom.

Proposed projects were likewise discussed and a total of 74 resolutions were formulated. Thirteen resolutions were primarily for the implementation of the Commission on Integral Evangelization; 4 for the Commission on Early Childhood Education; 7, Commission on Basic Education; 4, Commission on Tertiary Education; 7, Commission on Human Resource Development; 5, Commission on Finance; 11, Commission of Superintendents; 6, Advocacy Committee;



4, Management Information System Committee; 5, Alumni and Parents Committee; 4, Research Development Committee; and 4, Student Affairs Committee.

Also discussed during the workshop were the details of the forthcoming 2005 MAPSA Annual General Assembly as well as updates regarding plans and schedules of the Mass of the Holy Spirit to be held in the

different dioceses.

A highlight of this Lipa workshop were the lectures which were delivered by Fr. Salvatore Putzu, SDB on the Basic Content of Christian Formation, and by Fr. Jaime Belita, CM on the Certification of Religious Education Programs.

Before the conclusion of the assembly, Dr. Belen de Jesus presented the final drafts of the manuals for Administration, Faculty, Students and Non-teaching Personnel whereupon it was decided to have Atty. Ulpiano Sarmiento, III review their contents before having them

printed.

The entire Lipa proceedings was documented by Ms. Olivia Demingoy who is the high school principal of Paco Catholic School and coordinator for South Manila - MAPSA high schools of the Commission on Basic Education.

A total of 28 members of the ExeCom participated in this workshop. ☒

CONTINUED

☐ Homily delivered.... FROM PAGE 14

develop? Will they ever develop? I know your answer. Immediately you will say no. And you are right! They will never progress. I will add further truth to that. They will not only not develop, but they have no right to development. *Walang karapatang umunlad ang ganyang pag-iisip.* Do you understand fathers, what I'm talking about and sisters and teachers? This is what *Populorum Progressio* meant when it was written by the Holy Father. There will be no progress and development without basic education. And that basic education is values and truth.

This is a gathering of educators and most apt was the Gospel which was read to us. You want to bear fruit? You want progress? Listen to what I just said. Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains only a simple grain. But if it dies it produces a lot of

fruit which means that you have to die to your selfishness. You've got to die to your pride. You have to sacrifice even amidst your affluent comfortable life. You have to sacrifice if you are to bear fruit. That is what it means for the grain of wheat to die. You've got to discipline yourself. And I say this to you as you start the school year and pay tribute to a man we honor so much, a man who was in a sense a maestro of commitment to truth and values.

Our director Msgr. Gerry Santos told me: "Will you please mention something about *Pondo ng Pinoy*." Have you heard about that? I would want to but I will meet you half way, Msgr. Gerry since you asked me to talk about it. The *Pondo ng Pinoy* has a philosophy development. It is not first all about twenty five centavos. We'll be here up to twelve o'clock if I begin. Just remember *Pondo ng Pinoy* has a philosophy of development. Msgr. Gerry I'll meet your challenge half way. Are there any schools interested in *Pondo ng*

Pinoy as a way of development? Are there schools here interested in *Pondo ng Pinoy* as a philosophy for development? Then I ask you to invite me, I'll go to your schools and talk to the children. I think that's better.

At this moment I believe God is telling me something and in the presence of the mortal remains of our shepherd, I believe, I sincerely believe that God is indicating to us the path that will lead to truth, to the authentic development of every person and of all persons in *Pondo ng Pinoy*. So Msgr. Gerry, I tell you, to any school who would invite me in Metro Manila, I'll go and explain the dynamics and the philosophy and the theology of the love of God in *Pondo ng Pinoy*. Let us praise the Lord for His goodness to us and for that kindness with which He has given us, His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin. May you rest in peace dear Cardinal, and please pray for us that we may be able to do what God wants us to. God bless!

