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"DANGAL NG UST" AWARDEES

Rosemary B. Balbin

*"Appreciation can make a day - even change a life.
Your willingness to put it into words is all that is necessary."*

- Margaret Cousins



L-R: Ms. Lucila Adriano, Ms. Rosemary Balbin, and Ms. Arlene Matias (25 years)

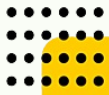


L-R: Ms. Michelle San Gabriel (25 years) and Ms. Marivic Usita (40 years)

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) in partnership with the UST Faculty Union (USTFU), recognized the "Dangal ng UST Service" awardees for AY 2020-2021.

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library is lucky to have five of its librarians awarded for their dedicated years of service. They were: Ms. Lucila B. Adriano, Ms. Rosemary B. Balbin, Ms. Arlene P. Matias, Ms. Michelle M. San Gabriel, (25 years) and Ms. Marivic G. Usita (40 years).

Warmest congratulations on your achievement!! Keep soaring high and continue to strive for the best! Your Miguel de Benavides Library Family is truly proud of you!



'Laudato Si'

Arlene P. Matias

To support the University's advocacy on the integrity of creation, the Human Values Committee sponsored a forum entitled *Laudato Si: care for our common home* (*Pangangalaga sa ating tahanan*). The activity was spearheaded by Ms. Kaori B. Fuchigami and was held last December 5, 2022, via Zoom and the Library's Facebook page. The speaker was Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD, director of *Simbahayan* Community Development Office. His expertise and hands-on engagement with the University's different projects made him the best choice for a speaker. The online forum was attended by the Library staff and students from the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) of the College of Education.

In his talk, Asst. Prof. Alipao discussed the essence of *Laudato Si*. According to him, this is the second encyclical of Pope Francis which tackles the care of our environment. The first catholic document that directly answers climate emergency. The encyclicals are intended not only for Catholics but for each one because we are all connected. We are part of biodiversity, so we need to take care of each other and our environment.

The speaker also discussed the content of the encyclicals giving examples for the easy understanding of the participants. He also provided a reflection gathered from the encyclical and examined each reflection. Also in his presentation were the different scenarios currently happening on our planet. Each of us should understand that this is an issue, and being able to take action to protect our land and the living things that rely on it is a call for us to stand and fight the destruction and find solutions to these ecological crises.

With this activity, the Committee hoped that the participants would be able to understand the objectives of the forum such as:

- learn about actions that we can take to better care for the creation
- understand how *Laudato Si* calls for "jointly listening to the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor and vulnerable in finding climate justice solutions"
- bring *Laudato Si* to life.

The group is looking forward to more activities that would require action and involvement, especially of the Library staff, being more committed to conserving natural resources by protecting the environment.



UST Library receives book on Pinoy Sci-fi

Symon Lagao

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library received a copy of the Philippine sci-fi book entitled "*Fate of a Distant Future*" by Mr. Renato Clarete Tranquilino, published by 8Letters Bookstore and Publishing. The book is an anthology of loosely connected short tales set in the futuristic Philippines that form a prequel to an upcoming space opera.

The donation was held last December 7, 2022, and was received by Rev. fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., Prefect of Libraries, Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., assistant to the Prefect of Libraries, Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, chief librarian, and Rosemary B. Balbin, Gifts and Exchanges librarian. The book will be a great addition to the Philippine science fiction collection of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library.



Pinoy Sci-Fi author, Mr. Renato Tranquilino, with the UST Library administrators.

Beato Angelico: a Preacher in Paint

Arlene P. Matias

The Human Values Committee of the UST Library sponsored a forum entitled “Beato Angelico: a preacher in paint” with Rev. fr. Edgardo D. Alaurin, O.P., SThD, regent of the College of Fine Arts and Design, as the speaker. It was conducted both onsite and online, and was also viewed live through the official Facebook page of the Library. The activity was held last February 17, 2023, at the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Conference Hall. The invited participants for the onsite were students from the College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD) and the Senior High School (SHS) students of the Music, Arts, and Design (MAD) Track. The Education High School (EHS) and Junior High School (JHS) students were the online attendees. The Committee was honored to have the administrators of the College of Fine Art and Design namely, Asst. Prof. Mary Christine D. Que, MS, LPT, dean, Asst. Prof. Jennifer S. Aguilar, DBA, assistant dean, Asst. Prof. Adrienne A. Zacarias, MS, the college secretary. Also present were the department chairs, college council, coordinators, and supervisors, including the library coordinator, Inst. Raphael Emmanuel V. Kalaw.



