163 E. Mendiolo St., Manila

October 2020

## A Daughter's Musings On Her 'Father Of The Light,' Fernando C. Amorsolo

By Corazon P. Guidote (HS-78)

Some people are born bringing light and joy to the world, but often they are the last to know. Such is the story I gathered from Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo (HS-57) about her legendary father, renowned National Artist Fernando Amorsolo.

Sylvia, who's turning 80 years old this October, is an alumna of the Holy Ghost College (HGC) a.k.a. College of the Holy Spirit (CHS), just like her nine other sisters Virginia Amorsolo-Ballesteros+ Soledad Amorsolo-Valdez, (HS-36), Gracia Amorsolo-Valdez, Salome (Lina) Amorsolo (HS-50), Helen Amorsolo-Martinez (HS-54), Luz Amorsolo-Abelardo, Cristina Amorsolo (HS-56/ABA-59), Rosa Amorsolo-Cheng (HS-62), and Emma Amorsolo-Castaneda (HS-63). The first four are from the Maestro's first wife, Salud Jorge, and the remaining five are from Sylvia's mother, Maria del Carmen.

Fernando Cueto Amorsolo Sr. was the first Philippine National Artist in 1972. He was a realist painter, who mastered and the use light shadow. of Amorsolo was a portraitist and painter of rural Philippine landscapes. In spite of his detailed craftsmanship, the Maestro was a prolific artist, having produced tens of thousands of art pieces that featured landscapes, portraits and other subjects, including images from World War II, like the celebrated "Making of the Philippine Flag."



"Making of the Philippine Flag" by Fernando C. Amorsolo



Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo

Sylvia humbly shares, "I am still trying very hard to achieve my father's style in the use of light and shadow. His contrast is more masterful than mine." While she is probably closest to Amorsolo's style of painting, Sylvia admits she can never truly duplicate her father's brushstrokes because every person is different. The brushstrokes determine how one mixes the colors on the canvas. However, she has mastered Amorsolo's approach to human anatomy and his blending of colors, especially sunsets.



Sylvia poses with her masterpiece, a painting of her mother, Maria del Carmen.

#### A joyful childhood

"Growing up, we never thought Papa was a prominent painter," recalls Sylvia. "We were used to seeing people from all walks of life coming to our father's studio, like the Americans who frequented our first house in Azcarraga (in Manila). We really didn't think much of it."



The Maestro in his studio in Azcarraga, Manila

The Maestro was a devoted father who made sure his children were well-provided-for. Sylvia fondly recalls her father taking them all to Shoemart (now SM) in Carriedo every year to buy shoes. The late taipan and founder of SM, Henry Sy Sr., watched as they made their selections.

Asked why all of the Maestro's daughters studied in HGC, Sylvia replies, "Papa wanted us to have a high standard of Catholic education, where values and discipline were strictly enforced by the German sisters."

In the eyes of an outsider, it would seem that the Maestro had a strict, regimented approach to raising his children. He had a 7-12-7 rule which

(Continued on p. 10)



## Message from the CHSAF President



Ma. Socorro N. Camacho (HS-71)

Dear Fellow Alumnae,

I am pleased to inform you that last August 1, two alumnae joined the CHSAF Board. Please join me in welcoming Anne Limgenco (BFA-93) and Maria Luisa Daroy (HS-73). Since then, they have actively participated and contributed their time, talents and treasure to CHSAF operations and activities.

I am grateful for your active participation and support to the following activities that the CHSAF board had organized for you:

Dialogue with CHSM President Wynna Medina

You will recall that last June 19, 2020, CHSAF organized a dialogue between CHSM President, Dr. Wynna Medina, the CHSAF board, and the official batch representatives. Dr. Medina briefed us on the school's preparations and response to the crisis brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. In her briefing, she identified opportunities for the alumnae to help faculty and students. Among these opportunities, the alumnae decided to help senior high school students (Grades 11 and 12) from public schools and whose families had lost their financial means to continue their CHSM education.

We are very grateful for your overwhelming response to the CHSM Scholarship Program Committee's campaign to raise funds for the "financial aid" of 50 senior high school students for the duration of two years. As of September 2020, about P6 million has been raised.

#### CHSAF-Sponsored Masses

A Mass for the mother of Sr. Eden Panganiban, CHSAF Adviser, was held last June 12, 2020. Celebrated by Father Jerry Orbos, SVD, the virtual mass was live-streamed through the Divine Word Media Facebook page.

A requiem Mass for our departed alumnae and their immediate families was held last July 31, 2020. This was also celebrated by Father Jerry Orbos, SVD, with alumnae in the Philippines and abroad joining the virtual Mass via the Divine

Word Media Facebook page.

#### Josefina Quimbo-Galicia Lecture

Architect Dominic Galicia, our speaker, is the son of former CHS teacher and alumna Josefina Quimbo-Galicia (HS-39/AB-42, BSE-47). An advocate of heritage conservation, Arch. Galicia opened our eyes to the beauty of structures built before World War II and inspired us to care for our culture and heritage. Held last August 29, 2020, over 90 people registered for the Zoom lecture and we had over 900 views on our Facebook page.

#### Tribute to Cora Parco

We had a virtual program last September 19, 2020 to thank Cora Parco for her 10 years of service to CHSAF as its Executive Director.

• The Philippine Environment: the Potential and the Reality

A joint activity with Green Convergence, our very own Dr. Angelina Pineda-Galang (HS-57) spoke about our rich and beautiful ecosystem. Nina inspired everyone to love and take care of the environment. Over 70 people registered for this Zoom forum held last October 3, 2020, with 655 views on our Facebook page.

I look forward to your continued active participation. We endeavor to continue convening the Official Batch Reps every quarter. We had a very good attendance in our last meeting held July 25, 2020. I am hopeful that with input from the alumnae, through Official Batch Reps, we, your CHSAF board will be able to organize relevant activities that benefit our alumnae, our school and the community at large.

Please continue to take care of yourselves. Stay safe and healthy. Veritas in Caritate.

Sincerely, Marissa Camacho President, 2020 - 2022 CHS Alumnae Foundation, Inc.



#### Meet the new members of the 2020-2022 CHSAF Board of Trustees

#### **Full Name**

Anna Marie C. Limgenco

#### Nickname

Anne

#### Year Graduated

HS-89/BFA 1993

Years in CHS 7 years



Bachelor of Fine Arts Major in Advertising, CHS M.A. Human Resources and Values Development, Miriam College

#### Career Background

After college, I worked in a hotel, then transferred to a corporate setting and finally, an NGO. Currently, I am HR Director of nine different companies and I am managing a manpower agency

#### Hobbies/Special Interest

I enjoy reading cookbooks, magazines, novels, and inspirational books. I like doings things with friends like dancing, singing and cooking.

#### **Favorite Teacher**

Ponet Santillan, Mr. Gonzalo

#### **Fondest Memory**

I helped found a multi-level social community organization, the Office of Social Concern (OSC). I was also a member of the Student Catholic Action. Every week, we reached out to an adopted community that needed our help.

#### **Most Important Lesson**

If I can only make at least one person smile today... then I would have spread cheer and hope

#### Message to Alumnae

We are all instruments of God's love. When we receive kindness, let us strive to "pay it forward."



#### Maiden Name

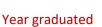
Maria Luisa B. de Guzman

#### **Married Name**

Darov

#### Nickname

Chuchi



#### HS 1973

#### Years in CHS

12 years

#### **Educational Attainment**

BS Chemistry, RChem

MS Microbiology

Diplomate Philippine Academy For Microbiology

#### Career Background

Biomedical Science Research and Teaching

#### Hobbies/Special interest

Reading, cooking, contemplative prayer

#### Favorite teacher

Sr. Ivalda, SSpS

#### **Fondest Memory**

Social activism, and playing volleyball, with my barkada

#### **Most Important Lesson**

As a child of God, be faithful and listen to the Holy Spirit.

#### Message to Alumnae

Persevere in living an ordinary life with extraordinary love.





#### Meeting Via Zoom: CHSAF Discuss Scholarships, Social Media, Environment

#### Alumnae Urged To Pay Membership Fees To Support CHSAF Projects

College of the Holy Spirit Alumnae Foundation President Ma. Socorro "Marissa" Camacho has introduced the new board officers and members to class representatives during a Zoom meeting on July 25, 2020.

At the work-from-home meeting, attended by 40 alumnae from across 33 classes, the CHSAF President reported on the foundation's 2019 – 2020 sources of revenue as well as expenses. Of the total revenue, 83% is for specific purposes (e.g. scholarship & Taal Calamity assistance). In terms of expenses, over 80% was for programs and projects and of this, 50% went scholarship. General and Administrative expenses accounted for 19% of expenses.

Marissa noted that Membership Dues is the main source for General and Administrative expenses. Last year, the income from Membership Dues was less than expenses for General and Administrative expenses. She appealed to class representatives to urge their batchmates to pay their P500 annual membership dues.

With money matters set aside, working committees were formed, their functions discussed and their members introduced. Two committees were assigned the following tasks:

- The Communications Committee (Editorial team) will align and reorganize the following communication channels: Facebook Page and Group, Viber Chat groups with Class Reps, and We, the Alumnae newsletter.
- The Events committee will lead the CHSAF activities for the year, namely Batch reps' meetings, Requiem Masses for departed alumnae, and online forums on heritage preservation and the environment. Other activities include a fellowship in October, and Christmas parties for alumnae and nuns in December. Still in the planning stage is a fundraiser for the foundation.

On its part, the CHSAF scholarship committee reported that for school year 2019-2020, CHSAF had 17 scholars: one Grade 8 scholar, eight High School scholars (seven of whom graduated), and eight College Scholars. For SY 2020-2021, there is one incoming Grade 9 scholar, seven College scholars, and one financial aid recipient.

The CHSM Scholarship under Paraclete is a joint project of CHSM, CHSAF and CHSNAF. The BINGO Family Bonding fundraising project held last year in October raised P841,231. After funds were disbursed to Paraclete scholars (four College scholars for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester, SY 2019-2020), the balance stood at P636,809. There are also four College scholars for SY 2020-2021.

The pandemic has exacerbated hardships for low-income

families. With this in mind, the CHSM (joint) scholarship committee has decided to award financial grants to deserving students. Compared to scholarships, this assistance does not cover the entire tuition and miscellaneous fees. Maintaining the required grade average is also less stringent. The board encourages alumnae to continue supporting the scholarship and financial grant programs.

The board also informed class representatives that Ms. Cora Parco has left the CHSAF Secretariat after 10 years of supporting the foundation and school alumnae.

#### CHSAF Board Officers And Members 2020-2022

President Ma. Socorro 'Marissa' N. Camacho (HS-71)
1st Vice President Evangeline 'Vangie' Y. Qua (HS-70/AB-BSC-74)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Victoria 'Vicki' N. Nañagas (HS-71) Secretary Arlene Abad-Soncuya (HS-71)

Asst. Secretary Edith S. Sabas (HS-73)
Treasurer Elisa 'Dada' Miranda-Cua (HS-77)

Asst Treasurer Brigitte A. Ignacio (HS-77)

Trustees: Angelina Pineda-Galang (HS-57/BS Chem-61)

Ma. Corazon P. Guidote (HS-78) Guillermina M. Ong (HS-68/BSC-72) Milagros Carel-Paraiso (AB-77) Lorraine Young-Sylianteng (HS-73)

Anne Limgenco (BFA-93)

Maria Luisa de Guzman-Daroy (HS-73) Adviser/Moderator Sr. Eden Panganiban, SSpS (AB-BSE-71)

Adviser/Moderator Sr. Eden Panganiban, SSpS (AB-BSE-71) Ex-Officio: Imelda "Mel" Lopez-Santos (HS-69)

#### **Communications Committee/ Editorial Team**

Chair: Ma. Socorro Camacho (HS-71)
Members: Evangeline Qua (HS-70)

Arlene Soncuya (HS-71) Edita Sabas (HS-73)

Cora Guidote (HS-78), FB/Website Lead Viqui del Rosario (HS-77), WE Editor Dolly Gabriel (HS-72), CHSAF Secretariat Administrator

#### **Events Committee**

Chair: Evangeline Qua (HS-70)

Members: Mila Carel-Paraiso (AB-77)

Dolly Gabriel (HS-72) Ging Ong (HS-68)

Nina Pineda-Galang (HS-57) Lorraine Young-Sylianteng (HS-73)

#### Scholarship Committee

Chair: Ma. Victoria Nañagas (HS-71)

Members: Dada Miranda-Cua (HS-77)

Mel Lopez-Santos (HS-65) Ging Ong (HS-68)

Nina Pineda-Galang (HS-57) Lorraine Young-Sylianteng (HS-73)



#### Have We Killed the Golden Goose?

By Angelina P. Galang, PhD (HS-57/BS Chem-61)



Screenshots of attendees of Dr. Angelina P. Galang's lecture on "The Philippine Environment: the Potential and the Reality" on October 3, 2020

I recall one of our teachers proudly saying that "The Philippines is the pearl of the orient seas." She was quoting a line from Jose Rizal's poem, "My Last Farewell."

