



# the bedan today

a destiny of honor, service, and excellence

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**Rev. Fr. Aloysius Maranan, O.S.B.,  
Installed as the First  
San Beda University  
Rector-President**

**Messages and Homily on  
the Occasion of the Inauguration of  
the first University Rector-President**

**The Inaugural Speech**

**RENPER, hosted in the  
Philippines on its 8th Year**

**SBU's First International  
Linkages Week**

**San Beda Red Lions  
Reaping its 22nd NCAA  
Championship**

**A Magical Christmas**

# Santo Niño: The Light of the New Dawn



Pista ng Sto. Niño sa San Beda 2019



Santo Niño:  
The LIGHT of  
the NEW  
DAWN



## EDITOR'S NOTE

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We still feel the cold Christmas air; we still hear the ring-a-ling-a-ling-ding-dong and the bells; we are still opening our post-Christmas gifts; we still have the 'fresh-from-holiday' smile and spirit! Although our pockets are maybe empty, our heart is so full and filled with gratitude and love as we open our window and sit by the window sills for the new dawn and the new day.

This New Year, we look back with gladness on the year that was! Year 2018 has been remarkably tremendous for us. It was last year that we received the Stage 2 Certification Audit of ISO 9001: 2015 by the TUV Rheinland, signifying that the management system of San Beda is at par with its standards. The College of Medicine and the Integrated Basic Education in Rizal campus both clinched the Philippine Accreditors Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) Level 1 and Level 2, respectively. Our student-athletes have started earning more and more medals in the ongoing National Collegiate Athletic Association, Season 94, and San Beda Red Lions creating another three-peat Championship record in men's Senior Basketball division! Our internationalization efforts are now making waves especially with the International lecture series by international lecturers

for our college students. Year 2018 is a very special year. It was in this year that San Beda, from a college, became a university; consequently, the first University Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., was installed.

All these and the so many blessings that our community has received are all of God's design and provision. Indeed, *He is the light and the way, and He will never abandon us.* As we move forward to another year, we allow the Light to guide and lead us and become the magi who never doubted the star of Bethlehem.

Now, as our community celebrates the *Pista ng Sto. Niño*, we once again share yet another fulfilling experience of being together as one strong community, following the example that the Father has set by selflessly giving His son so that by His grace, we may be saved. It is in the Child Jesus that we learn simplicity, genuineness, and purity. That with a simple, genuine, and pure heart can we only realize real joy, real service, or real compassion.

We hope that this *The Bedan Today, Volume XX* reminds all of us that in every new dawn, there is hope to see the light! Have a blessed and enjoyable *Pista ng Sto. Niño* celebration!

Sybil L. Agreda  
Editor-in-Chief



## Message of the Rector-President on the Occasion of the Pista ng Santo Nino sa San Beda 2019

Greetings in the name of the Infant Jesus of Prague.

As Bedans, we give utter importance to annual celebrations most especially the *Pista ng Sto. Niño*. Indeed, our celebration has become a fundamental part of our being a Catholic institution; yet, every time the feast comes around, there's always *always* something different to look forward to.

A famous composer, Gustav Mahler, once said that tradition is not the worship of ashes, but the preservation of fire. The quotation is quite befitting, isn't it? It is apt as our *Pista ng Sto. Niño*, though celebrated annually, hails the childlike faith of our Lord Jesus Christ as this feast encourages everyone, most especially the adults, to keep wondering, forgiving, trusting, looking at things with wonder and awe, and like children—to never remain stagnant in our faith as we must keep asking, learning, and morphing into better *Bedans*, year after blessed year. We must always look, with childlike awe, for the good in everything and everyone as children do. We must never let the fire of our faith die down into an ember and later on, ashes—we must always keep the fire alive: breathing and roaring.

My dear *Bedan* community, I truly believe that we celebrate this momentous occasion with neither blind conformity nor ignorance of the essence of this tradition. Which is why I must ask a favor from all of you: to be more childlike, and *not* childish when it comes to faith. And as children, we must perpetually trust our God, the paths He chooses for us, the plans He makes. This is what it means to have childlike faith like our *Sto. Niño*. This is what it means to preserve the fire: to celebrate something without letting its meaning, its essence, fade into the background.

Viva Sto. Niño!

Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B.  
First University Rector-President

Volume XX

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



September - December 2018

Editor's Note	2
In the Know	4
Messages and Homily on the Occasion of the Inauguration of the first University Rector-President	6
The Inaugural Speech	20
SBU's First International Linkages Week	28
RENPER, hosted in the Philippines on its 8th Year	30
SBU Celebrates 1st Community Engagement Week	33
San Beda Red Lions, Reaping its 22nd NCAA Championship	35
SBU's College of Law at par with the World's Best	37
COM and IBED Rizal Campus, Continuously Raising the Bar of Excellence with another PAASCU Accreditation	38
COM Scored 98.96% in the Physician Licensure Examinations 2018	40
ISO 9001: 2015 Follow-Up Audit	40
A Magical Christmas	41
Pista ng Sto. Niño	46



The Very Rev. Father Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., who served as Rector-President in San Beda Manila and Rizal campuses since 2010, was formally installed as the first University Rector-President last September 21, 2018 at the Our Lady Montserrat Abbey Church.



# Rev. Fr. Aloysius Maranan, O.S.B., Installed as the First San Beda University Rector-President

Sybil L. Agreda

AS San Beda bids adieu from its status as a college and became a university, the landscape that it is supposed to grace and cultivate turns wider, extending its reach to our neighboring countries and international partner-institutions and communities. With this change, one man is making history for being the last Rector-President of the then San Beda College and the first Rector-President of the present university!

The Very Rev. Father Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., who served as Rector-President in San Beda Manila and Rizal campuses since 2010, was formally installed as the first University Rector- President last September 21, 2018 at the Our Lady Montserrat Abbey Church. A Holy Mass was celebrated for this occasion which was led by no less than His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, the Most Reverend Gabriele G. Caccia, D.D. with other bishops and priests as co-celebrants. The Investiture Ceremony was called to Order by Rev. Fr. Bede S. Hechanova, O.S.B., San Beda University Board of Trustees Executive Secretary. Hon. Salvador Medialdea, the Executive Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines read the Commission on Higher Education's Declaration, making San Beda a University. Moreover, Dr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees presented the appointment of the first University Rector- President. The Profession of Faith of the Father Rector was administered by the Former Archbishop –Cardinal of Manila, Gaudencio Cardinal B. Rosales, D.D. Abbot –Chancellor, Rt. Rev. Fr. Austin P. Cadiz, O.S.B. led the imposition of the New Medallion to the Rector-President and was assisted by Father-Rector's siblings, Mrs. Irene Maranan-Yulde and Dr. Ephraim A. Maranan.

The exit of the old San Beda College maze and the entrance of the new San Beda University maze was one of the things that *Bedans* consider as 'sentimental and touching' moment to witness. Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines President, Archbishop Romulo G. Valles, D.D., presented the new University Mace to the Rector-President. This was followed by His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, the Most Reverend Gabriele G. Caccia, D.D., leading the Administration of the Oath of Office of Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B.

In his Inaugural Speech, Father Rector emphasized that his investiture was about "our united call to action to get our beloved San Beda University make a significant imprint in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to produce followers of St. Benedict who are responsible and honest citizens, transformative leaders and innovators, and men and women of prayer and work." For the Father Rector, San Beda's transition to become a university means pushing the frontiers beyond "our traditional niche areas and discover and celebrate in the process the richness of God-given talents and resources we have never thought of before."

This momentous event was witnessed by friends, relatives, family members, and the San Beda community. Also gracing the occasion are the closest and dearest friends and mentors of the Father Rector from the academe, the government, and the religious.



Among the very important people that the Father-Rector recognized in his speech are the following: Rt. Rev. Austin P. Cadiz, O.S.B., the Abbot Chancellor and the Benedictine monks, Dr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Atty. Dominador Buhain, the president of the Alumni Association, and his officers and members.

From the religious, he made special mention of the presence of His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, the Most Rev. Gabriele G. Caccia, D.D. who celebrated the Holy Mass, His Excellency, the Most Rev. Romulo, Valles, D.D., the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), His Excellency, the Most Reverend Rolando Tria Tirona, Archbishop of Caceres, His Excellency Bishop Emeritus Leonardo Medroso, Bishop Manolo Delos Santos, Bishop Arturo Bastes, Bishop Jose Bantolo, Bishop Yiet Cabajog, Bishop Junie Maralit, Bishop Noli Buco, beloved fellow members of the clergy and the religious sisters.



In his Inaugural Speech, Father Rector emphasized that his investiture was about “our united call to action to get our beloved San Beda University make a significant imprint in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century to produce followers of St. Benedict who are responsible and honest citizens, transformative leaders and innovators and men and women of prayer and work.”

Also in attendance are the Former President Fidel V. Ramos, the Executive Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines, Hon. Salvador Medialdea, Senator Sonny Angara and his family, and the different university presidents.

This *one for the books* event was followed by a happy and fun get-together of all the guests over lunch. The main reception area for guests was in the newly-constructed building’s Auditorium which shall be officially inaugurated on soon.