JHS Library with the students as they watch the livestreaming.

Rev. fr. Alaurin, stated the value of arts in the Church’s life as quoted in Vatican II, Constitution on the Sacred Theology. He also gave a brief background and historical object of arts and architecture related to religion and the religious life of the people at that time. It was interesting to note the culture and the iconic setting during the Renaissance period and how it was marvelously created. The speaker also gave an overview of Fiesole, where Beato Angelico was born. Likewise, he showed the different paintings of Beato Angelico. According to him, the most impressive frescos were the Crucifixion, Transfiguration, and the Annunciation. Before he was called Beato Angelico, he was known by many names, such as Guido Di Pietro, Fra Giovanni Da Fiesole, and Fra Angelico.

A short background about St. Dominic was discussed since Beato Angelico is a Dominican priest. It is a known fact that Dominicans are preachers. While St. Dominic is known as the “Angelic Doctor,” it is but just right to characterize Beato Angelico as the “Angelic Artist,” emphasizing that Beato Angelico is a preacher preaching God’s words and immortalizing God’s power through his art. Additionally, Rev. fr. Alaurin stated that Fra Angelico’s sacred discourses “were not spoken but seen.”

With the speaker's clear and passionate delivery and presentation, the Committee believed that it had achieved its objectives because Rev. fr. Alaurin was able to identify the relevant information about the background and career of Bl. John of Fiesole (Beato Angelico).



Rev. fr. Alaurin, O.P. with the administrators from CFAD



Rev. fr. Alaurin as he receives his Certificate of Appreciation from Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., Asst. to the Prefect of Libraries, and Ms. Maria Cecilia D. Lobo, UST Chief Librarian.



Social Justice in the Eyes of Fr. Pedro Salgado

Marissa A. Chua

What is Social Justice? According to the United Nations, **“Social Justice may be broadly understood as the fair and compassionate distribution of the fruits of economic growth.”** In a world where it prevails, everyone is given an equal chance to thrive, grow, and realize their capabilities through opportunities and basic rights as a human person. In the Philippines, poverty, as one of the indicators of social injustice, remains a pressing situation; one in every four Filipinos is deemed to be in poverty, 12 million of which are living in absolute poverty as reported by the Zero Extreme Poverty PH 2030 (ZEP). It meant that attaining social justice is indeed a collaborative effort by the Church, the government, and all citizens to help everyone enjoy the privileges that will sustain their dignity, life, and fulfillment.



In celebration of the World Day of Social Justice last February 20, 2023, the University of Santo Tomas *Simbahayan* Community Development Office (UST SIMBAHAYAN), Office of the Vice-Rector for Religious Affairs (OVRRA), and Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation (DFJPCC-Phils.) organized the Pedro Salgado, OP Social Justice campaign and lecture-sharing series 1.

Through the insights of Rev. fr. Pablo T. Tiong, O.P., the audience was able to have a grasp on Salamanca, Salazar, Salgado. Salamanca was an

intellectual movement in the 16th and 17th century Spain and Portugal in the University of Salamanca where Fray Domingo de Salazar studied and was significantly influenced by the philosopher and theologian Francisco de Vitoria. As the first Bishop of Manila, he advocated for indigenous people and fought for their rights. Similarly, Rev. fr. Pedro V. Salgado, a Dominican priest like Salazar, was a defender of human rights. He immersed himself in farmers' harsh realities by living, eating, and experiencing their sorrows.