Parents and Alumni Hold Meetings

The MAPSA Alumni and Parents Committee (APC) met last February 22, 2005. One of its tasks is to help parents and alumni in member schools form themselves into organizations. The meeting which was held at the St. Joseph School in Pandacan was presided over by the APC Chairman, Fr. Nolan A. Que. At the meeting, Mr. Reynaldo A. Mones of Paco Catholic School was elected first vice-chairman, Mr. Tomas Emerito Magdangal of Quiapo Parochial School, second vice-chairman, Ms. Nina T. Serrano of Malate Catholic School, assistant secretary, Mr. Antonio D. Buenaventura treasurer and Ms. Fe Panahon of the Holy Family Parochial School, auditor.

Last June 11, 2005, these officers, together with representatives from different MAPSA-affiliated dioceses met at the St. Michael's Retreat House in Antipolo to formulate APC's 3-year action plans which shall be the bases for activities in subsequent years. Dr. Judith Aldaba, MAPSA Consultant facilitated the proceedings during the workshop. In the same meeting, the APC agreed to double up and be a federation of alumni and parents associations of MAPSA member schools.

Among the outputs of this latest meeting are the following: the formulation of APC's mission statement, the formation of the membership committee, the secretariat, the finance committee, the linkage committee, and the designation of a legal affairs group. They will be presented at the Annual General Assembly in August. 🏠

Software Installed in MAPSA schools

Mr. Allen Vasquez of the MAPSA Office made the rounds of 27 schools last April 12-13, 2005, and installed in each duly licensed software, the purchase for which was facilitated by the Office. A total of 1384 Windows XP and 1496 MS Office were purchased from Phil-Data on a discounted price accommodating vendee clusters. Although the transaction was to incur a one-time expense, Phil-Data arranged that the total amount due each school be made in three payments.

This move on the part of MAPSA schools signals the implementation of what is now an ongoing project of the Management Information System Committee of MAPSA, Inc. whereby its member schools and colleges are closely monitored and encouraged to be properly IT-fied and made fully aware of the parameters - limitations - as well as the rights and privileges, which licensed softwares provide its owner. 🏠

MAPSA Conducts Seminar on Accounting for School Administrators

A whole-day session on Accounting for Non-Accountants for school managers was held last April 21, 2005 at the Pedro Calungsod Bldg. of Paco Catholic School. The same session was re-run the following day for a second batch of administrators. The seminar was conducted to enhance the working knowledge of school heads, principals and deans on accounting particularly geared for school operations.

A total of 55 participants attended the sessions which were both conducted by Dr. Corazon C. Subido who is the Chairperson of the Accountancy Department of the College of Business and Economics of De La Salle University - Manila. Dr. Subido periodically gives such training to DLSU-Manila College of Education doctoral education students who are mostly in-charge of running schools. 🏠

C O N T I N U E D

☐ The Power.... FROM **PAGE 19**

dishonesty. Doing such shall invalidate findings.

The next important factor is the analytical techniques used. The researcher can present as many tables he may want to as long as they are related and significant to the problem. From the figures in these tables, the reader can draw conclusions which of course, should be limited to those clearly justified by the findings.

A CREDIBLE RESEARCH

Only if one has taken these factors into consideration can a researcher establish a reputation for quality work always bearing in mind that research is meaningless without credibility.

In most cases, simplicity is the strength of a powerful research - easy to read, easy to understand, and easy to replicate.

After five years, the RPDO has considerably adhered to these principles in all its research endeavors. There may be negative reactions to every study which has been completed, but the facts thereat always speak for themselves.

RPDO has always practiced ethics in research and has realized that, as a team it should stand by its findings no matter how favorable or unfavorable the results may be to persons concerned.

Conducting research is the easy part. Maintaining credibility is another thing.

THE POWER OF RESEARCH

Antonio L. Cruz
Researcher
Pasig Catholic College

In a short span of time the Research Planning and Development Office, has been able to institute reforms, spread knowledge and make research a little more enjoyable to the researchers themselves and the school community as well.

What is research, really? This question had been answered countless times by the various publications released by RPDO during the years 1999 to the present.