The Investiture of the University Rector-President was a rare and once in a lifetime occasion for the community and a blessed day as Church leaders, government and academic leaders gather to welcome the First San Beda University Rector-President and to support the institutional mission of this century-old Benedictine school.

# DR. MANUEL V. PANGILINAN DELIVERS MESSAGE

During the inauguration of the  
first University Rector-President



"Let us build together, not on the sands  
but on the bedrock of Mendiola, a  
lasting institution of  
*Ora et Labora.*"

**His** Excellency, the Papal Nuncio Gabriele Giordano Caccia, our distinguished bishops present, the Reverend Fr. Austin Cadiz, Abbot Chancellor of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Rector-President Fr. Aloysius Maranan, trustees, professors, staff, students, and friends of San Beda University – good morning, and thank you for joining us on this historic occasion.

University – a word with a special ring to it – *universitas magistrorum et scholarium* – an institution of higher learning, a community of teachers and scholars, a number of persons associated into one body, one society, one community. *Universitas* – meaning a singular whole.

Indeed, Saint Benedict highlighted the importance of one-ness, of unity, of being a community when he wrote: “as often as anything which brings me back to what institutions of learning stand for – a whole.”

Today, we celebrate the investiture of the Very Reverend Fr. Aloysius Maranan, as the first Rector-President of San Beda University. Our warmest felicitations go to Fr. Aloy and to the Bedan community for their prayer and their work – *ora et labora* – in accomplishing this next big step of San Beda’s evolution.

If I may, for a moment, refer to the question raised by the Papal Nuncio earlier – why a university? In the first stance, there is a real distinction between a college and a university—both from a perception and excellence perspective. Second, but equally important, this enables us to apply with the UAAP, and join the premier basketball teams. I hope we could do this by next year.

History of San Beda

Indeed, to lend perspective to this event, let us look back briefly into time.

San Beda started 117 years ago – in the old commercial district of Quiapo where the streets of Tanduay and Arlegui defined its first horizon. There the Bedan spirit was born – rooted in the 6th century principles of Saint Benedict. The first Rector, Father Silvestre Jofre, remarked in his opening mass that the – “Colegio de San Beda comes to the arena with the sole purpose of helping to defend the Catholic battlements in the field of education.”

Since that time, the history of San Beda has been one of expanding horizons, of challenges through wars and strifes, of transitioning from Spanish to Filipino monks synthesizing Filipino identity with Benedictine spirituality.

Through this evolution, the core values of *fides, scientia et virtus* – which animate and inform monastic life – should continue to find its home in San Beda, especially even as a university.

A new mission

But now that we’re a university, Benedictine education must extend the minds of our faculty and students from the monastery into the disruptive world of technology and innovation. That’s because the university’s spiritual and intellectual missions, when considered under contemporary circumstances, must involve the broader society—with lives, work, habits, practices, and morals of our people changing so fast.

This suggests that the trustees, administration, faculty, and students must actively engage in our society. We must provide our students with a tangible experience of community to

help them connect between the individual and the communal, innovation with tradition, legacy with digital. In so doing, we create a profound openness to human experience, and open the opportunity to our students to see their potential to the fullest. That is, after all, how human history is changed.

Conclusion

In closing, San Beda’s grand legacy of education and our simple purpose for a better future remain durable and transcendent. This purpose will be achieved in our duty and our duty fulfilled in service to our country. We renew that purpose today with this ceremony – never faltering, never tiring, never failing.

So this investiture is an invitation for you to renew your life with San Beda to realize that in the growth of this university, your own personal achievement will be answered and your potential fulfilled. Let us build together, not on the sands but on the bedrock of Mendiola, a lasting institution of *Ora et Labora*.

Once again, many congratulations to Fr. Aloy – we wish him well on his post, and on his birthday, and may the grace of the good Lord be with him in all his endeavors. God bless San Beda University. God bless the Philippines.



# HOMILY OF HIS EXCELLENCY **GABRIELE G. CACCIA, D. D.**

Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines during the Eucharistic  
Celebration and Investiture Rites for Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius  
Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., September 21, 2018



**Good** morning everyone! It is a great joy for me to be here today, in this special event, and I want to say a word of thanks to the Abbot of this Community, Fr. Austin Cadiz, for the kind invitation. I am very touched by the presence of the President of the Episcopal Conference, with so many Bishops, Bishop Valles from Davao. My best greetings to the former President, present here, to the local and civil authorities. To all the fathers and brothers of San Beda Community, Abbot Africa, former Abbot. And, of course, in a special way to the staff, administration, alumni, students of this new University and to all of you, friends and dear brothers and sisters.

The reason why we are here is this Solemn Investiture of the First Rector-President of the new University of San Beda, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. Maranan, who is also not just feasting the birth of a university but also his own birthday, so “Happy Birthday, Father!”

When I was told that there is a college first in San Beda and now a University, I asked myself, does it make any sense? Is this the vocation of the Benedictines? Are they not known for this famous words, *Ora et Labora*, meaning Pray and Work? And at least for us who come from Europe where, actually, the Benedictine family started, when we think of an Abbey, we think of a community, a cloister. Community dedicated to prayer at regular times and in a very large land, hectares of land, many times in desolated places, with the work of the Benedictines. These are trained and reclaimed; they are transformed. But never one of us put together an Abbey with a school or a university.

Are we doing something right or not? How do we answer this question? We have to go to the roots and see if this development belongs to the call, the charism of this Community or not? Where to start? If somebody new would like to join a Benedictine Community and knock at the door, from inside they will ask you, “Why have you come here?” And the right answer when the door opened is, *Quaerere Deum - to search for God*. This is the main goal. The monks are not farmers even if they work. The main goal why they came in community is to search for God. This is the origin of the Community of San Beda and all who want to join this Community, in a way or in another, they should look for God: search for Him, try to see Him, to understand. But, of course, it is not an adventure in trackless wilderness because God gave in history some Psalms, His Word, the Scriptures, the Bible and the Word who is Jesus. So to search for God means to listen to His Word and in the Rule of Benedict, at the very beginning, the first part is *Obsculta, fili, praecepta magistri - Listen, oh my Son. Listen, oh my Son*.

In the First Reading, Listen, Listen. If there is a Word, you have to listen to the Word. But if God revealed Himself through Word, we have to understand Him and to find that the world is a Word. It's in



itself so rich as many dimensions and we have to look inside and discover all the potentiality of this Word and you know a great word for Word is *Logos*. *Logos* that we use so many times even in our language and all words that have *logia*, *logos* means word. But *logos* is more than just sound. It is also a reason. It is a wisdom to pass from what is inessential to the essential, to see beyond those who will pass by to what rest. There is a *logos*, a reason, a word that sustains all the world, all life. This is the Word of God, and that is why

those who search for God also have to read *Lectio*.

*Lectio Divina* - to read the Scriptures, to interpret, to understand. And so that is why all the Abbeys from the very beginning had a library - *bibliothèque*, a place where you keep books because in the Word there is something of God and also that explains why they have copyists, writers, monks, who spent their life in copying all books, manuscripts with beautiful decoration so the Word can

be advanced and so we see that all the Benedictine Abbey were center of *culture*. They preserved the ancient books even from the Latin and Greek tradition because they were certain, and even before Christ, there were the seeds of the Word, the seed of the *logos*, the seed of the presence of God in tradition who didn't know Jesus, who didn't know the people of Israel. And, so in a sense, all the Benedictine Abbeys were center of culture, of research, of study.

And, of course, to find God present means also as Saint Peter, as to all the disciples, to be always ready to have an answer to those who asked you the reason of your hope. The reason, the *logos* of your hope, and to get an answer means to have an *apologia* - apology is an explanation, is an answer. When somebody asked, why do you hope? What is your hope? Based on what? Be ready to give your apology, your answer to the question. What is your *logos*? And in that sense, the Abbey becomes the center of ex-

change and proclamation of the Good News not because there is a propaganda. We want to have a big community, a bigger church, a big...No! Because of the inner call of our faith. Share with others what is your hope; what is good; what you have discovered. Share and explain the reason, and the questions are so many. There are plenty of questions.

And what is a university? A university, *universa* means all things; is exactly a place where you try to understand, to know, to discover and to see the relation between different faculty, searchers, subjects, and to have a vision. So a university is a place where questions find a way to be answered; and in that sense, a university is not something strange within Benedictine tradition even if this University will be the first Benedictine University in all Asia. It is something new, but their roots are there. "So don't worry, Father, I am not here saying that maybe it is wrong. It is very good and it belongs to your tradition,

*"So to search for God means to listen to His Word and in the Rule of Benedict, at the very beginning, the first part is Obsculata, fili, praecepta magistri - Listen, oh my Son. Listen, oh my Son."*

but you have to make another step.”

And step is that, the reason, the Word, the *logos* is not a theoretical principle. It’s a person: *et verbum caro factum est* - and the Word became flesh and Jesus is the Word of God. He is the Way. He is the Truth. He is the Life. And looking for the truth, in the end, means to meet Jesus. And our Truth is a living person and it’s beautiful, that is, beginning of the university coincides with the feast of an apostle and evangelist, St. Matthew. He found the *logos* and he followed Him. And in this sense, the Benedictine Community becomes as it is written in the Rule – a *dominici servi schola* – a school

to serve the Lord. To be able to meet with Him. To listen, to follow Him, to share His life, to share His love, to share His compassion.