Secondly, Assoc. Prof. Pablito A. Baybado, Jr., Ph.D. from the UST Faculty of the Institute of Religion, discussed **“On Synodality for Justice and Peace.”** He emphasized the value of the synodal process of Pope Francis. Here, he defined that synod means walking together as exemplified through listening, encountering, and discernment and reality of communion and participation for the renewal of the Church. Moreover, synodality is about planting dreams that were exemplified by the Church through Basic Ecclesial Communities (BECs) where the Church went to the people to hear their plight and gather together to celebrate the “Word of God.”

To conclude, Social Justice remains to be a privilege rather than a right in today's time. As many renowned personalities have fought to achieve this since time immemorial, such as Fray De Salazar and Fr. Salgado, the Thomasian community is challenged to do whatever they can to protect it and for people, regardless of their socioeconomic characteristics to experience it fully. The responsibility lies within each person because as Bryan Stevenson said, “we are all implicated when we allow other people to be mistreated.”

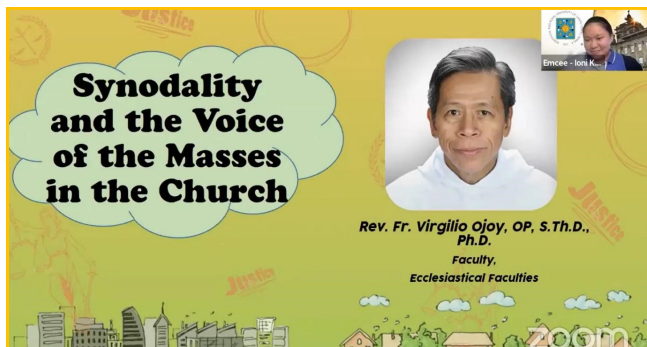
“An absence of compassion can corrupt the decency of a community, a state, a nation.”

- Bryan Stevenson

Pedro Salgado, O.P., Social Justice Week Lecture-Sharing Series 2

Elein H. Geronimo

Last February 27, 2023, the Fr. Pedro V. Salgado, O.P. Social Justice Campaign Lecture-Sharing series continued with resource speakers, Rev. fr. Virgilio A. Ojoy, O.P. - Synodality and the Voice of the Masses in the Church, and Asst. Prof. Froilan A. Alipao, MCD - Sharing the Journey with the Dominican Family for Justice, Peace, and Care for Creation (DFJPCC-Phils.).



Fr. Ojoy started the webinar by defining what Synodality is, saying that it is *“ang mga tao ay nag uusap usap, nagbabahagi ng mga kurokuro tungkol sa mga bagay bagay tungkol sa ating simbahan.”* It talks about practices, and doctrines in the church.

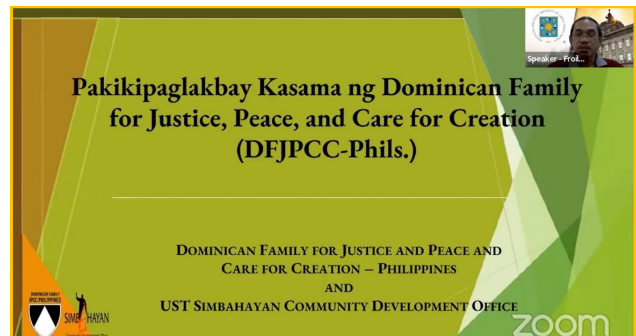
He also mentioned that “the faith in the church is not only for the priest and people in the church but faith of the Church to all people. He also discussed the theological foundation of Synodality. These are:

- the capacity of the believer to believe in what is presented by the Church as truths of faith;
- the believer’s capacity to discern, as if by instinct, what coincides with one’s faith and what does not; and
- the ease of the believer growing in understanding of deeper consequences of truths taught by the Magisterium, not by way of theological reasoning but by a sort of connatural knowledge.

In addition, Fr. Ojoy mentioned that the practice of Synodality contributes significantly to translating insights from the obscure grouping into clearer formulations of doctrine and way of life. The faithful can shed light on one another, and the defects of the will and sinful motives can

be filtered out as they slowly move towards a consensus fidelium, a veritable manifestation of their ‘sensus fidei’. The bishops can listen to the priests, the religious, and the lay faithful as they also pay attention to the wisdom that emanates from the episcopacy.