THE ABSTRACT

In its desire to come up with genuine contributions from the whole school community, RPDO asked the faculty to submit their studies' abstracts. Those contributed were on the following studies: "Factors that Affect the Performance of Academic Deans of Colleges of Education" by Dr. Emerita J. Magsajo, "Selected Variables Affecting Mathematical Achievement in College Algebra" by Dean Arlene C. Supnet, "The Master and Non-Master Teachers' Basic and Special Tasks: An Assessment" by Mr. Danilo S. Villanueva, and "Supervising Behavior in Three Selected MAPSA Elementary Schools as Perceived by Supervisors and Teachers" by Mrs. Asuncion S. Cansana.

The above mentioned studies have been featured in the school's official research journal. Aside from administrators' work, various feasibility studies and undergraduate theses from college students were also published in the said journal.

THE JOURNAL AND SPECIALS

Most of the work written by RPDO contributors are published upon their completion.

RPDO also come up with journals which suit the subject matter involved. Some of these are "Summary & Outlook" (the official research journal), "Views on Issues" (the forum journal), and "Educators' Digest" (the teachers' resource folio). Special editions have also been released: "Research in a Nutshell" (research primer), "The National Eucharistic Marian Year" (150th Anniversary of the Declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception), and the most recent which is a tribute to the 20th Sacerdotal Anniversary of our School President, Msgr. Gerardo O. Santos (A Vocation Journey with Mary). There too, have been various limited editions on the school's F o u n d i n g Anniversary, the Clean & Green Movement, and a the Lecture Series.

THE BOOKS

During the term of Msgr. Manuel G. Gabriel, the RPDO was able to lend a hand for his book, "Sons of San Jose" published in 2001, featuring life stories of selected seminarians belonging to different batches. It was an extensive study covering the whole country in celebration of San Jose Seminary's 400th anniversary. This publication helped RPDO in conceptualizing PCC's 90th F o u n d i n g Anniversary coffee-table book that featured experiences of and anecdotes from about thirty (30) alumni from the

years 1938 to 2000, transcribed from hours of interviews and personal visits. This book was then considered RPDO's most challenging project having the researchers travel to be able to interview alumni, take pictures and transcribe the recordings of those interviews. Aside from that, RPDO gathered all the school's pictures which were available, most of them for re-publication and some for publication for the first time after many years. However, due to budgetary considerations, this book has yet to be published.

MORE CHALLENGES

It is during this headship of Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Dr. Leonardo C. Sumulong and Msgr. Gerry O. Santos' as PCC President that RPDO's functions were utilized to the fullest. Since January 2004, several reports, transcriptions and studies were assigned to the office, finishing such on given time, and spawning other related studies, thereby instituting recommended changes.

Dr. Sumulong, however, made it clear that RPDO's suggestions are purely recommendatory. Changes to be implemented require the approval of the President's Council.

STUDIES AND DOCUMENTATIONS

Some of the projects of RPDO from its early years to the present were research knowledge (1999), faculty development (1999), Self-Actualization Test (1999), a survey on career preference (1999/2001), Feasibility of a Graduate School (1999), a Pupils' Feelings and Needs toward Their Parents (2002).

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RPDO documentations has covered legal cases, the meeting with PAASCU Executive Director Mrs. Chit Pijano, the 4-day Evaluation and Planning Session held recently and the review of the Functions of the Academic Council.

Some of RPDO's more prominent studies were the Staff Management Audit (2004), the Socio-Economic Profile of Students (2003), the Decline in College Enrollment (2001), Evaluation of the School Services (2003-present), the Parents/Fetchers Survey (2004), and the most recent, Library Observation (2004).

RPDO has also submitted concept papers regarding the proposed merger of the Guidance Offices and of the Libraries of the Grade School and High School departments, and the feasibility of the Double/Single Sessions in PCC.

The researchers have also updated the school's history, and drafted the revised Administrative Handbook, in time for the official re-visit of PAASCU.

THE SEMINARS

In the last 5 years the researchers of RPDO have also been sent to attend various research seminars and workshops held locally. Each seminar is treated by the researchers as a new experience, a new source of knowledge and learning.