And my wish today for the Community of the monks, but also for the big community of the University of San Beda, is that, with the competence proper to each branch of knowledge, you will be always able to show your students that you can give not just a title, Master of Arts, Doctor in Philosophy (Phd), but that you show your students that there is only one Master, our Lord Jesus Christ, and that our happiness and peace is when we are able to follow Him with joy. To Him be glory and honor forever and forever. Amen.





# CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

Bishop Emeritus Leonardo Y. Medroso, D.D.  
Investiture Ceremony of the First  
University Rector-President;  
September 21, 2018

YOUR Excellency Most. Rev. Gabriele Giordano Caccia, D.D. – Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines; Your Excellency: The Abbot-Chancellor; Sirs and Madams of the Board of Trustees of San Beda University; The San Beda community – The teaching and non-teaching staff, the student body; Distinguished guests; Rev. Fathers, Rev. Sisters, Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

This solemn investiture of Rev. Fr. Aloysius Maranan, O.S.B. as first University Rector-President of San Beda serves as a landmark of the long evolution of San Beda College to a status of university. From now on, San Beda stands and shall forever be known as a UNIVERSITY. Along side

with other few elite universities in the land, San Beda University proudly stands as a universal seat of learning, an educational institution that has locked itself up to strict intellectual pursuit and educational discipline as well as high quality search for the truth. Congratulations to the SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY.

At this juncture, it is appropriate to give honor to whom honor is due. REV. FR. ALOYSIUS MARANAN, O.S.B: Reverend, finely wired up to San Beda University is your name, a prestigious title that is uniquely your own. To you and to you alone is that honor given: that is, the First University Rector-President of San Beda University. Other



President-Rectors would follow after you, but not one of them can take away that preeminence that has been attributed to you as the first. As I reflect deeper into that event, I figured out that the preeminence that you are holding is not just a preeminence of time; that is, you are first because of the succession of time. No, you are above all. First, because I believe that you are one of the most important players to boost the college of San Beda to become a university. You have used your skills and your dynamic personality to wave the wand of leadership before them, leading your people to plunge deeply and wade meticulously through the very complicated work and strenuous endeavor in order to convince the authorities and all that San Beda is ripe to be proclaimed a university. Don't you know that this prestigious status as a university is long overdue to San Beda? Way back in fifties, while I was taking up my theological studies in the Pontifical University of Santo Tomas, I came to know many seminarians coming from the San Beda community. Many of them are first rate scholars and no wonder, we look up to San Beda as a high standard institution of learning. They were

highly qualified Benedictine monks dedicated to their studies, in tune with their motto: ORA ET LABORA – PRAY AND WORK. That San Beda had remained for a long time just a mere college is a puzzle to me. Fortunately, Fr. Maranan came in. He has a good grasp of the potentiality of San Beda to be a university. Without much ado, he has taken unto himself the deep longing of the community of monks, the dream of its formators and of the general student body, and undertook the hard work for its rightful recognition, doggedly pursuing that prestigious status of a UNIVERSITY. A herculean job no doubt, but Fr. Maranan is a Hercules in his own right.

Meantime, it is good that our first Rector-President should be brought back to reality. It is not to trivialize the honor given to him nor to belittle his person as a leader. Reality after all is truth and truth, according to Jesus, sets us free. As it is, Fr. Maranan defies our image of what a leader should be. His physical features would not warrant him to be a leader. He simply does not have that physical cut that would make him stand out of a group and be taken as a leader. He is one



“He has taken unto himself the deep longing of the community of monks, the dream of its formators and of the general student body, and undertook the hard work for its rightful recognition, doggedly pursuing that prestigious status of a UNIVERSITY. A herculean job no doubt, but Fr. Maranan is a Hercules in his own right.”

among many-just a boy. A case at hand is a recent incident in Rockwell. He concelebrated with me and Fr. Torralba in the 11:00 A.M. Mass on a Sunday. After the Mass, a group of Church goers brought us to a restaurant for lunch. Seated at a table, I introduced Fr. Maranan as the President of San Beda University. All those seated looked at him in disbelief. One lawyer, Atty. Romy Salonga of Magallanes Village, expressed the skeptical impression of the group, with this remark: “Do not fool me; you are just a boy.” Fr. Maranan to defend himself had to fish out from his pocket his I.D. card and showed it to the lawyer and the group. Yes, Fr. Maranan can easily be mistaken as just a boy. But in our life, God plays with us, sending us great leaders in different shapes and forms, even in the guise of a child. Yes, vibrant paradoxes - gigantic responsibilities to be borne by slim and tender shoulder of a mere boy. As Isaiah eloquently and poetically described it: “Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall be down with the kid; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them” (Is. 11:9).

Fr. Aloysius Maranan, O.S.B. – First President-Rector of San Beda University, Congratulations!



Even as we take deep pride in our collective *Bedan* identity, we know that San Beda has to evolve as an educational institution that promotes social inclusion, advancement of the *millennials*, diversity of perspectives, and collaborations within and beyond the university campus.



# INAUGURAL SPEECH

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*Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B.,  
First University Rector - President  
San Beda University, September 21, 2018*

The Abbot-Chancellor, Rt. Rev. Fr. Austin P. Cadiz, O.S.B., and fellow Benedictine monks; the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Dr. Manuel V. Pangilanan, and members of the Board of Trustees, the San Beda Alumni Association President, Atty. Dominador Buhain, and the distinguished officers and members of the different Alumni associations, administrators, faculty, personnel, parents, and students of SBU, thank you for the privilege you've given me to serve San Beda University as the First University Rector-President. I stand on the shoulders of our Benedictine Fathers who headed this esteemed institution before me.

His Excellency Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines, the Most Rev. Gabriele G. Caccia, D.D., His Excellency, the President of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, the Most Rev. Romulo Valles, D.D., His Excellency the Most Rev. Rolando Tria Tirona - Archbishop of Caceres, His Excellencies Bp. Emeritus Leonardo Medroso, Bp. Manolo Delos Santos, Bp. Arturo Bastes, Bp. Jose Bantolo, Bp. Yiet Cabajog, Bp. Junie Maralit, Bp. Noli Buco, beloved fellow members of the clergy and the religious sisters.

Former President Fidel V. Ramos, Executive Secretary of the Republic of the Philippines, Salvador Medialdea, the honorable officials of the Judiciary, Executive and Legislative branches of the government, governors, mayors and other honorable local officials, the esteemed CHED Director, Educational association presidents and representatives, distinguished University Presidents and other members of the academe, my dear family, friends, ladies and gentlemen—on behalf of the Benedictine monks and the *Bedan* community, welcome to San Beda University. Thank you for the abundance of your goodwill and kindness, as I shepherd San Beda University on a new and historic journey.

In 2010, we were together in my investiture as Rector-President of the then San Beda College. Today, in this investiture, we add another layer of richness. It is about/ our united call to action to get our beloved San Beda University make a significant imprint in the 21st Century, an imprint to produce followers of St. Benedict, who are responsible and honest citizens, transformative leaders and innovators, and men and women of prayer and work. In traversing the path to university, we hope to push the frontiers beyond our traditional niche areas and discover and celebrate, in the process, a richness of God-given talents and resources we have never thought of before. Indeed, today's investiture is an articulation of our shared aspirations for dynamism, excellence and service. I hope you will agree with me that being president of a university in the 21st Century is replete with challenges in uncharted territories. We can no longer limit our conversations and interactions to the confines of this campus. We know that we now have to engage with an increasing number of stakeholders in education. Even as we take deep pride in our collective *Bedan* identity, we know that San Beda has to evolve as an educational institution that promotes social inclusion, advancement of the *millennials*, diversity of perspectives, and collaborations within and beyond the university campus. We face intense financial and economic pressures in the heels of the national Free Tuition law for students in public universities and colleges.

We are confronted with the fast changing Technologies and the dynamic explosion of innovations in Industry 4.0 or the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Automation, data exchange, artificial intelligence, and the Internet of Things have placed uncertainty on traditional educational modalities. There is clamor for a creative recalibration of our programs and curricula as well as retraining of faculty in order to produce graduates with 21st Century skills and values. Balancing university revenues with the imperatives of knowledge production has added tension to an already complex educational landscape. Certainly, tough decisions are unavoidable, but they are also navigable.

Beyond all these, we are faced with a much more primordial mission: to deeply reflect on our role as the first Benedictine university not just in the Philippines but in all of Asia. Saint Benedict, who was recognized as the spiritual Patron of Europe in 1964, brought unity and light where previously there had been division and darkness. In the Philippines and in many parts of Asia, we see a situation which has many parallels to the world inhabited by Saint Benedict. Intolerance, lack of concern for the vulnerable, extremism, hatred, and prejudice were all part of the context within which Benedictine communities grew. Saint Benedict responded positively and practically to human needs which were not far from the needs of those amongst us now. Today, we see people fleeing poverty, injustice, disease, envi-



ronmental abuse, natural calamities and war in search of a better life. Our task as a Benedictine university is to help our young leaders understand critically something of the simplicity and munificence and practicality of Benedictine education. Ironically, in simplicity and silence, the Benedictines are the forerunners of science and innovation. They ranked among the most important theological and cultural teachers of the Western world. Their monasteries did not only constitute sites for prayer and a way of living dedicated to God. They were also focal points for science and art. By translating philosophical and scientific texts from Antiquity, for example, the Benedictines preserved this knowledge for future development across Western Europe. They left an extraordinary legacy in



arts, culture, engineering, agriculture, mathematics, and the natural sciences. Even in management, the modern-day office and workplace, had their origins in the monks' scriptorium. Why am I telling you these? With your prayers, I envision San Beda University as leading the resurgence in the Philippines and Asia of this remarkable Benedictine spirit that transformed the world.