By these statements, Fr. Ojoy discussed that John Paul II seems to imply that the Church’s social doctrine consists of immutable principles deduced from the natural law that are then applied to the concrete situations for the solution of the social problem. It is the body or corpus of social principles and tenets gathered through the years, unchanging and universally valid, with hard error and deficiency that the Church already has principles of solutions to all the problems of the world, and would thus imply need and adaptation of these doctrines and principles in concrete. Vatican II also states that the Church hierarchy is not an expert on economic and political matters. The faithful, therefore, should not depend too much on their pastors. The faithful should use the talents and charism God has given them to find out and implement the solution to the problems.



The next speaker, Asst. Prof. Alipao, began his discussion by sharing some of Simbahayan’s previous activities. Despite the country’s two-year pandemic, they continued the fund-raising project. In addition, they conducted webinars. He also mentioned that even if we are not in school, we can engage in community service, development, and advocacy in our own community. Development is a type of human right.

This webinar would like to emphasize that, despite the challenges and obstacles, we should not limit our efforts to assist and develop communities. It is critical that we have a goal to work towards the understanding of deeper consequences of truths taught. It was indeed an enlightening learning experience. Let us all find the truths as faithful believers.

UST Law librarian attends the Southeast Asian Librarians Leadership Convergence

Jonas T. Sahagun

UST Law Library head, Mr. Jonas T. Sahagun, was invited as one of the participants at the second Southeast Asian Librarians Leadership Convergence with the theme: A Roadmap for the Implementation of Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). It was held from December 12-15, 2022, at Bellevue Manila, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

The Convergence was hosted by the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Professional Regulatory Board for Librarians (PRBFL), and the Philippine Librarians Association, Inc. (PLAI). The aim of this gathering was to discuss matters on the development of the mobility of the librarianship profession as well as sharing of best practices among Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries.



Representatives of Philippine Library Associations and the PRBFL (left to right): Mr. Sahagun, PGLL VP Mr. Alvin Halcon, MAHLAP President Mr. Danzielo Lagustan, PRBFL Chairperson Mrs. Yolanda Granda, PRBFL member Mrs. Lourdes David, PAARL President Ms. Sharon Samaniego, PLAI President Mr. Rene Manlangit, and ASLP President Mr. Bryan Boy Cortez.

Day 1 focused on messages from the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) President and the Commissioners of PRC, the keynote address of the Chairperson of PRC, and most importantly, country reports of participating ASEAN member countries. PRC Chairperson Hon. Charito A. Zamora, in her keynote address, said:

“It is hoped that this platform would serve as a forum for addressing existing issues and concerns on how to standardize the practice of librarianship in the Southeast Asian nations in terms of competencies, standards of practice, code of ethics, and professional mobility.”

Day 2 continued with the presentation of consolidated committee reports from the first Southeast Asian Leadership Convergence and the signing of the “Commitment of Collaboration.” Breakout sessions were held to include participants in the consolidation and action planning of Library and Information Science (LIS) education, practice, and ethics. Mr. Sahagun joined the breakout group tasked to discuss further and develop the Code of Ethics for ASEAN librarians.

The Convergence was attended by more than 80 delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR (Laos), Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. The event was concluded with a tour of

The new auditor of PAARL is a Thomasian

Lejemp V. Flores

Ms. Lady Catherine R. de Leon, head librarian of the UST Miguel de Benavides Library Filipiniana section, is the new auditor of the Philippine Association of Academic and Research Librarians,



Ms. De Leon, as she takes her oath

Inc. (PAARL). She took her oath on January 27, 2023, during the Association's general assembly.

Cathy, as she is also known, will serve for two terms. The Library is proud of her achievement and is confident that she will significantly contribute a wealth of experience and expertise to her new role for the benefit of the Organization.

As auditor of PAARL, she will ensure that the Organization's financial statements are accurate and comply with accounting standards. She will also audit the Organization's financial transactions and make reports to the Board.

