



the bedan today

a destiny of honor, service, and excellence

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April 2022 Issue

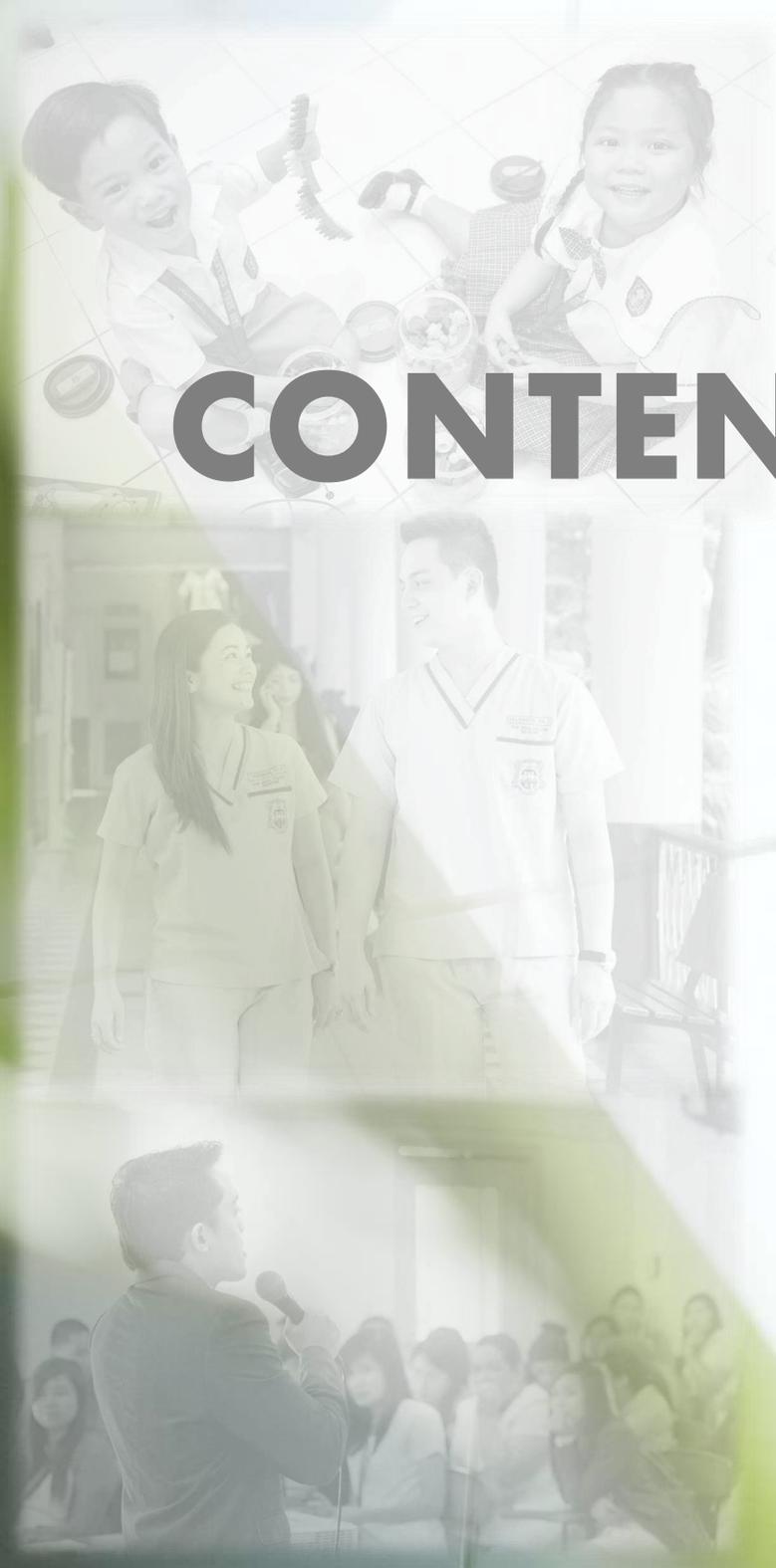


UPHOLDING 500 YEARS OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC FAITH AND EDUCATION



- Nurturing Holistic Health and Well-being at Home and in the Workplace
- Green Energy for the Red School
- SBU Ranks 3rd among the Top Law Schools
- CAS Bags Re-accreditation of Programs
- Pista ng Sto. Nino sa San Beda: Then and Now
- Lord, Make Me Love Your Cross: A Lenten Reflection
- All Shall be Well: An Easter Reflection
- 500 Gifts for 500 Families





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The April 2022 issue of The Bedan Today, San Beda University's official publication, honors the quinquenary of Filipino Catholic Faith in the Philippines.

It also celebrates the University's steadfast witnessing of the Catholic faith in various disciplines and fields since 1901.