Our history shall power us through. One hundred seventeen (117) years ago, a time when our country was barely 3 years from the 1898 Revolution, San Beda College was full of hope and optimism about its future. When the country was struggling to defend its sovereignty and fighting for freedom and inde-

pendence, the Benedictine spirit of *Ora et Labora* among our forefathers sustained them through those chaotic and trying years. Through all those years, San Beda never dithered in its commitment to shore up their ideals of independence and nationalism. Since then, San Beda has produced a strong corps of young Filipino nationalists as well as the country's luminaries and thought leaders in Law, Business, Accountancy, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science, Nursing, Medicine, University Administration, Governance, Scientific Research, and Sports. Throughout the history of our young nation, thousands of *Bedan* alumni have answered the call to become men and women of Fides (Faith), Scientia (Knowledge) and Virtus (Virtue).

Nine years ago, as the 22nd Rector-







President of the then San Beda College, I articulated the aspirations of the College “united by a common purpose and shared commitment to the pursuit of scholarship, teaching and learning and their meaningful applications to transforming lives.” I recommitted San Beda College “to developing, enriching, and sustaining an environment that nurtures the enterprise of generating new ideas.” You and I know about San Beda’s long list of recent accomplishments, but the weightiest legacy of all the contributions and achievements, past and present, is the one big milestone we are solemnly celebrating today- the transformation and final recognition of San Beda as belonging to the league of universities—the birth of San Beda University!

Now our task as a university community has just begun. To be a university in a century characterized by the vigorous production of knowledge, and innovation requires a collective shift in mindset that is truly responsive to genuine human development. San Beda shall need an acquisition of a new suite of skills and competencies, openness for collaboration and cross- fertilization in knowledge production, courage to push frontiers, and unlearning of some of our conventional practices in teaching and learning. There is undoubtedly a long list of programmatic strategies we have to map out in our university blueprint in order to produce the outcomes we want to see. That is, for our gradu-

ates to meaningfully and productively engage and lead in the 21st Century global information age. The landscape and challenges of universities in the global Information Age are so dynamic that the solutions we think about today could be rendered obsolete by tomorrow. Paraphrasing University of Oxford’s Professor Dr. Jorg Friedrichs, indeed, the problem with the present is that “the future is no longer what it used to be.” As we continue to work on the complex act of balancing the concerns of the present, we must also briskly anticipate the exponential requirements of the future. But there lies a greater challenge for all of us. In the 21st century—an age of artificial and augmented intelligence, driverless cars, and *uber* drones among many others, the challenge, in my view, is not so much whether we can produce an army of *Bedan* graduates who can move fast enough with these driving forces of the future, but the challenge is whether they can do it, beating with an ardent *Bedan* heart and fully guided by the Benedictine ethos of *Ora et Labora*.

We need to steer *Bedan* education towards producing holistic *Bedans* with an evocation to serve the Filipino nation and their communities; the ability to think through the ethical and moral implications of their actions; and the competency to learn continuously. We have to do this in order to enhance their capability to fully engage in the resourceful creation of jobs; as well as, to live meaningfully according to

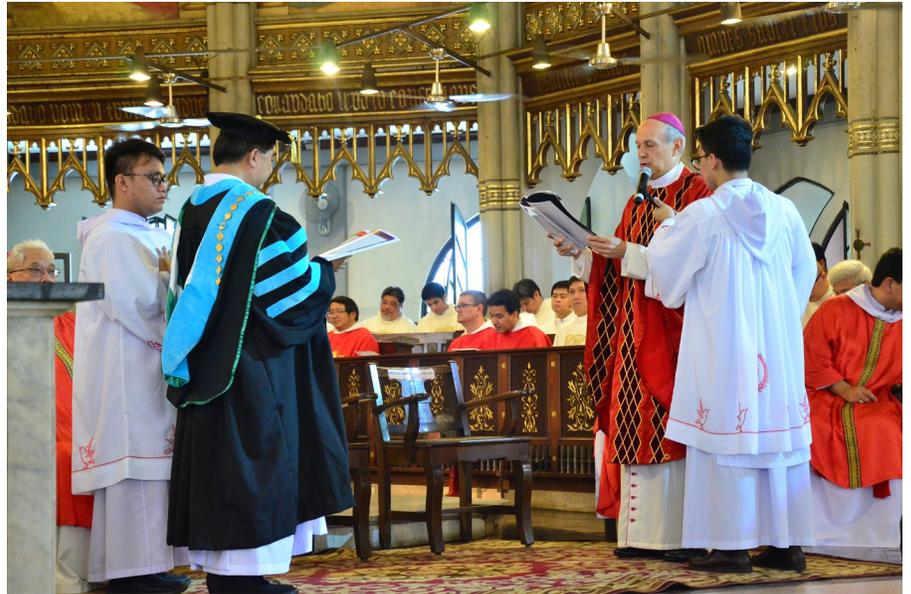


Gospel values in today's complex world.

My dear brothers and sisters, in the next decade, as we lay the groundwork for global education, San Beda University shall tirelessly pursue its strategic programs around five key arenas of action. **FIRST**, San Beda U will be a hub for digital education and social innovation; **SECOND**, San Beda U will produce graduates who can create the jobs of the future. **THIRD**, San Beda U will expand efforts to grow and produce knowledge with international and local partners. **FOURTH**, San Beda U will invest in rigorous intellectual capital development among our faculty and students. And **FIFTH**, foremost of all, San Beda will be the center of authentic Benedictine Catholic learning and teaching and com-

munity engagement in Asia.

First, in the area of information and communication technology, just as the Benedictines were beacons of innovation, San Beda University will position itself as well at the forefront of digital education in the 21st century by exploring the frontiers of digital technology. We shall be a throbbing space for solutions-driven innovations in digital learning designs and an ecosystem of multi-disciplinary experts. These include those in the computing sciences, the design and creative arts, social sciences, entrepreneurship and marketing disciplines. We will explore other possibilities in the digital world that can uplift the lives of those in the periphery of society, just as St. Benedict and



his followers did during their time. Second, at the level of outcomes, San Beda University shall strive to produce graduates who possess an interdisciplinary and synthesizing perspective. This is necessary in order to prepare them for the jobs of the future, either as collaborators or creators of such jobs. Our students should be able to demonstrate 21st century competencies such as Civic Literacy, Global Awareness and Cross-Cultural Skills, Critical and Inventive Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, and Information Skills in order to productively and meaningfully engage in the knowledge economy. Third, in the area of knowledge production, San Beda University shall assiduously expand its sphere of knowledge production. In this regard, San Beda University shall open its doors to our

partners in the business community and industry. This partnership can come in the form of structured student internships, faculty immersions and research collaborations, regular conversations between faculty and industry leaders or inviting business and industry leaders to our campus as guest lecturers. This two-way learning process will allow us to keep pace with the industry dynamics and provide our faculty and students with practical, hands-on experiences. Fourth, in the area of faculty research program, San Beda University shall craft a much more rigorous and efficient faculty research development program. It has to provide focused mentorship in the research production process for our junior faculty and the reasonable incentives for the production and utilization of research outputs that meet global standards. By ensuring that our faculty has the requisite research competencies, then it allows them to effectively engage with their international partners in collaborative R&D and innovation endeavors.

San Beda University will ensure that we have purposeful and functioning partnerships with international universities, not just token ones, in order to optimize the opportunities for learning, research, and collaborations. Through these collegial and intellectual interactions, San Beda Uni-

versity hopes to contribute a significant share to collaborative knowledge production as we sharpen our competencies and learn from our global counterparts. Fifth, more importantly, San Beda will be at the forefront to serve and advance the educational mission of the Church.

Today, we face increasing challenges, from various fronts including those from within the church. Amidst the noise and temptations of the world, we need to seek solace in prayerful silence like St. Benedict in Subiaco. It is only as men and women of prayer that we are able to listen to God's voice and follow His will. We need to find ways to facilitate the transmission of Catholic faith and values across the disciplines. San Beda has to create an environment that allows scholars to put their hearts and minds toward finding God in these complex problems. It is through our unflinching fidelity to the Catholic Church and through our contemporary research collaboration among our Christian faithful that we will become catalysts of beneficial and relevant changes for the future: to uplift the quality of life of the poor, to respect and defend the life of all people, to secure the welfare and rights of all human beings, and to build peaceful communities of faith, justice and love.