The impact of these seminars is immeasurable. Research is actually sharing experience and a researcher is remissed if s/he is not able to share experiences.

It can be said that, at this point, RPDO has expanded its horizon given the last five years from being "contained" in office to spreading its wings outside the school. The RPDO researchers availed of the opportunities which were given them.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

The power of research is clearly evident in RPDO's significant studies. For example, before the School of Graduate Studies came to place, a feasibility study was conducted by RPDO in 1999. After a careful study of its findings, the SGS was



inaugurated in 2001. One other was when the School's management was confronted with the question on whether to raise tuition fees or not. A profile on the socio-economic status of students was then drawn showing that it was not wise at all to increase fees that school year 2003-2004.

Among the most significant studies conducted so far by RPDO was that on the Staff Management Audit. The results paved the way to institutional changes which are now currently in place. Msgr. Gerry said that additional reforms may take effect based on results gathered from other ongoing studies.

ACTION RESEARCHES

The Staff Management Audit is an example of action research - a research whose noteworthy fruits are the changes to improve management processes and operations. RPDO would soon undertake other action researches and publish its findings through a journal, collating action researches from the faculty of all the academic departments (GS, HS, College and SGS). It would also be conducting consultancy meetings with the faculty

again regarding the submission of their action researches, although some of them have already submitted their written findings.

Aside from this, RPDO has also prepared an outline for the seminar to be conducted for school personnel. This would run for at least two hours.

A GOOD RESEARCH IS POWERFUL

RPDO has always endeavored to make its researches good. Generally speaking, a good research is purposeful, with the goals clearly defined, its procedures defensible and replicable, and most importantly - the objectivity of the researcher clearly evident.

In writing, the researcher must remember to "keep it short and simple." Researchers should not bore their readers with the results of their study, especially when time is of utmost importance. Before writing the final draft of the study, the researcher should bear in mind that only a short, succinct report is worth a reader's attention. There should be no playing around the bush, or jargon style writing. Readers should not become confused because of too many words.

DIMENSIONS OF RESEARCH

There are three dimensions of research: exploratory, descriptive and explanatory. A researcher who is able to achieve these primary objectives-exploring, describing, and explaining - is on the right track.

Next, the research problem should be significant. Since not all problems are researchable, one should be able to pick a topic about which he or she is quite knowledgeable. This would be of advantage to the researcher.

Why? Because the next factor to be considered is the extent of the related studies written about the study. For any topic, there should be a bevy of references waiting or one may get lost in his/her own research!

In reporting the study, the procedures - their strengths and weaknesses - should be described clearly and completely. It is against research ethics to fabricate data and it is an intellectual

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TO RESEARCH OR NOT TO RESEARCH

By: Mr. Benigno Puig
Principal, St. James Academy

A research conducted by a member of an institution of learning is a vital complement and component of growth; and excellence is an ideal medium to appraise conjectures and assumptions behind the school's curricular and non-curricular policy paradigms or to validate the adequacy of the school's contemporary educational thrusts. It can also lead to novel pedagogical schemes that will serve as breakthroughs in more relevant and significant academic development. It can serve as basis to examine essential features of community concerns which affect the educational, health, socio-economic and political conditions of the community that the school serves.

The basic purpose of conducting a research is to achieve conclusions that are both sound and logical internally and externally. Thus, a research design must have been carefully thought of, planned systematically and implemented accurately.

The most remarkable feature of an excellent research paper is when the researcher has clearly drawn the instrumentalities that take stock for the findings.

The problem statement hypotheses nature of the sample, instruments, and procedures are the areas that need to be fully spelled out. Through the use of proper evaluation criteria, conclusion can be done about the relative

Has the research really served its purpose as the medium, in putting in print the school's varied concerns? Who were assigned to engage in the research activities? Were the researchers able to conduct effective literature reviews? Were published researches able to differentiate qualitative from quantitative research? Did the research writers follow a viable research design? Were they cognizant of the significance and generalizability of research findings?