Given how we are managing our natural resources, have we killed "the goose that lays the golden egg?" The famous fable tells of a family whose goose laid a golden egg every day. They would sell the egg in the market and they would have what they needed for the day. But a greedy son slit the goose's tummy, thinking he could get all the eggs and his family would become wealthy at once. Needless to say, there was no such bounty and the daily supply of one golden egg ceased.

Likewise, our country's resources can provide the basic needs of Filipinos. But greed and apathy have ruined our natural assets to the point of depletion.

The Lord has given us mountains, islands, tropical climate and our spot in the ring of fire. These characteristics give ecosystems which yield natural resources like minerals, timber, diverse flora and fauna, water and good soil as well as ecological services like protection from typhoon winds and habitats for biodiversity. Also, we have sustainable sources of clean energy like wind, solar and geothermal.

But do we appreciate them? Statistics show that we have destroyed the ecosystems of land and sea. Our urban areas suffer from air, water and solid waste pollution.

Have we killed the golden goose?

We have laws that protect our natural resources and environment. It is axiomatic that we strictly implement these laws. We should also set up a good research and development program so we can better manage our natural resources. We must learn to use the Earth's limited resources in a sustainable manner while minimizing impacts on the environment.

There are hopeful developments. There is increased interest in renewable energy. Our local manufacturers are turning to plants instead of petrochemicals for use in pharmaceuticals, consumer and industrial products. Some local government units have banned ecologically destructive programs.

Ecotourism has been widely adopted as the socially and environmentally superior alternative to mining. Tree planting, reforestation and the protection of endangered species are popular projects of corporations, clubs and schools.

One project close to our hearts is the CHS *Laudato Si* Garden. Formally opened in March 2018, the garden of 105 native trees planted in an area behind the CHSM grotto, is named after Pope Francis' encyclical on global warming and other environmental issues.

CHS alumnae and progenies of alumnae have made significant contributions to the protection of natural resources and the environment. May we have many more.

## CHSAF Holds Requiem Mass





Fr. Jerry Orbos celebrates Mass for CHSM alumnae and relatives.

On July 31, 2020, CHSAF sponsored a Mass for dearly departed alumnae, and their relatives.

Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD, officiated the Mass which was live streamed on facebook.com/divinewordme diaph.

In addition to praying for departed loved ones, Fr. Jerry exhorted everyone to live meaningful lives; to pray for "the grace that the rest of our lives be the best of our lives."

Alumnae were also led in prayer to Mothers Maria and Josepha with intentions for our alma mater, the College of the Holy Spirit Manila.



#### Veritas in Caritate in Action

By the CHSM Scholarship Program Committee

Covid-19 wreaked havoc on the world but it also brought out the best in people. When Dr. Wynna M. Medina, CHSM President, sounded the call for assistance for our most vulnerable students through the CHSM Scholarship Program Committee, the alumnae were mobilized in force.

CHSAF President Marissa Camacho and CHSNAF President Yolanda Reyes-Lim rallied the alumnae in the Philippines and in North America and their response to the plight of the students was unprecedented.

It was overwhelming to witness *Veritas in Caritate* in full action. Donations poured in as classes, and sometimes, individuals, tried to outdo one another. The Holy Spirit stirred us to share and this enabled otherwise sidelined students to come to class.

As of September 30, 2020) Certificates of Appreciation are being sent to acknowledge the donations received. Total pledges made by class are as follows:

HS-53	1 SHS*		HS-70	2 SHS
HS-55	1 SHS		HS-71	2 SHS
HS-57	2 SHS		HS-72	5 SHS
HS-60	20 Gr 12		HS-73	16 SHS
HS-63	3 COL		HS-75	7 SHS
HS-65	1 SHS*		HS-77	2 SHS
HS-66	4 SHS		HS-78	1 SHS
HS-67	4 SHS			1 COL
HS-68	7 SHS		From Fund	8 Gr12
HS-69	3 SHS*		CHSNAF c/o	11 COL
*Donation for	1 year		NE Chapter	11 COL

Dr. Medina, who serves as chairman of the CHSM Scholarship Program, reports that the students who will benefit from this year's generosity are:

SHS Grade 11: for SY2020-2021 and for SY2021-2022

5 in Strand ABM

8 in Strand HUMSS

7 in Strand STEM

8 in Strand MVD

SHS Grade 12: for SY2020-2021

4 for Strand ABM

6 for Strand HUMSS

5 for Strand STEM

6 for Strand MVD

8 for Strand CAT

## First Amorsolo Art Scholarships

By Deanna Go Bio (AB-58/BSC-59)

The Fernando C. Amorsolo Art Foundation Inc. has chosen three CHSM Fine Arts students to receive the First Amorsolo Art Scholarships. They are Jonaly Dig and Marco Mejia, both BFA, major in Multimedia Arts; and Jacynth Carl L. Monte, BFA, major in Advertising.

The foundation was established by the children of Fernando Cueto Amorsolo, the first Philippine National Artist, to preserve the artistic legacy of their father. Under the leadership of the Maestro's daughter, Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo (HS-57), and his grandson, Fernando Melanio A. Lazo, the foundation aims to provide a financial pathway for deserving students to study art, and like the Master, use their artistic vision to immortalize Filipino culture through visual arts.

It is indeed a singular honor for the College of the Holy Spirit Manila to be a partner in this covenant with the Fernando C. Amorsolo Art Foundation Inc. to keep the legacy of the first Philippine National Artist in perpetuity.

Note: Senior High School Tracks

ABM – Accountancy, Business and Management

**HUMMS – Humanities and Social Sciences** 

STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

MVD – Media, Visual and Digital Arts

CAT - Culinary Arts and Tourism

College Grant-in-Aid for four years:

3 in Bachelor of Arts in Communication

2 in Bachelor of Multimedia Arts

 ${\bf 1}$  in Bachelor of Science in Business

Administration

This first joint venture in fund-raising of CHSAF and CHSNAF, representing the global alumna population, is phenomenal. The outpouring of donations has exceeded our goals and catapulted us into the next level of building a reservoir of funds for future generations of CHSM graduates. And all it took was the determined force of this group of lambent women to turn the dark specter of COVID-19 to a brilliant rainbow of hope for our stricken students. *Veritas in Caritate* indeed!





Jasmine is a singer, actress and theater performer. This total performer fascinated audiences at GMA7's The Clash, and continues to capture hearts as a member of the Singing Sensations with her fascinating vocal styling. Her theater credits include: Philippine Opera Community's Passion (2019), and Resorts World Manila's Ang Huling El Birnbo (2019).

We're going "Wicked" with the "Phantom of the Opera".

#### **CHSAF Calendar of Events**

#### July 2020

- 25 Batch Reps meeting
- 31 Requiem Mass with Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD virtual mass

#### August 2020

**29** Online Forum on Heritage Preservation

The Josefina Quimbo Galicia Lecture by Architect Dominic Galicia

#### September 2020

- 19 Online Appreciation for Ms. Cora Parco
- 26 Online Forum:

  The Philippine Environment: The Potential and the Reality
  by Nina Pineda-Galang, a joint activity with Green Convergence

#### October 2020

- 10 Batch Reps Meeting
- 31 Lucky You! Halloween Fellowship with Raffle

#### November 2020

Webinar on Christmas decors and gifts

#### December 2020

15-23 Online Simbang Gabi with Fr.
Larry Tan of Don Bosco Makati
Christmas Party

#### (Continued from p. 4 Meeting Via Zoom...)

crossover group Primo who has been performing

both locally and internationally since 2008. He is

being a part of the musical Company, staged in

artist of Resorts World Manila since 2011, doing Concerts, Production shows, Corporate events

crowd favorite for his captivating performances of well loved songs from almost all genres.

2019 by Upstart Productions. He has been an

and International Promotions. He is a regular

also a musical theater actor, his most recent



40 alumnae across 33 classes attend the Class Reps Meeting on July 25, 2020.





Summer Class of 2020

Top row (L to R): JeriCHS Deanna Go Bio and Tita Dizon, Prof. Earl Custodio , JeriCHS Yola M. Albano, Rasam Espineli BSID; 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Nicole Mogado BSBA, Mary Angel del Mundo MMA, Auvreylane Pelaro MMA, John Buenconsejo BAC, Patricia Bautista MMA; 3<sup>rd</sup> row: John Fuentes and Jaira Quiambao BSID, Princess Haide Morales BSBA, Rosalie de Guzman BSBA, Beatrice Garcia MMA; 4<sup>th</sup> row: Mechaela Siasat BSPsy, Graciela Molina BSBA, Kristine Madera BAC, Cathleen Ilagan BSMT, Kim Napone BSBA; 5<sup>th</sup> row: Andrea de Leon MMA, Kaye Lafuente BSID

# Summer Learning During The Pandemic

By Jerichs / CHSM Scholarship Program Committee

In the words of Olympic gold medalist Wilma Rudolph, "the potential for greatness lives within each of us." Understanding this, the JeriCHS group of alumnae launched in March, periodic orientations and seminars for the scholars to give them a holistic approach to learning and living. The JeriCHS mentored the students with frequent interactions and encouraged them to share their hopes and aspirations to reach their potential. The 2020 pandemic lockdown put a halt to several plans. Conscious that an idle mind is the devil's workshop, the CHSM Scholarship Program Committee, with the JeriCHS' sponsorship, organized summer activities to challenge the scholars' minds:

- Four assignments were given online bi-weekly, submitted for review, and returned with corrections and comments. They contained lessons on spirituality, patriotism, humility, and gratitude.
- Classes, spanning four weeks for 20 scholars, were taught by Mr. Earl Custodio. They included English grammar, writing and basic conversation. Initially, the students were apprehensive, but with the patient and nonthreatening approach of "Sir Earl," progress was made.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

~ Nelson Mandela

As the say, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating" The students, identified by their initials (their full names are in the picture caption), shared the following positive statements:

"The four-week English online class has been an intriguing and enjoyable experience (PB); was full of realizations (JF); was surprisingly fun and gave us a head start before the actual online classes (RE); was unforgettable and full of fun learning, it was interactive and stimulating (PHM)."

"Our instructor and our benefactors were prepared, progress was possible because of the unending support and encouragement we received from them (GM); the opportunity that the scholarship committee has given us provided great insight and significantly boosted my learning

experience (RdG); online learning has definitely been a unique experience but the preparedness of the instructor allowed the lessons to flow smoothly...glad for the chance to learn during our vacation...extremely grateful for the effort that both parties put in order to give us a fruitful learning experience (BG)."

"Being from the province, no one taught me how to speak English fluently. When the JeriCHS invited me to join the class, I grabbed the opportunity. Our adviser made learning and practicing English enjoyable. I felt comfortable and confident...this will serve as a foundation to reach my goals (KL). I felt motivated because my sponsors showed support and pushed me to be a better version of myself...this knowledge will help in my future professional career. Above all, I am thankful I had the opportunity to become part of this family because I always learn a lot from them (JQ)."

American activist Marian Wright Edelman believes that "education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it." It is, therefore, with renewed vigor that we, the alumnae, through the CHSM Scholarship Program, are supporting our student family whose economic stability has been heavily affected by the pandemic. To paraphrase, Luke 12:48: "To whom much is given, much is expected."



## CHS Alumna Writes Book

By Leticia Liwanag Martin (AB-BSE-69)

The inspiration to write the book on Beginning Reading dawned on me after my pilot run at Molo and Jaro Districts in Iloilo of the Modules on Reading Readiness I created as part of the Mentoring The Mentors Program. The MMP is under the wings of the Marie Eugenie Institute of Assumption College, Makati City, where I retired as Teacher of the Basic Education Department. In spite of the excruciating effort of our teachers, their problems with children and parents are insurmountable.