In the mind of the Apostolic Constitution *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*, it is not the strongest of the species that survives nor the most intelligent. It is rather the one whose faith in God is sturdy and whose spirit is adaptable to change. At San Beda University, we shall take the lead in bringing the New Evangelization to the world. Let us recalibrate our academic curricula to ensure that Catholic faith permeates the needs of our future citizens. Canon 795 of the Code of Canon Law states that Catholic "education must pay regard to the formation of the whole person, so that all may attain their eternal destiny and at the same time promote

the common good of society." Let us make San Beda University a hub of authentic Benedictine Catholic learning for students and faculty, especially in Asia and truly become a catalyst of national transformation. Let us incessantly work together in ensuring greater expression of faith among our people while achieving peace, unity and international harmony.

I ask for your prayers that we may pursue with passion these platforms for excellence and service. I call upon our academic leaders to work hand in hand on a bold blueprint for action with specific and concrete milestones in pursuit of this vision. To be in the university league tables even nationally is good. But faith tells us that if we pursue the highest good, the Lord will take care of the rest just as He had taken care of St. Benedict and his enduring legacy to the world.

It is in this way that San Beda University realizes the bidding of our Holy Father Benedict to establish a school for the Lord's service. Indeed, San Beda University is a faith-filled, humble and collective response of the Benedictine Monks and the Bedan Community to the Divine request: "Is there anyone here who yearns for life and desires to see good days?"

Finally, I have one clear message to you my beloved community. Amidst this exciting and challenging educational environment, I shall shepherd and lead. As we navigate together through the complexities and dynamics of change, I shall listen and act. And if, by God's grace, we accomplish our mission, I will be side by side with you to tell the world our story—our Benedictine story, the story of the journey of San Beda University! That in all things God may be glorified. *Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat!*



# SBU's 1<sup>st</sup> International Linkages Week 2018

Norielyn Cullar-Tabag

Consistent to the university's commitment on internationalization and active engagements, the Office of the University Rector-President, through the Office of the Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs, launched its first International Linkages Week (ILW) on October 22- 26, 2018. With the SBU administrators, faculty, staff, students, and visitors from other institutions, the Very Reverend first University Rector-President graced the opening ceremony at the St. Maur's Hall.

ILW 2018 is a week-long celebra-

tion of academics, research, and community engagement internationalization-related activities initiated by the different offices, departments and colleges of the SBU community. Lectures, seminar, exhibit, advocacy talks, and international conference were among the activities during the celebration.

The celebration was highlighted by the 8th Regional Network on Poverty Eradication (RENPER) international conference with the theme, "Urban Poverty Reduction: Challenges, policy initiatives, programs, and practices," on October

24-25, 2018 at San Beda University, Manila. RENPER is an international network of eleven (11) member-institutions that aims at strategizing, energizing, and synergizing ideas and efforts by academicians, individually or institutionally, in poverty eradication within the region. The conference convenes researchers and creates opportunities for high impact poverty eradication programs from the universities in Southeast and Southern Asia. The Very Reverend Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, Rector-President of San Beda University, welcomed sixty-one (61) lecturers and researchers from 12





international universities such as St. Paul Institute, Cambodia; Parahyangan Catholic University (UnPAR), Indonesia; University of Bengkulu, Indonesia; Pondicherry Central University, India; University of Madras, India; University of Sacred Heart, Tokyo, Japan; Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Malaysia; Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia; Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Malaysia; San Beda University (SBU), Philippines; and Banking University of Ho Chi Minh City (BUHCMC), Vietnam. UMK Research and Innovation Deputy Vice-Chancellor and RENPER Founding President, Prof. Dato Hj. Ibrahim Che Omar, UNIB and RENPER President, Prof. Dr. Ridwan Nurazi, and University of Sacred Heart Deputy Vice President, Prof. Dr. Seiji Ueda served as the keynote speakers of the conference along with Kalinga Institute of Technology and Kalinga Institute of Social Scienc-

es' Founder, Dr. Achyuta Samantha, whose message was delivered by SBU Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs and RENPER Country Representative, Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela.

"ILW 2018 marks our first year of celebration and we are truly delighted for the support and commitment of each office, department, and college in taking its part by contributing and showcasing their international-related activities for SBU to really engage to the world," Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela said in an interview.



# RENPER,

## hosted in the Philippines on its 8<sup>th</sup> year

Vanessa T. Santos

There are various poignant reminders of how widespread poverty is and multiple scholars have tried to find the root of all poverty, to no avail. Additionally, many groups have sought out ways to nip the problem of poverty right from the bud. One such group is a network that came to be known as Regional Network on Poverty Eradication (RENPER). This coalition of universities regards higher education as one of many tools for poverty alleviation—and further down the line: eradication.

As stated, RENPER is a network comprised of diverse members who collectively strategize and synergize ideas and efforts to alleviate poverty. It was founded on October in the year 2010 by the Minister of Higher Education, Malaysia. RENPER hopes to become a platform where academicians, as an institution or as individuals, can volley strategies and initiatives for poverty eradication. Since its founding, the RENPER has been conducting annual conferences in different prime locations around South and South East Asia. These conferences carry an atmosphere conducive of ideas and strategies that will be able to alleviate poverty within the respective regions. RENPER conferences have been going on for eight years already and have been conducted previously in the following universities:

1. Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Malaysia, 2010
2. University of Battambang (UNIB), Cambodia, 2011
3. University of Bengkulu (UNIB), Indonesia, 2012
4. Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Malaysia, 2013
5. Banking University of Ho Chi Minh City (BUHCMC), Vietnam, 2014
6. Sri Venkateswara University (SVU), Tirupati, India, 2015
7. Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), Mymensingh, Bangladesh, 2016

And for the first time in RENPER history, the annual conference was held in the Philippines, arranged and mobilized by the Office of the Vice President for Linkages and International Affairs. From the 24<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, San Beda University hosted the 8<sup>th</sup> International Regional Network on Poverty Eradication (RENPER) Conference which held forums and sessions that tackled various important topics under the theme, *Urban Poverty Reduction: Challenges, policy initiatives, programs, and practices.*

To start off the conference, interfaith prayers were conducted by Rt. Reverend Fr. Austin P. Cadiz, O.S.B., Prof. Dr. Sarker Rezaul Karim, and Prof. Dr. G. Sudarsanam, respectively. Our very own Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., Ed. D. gave the welcoming remarks and regarded the esteemed guests and participants, welcoming them warmly into our humble abode. After which, the president of RENPER, Prof. Dr. Ridwan Nurazi from the University of Bengkulu, Indonesia, proudly stated his welcome message as the guests and participants listened with deferential attention.

Keynote Addresses were conducted by the founding president of RENPER and also the Vice Chancellor of Research and Innovation of the Universiti Malaysia Kelantan, Prof. Dato' Dr. Hj. Ibrahim Che Omar, the president of RENPER, Prof. Dr. Ridwan Nurazi, and Dr. Achyuta Samanta, Ph.D.





Succeeding the morning session was a photo opportunity with the different country representatives and delegates, including our very own Prof. Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela. People smiled and milled about during the networking session, sharing their own takes on poverty alleviation programs, conducting healthy debates on the present research regarding poverty alleviation, and making important connections along the way.

By the time the afternoon session rolled around, the parallel paper presentations went underway, tackling topics as heavy and impactful as poverty and hunger, health and wellness, sustainable cities and communities, and environmental stability to conclude day one of the conference.

As the host of this year's conference, it would have been bad manners not to indulge our guests with coffee and tea breaks along the way, to keep the ember of passion and dedication roaring as the sessions went on.

On the second and last day of the conference, the previous day's activities and presentations were recapped to further make this event informative, meaningful, and to pick up from where they left off. To introduce the last speaker for the last keynote address was the vice president of RENPER, Prof. Dr. Nik Maheran Binti Nik Muhammad. The address was delivered by

Seiji Ueda, Ph.D. the Deputy Vice President of the University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo, Japan.

Following such a well-delivered address was another photo opportunity that screamed "Globally competitive or globally cooperative?" as guests and participants all came together to pose for a photo with all their thumbs up as a YES to poverty eradication. Indeed, cooperation and unity were palpable during that single moment as people laughed lightly yet posed seriously for their advocacy of poverty eradication.

Parallel presentations continued on for the afternoon session, topics like education and employment, peace, justice, and strong institutions, were discussed.

To end the 8<sup>th</sup> annual RENPER conference, representatives from San Beda University gave our esteemed guests and participants a guided tour of poverty and social realities in Manila. Overall, the momentous conference was regarded as an experience that struck not only the academicians but the lucky students who were able to have a glimpse of the different propositions and researches that were presented for the duration of the conference.

## COMMUNITY EXTENSION

# SBU celebrates 1<sup>st</sup> Community Engagement Week

Joselito J. Tablang

With the theme, "Stewardship in Action through Community Engagement," several events, activities and competitions were organized by CEC in collaboration with the different colleges, offices and student organizations to ensure the participation of students, faculty, staff and administrators.

SBU Rector-President Rev. Fr. Aloysius Maranan, OSB, with Dr. Nomar Alviar, Vice-President for Research and Innovation and Prof. Joselito J. Tablang, CEC Director, led the ribbon cutting during the opening day (September 10, 2018) which was attended by the administrators, faculty, students and service personnel.

One of the major events during the week is the 1<sup>st</sup> Upcycling Olympics in SBU which was organized by CEC in collaboration with the San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA) and the National Service Training Program (NSTP) on September 10. Upcycling, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming by-products, waste materials, useless or unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality for a better environmental value.