She is passionate about the role of libraries in society and is committed to promoting the importance of libraries and librarians in the Philippines. She believes that libraries are essential in providing access to information, promoting literacy, and supporting research and learning.

As a member of PAARL, Ms. de Leon has actively participated in the Organization's events and activities. She will surely be an asset to PAARL, especially with her new role.

Again, our warmest congratulations!

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Puzon bags the first prize for the PAARL 50th logo design competition

Lady Catherine R. de Leon

The Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) organized a “logo design” competition in lieu of its 50th-year anniversary celebration. The theme is “PAARL @50: looking back and beyond.” All entries submitted were judged based on the theme relevance, originality, creativity, and Facebook reactions.



Winning logo

Luckily, the UST Library Graduate School librarian Edward Puzon bagged the First Prize award. His logo entry consists of elements representing PAARL through its five decades of existence. Starting with the bold block letters “PAARL” in dark red with @50 at the bottom on a gold semi-circle background for its 50th year. The stylized

half-book to which its pages are flipping towards the left (backward) seemingly pays homage to the past (looking back). The icon likewise is seen originating from the center “A” (Academic) which not only stands for the type of librarian but may also connote “scholarly,” hence, the print material. Next to it is the “flame of knowledge” born out of research, thus the icon’s

connection to the letter “R”. This signifies the Association’s burning passion for learning. The position of the half-book and the flame, if seen as one, would somehow form an open book. Indeed, PAARL’s contribution to society cannot be under-estimated as it looks beyond (swooshing red arrow), and continues to strive to be a factor in the nation’s progress (yellow buildings at the back, with Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao represented by the stars) forging a path of togetherness among its members (network icon behind flame) and maximizing today’s technology (Wi-Fi signal).



Mr. Puzon as he receives his award

Mr. Puzon received his award during PAARL’s General Assembly held at the Far Eastern University (FEU) Manila Auditorium on last 28th of January 2023. Ms. Sharon M. Samaniego, the outgoing PAARL president, and Dr. Maria Gia G. Gamolo, P A A R L’s incoming president, handed him his award and prize.

Congratulations Mr. Puzon! Your achievement is a testament to your exceptional creativity and talent. Truly, the winning logo design is a perfect representation of PAARL’s “Golden Years.”

Sigaya concelebrates mass at the blessing of the PAARL SOHO

Lady Catherine R. de Leon

A Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated to kick off the Philippine Association of Academic/Research Librarians, Inc. (PAARL) 50th-anniversary celebration. In 2022, PAARL bought a “small office, home office” (SOHO) condominium unit located in Vivaldi Residences, Cubao, Quezon City. It was purchased as an investment for the Association and to serve as PAARL’s Office.

Last February 15, 2023, the SOHO blessing and thanksgiving mass was officiated by Rev. fr. Paul M. de Vera, OSB, one of the pioneers in PAARL. Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., the UST Library Assistant to the Prefect, concelebrated the mass. The event was attended by the PAARL 50th Committee headed by Ms. Fe Angela M. Versoza, some past presidents of PAARL namely Prof. Salvacion M. Arlante, Prof. Corazon M. Nera, Ms. Susan O. Pador, Mr. Sonny Boy T. Manalo, Mr. Michael A. Mojica, and others. The current and past PAARL Board were also present. Some librarians also attended the open house.

Fr. Sigaya, O.P. with Ms. Versoza



Fr. De Vera, OSB with some of the PAARL officers

“PASKUHAN 2022”: coming home to UST

Jasmin J. Mangona

“God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light. This was the real light – the light that comes into the world and shines on people.”
- John 1:6-9

True to its theme, the *Paskuhan 2022* has been a wonderful experience of “**Pagbabalik, Pananabik, at Panunumbalik.**” Just like John, whom God has sent as his messenger “to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe” (Jn 1:6), the *Paskuhan 2022* made us see and experience the glittering lights of Christmas, that indeed Jesus, the Emmanuel is with us.