How does a research writer gain information in a manner that can spell a difference? It is through the art of deliberative research which comes in various processes like experimental research which needs the administration of treatments and use of complicated summaries.

Other methods which could prove adequate are surveys, case studies, historical investigations, and correlation studies.

It is, therefore, imperative for the investigator to seriously consider all these germane standards to be adhered to conscientiously, if he expects a research worth its salt.

force or debility of the different elements of the study.

There are inclusive canons that are pertinent to all researches and there are those that are only relevant to the design of the study.

In this regard, it is appropriate to deliberate on some urgent points.



MAPSA EduSMS: LINKING HUMAN & TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Wilma de Pano
Chairman, MAPSA-MIS Committee

Short message service (SMS) is a mechanism of delivery over mobile networks. It is a way of transmitting messages to and from mobiles. The message (text only) from the sending mobile is stored in a central short message center (SMS) which then forwards it to the destination mobile. This means that in case the recipient is not available the short message is stored and can be sent later. Each message can be no longer than 160 characters which may be either text (alphanumeric) or binary Non-Text Short messages.

Why SMS Alert?

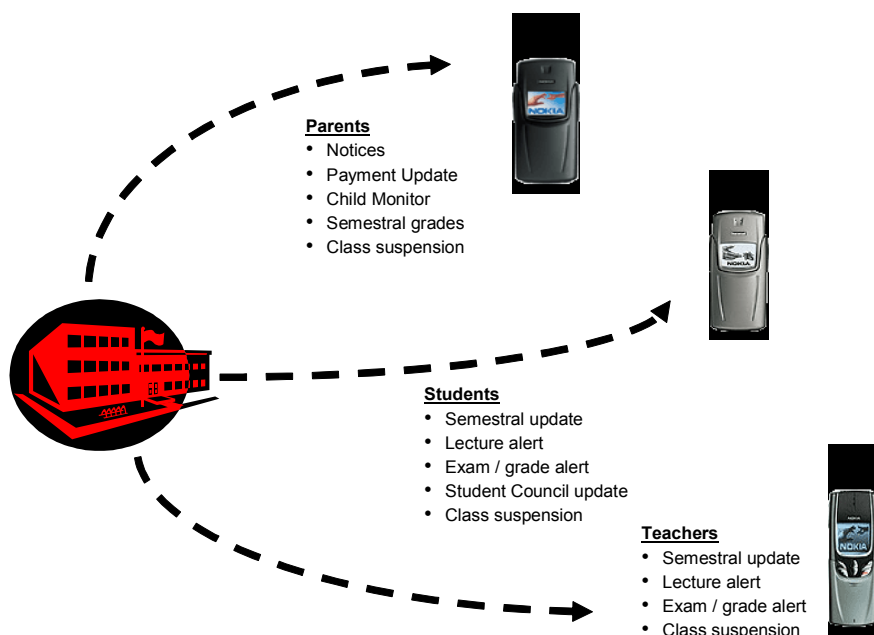
Important /critical announcements not usually communicated effectively to parents, students and teachers may now readily reach them. An example of these is notice of class suspension due to floods or heavy rains especially when it has taken school officials quite sometime to decide and make the announcement. Other school events such as semestral updates and related information may be readily communicated given especially the situation where not everyone is tuned to AM radios.

It is now a fact that the mobile phone is the most effective means of communication given that there are already 26.5 million subscribers in the country. Often, both parents and children own mobile phones. Setting up the SMS information alert services resolves certain problems and offers some form of convenience.

The Manila Archdiocesan and Parochial Schools Association Education SMS (MAPSA EduSMS)

Information Service will be an effective broadcast tool for MAPSA schools and colleges because it would send updates such as examination schedules, payment deadlines etc., to all students and parents. The SMS Broadcast/Announcement service, aside from notices on class suspension, also includes child monitoring and reporting whenever a child misses a roll call. It could also send info-alert notices to teachers/professors on other matters. Such SMS infrastructure for MAPSA shall be provided in partnership with SMS service providers.

The diagram which follows outlines the network:



SMS sent by the school authority shall be received by parents, students, and teachers.