I finally started musing on writing the book at the onset of the pandemic and the decision of DepEd (Department of Education) to continue with classes online realizing the dangers of face-to-face classroom teaching. The fear that there would be more children left behind unable to be on par with learning through the use of the Internet and electronic gadgets looms larger than interminable dilemma of the stretch of remote communities and the tools needed for learning. The Workbook and Textbook might be beneficial tools for the learning modules given to the children in far-flung communities, wherein the Textbook given independently might be less effective because of the near absence of adult supervision, attributable to working parents with varied degrees of literacy.

Thus, this workbook on Beginning Reading that goes straight to children, deprived of Internet, gadgets, and adult supervision is almost within reach. The task is ultimately as difficult as one teacher backpacking across four mountains, crossing rivers, and walking miles and miles of dirt roads to reach the children.

The book on Beginning Reading has four chapters. Part I is Beginning Writing, becoming familiar with the Alphabet and writing the Letters. The Workbook walks them through independent learning.

Part II is Learning the Sounds of the Letters. Now, this is mighty difficult. How do we teach sound if the children can't listen to the sounds of the letters. I chose two familiar children's songs to sing the sounds of the letters. The book, again, walks them through independent learning (and singing) the sounds of the letters of the alphabet. In this chapter, the children become familiar with the sound of each letter which becomes the basis for reading. Hand movements and singing with examples are given in the book.

Part III is Beginning Reading. The book lists "Mga Pantulong na Kataga," similar to "Sight Words" in English, which are essential in ultimately reading phrases and simple sentences. How do children memorize 10 words that eventually become "recalled texts" as they begin to read? Here, the idea of "Controlled Text" is emphasized. Of course, this is not explained in the book, but the writer is careful to have this in mind as she traverses through examples of controlled texts throughout this chapter.

Part IV continues Beginning Reading. Here, the children acquire confidence in reading simple texts from phrases to short stories. It is more effective if stories talk about their environment and everyday living. In other words, their ethnic culture spans the stories. Storytelling becomes a daily occurrence when children are gathered for learning, not just any story, but stories within controlled texts that children have studied using the book. Stories with controlled texts are included in Part IV of the book.

By getting through the rudiments of the chapters in the book, one realizes that it is not as simple as giving out a copy to whoever is in charge of a community. It is knowing more about the purpose and content of the book, and how the book can ultimately benefit the target reader. It is best suited for a community where someone is in charge of teaching and learning, not to teach, but to track the progress of each child.

The book on Beginning Reading for our purpose is prepared in Filipino. When a child gets the hang of reading in Filipino, she/he will be able to read in the mother

tongue. I am careful in listing examples as this book has a particular target reader—the Aetas of communities unable to use internet and gadgets.

Hopefully, we can reach as many children anywhere they reside to provide basic literacy if only to serve the purpose in writing this book. The writer hopes to improve quality learning upstart where every Filipino child can read!

The Workbook and Textbook are independent of the Seminar on Reading Readiness: A Seminar-Workshop for Teachers. The three-day Seminar consists of eight Modules including a Workshop where the participants are guided to prepare their own resource materials. The same seminar is also conducted by the writer of the book for Beginning Reading. This book might be a small addition to our teachers' tools in reaching out to more children to learn to read! Thus, "No one is left behind; every Filipino Child can read!"

The writer is a graduate of AB-BSE from the College of the Holy Spirit where she taught Literature in High School and designed the CHS-SPED curriculum for the one-year program which she ran for three years with Sr. Ancille Elveña who was then President and Ms. Andrea Bondoc, College Dean. The writer likewise designed the CHS-M.A. in SPED course, validated by Ms. Bondoc who was then Area Chair of the Communications Department in 2009. The writer has 50 years in the academe where she served in various capacities from Grade School to Graduate School. She has a Graduate Degree in Special Education. She became Consultant for Faculty and Curriculum Development in Indonesia and English Proficiency Program Developer in Thailand which gave her a more indepth study of the landscape of the Basic Education Division, both in the curriculum and actual classroom teaching and learning. She is an accredited facilitator of the Mentoring The Mentors Program and Steven Covey's Center for Leadership and Change, Education Division, where she conducts seminars around the country for teacher formation, both personal and professional.

(Continued from p. 1 A Daughter's ...)

required everyone to be at the dinner table for breakfast at 7 a.m., lunch at 12 noon, and dinner at 7 p.m. That means being picked up by Mang Kiko, the family driver for nearly 50 years, at around 11 a.m., then driven back to school before afternoon classes started at 2 p.m. Assignments had to be done before dinner.

"On free days, he continued to teach us the value of discipline and cleanliness by requiring all of us kids to clean his room," Sylvia says. "The girls dusted while the boys polished the floor with bunot or coconut husk. Sundays were reserved for rest and relaxation."

Sylvia didn't mind the regimen. Her Papa balanced schoolwork by playing with them and taking them to the movies two or three times a week. "This is why we had to finish our assignments early," she says. Likewise, there was always a rush to their large Nash (Rambler) car because only those who would fit in the vehicle could join the excursion.



Amorsolo had eight children with Maria del Carmen. Their youngest, Milo, poses in front of a portrait of his seven siblings: Helen, Luz, Christina, Sylvia, Delfin, Rosie and Emma.

"Papa was very conscientious. Picking us up from a silent religious retreat, he respected our silence all the way home," Sylvia recalls. "He also attended all our graduations, although he often stayed outside the auditorium to avoid calling attention to himself."

She has only loving thoughts about her Papa. "He really wasn't a very strict father. He treated us, his children, with fairness and respect. As his apprentices, we were not dictated upon. He just critiqued our work meticulously, checking every square inch of the canvas." Aside from Sylvia, the other Amorsolo children who took up the arts were Fernando Jr., Adrian and Manuel. Cousin Cesar Amorsolo, son of their Uncle Alejandro, also studied the arts.

When she began teaching, she introduced abstract and mixed media to her students. Her father became curious about her new-found skills. Sylvia explained that she acquired the knowledge from books obtained from abroad. He encouraged her to continue developing her style.

As his assistant for many years, Sylvia felt a particular closeness to her Papa. "He was very open to me, perhaps because we shared the same wavelength when it came to the arts. Oftentimes, I was treated like one of the boys."

#### Amorsolo's genius

Fernando Amorsolo started sketching at a very young age in their hometown in Daet, Camarines Norte. His mother, Bonifacia Cueto, sent his sketches to her cousin Fabian de la Rosa, already a prominent painter in Manila. At 11 years old, Fernando lost his father, Pedro Amorsolo who might have died from anguish when his eldest son, Perico, perished during the war. Bonifacia left for Manila with her five children in tow and stayed with Fabian de la Rosa, who became Fernando's first art instructor. Amorsolo was only 13 years old. To help



Fernando Amorsolo with second wife Maria del

his mother, and to finance his education, the budding artist sold sketches and watercolor postcards for 10 to 15 centavos each.

Such was the enterprising spirit of Amorsolo who transformed suffering into a self-imposed discipline by using his God-given talent. His positive outlook became a trademark in his works, often depicting serene and joyful scenes in a rural setting, with sunlight a constant backdrop. His paintings became a revolutionary statement of his love for Philippine tradition and the rural lifestyle, despite the growing western influence during the American occupation.

After his secondary education at the Liceo de Manila, Amorsolo honed his artistic skills at the University of the Philippines (UP) School of Fine Arts and graduated in 1914 with honors. During those years, he joined art competitions and won awards. The most notable, which also earned him international recognition, were his entries at the Exposicion de Panama in 1914, where he exhibited portrait of United States President Woodrow Wilson and the painting, "La Muerte de Socrates."

Three years into his job as an instructor and commercial artist, Amorsolo impressed industrialist and philanthropist Don Enrique Zobel de Ayala with his rendering of the

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Ginebra San Miguel logo. Zobel awarded him a grant to study at the *Academia de San Fernando* in Madrid, Spain.

The Maestro's portrait of US President Woodrow Wilson exhibited at the Ezposicion de Panama in 1914



Sylvia narrates one story often shared by her Papa's colleagues in UP: After screening Amorsolo's qualifications, the Spanish professors wrote to his benefactor saying, "You sent us a professor, not a student." Amorsolo was so gifted, he was privileged to have his own studio. He later moved to New York City as part of the grant. In gratitude, Amorsolo painted two portraits for Don Enrique.



Amorsolo in his studio in Spain

Sylvia notes that her father never bragged about his status. "He was very humble. We only heard about his awards from other people. He wasn't very sociable and just wanted to be with his family and a small circle of UP professors." Amorsolo loathed going to award ceremonies. His children often acted as proxy for him except at the conferment ceremony for his Doctorate of Humanities from Far Eastern University. For the Maestro, a happy family life mattered much more than any accolade bestowed on him.



The Maestro being conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities by Far Eastern University

#### Life as manchador

Sylvia belied the 10,000 artworks of Amorsolo chronicled in numerous articles. Her son did the math and noted that the Maestro produced 40,000 artworks—most are untraceable. As a regimen, her father worked seven days a week producing two to three artworks a day, sometimes even more. He was never idle and worked feverishly while the kids were in school, unless pressing matters required him otherwise.

He used a number of easels in his studio so he can do multiple projects simultaneously. "Once my brothers and I were adequately trained, we became his manchador (apprentice). We prepared the canvas by painting the first coat, allowing him to move from one canvas to the next as he waited for the others to dry. And we always got paid for the work we did," Sylvia recalls.

Those were critical moments when she intimately learned her father's technique, a skill so useful because auctioneers and art sellers have sought her services for restoration or authentication of Amorsolo artworks.

#### Following in his footsteps

The young Sylvia wanted to be a nurse. But in the course of assisting her Papa, Sylvia asked him for a painting set. "He willingly gave me one and then noticed that I was better at painting than my brother Delfin," she says. "That's when he asked me to run errands, like buying

art paraphernalia. I later realized that it was his way of training me. At times, he asked me or my siblings to pose for him; hence, some of the women he painted resembled our faces."



UP,

eventually

Service.

While in high school, Sylvia's interest in painting shifted to a higher level. She started attending art classes of Sr. Aracelli in HGC. Gaining confidence, she began selling some of her paintings for P15 to P20 pesos each. Later she enrolled at the University of the Philippines School of Fine Arts where she first majored in Painting, then shifted to Commercial Design to broaden her perspective. Her

brothers, Fernando Jr., Adrian and

Manuel also majored in Fine Arts at

shifted

Fernando

to

Jr.

Foreign

although

Career-wise, Sylvia followed in her Papa's footsteps but she was more of a teacher than a painter. Her over 200 artworks pale in comparison with her Father's tens of thousands.

Sylvia has spent 40 years of her life teaching which "I find fulfilling," she says. She started as a proxy to her father when affluent families called for private sessions for their children. After college, she worked at General Textile Company and PWU's School of Music and Arts. She stayed the longest at the schools Casa Montessori

(Continued on p. 12)

(Continued from p. 11 A Daughter's ...)

International and the Philippine Montessori where she taught special art classes for students aged two to five years old. Thereafter, she set up her own tutorial art school from 2000 to 2004.

Nowadays, Sylvia spends most of her time painting. Her works fetch between P600,000 and P800,000 each, depending on the size and complexity.



Sylvia's rendition of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal

# Despite the doctor's pronouncement of imminent death, Amorsolo lived a few more weeks. He was in and out of intensive care and even checked out of the hospital at one point. Sylvia and her mother took turns caring for him when her other siblings were busy at work. "Papa was never alone in the hospital. We all attended to his needs," she says.

On April 24, 1972, the Maestro quietly passed away. He would have turned 80 on May 30.



Amorsolo, in his hospital bed, a few days before he passed away in 1972. He is surrounded by his daughters and grandchildren. At right is Sylvia with her three kids.

#### Amorsolo's last days

Sylvia's mood changes when she speaks of her father's last days. Amorsolo had a vibrant personality, but he changed when his 21-year-old son Milo died in a car accident. The Maestro became depressed, his health deteriorated, leading to a heart attack in 1972.



The Maestro arrives home from the hospital, only to go back soon after because of a heart attack.

#### Keeping the legacy alive

Sylvia's ardent dedication to her father's legacy reflects how much she values him as mentor and friend. To this day, she seeks guidance from him for every project, especially with regard to restoration and authentication.