For the past two years, we have been told to brace for the new normal. Many of us have lived in anxiety, constant fear, suffering, and anguish because of the global pandemic. For those who were infected by the virus, the fear of death must have been a very excruciating experience. For those who lost their loved ones without being able to accompany them properly according to our rites and customs to the graves, I wonder if they will ever overcome their grief and mourning. In those years, our daily life has been determined by the grammar of lockdown, social distancing, vaccines, work-from-home, *ayuda*, and so on.

The greatest fear, I guess, is the thought that the pandemic will never end and therefore, we will not be able to return to our normal lives. In fact, the pandemic has shattered too our understanding of normalcy, and today, we wonder whether the situation that we are in is already the normal one. This is the reason why we feel a certain longing for *pagbabalik* (return) to regain this normalcy. I still feel like we are still living on the edge of a cliff, where the balance of life is suspended not knowing really whether we will get better soon or regress back to the pandemic situation again. In one way or the other, it has also impacted negatively, at various levels, our roles in society. One of the challenges I must bear is to show that I am calm to my wary children even though inside of me is also full of fear and trembling.

“*Pagbabalik is in fact the beginning of our healing.*”

It is no wonder then that the *Paskuhan* festivities not only bring joy but it has also restored the sense of normalcy that we have been living with for so many years. The rhythm of our life, both personal and social, has been influenced, in fact, I would even go further by saying dictated by the seasons of the University. I am sure many of you can resonate with me when I say that our life is the life of the University. This intensifies our *pananabik* like a long-lost prodigal son longing for his return to his father. We all know our life is here. It is where the seed of dreams was sown, nurtured, and grown into maturity. Coming back and living within its four walls brings peace, hope, and love.

As the Father Rector, Rev. fr. Richard G. Ang, O.P., intimated in his homily during the *Paskuhan* Mass, the pandemic experience has transformed each one of us. It has made us better, more prayerful, and more courageous. There is an experience of *panunumbalik*. The *Paskuhan*, in a sense, has become a spiritual experience of renewing ourselves to become better Christians. We have realized what is most important in our life: our communion with our Lord Jesus Christ. This is the joy of *Paskuhan*, the lesson we learned from the pandemic, and the life the University provides us every day as Thomasians. Now we are ready, as John says, to let the real light of Jesus “come to the world and shines on to other people.”

Christmas 2022 in the UST Library

Rosemary B. Balbin

For 2022, the overall planning and organizing of the Miguel de Benavides Library's holiday activities were headed by Mr. Symon Lagao.

The activities started with the Library's annual tradition of *Belen* lighting and blessing ceremony held on December 2, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Library lobby. Everyone was encouraged to wear Christmas-colored attire during the event. The program started with the procession of the image of the Baby Jesus while the community singing 'Silent Night', followed by the blessing of the *Belen* (nativity scene) officiated by Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P. The inspirational message was delivered by Rev. fr. Angel Aparicio, O.P. where he explained what encompasses the true essence of Christmas. Ms. Lady Catherine R. de Leon wrapped up the event as she delivered her acknowledgement message with a grateful heart and wished for the Holiday season to be merry and bright for all.

Another library activity was the trivia contest wherein the Thomasians were encouraged to guess the exact number of face mask angels used in the Library Christmas tree located at the library foyer.



This was followed by the most awaited in-person Library Christmas party on December 16, 2023, with its overall theme, "The Greatest Gift of All," at 12:00 nn-3:00 pm at the Library viewing area. The party started with the Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. fr. Aparicio, O.P., and concelebrated by Rev. fr. Sigaya, O.P. Afterward, random presentations of creative personalized Christmas cards, which were



requested to be prepared beforehand, were given to their prayer partners. These were short handwritten personal messages/greetings for each prayer partner. The most creative Christmas card received a prize. There was also the traditional exchanging of gifts during the program for the Librarians and Support Staff.