Such shall first be piloted, specifically in Pasig Catholic College. An audit had been done there to determine the readiness of its system in terms of equipment and database to avail of the service.

Surveys had been done among the parents of its grade school pupils and 64.38% or 394 out of 612 respondents are willing to engage the service at a cost of P2.50 per message.

Information dissemination regarding SMS will take place during the parents' orientation; and an invitation for them to register will be sent. Evaluation of the project will be done in the middle of schoolyear 2005-06 to determine

the effectiveness and efficiency of the network.

MONDAY ASSEMBLIES: Strengthening the Role of Communication in the School Community

Mrs. Felina L. Lelis
Research & Development Officer
Pateros Catholic School

I. INTRODUCTION

For a good number of years academic and curricular programs have certainly evolved from the simpler types catering only to the 3 Rs - the basics - to the more complex, intertwined and more integrative instructional offerings which attempt to embrace a larger and wider spectrum of influences, the socio-cultural, economic and political and the spiritual domains, not to mention the physical, mental and emotional facets of learning.

In all these developmental changes in the realm of knowledge and information, the role of communication is no longer confined to the capabilities of teachers and mentors as they try all possible techniques and strategies to impart and share ideas and discoveries, concepts and terminologies and even breakthroughs in the academe. We now empower our students, parents and alumni to share in the knowledge resources and together profit from these experiences. At present times, however, thanks to the varied repertoire of showcasing learning, communication, whether verbal, written, or silent, has been manifested generously in our co- and extra-curricular offerings such that learners with considerable talents and gifts always find expression in these activities.

Thus, as commonly advised by management gurus, *the ideal approach when providing information is that everybody should know about everything that concerns them directly or indirectly, in full and accurate detail, as soon as possible.* For this purpose, our school setting provides an effective groundwork for a regular and empowering venue for a communicative agenda, the Monday Assemblies.

II. THE MONDAY ASSEMBLIES: An articulation of Monthly Themes and Values through Inspirational Messages of the

School Director.

One observable impact in the school-parish community is the marked influence brought about by the coming and going of school heads and administrators as they embark on varying managerial and structural changes which largely impinge on the considerable effects they have on the socio-cultural and political awareness



of stakeholders.

Hence, for the past five years or so, the conduct and operation of activities have greatly evolved from simply departmental to a more embracing institutional nature. Thus in recent years, to expound further on the importance of these activities to the teaching-learning environment, the school administrators found it significant to usher in these yearly activities with corresponding themes and values to serve as guide in motivating and inspiring the members of the school community to join together in the pursuit of common goals and aspirations.

For the school year just passed the following themes and values have been articulated profoundly through the wisdom and charity of the current Pateros Catholic School Director, Fr. Von Jose R. Vargas, who saw to it that every message delivered

during the Monday Assemblies, may not only be listened to but also be accepted heartily and applied earnestly in the process:

These are:

July 2004 - Theme: "Health is a Gift" Value: Discipline

August 2004 - Theme: "Love Your Neighbor" Value: Love for the Poor

September 2004 - Theme: "Mary, Humble Servant of God" Value: Humility

October 2004 - Theme: "To Jesus, Through Mary" Value: Piety

November 2004 - Theme: "The Call to Social Transformation" Value: Nationalism

December 2004 - Theme: "God Promises a Savior" Value: Communion

January 2005 - Theme: "Youth: Agents of the New Evangelization" Value: Competence

February 2005 - Theme: "The Call to Serve" Value: Humble Loving Service

March 2005 - Theme: "Young People: Communication of Faith, Hope & Love" Value: Excellence

In all these undertakings, the School Director is ably assisted by the Director's Council whose untiring dedication and enthusiasm to institutional programs and objectives provide widest support and articulation to this end.

III. CONCLUSION

These Monday Assemblies are a continuing process of delivering and communicating effectively to our clientele but the fact remains that they stand out as one of the best features of Pateros Catholic School in terms of concretizing participation and commitment of its school community members which include administrators, teachers, students, and the non-teaching personnel.