The most important task that she and her siblings undertook for their father was to set up the Fernando C. Amorsolo Art Foundation Inc. in February 2003. The aim is to preserve Amorsolo's national heritage through the conservation and promotion of his works, research and sharing of critical information historical about materials related to the Maestro's genre.

Sylvia is President of the foundation, while her son Nandy is Vice President.



Hardbound books published by the Fernando C. Amorsolo Art Foundation

They have published three hardbound books on Amorsolo, showcasing 400 of his masterpieces. "Papa really wanted to have a book, so we fulfilled that dream," Sylvia reveals.

The first book, Maestro Fernando C. Amorsolo: Recollections of the Amorsolo Family, came out in 2009. Two more books followed in 2017—Amorsolo: Love and Passion Volume 1: Portraits and Amorsolo: Love and Passion Volume 2: Landscape and Other Works.

#### Our Lady's Miracle of Light

Known for his mastery of light and shadows, the Maestro unknowingly channeled Mother Mary's miraculous energy in his rendition of the *Nuestra Señora de la Luz de Cainta*. The Amorsolo-styled Marian image, inspired by the original painting of Our Lady of Light in Palermo, Italy, draws pilgrims from all over the country.

Our Lady of Light is the first Marian image in Philippine history to be pontifically crowned as an artistic painting, a posthumous recognition that sets Amorsolo apart from all the other Philippine artists. The painting was commissioned in 1950 by the CICM Parish, several decades after the original image from Sicily was destroyed by fire in 1899. True to his

(Continued on p.13)



(Continued from p. 12 A Daughter's ...)

nationalistic style, Amorsolo imbued the Virgin, child Jesus, and angels and soul being rescued by Our Lady with Filipino features.

The painting is now enshrined in the reconstructed church of Cainta following an "artistic conservation" in 2007. On Dec. 6, 2017, the painting was granted by Pope Francis the papal bull of canonical coronation during rites on Dec. 1, 2018. The event coincided with the declaration of the parish as a Diocesan Shrine.

#### Light in her heart

Sylvia was 32 when her Papa passed away. His memory lives on and his presence is strongly felt. The more she reconstructs and authenticates the Maestro's works, the more she admires his artistic prowess.

Indeed, the Amorsolo light continues to sparkle in Sylvia's heart and in the hearts of the artist's loved ones. Such brilliance shines far and beyond time and space. Maestro Fernando C. Amorsolo is the light that refuses to dim, shining brightly on our nation, bringing joy, hope and happiness.



Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo poses with author Cora Guidote.

The author used the following references:
http://www.fernandocamorsolo.com/biography.html
https://www.philstar.com/lifestyle/arts-andculture/2017/05/28/1704534/new-books-amorsolo
https://pintakasi1521.blogspot.com/2018/02/nuestra-senora-dela-luz-de-cainta.html?m=0



The Coronation Rites of Our Lady of Light Source: pintakasi1521.blogspot.com

#### Did you know ...



- CHSM has an authenticated artwork of the First Filipino National Artist, Fernando C. Amorsolo, in its Mother Josepha Building. The window was done in 1931 and is considered to be the only stained glass window rendering of the Maestro's work.
- In 2012, an Amorsolo Plate project was undertaken by CHSAF In coordination with CHSM and the Amorsolo Art Foundation through Ms. Sylvia Amorsolo-Lazo.

## WE KLUMNAE



The Tree of Life Courtyard in the National Museum of Natural History, designed by Arch. Dominic Galicia PHOTO: DOMGALICIA.COM



From left, Arch. Galicia, Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Lorraine and Robert Sylianteng enjoy a light moment at the unveiling of the historical marker of the First United Building formerly Perez-Samanillo Building in Escolta. PHOTO: @ISIDRA.REYES.3 ON FACEBOOK



Arch. Galicia (back row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left) and members of the Escolta Commercial Association Inc. pose for a photo in front of the FUB building.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF LORRAINE Y. SYLIANTENG

## Preserving Our Heritage

By Lorraine Young-Sylianteng (HS-73)

My husband Robert and I are members of the Escolta Commercial Association Inc. (ECAI), a non-profit organization of Escolta building owners. On Sept. 1, 2011, we were invited by then Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, through heritage conservationist Gemma Cruz-Araneta, to attend a talk on Escolta. The lecture was given by Dominic Galicia, an architect deeply concerned with the preservation of historic architectural sites.

The year 2011 was a bad time for Escolta, which had 20 percent vacancy rate. We had been working with the Office of the Mayor since the time of Mayor Mel Lopez (1986-1992) to revive Escolta but development was difficult and unsustainable. We really needed the government to give us a leg-up.

We listened to Architect Galicia talk about Escolta, the premier business and commercial center of Manila from the late 1800s up to the early 1970s. We were mesmerized by his details of heritage structures, which made us appreciate the history and value of Escolta.

After that talk, Architect Galicia became the adviser of ECAI from 2011 to 2013. He helped guide our public-private initiative to revive Escolta, Manila's historic downtown. He made the supreme sacrifice of driving every Thursday from Makati to Escolta to meet with us, together with Gemma Cruz-Araneta, heritage lovers, architects, and artists. When he left, the buildings on Escolta had almost 100 percent occupancy.

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(Continued from p. 14 Preserving our ...)

It is heartening to note that Architect Galicia is the son of our very own Mrs. Josefina Quimbo-Galicia (HS-39/AB-42/BSE-47), who is related to the whole Quimbo clan, alumnae of Holy Ghost College/College of the Holy Spirit.

A graduate and Distinguished Asian Pacific Alumni Awardee of the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, Architect Galicia specializes designing churches, among them, the Church of St. Benedict in Ayala Westgrove Heights in Silang, Cavite; Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in Antipolo; and the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Church, more popularly known as the Magallanes Church. His most famous work, I would say, is the National Museum of Natural History in Manila.

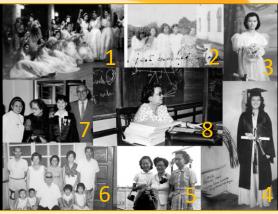
Architect Galicia gave another talk on August 29, 2020 via Zoom. Sponsored by the CHS Alumnae Foundation. He enlightened us about how architecture affects the spirit, about heritage, about the adaptive reuse for buildings and sites that are slowly disappearing. He was hopeful that the National Cultural Heritage Act or Republic Act No. 10066 will protect, preserve, conserve and promote the nation's cultural heritage, its property and histories, and the ethnicity of local communities.

R.A. 10066, which was signed into law on March 25, 2009, created the Philippine Registry of Cultural



Property, the repository of all information pertaining cultural properties the in Philippines deemed significant to our cultural heritage. The law stops the destruction of buildings over 50 years old which are presumed to be important cultural property. He ended his talk by urging everyone to join the Heritage Conservation Society and work as one voice in advocating for the protection and preservation of our cultural and historical sites.

Architect Galicia also represents **Philippines** in the the International Scientific Twentieth-Committee on century Heritage (ISC20C) of the Council International Sites Monuments and (ICOMOS). He was president of ICOMOS Philippines from 2014 to 2017. He has served as Vice President of the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS). For he two three-year terms, represented HCS on the Executive Council the of Committee National on Monuments and Sites (NCMS) of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

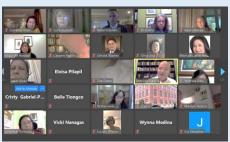


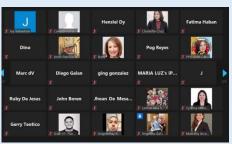
At the start of his lecture, Architect Dominic Galicia shared photos from the album of his mother, CHSM professor and alumna Josefina Quimbo-Galicia (HS-39, AB-42, BSE-47): 1. Mama's high school gala 2. Mama's caption: "Ella has just cracked a joke hence, the wide grin. 1940" On a similar photo, Mama's caption was "The H.S.T. group - Ella, Luz, Mely, and I, but where's Rory? 1940." They were Mama's closest friends in high school: Ella Duran (Nolasco), who was my godmother; Ma. Luz Iturralde, who was my sister Grace's godmother; Mely was Imelda Consunji; Rory was Aurora Iturralde who became Sr. Encarnacion. 3. High school graduation 4. College graduation. Mama's caption: "BSE March, 1947 Magna Cum Laude Holy Ghost College" 5. Mama, with the Iturralde sisters Luz and Rory (Sr. Encarnacion), at the airport, Sept. 26, 1953, on her way to Madrid to pursue

graduate studies 6. Group portrait at my grandfather Vicente Quimbo's house on Laong-Laan, now Nicanor Roxas St., Quezon City. Back row, from left, my father Domingo Galicia, Mama, Mama's sister Rosario "Charo" Figueroa, Mama's youngest sister Marietta "Etta" Montesa, and Etta's husband Roberto Montesa. Front row, from left, Dominic Galicia, Edgar Figueroa, my grandfather Vicente Quimbo, Margaret Montesa (David), Liane Montesa (Dershowitz). All the women in this photograph are CHS alumnae.

7. My sister Grace's CHS graduation in March 1989, BA Psychology, Magna Cum Laude. From left, Sr. Lourdes Zafra, Mama, Grace, my father Domingo Galicia.

8. Mama teaching a Spanish class







Screenshots of attendees of Arch. Dominic Galicia's lecture on "Preserving Heritage" on August 29, 2020



# Building Friendships at the Sunshine Place

By Gilda T. Reyes (HS-77)

When I first joined Sunshine Place in 2014, my instructions from Ms. Tessie Sy Coson were to "transform it into a clubhouse, make it a place where seniors can comfortably enjoy themselves and call it their second home."

Sunshine Place is a senior recreation club that brings people together for social interaction and wellness, and to stimulate their mind, body and spirit using holistic approaches. Located on Jupiter Street, Makati, it offers classes and activities adapted to seniors, and is subsidized by the SM Foundation through the Felicidad Tan Sy Foundation.

People come to the Sunshine Place to build friendships. Members come every day for our activities, but there are members who are regulars on certain days of the week. So there is a Monday Group, Tuesday Group, Wednesday... and so on. Being friends, they check up on each other, celebrate birthdays, exchange stories about their families, talk about their lost youth and past loves. People who are new, immediately feel at home. Shy and introverted members eventually come out of their shell.

Since it opened, we've had positive reviews like: "This is my happy place, my second home," "There's life after retirement," and "It is never too late to try or learn new things."

One member's daughter shared that her mom always looks forward to going to the Sunshine Place. "Even on Sundays, when your center is closed, she wants to go. Once we had to drive her here to prove that it is really is closed."

With the support and expertise of my team, membership has grown significantly. The club offers classes, workshops and social events. I have witnessed the positive transformation of our members when they learn new skills and discover their hidden talents like dancing, painting, and singing.

We have several CHS alumnae who come to the Sunshine Place because they enjoy being with friends and attending classes. They are: Loida Dela Rosa-Tan (HS-86, BSC-90?), Nancy Lim-Ty (HS-59, class valedictorian), Lourdes Conista-Vanasco (BSE-54), Consuelo Apostol-Regino (HS-56), Erlinda Acacio-Flores (Bachelor of Music-56), Flora Cecilia Santos (HS-57, BSC-61), Maria Carolina Frances A. Manzano (HS-79), Lilia Alegre-Manzano (HS-50, AB BSE-54), and Zenaida Zita Reichert (HS-56). Marilen Nolasco-Espiritu (BSC-63), Amelita Dayrit-Guevarra (HS-63)

Since March, the COVID-19 lockdown has affected our operations. The government has advised seniors to stay home to minimize their risk for infection. We decided to hold classes online so members wouldn't

(Continued from p. 16 Building Friendships ...)











Lourdes Conista-Vanasco (BSE-54) Consuelo Apostol-Regino HS-56 Marilen Nolasco-Espiritu

Loida Dela Rosa-Tan (HS-82/BSC-86)

with Felicidad Tan Sy)







Lilia Alegre-Manzano (HS-50, AB BSE-54), Maria Carolina Frances A. Manzano (HS-79),



have to leave their homes. This way, they can stay safe, healthy, mindful, sharp and happy. It's a win-win. We connect to members via Zoom or drop them a simple kamusta on a weekly basis.

The transition to go online was challenging at first. Seniors who are not tech-savvy needed a tutorial session with staff. Class our changed schedules were accommodate their home routines. After a few glitches, everyone came onboard.