The competition was a means to

The first Community Engagement Week in San Beda University was held from September 10-15, 2018 through various activities spearheaded by the Community Engagement Center (formerly Community Involvement Center) under the Office of the Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB.

The week-long celebration is another milestone in the history of San Beda as a young university, as it brings into the center of attention of the *Bedan* community the importance of community engagement as one of the three primary functions of a university, together with research and instruction.



challenge the *Bedan* community to think, innovate, and find creative ways of using old, disposable materials by transforming them into “new” products instead of throwing them away. More than 50 entries were submitted by students, faculty, and service personnel which passed the scrutiny and evaluation of judges composed of administrators of SBU. Cash prizes and certificates were awarded to the winners after two rounds of judging.

A series of symposium on topics which affect the youth today particularly our students was held the next day (September 11, 2018) at the Abbot Lopez Hall. It was co-organized by the College of Medicine, the Office of Student Affairs, and the Guidance and Counselling Office. *Health Action for Human Rights: the Role of the Health Professional in Human Rights Work, Addiction in the Digital Age; Mental Health and the Millennial, and Bullying and Harassment* were the focus of the talks on that day.

In line with this celebration, the San Beda Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA) launched its community engagement program entitled, “ACT COUNT THINK: The Accounting and Business Management Edition” last September 11, 2018. The program aims to assist the beneficiaries of the DOLE livelihood project from Barangay 868, Pandacan, Manila to become self-sufficient and capable in running their own business through a series of seminars on bookkeeping and business management. Twenty two (22) participants from the target barangay actively participated in the assessment activity conducted by the five officers of JPIA and CEC social worker.

Moreover, the Legal Aid Bureau of the College of Law provided free legal consultation to the San Beda community on September 12, 2019. The Legal Aid interns set up a booth at St. Maur’s Lobby where they entertained clients, answered queries, and conducted legal counselling.

On the same date, the College of Medicine students conduct-

ed a Public Health Campaign on topics like Hypertension, Leptospirosis, Breast and Cervical Cancer, Smoking, Tuberculosis, Osteoporosis, STD/HIV/Aids and other public health concerns. The purpose of the activity is to help raise the awareness of people on these health threats and move the audience to action in support of public health.

Another activity held last September 12, 2018 in relation to the Community Engagement Week is the Tree Weeding and Nurturing participated in by the members of the Bedan Volunteers. The environmental activity was conducted in ALI Carbon Forest Tree Planting Site in Alaminos, Laguna. The students experienced how to become real stewards of nature. With the assistance of volunteers from PUSOD, Inc., the organization in charge of protecting the tree planting site, the students were taught the proper way of protecting and nurturing young trees to ensure their survival and growth.

The Community Engagement Week culminated with another competition dubbed *GGG! Go Green: from Garbage to Garments* which was held on September 19, 2018. (The competition was originally scheduled on September 14, but was postponed due to cancellation of classes and work because of typhoon Ompong which affected Metro Manila and nearby provinces.) The competition cum fashion show is a campaign to encourage people to be environmentally responsible and friendly in their decisions and actions. The San Beda Junior Marketing Association (SBJMA) and Community Engagement Center co-organized the competition which was open to other colleges and universities. It was held at the MVP gymnasium with contestants from Polytechnic University of the Philippines, University of the East, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, Colegio de San Juan de Letran, and San Beda University.

With these numerous activities, the 1<sup>st</sup> Community Engagement Week in San Beda University is a testament to the commitment of the institution to provide meaningful opportunities for the members of the *Bedan* community for outreach and service to our partner communities.





# San Beda Red Lions, Reaping its 22nd NCAA Championship Victory

Sybil L. Agreda & Larry Javier Ambion

The San Beda Red Lions took home the championship crown for the Seniors' Basketball of the National Collegiate Athletic Association's 94th Season, placing at the top spot for the most number of championship crowns ever recorded in NCAA Seniors' Basketball history. After a two-game sweep in the best-of-three series, the Red Lions completed their three-peat last November 12, 2018 at the Mall of Asia Arena against the Lyceum of the Philippines University Pirates! To date, the San Beda Red Lions amassed 22 NCAA crowns.

Experience, composure, and grit—these are what we saw from the team composed of Franz Jonathan R. Abuda, Robert Lee E. Bolick, Jr., Jeramer P. Cabanag, Kemark D. Cariño, Amie C. Cuntapay, Clint P. Doliguez, Toba O. Eugene, James C. Kwekuteye, Jayvee D. Mocon, Evan Heinrich Nikolai Nelle, Calvin John R. Oftana, Jose Mari Y. Presbitero, Amiel Cris R. Soberano,

Pierre Donald Tankoua, and Ranbill Angelo V. Tongco. Behind them are the equally hardworking coaching staff led by Coach Boyet Fernandez, the ever supportive and generous team managers and patrons, and the most

The entire San Beda community gathered to show its gratefulness and celebrate the success of the *Bedan* athletes with sumptuous food, fun games, and good music last December 1, 2018. This celebration was made even more solemn and meaningful with the Ceremonial Opening of Lights in the University, led by Father Rector, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B. At the same time, it also became more colorful and fun as this coincided with the celebration of the College of Arts and Sciences and the IBED- Senior High School Manila's joint celebration of the Paskong Bedista.

To cap the celebration, both the young and the “young at heart” *Bedans* circled through the bonfire while joyously singing the Indian Yell—a sight that never fails to warm any spectator’s heart.

The triumph is very timely for SBU in collecting several achievements not only on standardization, academics, and research. The sports department is on a par with other sectors of the institution to also give pride. This has been on a record for three consecutive years and the sports department is still untiringly adding a whole new layer of pride and honor to San Beda University.



PHOTO BY: JONATHAN MATIENZO



PHOTO BY: JOSH ESPINOZA



PHOTO BY: JONATHAN MATIENZO

# SBU's College of Law at Par with the World's Best

Joel G. Filamor

San Beda University's College of Law was recognized by the Legal Education Board as one of the Top 10 Best performing Law Schools in the Philippines.

The recognition was conferred to the University last September 25, 2018.

The university's College of Law is known to produce luminaries who steer the country towards justice and progress.



*Congratulations*  
**COLLEGE OF  
LAW**



One of the **TOP 10** Best Performing Law Schools in the Philippines



Awarded by  
**LEGAL EDUCATION BOARD**  
given last September 25, 2018

With sheer hard work, commitment, and winning drive, success was not so elusive with San Beda University College of Medicine after successfully receiving the Level 1 Accreditation granted by the Philippine Accreditors Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) last August 23-24, 2018. With barely more than five months of preparation that started in March 2018, the entire College of Medicine, led by the Dean, Dr. Fernandino Jose Fontanilla, is jubilant for this accreditation. The excellent performance of *Bedan* Medicine graduates in the Licensure Examination for Physicians in the past several years is a manifestation of the quality of Benedictine education offered by the College, and this PAASCU Accreditation attests to it.

The PAASCU team that visited San Beda was headed by Dra. Aurora Bauzon, a Professor in the College of Medicine of the University of Santo Tomas. The other members of the team were: Dr. John Domantay (Dean, School of Medicine, St. Louis University), Dr. Agaton Panopio Jr (Associate Dean, Dr. Jose Rizal School of Medicine – Xavier University), Dra. Zorayda Leopando (Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of the Philippines Manila), Dra. Melinda Atienza (Chair, Department of Pediatrics, University of Santo Tomas College of Medicine), Ms. Lourdes David (Member, Board for Librarians, Professional Regulations Commission) and Mr. Don Amorsolo (Dean, School of Fine Arts and Design, Philippine Women's University).

On December 6, 2018, the Office of the Rector President received word that the San Beda University – College of Medicine was granted a Level 1 Accreditation valid for 3 years. The College of Medicine has started work to further improve the quality of medical education being delivered in San Beda by way of curricular meetings beginning last November up to the end of this year. This will be highlighted by a strategic curricular planning workshop on January 11-13, 2019 in Silang, Cavite. The curricular changes will further ensure the medical school's re-accredita-

tion in 2022.

Also displaying its prowess in education is the San Beda University Integrated Basic Education Department (Elementary and High School)- Rizal Campus—strong as ever as it caps its Level 2 PAASCU Accreditation last September 19-20, 2019.

With the leadership of Mrs. Teresita Battad, the IBED Principal, the administrators, faculty, staff, and students of Rizal Campus are proud of this latest accomplishment.

Members of the Resurvey Team are the following: Dr. Carmela Oracion (Chair, PAASCU Commission on Secondary Education), Ms. Irene Barcelon (Math Consultant, PAREF Rosehill School, Antipolo City), Ms. Marie Grace Magtaas (School Director, Assumption Antipolo, Antipolo City), Ms. Maria Louisa Joaquin (Assistant Principal, St. Scholastica's College Manila, Leon Guinto, Manila), Ms. Emilia Malaluan (Former Head Librarian, Assumption College, Makati City), Mr. Danilo Lemi (Principal, Claret School of Quezon City, Quezon City), Ms. Mary Anne Tesoro (University Counselor, De La Salle University, Taft Avenue, Manila), Dr. Guinivere Sacdalan (Young People Management Office Coordinator, St. Theresa's College, Quezon City), and Ms. Rose Asoy (PAASCU Representative).