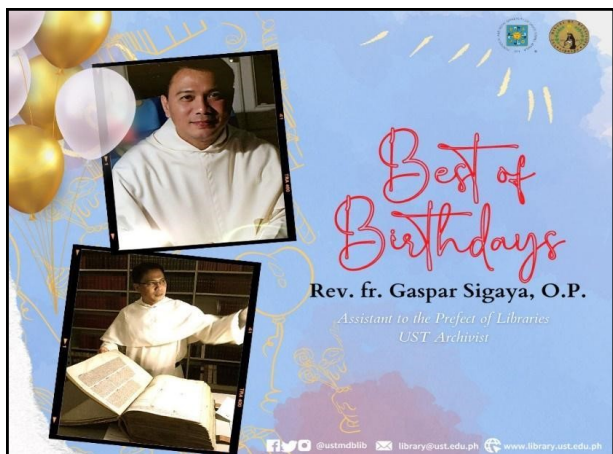
Subsequently, live performances were presented by each group: The Greatest Christmas Carol, entertained everyone throughout the program. It was a combination of Christmas jingles, singing acapella, and dancing. It was indeed performances galore when each group showcased their hidden talents, wowing the audience and looking adorable with some of their creative DIY props that made it even more memorable and fun. There were six (6) designated color attires assigned per team (maroon, navy blue, emerald green, gray/silver, yellow/gold, and white).

The Philippines has the longest-running global Christmas season, the 4-month Christmas Season. Despite and in spite of all the difficulties and challenges we encountered during the pandemic, Christmas in the Philippines will never stop its tradition. It is the perfect time to show love and share blessings through gift-giving and reunions, bonding with the whole family and friends we love so dearly. It is the time that we always look forward to every year. More than just the sumptuous feast to dig into, what matters most is the happy gathering, the meal we share with them, and the quality time we spend with our loved ones. For many Filipinos, simply being with family and friends is the essence of Christmas.

This Christmas season, we celebrate the greatest gift of all, the one that makes all other gifts possible --- the birth of Jesus.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, Rev. Fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P.

Rosemary B. Balbin



"May He grant you your heart's desire and fulfill all your plans!" (Psalm 20:4)

The UST Miguel de Benavides Library held a concelebrated thanksgiving mass last January 16, 2023 at the UST Library Conference Hall for the late birthday celebration of Rev. fr. Gaspar R. Sigaya, O.P., whose birthday falls on January 6. It was attended by the library staff, particularly, the January birthday celebrants. Prayer intentions included blessings and wishes for those who were celebrating their wedding anniversaries and for the newlyweds, as they begin their new lives together as one.

Cheers to another year! May the Lord bestow you with His immense blessings and may your special day bring some time to relax and celebrate with your family, friends, and loving community.

UST Law Librarian... from page 6

the National Library of the Philippines, De La Salle University Library, and the National Museum of Natural History.

Through the Convergence, delegates were able to discuss matters on ASEAN librarianship. Plans for LIS education, practice, ethics, and professional mobility were drafted with a future MRA of ASEAN member countries in mind.

#PERRYfoundhistadhANNA: Rita and Perry Love Story

Lady Catherine R. de Leon

Sixteen years in the making! This is how we describe Ms. Anna Rita L. Alomo and Mr. Perry S. Murillo's wedding. The ceremony happened on January 14, 2023, at Our Lady of Remedies Chapel while the reception was at Blue Gardens Events Place in Quezon City. It was a splendid event that was well attended by the couple's family and friends. Rita is the Library's Acquisitions librarian.

The newlyweds first met in Quiapo Church in 2007. Perry is the brother of Rita's college batch mate and friend, Pius (who also was a working scholar of the Library from 2000-2002). That commonality led to the start of the newlyweds' unending love story. After their first meeting, the rest is history.

Good wishes and prayers to Rita and Perry!



A memorable photo opportunity from Rita and Perry together with their UST Library family.



JHS library celebrates Heart's Day!

Chiara Maye M. Navarrete

The Junior High School Library organized activities for the students to dig in last February 14–17, 2023 to celebrate Valentine's Day and its Foundation Day.