Managing the Sunshine Place has allowed me to grow in knowledge, wisdom and understanding. I am grateful to the people I have worked with and for the opportunities granted me. I am grateful to my Alma Mater for preparing me to be an effective and efficient manager. Most of all, I am grateful to my parents for instilling in me the values of discipline, commitment, hard work, integrity, humility, simplicity and service.

Sunshine Place offers the following classes: Acrylic Painting with Arts Association of the Philippines President Fidel Sarmiento; Porcelain Painting with Mee Lee Casey; Watercolor Painting with Beth Robles; Acrylic Painting for Kids with Racheal Escalaw; Chair Dancing with choreographer Danny Vinculado; Tai Chi Yang Style with Jose Anonas; Yoga for Seniors and Joyful Yoga with Rina Nakayama; Dekada mindful dance fitness with Mark "Heat" Soler Cruz; Voice and Piano with Isaac Iglesias and Cloi Sugano; Physical Therapy with Josh Manoharan; and Personal Fitness Training with Life-Care Fitness Management, Inc. Trainers.

The writer is Vice President of the Senior Members Social Club, Inc. Prior to this, she was Vice President for Human Resources of SM Mart, Inc. where she worked for 25 years. She is active in the Contemplative Ministry, and is a volunteer in the Prison Ministry of Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish.



## Have you ever been to the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area?

By Edda Palad Policar (HS-68)



If you're going to San Francisco
Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair
-- from "San Francisco." sung by Scott McKenzie



We are from the majestic Bay Area, the northern part of California where the hilly streets of San Francisco go halfway to the stars!

We are the new officers of the Pacific North West (PNW) Chapter of the College of the Holy Spirit North America Foundation (CHSNAF).

#### We accept!

This was our response when we were nominated for the PNW leadership 2020-2022.

#### We are:

- · Purile Angeles Conley, President
- · Edda Palad Policar, First Vice President
- Myrna Belgica Evangelista, Second Vice President
- Jean Flor, Secretary
- Nenita Bioc, (ongoing)Treasurer

Because of the pandemic and strict observance of social distancing, we have yet to be officially

installed. Be assured that our chapter is already stepping up to the plate and we have some thoughts and ideas on how to give support to our Alma Mater in Manila through the guidance of CHSNAF. With this in mind, we want to help promote the mission and vision of CHS, "Equitable and caring education for social impact."

We are hopeful we can achieve this together with the new and current PNW Board members:

- Myrna Vasquez Canizares
- Maricar Gutierrez Torres
- Marisol Papa Bito
- Teresita Marcelo
- Mennie Cavestany Bello
- Medy Belo Villar
- Chitin Gutierrez
- Julie Guenley
- Lorrie Allen
- Dulce Monzo Crus

After all, there is "Truth in Love."







## CHS Prayer Brigade during COVID-19

By Mila Eustaquio-Syme (HS-61) CHSNAF Canada East

The new coronavirus reached Canada in late January 2020 after an individual who had returned to Toronto from Wuhan. China tested positive. In early March, the wife of our Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tested positive for COVID-19. In mid-March, the World Health declared Organization the outbreak a pandemic and Canada and the rest of the world went into lockdown.



Screenshot of CHSNAF Canada East members praying the rosary via Zoom

The grim reality of COVID-19 moved CHSNAF Canada East President Veronica de Leon-Mangalindan (HS-78) to organize a nine-day novena starting March 27, 2020. The novena, which began with a small group of seven members from the Canada East chapter, has grown into a nightly prayer session of 40 steadfast prayer warriors. CHSNAF President Yoly Reyes-Lim (HS-68) invited alumnae from other CHSNAF chapters to join. The group now includes alumnae from California, Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Seattle, Texas, Vancouver, Virginia and Manila. Our Canada East chapter Secretary Yam Castro-Esmele (HS-90) is our Zoom host who keeps a tight lid on Zoom security to ensure that all of us can pray in a secure environment. Nightly prayers start at 8 p.m. Eastern Standard Time. Members of the Prayer Brigade are grouped in pairs, and they take turns leading and responding during the session.

For the first mystery of the rosary, prayers are offered for frontliners (doctors, nurses, paramedics, ambulance drivers, hospital workers, researchers and scientists) who unselfishly work to treat and care for the afflicted and search for a cure.

For the second mystery of the rosary, prayers are offered for those stricken with COVID-19. We have a long list of people who need prayers. Alumnae with other health issues are also included in our intentions.

In the third mystery of the rosary, prayers are offered for the souls of recently departed alumnae, faculty members, relatives and friends. Prayers are also offered for the strength and consolation of their grieving families.

The fourth mystery of the rosary is dedicated to the most vulnerable such as the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. Most of the members of the Prayer Brigade and their families are included in the intentions. As COVID-19 is known to strike the elderly staying in senior homes, we offer special prayers for some of our mothers living in senior facilities. We also pray for persons who have returned to the workplace (e.g. essential workers) and who have recently travelled and are in quarantine. Lastly, we pray for the Philippines, its vulnerable citizens and frail democracy and economy, that national unity, justice and peace may prevail.

In the fifth mystery of the rosary, the group prays in thanksgiving for family and friends recovering from COVID-19 and other ailments, for those who have overcome challenges such as the safe delivery of a grandchild, or the safe arrival at a travel destination. We also give thanks for the opportunity to pray together every night.

(Continued on p. 20)

(Continued from p. 19 CHS Prayer Brigade ...)



Screenshot of CHSNAF Canada East prayer brigade

As many alumnae are aware, the College of the Holy Spirit in Manila is facing serious challenges. Thus, for the month of August, at the end of the rosary, we pray to Mothers Maria and Josepha, founders of the SSpS sisters, for their intercession to find a cure for COVID-19. We also pray for the school to be able to continue its mission to instill "Truth in Love" in the Filipino youth. These prayers were borne out of a CHSNAF NE chapter initiative chaired by Ilo Echevarria-Wallenstein (HS-65/ABC-70).

At the end of the prayers, a video with a religious song (chosen by the evening prayer leader) is played to complete the night's prayers. This has become a tradition we've come to look forward to, as we are treated to beautiful and prayerful songs performed by opera singers, pop stars and even our members' own children, nieces and grandchildren.

On Sundays, we pray in Tagalog. We find it more heartfelt to pray in our native language. We also welcome the opportunity to practice speaking in uninterrupted Tagalog for the whole evening.

Given the current restrictions on social interactions, this nightly event is also a chance for alumnae to greet each other, share the day's events and activities, comfort each other in our struggles and challenges, and celebrate each other's victories and answered prayers. During the course of five months, some of our spouses have been hospitalized, some of us have been hospitalized, and some of our relatives have been sick or suspected to be sick with COVID-19. On the bright side, we have marked the birth of a few grandchildren, celebrated our birthdays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Philippine Independence Day, Canada Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July, family

reunions and other special occasions, all on Zoom. Indeed, we have been praying together through good times and not so good times.

We also have social activities via Zoom. We tried Zumba early on. More recently, every other Wednesday, Shonnie Quimbo-Montoro's (HS-78) daughter, Hanna Michelle Montoro, leads us in postprayer yoga, appropriately modified for seniors in the group. What a delightful way to end a spiritual exercise—with relaxing short, workout!

This nightly gathering has bonded us, brought us closer together. There is so much affection within the group. We have introduced our families to each other. On Mother's Day, we shared pictures of our respective mothers and families. In July, the group, via Zoom, secretly recorded Happy Birthday greetings and the song, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You" for Isabelita Sy-Palanca (HS-68). Upon the request of her family, it was played during her birthday celebration. She was greatly surprised and touched.

The group is currently working on recording the song "Lean on Me" via Zoom. Yam Castro-Esmele (HS-90) is leading this initiative, with the help of Luz Marie Caringal-Tameta's (HS-74/AB-78/BSC-79) son Alvin Tameta, Ramona Arceo (HS-74) and Socorro de Castro-Landsberg (HS-67). We are offering this song as a memento to each other and in thanksgiving for the time we have spent together during this pandemic. The song premieres in September.

Our Prayer Brigade's alumnae members are:

Amor Gomez (HS-49), Anita de la Peña-Chan (BSC-68), Arlene Dadia-Torres (HS-78/BSFN-82), Cora Simon-Nieves (HS-68), Deanna Go Bio (AB-58/BSC-59), Elvie de la Peña-Tan (BSEE-70), Ethel Zabala-Laxa (BSC Acctg-74), Evelyn Faustino-Ador Dionisio (HS-63), Gilda Giron (AB-67), Gina Nepomuceno-Gueco (ABC-69), Ilo Echevarria-Wallenstein (HS-65/ABC-70), Isabelita Sy-Palanca (HS-68), Lina Suarez-Umali (HS-68), Lisa Suarez (GS-70), Lita Francia-Abadilla (HS-65), Lita Suarez-Consolacion (HS-66/BM-70), Lizzeth Enriquez-Reyes (HS-79), Luz Marie Caringal-Tameta (HS-74/AB-78/BSC-79), Lydia Samonte-Bernardino (ABC-69),

(Continued on p. 27)



## Blessed Mother Josepha, SSpS: Our Prayer Partner in the time of COVID-19

By Deanna Go Bio (AB-58/BSC-59) CHSNAF North East Chapter



Screenshot of CHSNAF North East chapter praying for the intercession of Blessed Mother Josepha, a "saint-in-waiting"

Living under the specter of Covid-19 has heightened our awareness of every health hazard and deepened the loving concern we have for each other in the community of CHSNAF chapter members. We received the alarming news of Evelyn Manding-Ortega's (HS-65) impending surgery when New York City was the epicenter of the pandemic. The constraints of the imposed lockdown spurred us to gather together to pray for her successful surgery and quick recovery.

Shortly after was a request from Fr. Andre Querijeros, OCB, to pray for his secretary, Susana Lopez, who was faced with a life-threatening surgery and debilitating post- surgery chemotherapy. Fr. Querijeros was the pilgrim-chaplain of the NE Chapter-organized pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in 2015. Another request came from Livy Dizon-Bugge (HS-66), who was anxious about the results of her biopsy.

Meanwhile, a little voice whispered to Christina Martinez-del Rosario (HS-59) that we should pray for the intercession of Mother Josepha, SSpS, recently beatified co-foundress of the Missionary Sisters Servants

of the Holy Spirit. Believing that Blessed Mother Josepha, a "saint-in-waiting," would be a powerful intercessor for us, the "favored students of the Holy Spirit," we set out in full force to partner up with her.

Ilo Echevarria-Wallenstein (HS-65/BSC-70) was commissioned to write a special intercessory prayer for healing (See Prayer for Personal Intentions). Tita Dizon (HS-63) skillfully laid out the prayer in triptych format. Arlene Dadia-Torres (HS-78/BSFN-82), President of the North East Chapter, organized a Zoom prayer meeting every day at 7p.m. Chapter members and fellow alumnae from other states and Manila were invited to join in.

When CHSM President Wynna Medina, Ph.D. appealed to alumnae for financial support for deserving students hit hard by the economic fallout from the pandemic, we realized that just like ailing people, we can pray for the complete recovery of vulnerable institutions. Thus, Ilo was once again tasked to craft another prayer especially for the intention of restoring CHSM to its full vitality (See Prayer for CHSM).

(Continued on p. 22)



(Continued from p. 21 Blessed Mother ...)

What started out as a core group of nine in no time grew to an average attendance of 25 faithful every night: Arlene Dadia-Torres (HS-78/BSFN-82), llo Echevarria-Wallenstein (HS-65,/BSC-70), Tita Dizon (HS-63), Deanna Go Bio (AB-58/BSC-59), Med de Jesus (BSC-67), Christina Martinez-del Rosario (HS-59), Mimi Jacobo-Samson (HS-82), Olivia Dizon-Bugge (HS-66), Tita Martinez-Sicat (HS-55), the Arceo sisters, Ramona (HS-68/BM-72) and Thelma (HS-74) Manding sisters, Evelyn Ortega (HS-65) and Yolanda Albano (HS-68), Athena Santos Magcase-Lopez (BFA-72), Shonnie Quimbo-Montoro (HS-78), Socorro de Castro-Landsberg (HS-67), Rosa Alvarez-Mo, Lorie Rualo-Martin. Eloisa Siongco-Vila, Lourdes Nepomuceno-del Rosario, Marlene Tigno-Magsaysay, Corit Fernandez-Noble, Illa Martinez-de Guzman, Ades Tagle-Valdes, Paeng Francia-Abadilla, and Cora Ybanez-Tuason (all HS-65), the seven Soqueno sisters namely, Rebecca (HS-60/BSChem-64), Cecilia (HS-63/BSE-67), Cynthia (HS-68/BSE-72), Raquel (HS-74/BSC-79), Cora (HS-75/AB-80), Cristina (HS-76) and Consuelo (HS-79), Noemi Zenarosa-Cuevas (BSC-70), Teofila Siva-Javier (BSC-67), Ferminita Tecson-Francia (HS-54/ BSHE-58), Lourdes Juinio (HS-67), and Amor Gomez (HS-49).