Mrs. Teresita T. Battad ensured that "IBED joins the whole Bedan community in pursuing academic excellence, quality and relevant research, high involvement in extension services, external linkages and efficient student services."

Consistent to the institutional mission of producing graduates who are wholly Christian, consistently following the ways of the Holy Father St. Benedict, all academic divisions in San Beda University strive to form students who are imbued with the principle of *Ora et Labora* and most importantly, a *strong mind and a brave heart* in everything they do.

# COM and IBED Rizal Campus, Continuously Raising the **BAR OF EXCELLENCE** with another PAASCU Accreditation

Fernandino Jose A. Fontanilla & Sybil L. Agreda



“The path to success is to take massive, determined action.”

Tony Robbins



# COM Scored 98.96% in the Physician Licensure Examinations 2018

Fernandino Jose A. Fontanilla

The graduates of examinees) of the College the San Beda University – of Medicine is 93.62 %. The College of Medicine per- national passing rate is formed very well in the re- 81.84%. The medical cent Physician Licensure school continues to aim for Examinations held last Sep- a 100% passing rate in the tember/October 2018. For next board exams. It is like- our first-time takers, 97 out wise reaching out to the of 98 takers passed the ex- repeaters with the goal of ams, for a 98.96% passing helping them finally pass rate. Overall, the passing the medical licensure ex- rate (inclusive of the repeat ams.

## ISO 9001: 2015 FOLLOW-UP AUDIT

Larry Javier Ambion

**Recommendation** of the “maintenance of the existing certification” with zero nonconformity was the result of ISO’s first follow-up audit in Manila and Rizal campuses of the mighty red school. After scoping the campus, the TU-VRheinald auditors who inspected San Beda University: Ms. Zenaida Cruz, Ms. Jogina Mendiola, and Mr. Lionell Aala, concluded:

*“The organization has established and maintains an effective system to ensure compliance with its policy and objectives. The audit team confirms in line with the audit targets that the organization’s management system complies with, adequately maintains and implements of the standards.”*

The purpose of the audit was to determine and assess how San Beda University’s management system conformed to the ISO 9001:2015 standards with the purpose of maintaining the existing certification. On October 11, 2018, it was decided en masse that San Beda complies with ISO 9001:2015 standards. For an organization to be acknowledged to conforming to the conditions, it means to say that the organization caters stakeholders, the consumers, the students with a quality management system. This certification also paves the way for San Beda in achieving a more efficient and improved customer satisfaction.

Having been given an affirmative response regarding the university’s certification, it can be concluded that San Beda University’s system puts a great emphasis on leader-

ship management, analyzes risks and opportunities with a critical eye, and overall, secures a management system that is both efficient and effective, as most organizations aim to procure.

Furthermore, attaining a recommendation of the “maintenance of the existing certification” with zero nonconformity proves that San Beda University views that delivering quality management should be treated with the utmost importance and the heaviest of convictions.

It is with pride that we thank those who have made this continued certification possible. Truly, our institution is a high-functioning body wherein each division, each part, has a role to fill that is uniquely theirs and without any one part, this body, San Beda, would not have been able to conquer and triumph over trials and tribulations. For that, this article would like to commemorate those who strive to work hard for our institution to be able to hurdle against hardships and complications.

Lastly, our thanks extend to you, the reader, for being undeniably patient as San Beda continues to polish and improve all our systems— especially our management system. Once again, thanks to everyone who has made this certification possible. That in all things, God may be glorified!



**Christmas** in the Philippines is something one must live to see. Whenever September comes around, holiday bells begin ringing, and the Christmas train starts heading straight towards us at 150kph, fast approaching. As Filipinos, we begin thinking of our holiday plans, whether it's visiting family, going abroad, praying sincerely, or celebrating it the way you know how. The holiday season is not only about girls and boys selling lanterns on the street, for it symbolizes different things to different people. It can mean hope, love, forgiveness, or all three.

Hark to the song says trouble melts like lemon drops for during the 25th of December, troubles seem to blend into the background like dull TV static, leaving hope as vibrant and present as ever for Christmas is a time of hope: renewed hope. I've experienced many Christmases, one never like the last one. I've heard of philanthropists who traipse over to hospitals, orphanages, and homes carrying not only money they wholeheartedly want to give but their own genuine hearts as well. I've witnessed gratefulness in the eyes of a family whose hospital bills were paid anonymously, warmth in the smile of every elder in homes for the aged as people who are strangers act more like their family, joy in the face of a street child who was given food to fill his/her rumbling stomach. It gives me hope to know that humanity is not at all lost, just hidden. It always

# *A Magical Christmas*

Larry Javier Ambion

spills over, and people can see it in the man who has been the opposite of Scrooge, in the homeless child who shares his only food with his dog and in the smile of a stranger who was just passing by. **I've seen all this and yet, Christmas remains as magical to me as it was when I was seven and tiny. It remains as magical as ever.**

Rarely do Filipinos ever have a quiet Christmas for even amidst the fireworks and horns, the sound of love buzzes through the air: it is more poignant during the Christmas season. A season of love through fellowship and worship—It's at the way your neighbor uses the excuse that she cooked too much food, so that she may be able to give food to those who have nothing. It's at the way your significant other takes great precision in writing you a love letter, something he poured his heart and soul into. It's at the way you unapologetically give alms to those in need. It's at the way your mom engulfs you in a big hug whenever you'd come home. In everything mentioned above, love is present. I mean, love is always, *always* present, but Christmas just has a way of emphasizing its existence. It is a time where some OFWs come home to reunite with their loved ones, where brothers and sisters find the energy to reconcile, where lovers find time to see each other, where individuals find time to go to the cemetery to breathe out a subtle "Merry Christmas, mom", where Catholics prepare themselves by singing hymns of praise and of Jesus' birth, and where families decorate their own homes with garlands, foliage, and lights. Yes, vibrant lights!

In the spirit of the season, Christmas lights litter the streets and subdivisions. Some cities even put together their own Christmas trees made up of recycled bottles, plastic and I kid you not—bikes. Numerous neighbors in my subdivision come together to create dazzling firework displays, where even the fireworks seem to be of magical descent, as some form hearts, waterfalls, and various other shapes. To be completely honest though, it's not the fireworks nor the lights that have my breath caught in my throat. It's the way children and adults alike seem to glow, for there is nothing more blinding than the look of sheer happiness on everyone's face. Each time I see a child gawk at colorful decorations, I feel my heart grow a little warmer, fonder. What I wouldn't give to see my own mother beside me staring at the kaleidoscopic Christmas sky, an unconscious tradition my mother and I used to do.

Some families have their own sacred traditions for Christmas time, just like my mother and I. There's this family I know that used to put aside their spare coins every single day for the rest of the year and when Christmas arrived, they'd have buckets upon buckets filled with coins they would give out to those who would enter their house, friend, foe, or stranger. Getting





strangers together under the same roof to share tales of misadventures and mirth -- that is what I call *magic*.

The truly magical thing about Christmas is its ability to bring together people: gay, straight, transgender, Catholic, Protestant, and others. Another thing is its way of drawing out love, sorrow, friendship, forgiveness, and unity from the hearts of all who celebrate it. The season brings out all the best in everyone, strangers become family, foes become friends, and some friends even turn into lovers. It's been happening for generation after generation and our generation is no different. Annually, we become living testimonies of Christmas' glory yet it's safe to say that we haven't seen all the things it has to offer yet. And I've yet to end my narrative without a cliché quote here somewhere: Christmas is like a box of assorted chocolates, we never know what we're going to get time after time.

Magic isn't about disappearing acts, bodies magically being severed in half, nor is it about one item being transformed into another. Magic is flaming anger that dies down and remains a dying ember; it's bad affairs being severed in half; and it's a selfish prude who becomes selfless, caring, and loving. It's all this and yet, I feel I have failed to describe how truly magical it is.

At times, we may feel like the magic slowly disappears into fake smoke, we may even get to see the mirrors that create the illusion of magic and Christmas. Despite all that, as humans, hope begins to simmer and flair once again. We begin to look forward to Christmas day no matter how many tons of lemons life throws at us. And I believe *that* is magic: the ability to remain hopeful and resilient even if the whole world has given up on us, even if most times—we have given up on ourselves; the ability to crack a smile even if all the joy has been sucked out of our very being. I say all this because I believe Christmas isn't an isolated celebration of Joy but rather—a celebration of trying times and the joy we get to experience afterward. After all, Christmas is magic. And magic? It is hope. Therefore, Christmas is hope.

Such ideas and beliefs help us hold out a little longer, a little tighter. And Christmas is all about that: holding out, hope. We must not dwell on all the things we lost and the people we lost. Instead, let us celebrate the joy and the light they have brought into our lives. Christmas started with a blazing star—and you, my supernova, must continue on. The season isn't about material gifts, it's mending old relationships and creating new ones, it's about light, about hope, about you, about me, about us. It's one of the holidays that never fails to shed some light into our fates being intertwined and interconnected. It is love, light, and hope, all of which are infinitely stronger than even the most flawless of magic.