A "love wall" in the Library was created by the JHS librarians and staff where they posted questions like "Why do you love the library?" and "What do you do inside the Library." Students warmly took part and wrote their heartfelt replies on the wall. Some students said they enjoy spending time in the library because it helps them relax. Some-one wrote that "while reading, they could be anyone."

Moreover, the JHS Library also prepared certain "rebus" tasks. This game involves drawing a name, a piece of art, or a phrase to symbolize it. The Library displayed images of the book titles to guess what it is. The students enjoyed playing the "rebus" game and answering questions. The JHS library staff also prepared treats such as candies and chocolates.

A special area was set up with a shelf of books to read, mainly about "love and relationships." It was a very timely event that coincided with the JHS Foundation Day. Thus, made the Library programs successful, enjoyable, and memorable to all.



JHS Library activities during their Heart's Day celebration

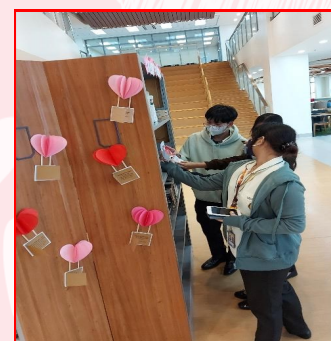


SHS Library celebrates Valentine's Week

Lourdes Fatima C. Ramos

Valentine's is a special time of the year that many people, especially the young ones, look forward to. From February 14-17, 2023, the Senior High School (SHS) Library celebrated Valentine's with the theme, Sweet peeps, sweet treats, sweeten your day with delightful reads.

The SHS Library hosted activities that allowed students to celebrate the holiday in an engaging and meaningful way. In the activity area, shelves were arranged and designed so students could explore the display, which featured books, AV materials, quotes, and trivia on love and relationships. The Library also surprised the community by giving sweet treats to those who borrowed books that week and those who joined the trivia contest. The activity aimed to help students celebrate the season of love and at the same time, continue to encourage reading and promote the resources of the library by highlighting its collection and encouraging patrons to borrow library materials.



SHS students participating in the SHS Library Valentine activities



"Love My Library" Week at UST MdBLib

Jenalyn D. Aninao

February has always been attributed to love, friendship, and admiration, particularly every February 14. We celebrate this love and affection for the people we love and express it through greetings and presents.

To celebrate the LOVE month, the General Reference & Information Section initiated several library-related fun activities offered to the Thomasian community with the theme "Love My Library." Upon entry to the library, the Valentine vibe was already felt with Miggy welcoming everyone holding his heart-shaped balloons. To add some valentine mood, several red balloons were also placed on different areas at the ground floor and creative minimalist drawings can be seen on the glass windows of the GenRef Section. Interestingly, the first five (5) library patrons who entered the Library, and the first ten (10) book borrowers of the day, received alcohol sprays as their Valentine treats.

A decorated graffiti wall was also provided at the foyer wherein participants were encouraged to complete the sentence "I love the UST Library because..." Everyone is invited to participate and pick any colored paper of their choice which they think represent their relationship status. Four (4) colors of note pads to choose from were provided. The color pink stands for "in a relationship"; blue for "it's complicated"; yellow for "happily single"; and green for "searching" status. Exciting treats from Miggy, such as chocolate kisses, love note (pads), and alcohol sprays, awaited the participants. Eagerness, joy, and excitement were seen from those who took part of the activity.

Additionally, a virtual gallery with the theme "Your Valentine: Unpacking the Box of Love" was streamed at the ground floor lobby of the library featuring the first Valentine boxed cards from the 18th Century.

Another much-awaited Valentine's treat from Miggy was the Grammarly premium account giveaway for the high school and undergraduate students. Announcements were made through the library's social media platforms, and 500 lucky applicants were randomly chosen.

A series of publication materials about love quotes or excerpts from books were also regularly posted on the library's socials allowing everyone to guess the book where it was cited from. Answering was made by clicking one of the emoji icons -- 🍷 Like, ❤️ Heart, and 😲 Wow -- which corresponds to their preferred choice.

Likewise, other sections and branch libraries also prepared and conducted Valentine-related activities for their patrons.



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