Our original prayer for Evelyn and Livy grew to over 30 intentions in less than three months. The list now has various petitions – for knee and eye surgeries, COVID-19 test results, strokes, chronic depression, and even a threatened pregnancy. There are petitions for a kidney donor, the safe deliveries of grandchildren from anxious grandmothers, and even one from an impatient yet hopeful grandmother.

The list changes every day as subjects shift from supplication to thanksgiving, with updates of successful surgeries, quick recoveries, uneventful completion of otherwise delicate medical procedures, happy test results and joyful images of patients returning to pray.

And for the first time, the fund drive for students' aid goes on almost effortlessly. The overwhelming response of the alumnae from North America and the Philippines is unprecedented compared to previous years of teeth-pulling efforts at fundraising.

This phenomenon, however, is no surprise to this band of quiet warriors. Armed with the unflinching faith in God's healing mercy and in the constancy of Mother Josepha's intercession from her position of grace, we pray nightly and we get answers.

Mother Josepha is not one into lightning-and-thunderclap extravaganzas, nor into the Hollywood-depicted stand-up-and-walk miracles. In fact, there is only one documented case of a cure that led to her beatification. In 1985, a young boy from a remote village in the south of Brazil was dying when one nurse started a novena for Mother Josepha's

intercession. On the ninth day, the young boy recovered enough to join the novena in the hospital chapel. Twenty-three years later, Valdir Bender was a special guest with his wife and two children leading the Brazilian contingent at her beatification.

There are still countless cases of answered prayers of simple people, "little miracles" done without much fanfare. True to her nature, Mother Josepha works ordinary miracles for ordinary people. As one witness to her beatification in June 29, 2008 wrote:

"Mother Josepha was an ordinary woman who had an extraordinary relationship with the Holy Spirit. The secret to her sanctity was her open heart — myn hart is bereid ...my heart is ready ... mein herz ist bereit — a heart open and ready to respond to the Holy Spirit and to those in need."

The normalcy of our life has been shattered by this virulent disease and yet we are not daunted. Instead, we have taken pause from the busyness of our past "normal." Following in the footsteps of Mother Josepha, we open our hearts, in silence and in isolation, to respond to the Holy Spirit and to those in need.

If you would like to join this prayer novena, please contact
Arlene Dadia-Torres at mariagdtorres@gmail.com for Zoom details.

(Continued from p. 22 Blessed Mother ...)

#### PRAYER

Loving God, we thank you for having gifted us with Mother Josepha. We praise you for her loving heart and motherly care for all, especially for the poor, the sick, and the needy an expression of the Father's compassion for humankind, made visible in the life and mission of Jesus Christ.

Mother Josepha's love for your Spirit made her a woman of outstanding sensitivity and simplicity, with a deep longing for your will alone; offering herself totally for the mission of your Son.

Open our hearts to see your presence everywhere and to listen to the cries of the world for love and life, so that, like Mother Josepha, we become ever more your missionaries, with hearts ever ready for you and your people at all times and all places. Amen.

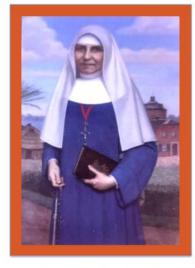
> Holy Triune God, You called St. Arnold Janssen, Blessed Maria, Blessed Josepha, and Mother Mary Michael to found the Society of the Divine Word, the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit, and the Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit of Perpetual Adoration. We give You thanks and praise, and all the glory for the wondrous work of these servant leaders.

We lay claim to the Special Favor the Holy Spirit has bestowed on us, His Alumni. We pray for cleansing before we go before Your Presence. We thank You, O Holy Spirit, for the favor of Mothers Maria and Josepha interceding for us; and for inspiring, guiding, and strengthening us.

We ask You, with unrestrained boldness, to sustain our beloved School, the College of the Holy Spirit Manila, where Truth in Love will prevail, as a sign of favor upon it. We ask that our School may fulfill its mission to nurture the Filipino youth and rise again as an institution of excellence.

Mothers Maria and Josepha, help with your intercession, to imbue the young hearts and minds entering the portals of CHSM with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that they may grow in faith, in knowledge and in love for God, themselves and for others. Temper the

College of the Holy Spirit Manila (CHSM) 163 Mendiola, San Miguel Manila, Philippines



Blessed Mother Josepha, Hendrina Stenmanns, SSpS

Holy Spirit, thank You for elevating Mother Josepha, SSpS to veneration as Blessed. She is one of the pillars of the Congregation that proclaims its special servanthood to you.

As alumnae and Your favored students, we are emboldened to take this as our special blessing when we seek powerful intercessors for our needs in our life journey. Thank You for our privilege to partner with her.

Blessed Mother Josepha, we urgently ask you from your special position of grace, to help us pray for:

Name(s) and Intention(s)

We pray that, like you, she/they may receive the fullness of God's presence in their life/ lives and declare, "My heart is ready!"

- · to align her/their life/lives to embrace the love of the Father, the saving mercy of Jesus, and the fellowship of the Holy
- to receive the grace and mercy for healing, knowing that healing is ours for the asking. We partner with you, recognizing the power of united prayer with all God's saints and Angels; and
- · to fulfill their missions in life.

Blessed Mother Josepha, we pray with you in this time of the pandemic, to fix our eyes on Jesus that we may rise out of our complacency and begin to actively engage ourselves in restoring the world to God, beginning with ourselves, our families, our

Loving God, grant the grace of canonization to Blessed Mother Josepha. We ask this in Jesus' Name, Who lives and reigns, world without end. Amen.

#### Invocation for Mothers Maria and Josepha's Intercession for CHSM





Helena Stollenwerk, SSpS

Blessed Mother Maria. Blessed Mother Josepha. Hendrina Stenmanns, SSpS

passion of their youthful idealism with wisdom and compassion to make them truly the hope of the country.

Mothers Maria and Josepha, help with your intercession, to unite us, the alumni and our families, in our common vision of excellence in Truth in Love. Touch our hearts and release the power of our love and gratitude for our Alma Mater to provide our God-given resources to help rebuild CHSM to its full vitality.

> Project of the NorthEast Chapter, CHSNAF Chairperson: Ilo Echevarria-Wallenstein

Mothers Maria and Josepha, help with your intercession that our School that bears the Holy Spirit's Name may graduate Godly youth, competent and responsible leaders, faithful bearers of Truth in Love to the world.

Mothers Maria and Josepha, help with your intercession that our School attract qualified and Godly teachers to instill Truth in Love in our students and to prepare them for service and commitment to God and country.

Mothers Maria and Josepha, help with your intercession, to pray up the leadership of CHSM and the SSpS Religious that they, in union with our alumni, students and their families, work in loving partnership towards the shared vision of excellence.

Mothers Maria and Josepha, help with your intercession for increased priestly and religious vocations in the SVD, the SSpS, and the SSpSAP missionary congregations in the Philippines.

O Holy Triune God, look with favor upon Mothers Maria and Josepha and allow them to be our powerful partners as we obey Your command to live in Truth in Love. May the Holy Triune God live in our hearts and in the hearts of all. Amen.

CHS North America Foundation, Inc. (CHSNAF) P.O. Box 56, Madison Square Station New York, NY 10159 A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation



## Thank you, Ms. Cora Parco!

Cora Parco worked as Executive Director of CHSAF for 10 years. She ended her service to the foundation on July 13, 2020. CHSAF presidents, past and current, express their gratitude and share Miss Parco's important contributions to the foundation.





Through the effort of Sister Victricia, our CHSAF moderator at that time, Cora Parco agreed to become the new CHSAF Executive Director during my term as President, sometime 2010-2012. With hardly any transition from her predecessor, and most likely, without fully realizing the scope and nuances of the job, Cora buckled down to work, wholeheartedly and selflessly. Without an assistant, she involved herself in many activities and projects which the incumbent Board them, undertook. among the successful sponsorship of the world-famous Bayanihan Dance Troupe which performed at the Main Theater of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

She was, likewise, an invaluable helping hand in the Board's landmark Adopt-a-Scholar Project,

which granted scholarships to over underprivileged students in time for CHSM's centennial celebration. Almost single-handedly, she did the collection and recording of donations, checked billings and made payments, monitored and tended to the needs of scholars, matched scholars with donors, and did her own solicitations—all these on top of her other functions. As a fellow CHS alumna and a former teacher at CHS, I can honestly say that Cora truly loved and cared for the school and was dedicated to her job. Undoubtedly, Cora Parco had been a treasure to our CHSAF Board!

Yolanda Manding-Albano (HS-68)
 President, 2010-2012

Cora is like a teabag. One is able to test a teabag's strength when it is dipped in hot water. During the year of preparation for CHSM's Centennial, and the Centennial Celebration itself, work for the Board was more than usual. Cora proved to be a dependable "teabag!" Thank you, Cora.

—Isabella Sy-Palanca (HS-68) Centennial President, 2012-2014





Cora, or Miss Parco to us in our grade school days, was an admired and beloved teacher who truly cared for her students. More than 40 years later, as CHSAF executive director, she exhibited the same quiet dignity and elegance, who at all times, treated CHS alumnae with respect and care.

Having worked with her closely when I was a member of the CHSAF Board, I witnessed her total commitment and love for the CHSAF and CHSM.

— Theresa Abeleda-Llave (HS-73) President, 2014-2016

Thanks for being so great to work with, and for seeing me through the challenging times of my CHSAF presidency and Homecoming 2018 chairmanship. You really did make CHSAF a warm and happy place. It's been an absolute pleasure working with you. Thank you for all your help, advice, warm embraces, support, kindness, love and care. You are special, Cora, and I will cherish you as a true friend.



—Daisy Villasis-Montesa (HS-68)
President, 2016-2017



#### (Continued from p. 24 Thank ...)



What I remember best about Cora was her allout support in helping me in my first fundraising project and my first as Chair. This was the first CHS Alumnae Golf Tournament in Sta. Elena Golf and Country Club in 2013. Cora gave me leads and she herself went to ask for sponsorship from her students. The result was I got my first major sponsor of P250,000 from our generous and supportive alumna, the late Imelda Ongsiako Cojuangco. For this tournament, we raised a net of P1.5 million for our scholarship project.

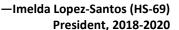
During my presidency, she gave the Board full

disclosure of our CHSAF funds, including all bank accounts and time deposits. This allowed us to see the real picture of our finances. Of course, that meant more work to keep CHSAF afloat, seeing that we needed P1 million alone to run the CHSAF office. Thank you, Cora, for your love and *malasakit*, and for all the work in CHSAF all these years. *Maraming salamat po*, Miss Cora Parco!

-Rosemarie Miranda-Lim (HS-74)
President, 2017-2018

Maria Corazon Parco is a selfless, dedicated lay servant of the Holy Spirit and an ardent follower of the teachings of St. Benedict. Soft-spoken, gentle, and respectful of people of all ages, Miss Cora was our living connection to many alumnae, CHSM, SSpS communities, and our young scholars. Accomplishing our tasks as CHSAF board members was easier because she served as our link to CHSM's past, as well as its present. She kept the memorabilia of past CHSAF boards and had the contact numbers of alumnae so when information or coordination was needed, we only had to ask Miss Cora.

Her age catching up with her, she continued to work for the board, always around to lend a helping hand, and encouraging us to pursue worthwhile projects like the "Spirit is Calling Musicale" in 2018 and the "Taal Mission Project" in early 2020. We will never forget Cora's gentle ways which calmed and comforted us when things were not going as expected. Thank you, Miss Cora Parco! You will always be in our hearts and we will cherish the memories forever.