Photo Credit: Joshua Espinosa  
San Beda Red Lens

# Certificate

Standard **ISO 9001:2015**

Certificate Registr. No. 01 100 1734761

Certificate Holder: **San Beda University**  
638 Mendiola St., San Miguel,  
Manila 1005 Philippines

including the locations according to annex

Scope: Design, Development and Implementation of Basic and Higher  
Educational Services

Proof has been furnished by means of an audit that the  
requirements of ISO 9001:2015 are met.

Validity: The certificate is valid from 2018-11-29 until 2020-10-23.

2017-11-29

  
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1st SBU On-the-Spot Painting Contest  
Theme: "Bedista: Lingkod ng Tahanan,  
Simbahan, at Sambayanan"

Ms. Joan Ray Macarandang  
Integrated Basic Education Department  
San Beda University, Rizal Campus  
Grand Prize Winner





The celebration of the *Pista ng Santo Niño sa San Beda 2019* continues a tradition that began 115 years ago, in 1904, when a framed picture of the Santo Niño de Praga was carried in procession. It was the following year, on January 20, 1905, that the exquisitely carved image commissioned to Maximo Vicente by the Benedictine Monks of Our Lady of Montserrat was carried in procession along the streets of San Miguel accompanied by the monks, the students of the then *Colegio de San Beda*, and devotees. Through the decades and years, this solemn procession and the adjoining festivities have been carried on as a tradition dearly kept “not as the worship of ashes but as the preservation of fire,” as our Father Rector-President aptly writes in his message, quoting

# Pista ng Santo Niño

Josefina M. Manabat

Photo credit: Joel G. Filamor



Photo credit: Joel G. Filamor

the famous composer Gustav Mahler.

This year's celebration of the *Pista ng Santo Niño sa San Beda* is our first as a university. No wonder then that it was prepared for and executed with greater festiveness and solemnity than it ever had. To make sure that this was to be the case, no less than the Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, O.S.B., took on the responsibility of being *hermano mayor*, ably assisted by the Vice President for Finance, Fr. Bede Hechanova, O.S.B., and the IBED principal, Mrs. Teresita Battad.

The long and varied line up of activities and events both in the Rizal and Manila campuses attests to the wide array of talents, creativity, and aptitude found in the university. Envisioned to contribute to forming the members of the *Bedan* Community into being servants of the family, of the Church, and of the larger community, activities that have always been featured in the past many years

were injected with more color and vigor guided by the theme "*Bedista: Lingkod ng Tahanan, Simbahan, at Sambayanan.*" Among others, the major festival dances (*Ati-atihan, Dinagyang, Masskara, and Pintados*) from the various regions in honor of the Santo Niño were such a delightful treat, thanks to the youthful zest and energy and collaborative spirit of the senior high school and college students. Some young and not-so-young members of the non-teaching personnel, too, not wanting to miss out on the fun, did their share in adding mirth to the celebration. The Santo Niño images exhibit which has become a staple in the celebration of the *Pista* attracted a significant number of exhibitors and viewers from within and outside the SBU campus.

New features, too, added color and significance to the festivities. The first SBU On-the-Spot Painting contest held in December yielded the official poster design for the *Pista*, as also



did the first SBU Songwriting Competition generate its official theme song. Musical plays, magic shows, video game competitions, storytelling sessions, and an art workshop, to name a few, brought out the child inherent in many a young and not-so-young member of the IBED studentry. Nor was there a lack of opportunity to showcase physical prowess as a Dance Fitness Party was held early in the morning of Saturday to warm up the participants, *Bedans* and non-*Bedans* alike, in the Fun Run dubbed as *Takbo Bedista Takbo para kay Santo Niño*. Basketball exhibition games, too, cannot be missing in the home of the 3-peat NCAA champions, the Red Lions. Ample outlet was provided for the *Bedans'* penchant for music in both Rizal and Manila campuses with the Battle of the Bands dubbed as *Siklaban ng Musikang Bedista* in the Manila campus and the perennial *Himigsikan* in the Rizal campus. As if they have not yet had enough by the end of the three-day festivities, the indefatigable *Bedan* students were still animated 'to the max' as they

watched, sang along, jumped, and swayed their bodies at the night live concert on Sunday evening!

As it was the feast of the Holy Child, children cannot be left out amidst the hurly-burly of the festivities. The leveled up Humanitarian Day for Children sounded off the Lord's bidding: "Let the children come to me!"... and they came... praying, singing, playing, laughing, eating... in joyful abandon. And the Lord laid his hands on them... blessing them (cf. Mt. 19:13-15) as they participated in the Children's Mass, program, and lunch so caringly prepared for them by the Community Engagement Center and the *Bedan* Volunteers. Still, in the spirit of the celebration of the Divine Child, the Graduate School of Liturgy held a Liturgy Conference on Children and Youth in the Liturgy. Invitees and guests who were treated to a fiesta fare of formative and informative talks and discussions, as well as to simple but delectable snacks and lunch, were generous with their appreciation of and gratitude for the event as a way to sustain the ardour that emanated from the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Assembly of the Synod of Bishops that was focused on the **Young People, Faith, and Vocational Discernment**, and to celebrate the **Year of the Youth**.

Preceding the grand procession of the images of the Santo Niño and of the other significant personages on the last day was the "pahalik" which was warmly availed of by present members of the SBU community, alumni, and other devotees alike. The long line of devotees, mostly wearing red, taking their turns to kiss or touch the image while whispering a heartfelt prayer, was a touching sight. The grand procession was prayerful and orderly, helped by the printed reminders to "Maintain silence" and to "Pray the Rosary," as well as by the amplified voices of prayer leaders and hymns in mobile vans. Images of Benedictine saints—St. Benedict of Nursia, St. Scholastica, the school's patron St. Bede—together with that of the Blessed Mother under her title Our Lady of Montserrat and that of her beloved Spouse, St. Joseph, accompanied the devout brothers and sisters of the Divine Child as they processed along the streets from and back to the Abbey Church. To all these, none could be a better culminating activity than the Eucharistic celebration in the football field presided by the Rector-President, concelebrated by the other Benedictine monks, together with all members of the *Bedan* community and devotees from far and near taking part, with participation both active and heartfelt.

Filipinos, it is said, are a fiesta people. They know how to celebrate! Anyone who doubts this can come to San Beda during the *Pista ng Santo Niño* and he will change his mind. For good reasons, *Bedans* can appropriate this ascription for themselves. *Bedans* are a fiesta people! They know how to celebrate!

That in all things God may be glorified!



# SAN BEDA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF NURSING

# CONGRATULATIONS!



FOR WINNING IN THE INTERNATIONAL NURSING CONFERENCE ON TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH HELD AT CENTRAL PHILIPPINE UNIVERSITY, JARO ILOILO LAST NOVEMBER 28-29, 2018

**STREAM 1 - CHRONIC ILLNESS, OLDER PERSON AND PALLIATIVE CARE**

2ND PLACE: PODIUM PRESENTATION  
3RD PLACE: PODIUM PRESENTATION

**STREAM 2 - NURSING EDUCATION AND CARING**

1ST PLACE: PODIUM PRESENTATION  
2ND PLACE: PODIUM PRESENTATION

**PARTICIPANTS:**

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PROF. REBECCA SALUD O. TEJADA  
PROF. GIL P. SORIANO  
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CAPONPON, AMANCIO III A.  
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**NEW BEDAN NURSES**  
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**BATCH 2018:**  
**100%**

**FIRST TIME TAKERS:**  
**95.45%**

*National Passing Rate:*  
**39.98%**





The San Beda University Alumni Association  
and  
The San Beda High School Class of 1994, Silver Jubilarians  
*present*

**THE 1ST GRAND ALUMNI HOMECOMING:  
CELEBRATING THE ELEVATION OF  
SAN BEDA AS A UNIVERSITY**

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**Class of 2019**

**FEBRUARY 2, 2019, SATURDAY**

**Plaza Montserrat, San Beda University, Mendiola, Manila**

**1:00 PM - REGISTRATION**

**3:00 PM - HOLY MASS AND DISTRIBUTION OF  
AWARDS TO JUBILARIANS**

**(AT THE ABBEY CHURCH OF OUR LADY OF MONTSERRAT)**

**6:00 PM - DINNER PROGRAM**

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LIA Office  
Fine Light  
SCO



Photo: Josef Mercado, San Beda Red Lens

### About the Cover

It is the tiny spark of light that guides our way or gives us courage to walk through darkness of nights and days. It ignites joy and inspiration in those times that we somehow lost it. That is what we all need. This light that springs rays of visions, reassurance, and warmth leads us back to the path that we should be heading. Truly, even only one tiny spark can go a long way.

This volume's cover depicts *The Bedan Today's* theme, "Santo Niño: The Light of the New Dawn." In our life's journey, we seek for this light in the midst of everything, of every situation or celebration, of every sigh and grumbling—and sometimes in a rather small ray, we feel God's warm and reassuring light. As the *Bedan* community celebrates the *Pista ng Santo Niño*, we recall how this light from God may be felt through the simple, pure, and sincere gestures of kindness, care, and love from our friends, mentors, co-workers, and neighbors. This light from God may multiply and create ripples among us.

The Editors-in-Chief