"I am grateful to Cora Parco for her 10 years of loyal service to CHSAF. She was brave to accept the invitation of Sr. Victricia to serve CHSAF without a clear job description. Cora Parco has developed good relations with the alumnae who call, visit, write or email CHSAF. I admire Cora for her concern for the alumnae and for going the extra mile in assisting specific alumna who need help."

—Ma. Socorro Camacho (HS-71)Current President, 2020-2022

## Thank you, Ms. Cora Parco!







35 Class Reps attend the CHSAF-organized Tribute for Ms. Cora Parco on September 19, 2020.



## CHS Alumnae Share Hopes For Post-COVID World









I hope to continue all the good habits I started during the lockdown...regular exercise, healthy eating, praying with my husband, attending online masses, connecting with family and friends... and giving priority to what matters most in life!

Rosalou Soriano-Lamson (HS-65)



I hope to see my classmates whom I miss so much. I am sure there will be endless daldalan about what occupied them during the lockdown. I also want bring them to our Laudato Si Garden so they can see their trees!

Victoria Alino-Camarillo (HS. 65/BSFN- 69)



I hope to see my apos based here and in the US, my relatives and friends as well. Nothing beats face-to-face interaction, seeing their eyes twinkle when they tell their stories, and being able to hug and kiss them.

Rosario Legarda-Garcia HS-65



I hope to go to Mass with my family and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion; thereafter eat in our favorite restaurant, listen to my loved ones' kuwentos, and see the smiles on their faces.

Alice Kawachi-Lorenzo (HS-55)



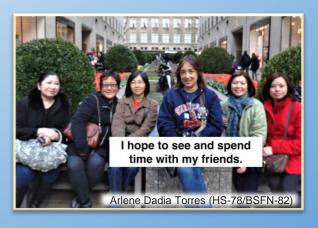
I am hopeful that this pandemic will end before the Christmas season begins so we can all buy gifts for our loved ones, attend midnight (not online) Mass, and celebrate media noche. Most of all, I hope to see and be with family and friends whom I miss sooo much!

Deenette Villareal Aguila (HS-65)



I hope to walk to church again, have leisurely walks with hubby, bond with friends, classmates and family, have my hair trimmed, treated and dyed, and have a pedicure. I hope to resume my gentle yoga sessions, wear my clothes and shoes stored in the cabinet, go out without fear and with no COVID protocols to follow.

Aida Antiporda-Martin (HS-65)





## Remembering Preparations For The Homecoming held last February 2020

By Zenaida Lansangan-Cruz (HS-50/AA-52/BSE-54)

Frank Lonsongen Cry PhD (H5-50/K.K.-52/BSE 54)

Problemany 2, 2000, homeoning day, was the roset a waitful day,
for us, the H5-50 Sitanium fribilations. It was a stery significant
wint for us because after high school graduation to years ago, we
are still physically able to celebrate the 2000 Homeoning Lay. It is
a momerable and happy revoices for use since it is out last opportion
with to meet former close meter, teacher and friends. He throws of the
Normeoning Coming Home- the Spirit caller is very fitting since it is the
Norme spirit who calle use to true home to Mondale to reminisce on
the monoiner, the laughter and the music of our younger days. It is
very said that with every public celebration, one class alternature de
crosses due to the passing of several closestim, one class alternature de
trivaled from the 165 and autotalie. Hours our tetorium to the
trivaled from the 165 and autotalie to attend our tetorium to the
trivaled from the 165 and autotalie. These come from the 165.

 (Continued from p. 20 CHS Prayer Brigade ...)

Malou Capistrano-Parcero (HS-73), Maria Lourdes Tagle-Valdez (HS-65/BSC-69), Med de Jesus (BSC-67), Melissa Fajardo-Unidad (HS-75/BSChem-79), Mila Eustaquio-Syme (HS-61), Mimi Jacobo-Samson (HS-82), Noemi Zenarosa-Cuevas (ABC-70), Nori Lim-Muslih (HS-67), Patsy Alvir-de Leon (HS-55/BSC-59), Patty Faustino-Cebrero (HS-67), Ramona Arceo (HS-68/BM-72), Raquel Soqueño-Petersen (HS-74/BS Banking&Finance-78), Rosa Alvarez-Mo 65/BSFN-69), Rose Cheng-Pimentel (HS-69), Ruby de Leon-Vergel de Dios (HS-79), Shonnie Quimbo-Montoro (HS-78), Socorro de Castro-Landsberg (HS-67), Teofila Siva-Javier (BSC-67), Thelma Arceo (HS-74), Tita Dizon (HS-63), Vica de Leon-Mangalindan (HS-78), Yam Castro-Esmele (HS-90), Yolanda Manding-Albano (HS-68), Yoly Reyes-Lim (HS-68).

If you are interested in joining our Prayer Brigade, please contact our Zoom host Yam Esmele at chsnafcanada@gmail.com

Indeed, our nightly CHS Prayer Brigade has been a pillar of comfort, strength, and support for many of the members. We are sincerely grateful for the leadership of Vica and Yam in initiating these nightly prayers.

Our nightly prayer gathering is like a silver lining in the dark cloud of COVID-19. In the midst of this pandemic, our multi-generational alumnae, living in different parts of the world, under different time zones, gather every night to pray for others. On the eve of our sixth month, we continue to pray for an end to this pandemic. We haven't lost hope.

HOPEFU.



Felicidad Zafra-Reyes (AM-49)

Greetings to all my young alumnae in HGC, now CHS! What do I want to do when this pandemic is over? I do not expect to survive this period because I believe COVID-19 will go on and on and on. However, I believe in living in the Now. I will be happy with what I have today — my children, my

children's children, my friends, my neighbors, my community! I will not spend time dreaming about what I want to do tomorrow... a tomorrow which may never come. I will give thanks for each morning I wake up bright-eyed, happy and healthy... like today.

#### HGC DURING WORLD WAR II

By Ediltrudis J. Posadas (HS-48), as told to Iluminada C. Pitco (HS-58)



Façade of the College of the Holy Spirit as it was in the early 60s

I was in high school when World War II reached our shores.

Just after Christmas 1942, General Douglas MacArthur declared Manila an Open City to spare its citizens from damage and harm. All military installations were ordered removed and local policemen were left to maintain order. However, the Japanese continued to drop bombs on the city, causing fire and destruction. They entered Manila on January. 2, 1942, taking over government buildings and schools, including our beloved HGC (Holy Ghost College before it became College of the Holy Spirit or CHS) on Mendiola Street. The Japanese Army requisitioned some of the school's buildings, converting them into barracks for Japanese troops.

When school resumed in 1943, classes were crammed in the remaining buildings and some were even held at neighbors' homes. In 1944, a Bachelor of Music degree was offered with various majors: piano, organ, violin, marimba, and voice.

During this time, the German nuns were safe enough, as Japan and Germany were allies. But there were four Americans in the congregation: Mother Dorothy, Mother Rosella, Mother Rosabella and one other sister. They were sent to the Santo Tomas Internment Camp, inside University of Santo Tomas (UST) campus on Espana, Manila, which housed more than 3,000 internees from January 1942 until February 1945. Conditions for the internees—mostly American British civilians—deteriorated during the war and by the time the camp was liberated by the US Army, many were near death from starvation.

One of the HGC sisters shared her experience as an intern in the camp. She said food was so scarce, she became enfeebled by lack of nutrition. Her hands shook so hard, the food on her plate fell to the ground.

Mother Edelwina, a tall, German Duchess, was the Mother Superior of HGC throughout the **Japanese** occupation. Sometime before the 1945 liberation of Manila, she decided to send three young German nuns to the SSpS congregation in Batangas. Mother Edelwina was afraid the Americans would drop bombs on HGC, as some of the buildings were being used as Japanese quarters. Just in case the sisters in Manila do not survive the bombing, the nuns in Batangas have been tasked with rebuilding HGC in Manila.

But a few days after their arrival in Batangas, war planes came and dropped bombs, killing the sisters instantly. It was said that they were kneeling before the tabernacle, deep in prayer, when they died. (It is also very likely that the three nuns were killed during the American retaking of the Philippines between 1944-1945.)

I do remember that one of nuns who died was Mother Bernia, a pretty Prussian princess. I cried every day for three months mourning her passing.

Meanwhile. the nuns in Manila survived—even those who were interned UST. The Manila at congregation mourned the sisters' deaths; the main congregation in Germany, as well the families of the nuns, would learn of their unfortunate fate much later.

When American soldiers began retaking Manila in 1945, local guerillas surreptitiously made contact with the Japanese staying in HGC. They showed them a side gate leading to a small street between HGC and San Beda College—a secret escape route! The Japanese were made to believe they could leave the school without being seen by the US Army. So they formed one line and walked out of the school, straight into the waiting arms of the American military.

With the Japanese out of the way, HGC went through another metamorphosis. This time, it became an infirmary for American soldiers. Tents popped up on the campus grounds and here the wounded recuperated until they were well enough to be sent home.

And life went on. Classes resumed. Some of my classmates were much older than the rest of us. We were all catching up on our studies and our adolescence. I completed high school in three years with no vacation breaks in between.

We were and still are grateful for having survived the war with no lives lost, at least not in my family.



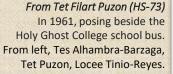
# Memories, pressed between the pages of my mind ... \*



From Carmen Dayrit-Padilla (HS-60)
From left, Mia Lopez, Heidi Dulay, Carlota Marquez,
Stella Villegas. Standing is Elizabeth Quimpo



From Rosalou Soriano-Lamson (HS-65)
CHS campus, 1961. From left, Lourdes
Nepomuceno, Victoria Jose, Patricia Coruna,
and Josefina Hernandez







From Carmencita Martinez-Que (HS-75)
Ready for the Field demo are Vilma de la
Cruz-Castro, Carmencita Martinez-Que,
Cynthia Cordero-Sarte



From Cristina Gabriel-Palma (HS-77)
On our Grade 5 outing, 1972

Front row L-R: Cristina Datiles+, Elizabeth Pugeda, Virginia Hizon, Ruby Villavicencio Elaine Pingol, Eloisa Maxino; 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Miriam Labitoria, Cristina Gabriel, Gertrude Quimbo, Teresa Tiongco, Regina Unas, Regina del Carmen; 3<sup>rd</sup> row: Leila Perez, Mariles Payawal, Joy Agudo, Anne Marie Lim, Deborah Mendoza





From Toni Villaraza-Palenzuela (HS-65)
Cast of the play, The Wisher Switcher
From left, Toni Villaraza-Palenzuela, seated are Bing
Garcia-Boyle, Digna de Borja Anonas, Catherine
Banta-Cicdon, standing Rosalou Soriano-Lamson, Lulu
Nepomuceno-Del Rosario, and Mary Lou Fernandezde la Cruz



Taking a break in the quadrangle.

Bottom row, from left: Ana Ravago-Oliveros, Teresita
Forteza-Juarez, Ma. Lourdes Edano-Capistrano, Helene
Zalvidea-Pontejos; Top Row: Thelma Ungson-Vergel de
Dios, Cristina Navarette-Guemo, Melissa Vergel de DiosStephenson, Marilyn Bruno-Torres, Milagros Revilla-Rivera,

Ma Luz Alfaro-Panganiban, Ma Victoria de la Rosa-Tablante

# Memories, sweetened through the ages just like wine . . . \*



From Lolita Woo (ABC-68)

Taken in November 1967 at the Commerce Workshop with our dean, Sr. Clarette Ramirez. From left, Cecile la Torre, Cecile Manalac, Yola Arce, Agnes Santiago, Pilar Vinluan, Lucia Bacani, Teresita Kanapi, Lolita Woo.







From Tet Puzon (HS-73)
Little Farmers at School
From left, Virgie Sison, Sonson Juson-Hermoso , Vicky
Cajipe, an unknown thespian, Yayu Eloriaga-Javier



## Memories, memories\*



From Florelis Salazar-Putulin (HS-48)
Photo above and right: "Someday when far from you I roam, my thoughts will surely travel home. And mem'ries sweet will be to me, those good old days that used to be..."





From Lourdes de la Rosa-Honrado (BSMT-71)
Seated 1st row, from left: Susan MendozaCapulong, Frida Chu-Wang, Luau
Montealegre, Ma. Lina de Jesus-Ortiga,
Nunila Ablen (+)
Seated 2nd row: Ester Ajon-Fukui, Elizabeth
Mora-Sanchez,
Rebecca Casimiro
Standing: Ma. Cynthia Castro-de la Rosa,
\*Grace David-Tan, Angela Lim, Imelda
Pugeda-Luna, Maria Leny Zamora-Gibbs,
Elizabeth Cristobal-Medina, Francisca
Cinco-Amparo, Ma. Rosario Bunag-Ghahari,
Lourdes de la Rosa-Honrado



From Iluminada Pitco (HS-58)

Taken during recess:
Iluminada Pitco, Milagros
Garcia, Linda Relucio, Amelia
Ilao and Encarnacion Cabral.



#### From Mitos Formoso Camahort (BFA-79)

Nothing beats communing with nature for artistic inspiration. Heeding the advice of our Landscape class professor, Mr. Faustino, some of us 4th year BFA-79 students, hied off to beautiful Pagsanjan and stayed at the lovely home of Lola Luz Fabella — maternal grandmother of our classmate Mariflor Fajardo. In photo, from left: Beth Adriano, Chili Zavala, Cynthia Montecillo, Mitos Formoso, Debbie Mendoza, Bing Pimentel, Marichu Valencia, and our gracious hostess, Nanay Luz (in striped top).



## Sweet memories\*





From Lourdes Contreras (HS-61) Graduation day, March, 1961. The solemn processional, led by our salutatorian, Lourdes Eustaguio.



From Aletha Hernandez (HS-67)
From left, Miss de Guzman, Wanda
Villanueva, Jeanette Tumao (Lim)
Atienza, Paulita Nadurata San Diego,
Aleth Mirasol Hernandez, Carmelita
Jopson Bernardo (+) and Miss de
Castro (+)



From Rachelle Salvador-Mina (BSMT-95)
Graduation rehearsal at CHSM.
From left, Rachelle Salvador, Alpha
Salvador, Maricel Manila, Theresa
Villegas and Joy Baldemor



From Carmen Dayrit-Padilla (HS-60)
From left, 1st row: Rose Navarro, Evelyn Llamas, Victoria Pineda, Carmen Dayrit, Veredigna Santos
2nd row: Jessica Gallardo, Digna Santiago, Mina Lopez,
Aurora Co. Aurora de Leon, Carmen Ignacio. Rebecca
Soqueno



#### Into Eternal Life

Father of all, we pray to you for our family and friends, for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

#### 2019

- Jan Sofia Ducusin, BFAA-84
- Mar 30 **Paul Rainier S. Itturalde**, bother of Monette Itturalde Hamlin (HS-74)
- Aug 4 Rafael Pefianco, husband of Chili Zavala (HS-75)
- Sept 16 Angelina Luis Miguel (HS-70), sister Of Rosalinda Luis Macdougall (HS-74)
- Nov 1 Alfredo Domingo Masigan, brother of Emilina Masigan-Mercado, HS-63
- Dec 14 Jesusa Marco (HS-71), past CHSM President
- Dec 27 Romeo C. Santos, father of Isabel Santos Lagumbay (HS-74)

#### 2020

- Jan 11 Mike Ingels, husband of Gloria Eugenio Ingels (HS-57)
- Feb 8 Encarnacion Cordero Elegir-Arce (HS-64)
- Feb 29 Helen Abarra-Cruz (HS-58)
- April 7 Aurora de los Santos-Munoz (HS-57), sister of Carol de los Santos-Guina (HS-66)
- April 25 Norma Montesa-Yson, (HS-52/ HE-56); sister of Linda Montesa-Pio Roda (HS-57) and sister-in-law of Marietta Quimbo-Montesa (HS-51)
- May 24 **Eduardo Reyes Mercado**, husband of Emilina Masigan-Mercado (HS-63)
- July 10 **Catalino Aquino**, father of Ma. Aimee Aquino (HS-77) and Jocelyn Aquino (GS-79)
- July 14 Edith Milagros Afzelius Ruiz (HS- 67), sister of Evelyn Marie Afzelius- Hocson (HS-76/BSC-80) Elizabeth Lourdes Afzelius- Atayde (HS -80/AB-BSC-84)
- July 14 Susan Quimpo-Chiu (HS-78) sister of Elizabeth Quimpo
  Bulatao Jr. (HS-60), Emilie Mae Quimpo Wickett (HS-66)
  Catherine Quimpo-Castañeda Jr. (HS 68/BSFN-72), Lillian
  Quimpo Walsh (HS-69)
- July 14 Editha Afzelius-Ruiz (HS-67), sister of Evelyn
  Marie Afzelius-Hocson (HS-76/BSC-80) Elizabeth
  Lourdes Afzelius-Atayde (HS-80/AB/BSC-84)
- July 17 **Roberto V. Jimenez,** husband of Pilar Paz Jimenez (HS-67/BFA-71)
- July 17 Andres Baltazar uncle of Pola Marie Favila (HS-79) and Annette Favila (S-62/BSFN-66)
- July 17 **Helen Amorsolo-Martinez (HS-54),** sister of Sylvia Amorsolo Lazo (HS-57)
- July 18 Arleta Navarro-Ruffy, mother of Ma. Carmen Ruffy-Cachero (HS 71)
- July 19 Ma. Suzette Aquino-Correa (HS-69/BSC-73)

- July 22 **Noel Mendoza**, husband of Teresita Reyes-Mendoza (HS-74)
- July 22 **Melvyn Bello**, husband of Cecilia Navarette Bello (HS-58)
- July 25 **Cora de Jesus Malig**, mother of Jesus Malig-Ayson (HS-80)
- July 26 Myrna Arvisu, GS-66
- July 28 **Felicisima Castillo**, mother of Mary Anne Castillo (HS-79/BSC-83)
- July 29 **Dante Cagawan**, husband of Elnora Oca (HS-64)
- July 29 Josefina D. Yu Asensi, mother of Virginia Yu-Asensi (HS-74/Coll-78)
- July 30 Gloria Gonzales-Lim (HS-47), sister of Sr. Pilar, SSpS (HS-42), Edith Gonzalez-Dinglasan (HS-55) and Mary Gonzales-Goolsby (HS-55)
- Aug 1 Asuncion Ferriols, (HS-44 BM-50), former Sr. Giovanna Ferriols, SSpS, now Sr. Asuncion Maria, SSpSAP, She was the youngest sister of Charity Ferrriols (HS-35 BM-44) now Sr. Cyrilda SSpS and Josefa Ferriols (HS-38 AB-41/BSE-42), now Sr Christinamaria SSpS
- Aug 1 Anthony Velez, son of Josie de Guzman-Velez (HS-60)
- Aug 5 Francisco Marco Magsino y Solis, husband of Lita Reyes de Marcaida (HS-51), father of Yvette Christine de Marcaida-Poe (HS-77) and Joy Antonelle de Marcaida (HS-82)
- Aug 9 Ma. Clarizze B. de Guzman (AB CA-2007)
- Aug 9 **Juan de Villa, Jr**, father of Rosanna de Villa-Gonzales (HS-74)
- Aug 12 **Ariel Bautista**, father of Angelica Kaye Bautista, (BFAA-18).
- Aug 24 **Esperanza Zamora-Ablaza (HS-70),** mother of Ma. Kristine Ablaza-Nebres (BSC-98), sister of Teresita Ablaza (HS-58/BFA-64) and Angela Ablaza-Restauro (HS-67)
- Aug 24 Glenda B. Sinense (Sr Mary Suzanne, RGS) (HS-56/ BSChem-60)
- Aug 25 Norma Montesa-Yson (HS-52/BHE-56), sister of Linda Montesa-Pio de Roda (HS-57) and sister in law of Marietta Quimbo-Montesa (HS-51)
- Aug 27 Lilliana Vilma Santillan-Reyes (HS-66 BS/ Pharm-71), sister of Lillian Santillan-Gelvezon (HS-65/ AB-69)
- Aug 30 Lutgarda Zamora-Lerma (HS-56)
- Aug 31 Encarnacion Cabral (HS-58), sister of Carmencita Cabral-Luna HS-53
- Sept 3 Janis Grace C. Valdez (BSID-2003)
- Sept 4 Rosauro Rosales, husband of Zenaida Camacho-Rosales (HS-68)
- Sept 5 **Erlinda T. Villanueva** (HS-46), CHSAF President 1966-67

(Continued on p. 34)



(Continued from p. 33)

#### Into Fternal Life

Father of all, we pray to you for our family and friends, for all those whom we love but see no longer.

Grant them eternal rest and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

- Sept 10 **Pacita Tiong**, mother of Mary Lou Tiong-Lee (HS-69/BSMT-74) and Jane Irene Tiong-Dee (HS-70/BSC-74)
- Sept 10 Renato de Leon, brother of Ma. Teresita de Leon-de Guzman (HS-74/AB78) and Eva Ruby de Leon-Vergel de Dios (HS-79)
- Sept 12 **Carmina Herbosa**, sister of Felicidad Herbosa-Romualdez (HS-66/AB/BSC-71), Teresita Herbosa (HS-68) and Gloria Herbosa-Frost (HS-72)
- Sept 12 **Narciso M. Cabrera**, father of Alice Cabrera-Samson (HS-70)
- Sept 13 **Reynaldo Victoria**, son of Betty Zamora-Victoria+ (HS-51) and brother of Sr. Carmelita Victoria, SSpS (HS-77/BSC-81)
- Sept 15 **Rolando Reyes**, husband of Irene Earnshaw -Reyes (HS-68)
- Sept 15 **Herminio Alcasid**, husband of Herminia Lualhati-Alcasid (HS-47)
- Sept 15 Eumelia Reyes Mitra (BS Pharm-64)
- Sept 17 Aurelia Latorre-Annang HS-79/AB-83, sister of Ana Maria Latorre-Batica HS-69/AB-73, and Consolacion Latorre-Torres AB-79
- Sept 23 **Fr. Ruben Tanseco, SJ**, brother of Isabelita Tanseco-Salinas (HS-53)
- Sept 27 Froilan Blanco, husband of Asuncion Salonga-Blanco (BSE HE-71)

#### WE, the Alumnae Editorial Board

Ma. Socorro N. Camacho Arlene Abad-Soncuya Ma. Corazon P. Guidote Victoria Torres del Rosario Ma. Corazon Villareal Ma. Luz Gabriel Sr. Eden Panganiban, SSpS



## **Prayer Corner**

Through our "Alumnae Prayer Community," let all of us alumnae-sisters pause for a minute and storm heaven with prayers:

- For the complete healing of Cecilia S. Cabrera (HS-77)
- ❖ For the eternal rest and peace for the souls of Rafael Francisco M. Pefianco, husband of Cecile Pefianco's (HS-75), Fr. Alex Bautista, Maureen Pagaduan, Michelle Cardenas Swann
- For the safety and protection of Drs. Michael Alek Tan and Cristine Celine Pefianco -Tan and Catherine Anne Z. Pefianco
- ❖ For the healing of Ofelia Demetrio-de Leon
- For the healing and full recovery of Evelyn Dinglasan (HS-77)
- ❖ For the full recovery of Asuncion Salonga-Blanco (BSE HE-71) who fell ill from the COVID-19 virus
- ❖ For the complete healing of Carmen Contreras-Labrador HS-57/BSC-61
- For the healing of all our alumni who have health concerns
- ❖ For God's blessings of courage, strength and faith on Gicelle Himala-Medina, daughter of Ma. Luisa Cordero-Himala (HS-77); that she may trust in His loving care as she awaits the birth of her baby.
- Heavenly Father, help us learn during this time of pandemic the importance of family and friends, of being in good health, of giving love and receiving love. Most of all, help us realize that You, dear Father, are the Source of good things. Help us remember that a crisis can bring out the best in us. Maria Thelma Mendoza-Valdepenas (HS-77)

CHSAF Membership Renewal Form				
I would like to renew my active membership to the CHS Alumnae Foundation. Enclosed is the amount in cash/check for:				
P500.00/US\$12.00 (One-year membership)				
P1,000.00/US\$24.00 (Two-year membership)				
Sent by:				
Address:				
Tel/ Mobile No				
Note: Pls. make your checks payable to:  CHS ALUMNAE FOUNDATION and mail c/o The Alumnae  Office, 163 E. Mendiola, Manila.  (If you have already renewed your membership for the current year, please ignore this message.)				