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Filipino Catholic Faith
and Education

Photo credit: Catholic School Culture

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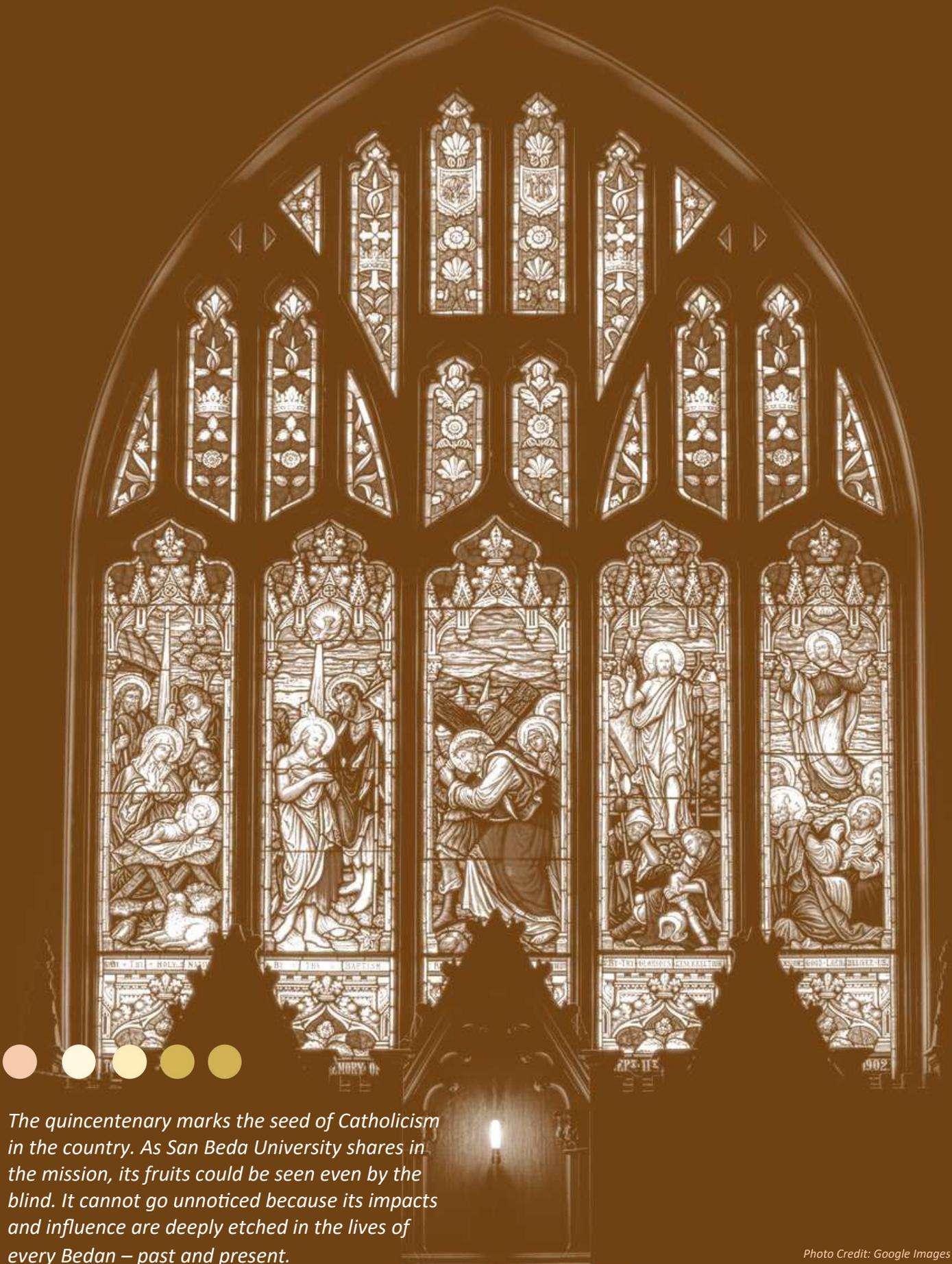
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The quincentenary marks the seed of Catholicism in the country. As San Beda University shares in the mission, its fruits could be seen even by the blind. It cannot go unnoticed because its impacts and influence are deeply etched in the lives of every Bedan – past and present.



U.I.O.G.D.

UPHOLDING 500 YEARS OF FILIPINO CATHOLIC FAITH AND EDUCATION

In 1521, Victoria, the Spanish explorer's ship, first docked at Mactan's sandy shore. For the first time, Ferdinand Magellan, the leader of the expedition, set foot on Philippine soil along with his men. They represent the Spanish empire. The country is colonized. The rest was history.

Then, the first Catholic Mass was celebrated at Limasawa, a relatively tiny island off the coast of Leyte. Magellan and his crew participated in the Mass that Easter Sunday of March 31, 1521. The seed of Christianity was planted. From then on, the Roman Catholic faith flourished in the country.

For 500 years, everything evolved. But by grace, the Catholic faith remained constant. According to the study made by US-based Pew Research Center, "the Philippines remains to be the bastion of Christianity in Asia with 86.8 million Filipinos—or 93 percent of a total population of 93.3 million adhering to the teachings of Jesus Christ."

Unmistakably, by the grace of God, education took a pivotal role in upholding 500 years of Filipino Catholic faith.

By the same grace, San Beda University, a school of the Lord's service, took a dynamic role in upholding Filipino Catholic faith through its education apostolate. From its humble beginnings in Balmes Street, Quiapo Manila on June 17, 1901, the institution matured and flourished, fearing neither fire nor blood. From a College, it is now a University.

At present, the University seamlessly weaves faith, knowledge, and virtue. It is a compass towards the path to sanctity and love for learning. Since its inception, everything is founded on "the broad underlying structure of ideas and attitudes that supply both the foundation and the motive for Benedictine involvement in education: the underlying way of thinking, the underlying way of looking at life, the way of living, historically and now, that is characteristically Benedictine" (Thimmesh, n.d.).

The desire for God and love for learning is at the core of Benedictine education. This characterizes how the Institution committed itself to the mission to uphold Filipino Catholic faith in the context of education.

As a mature learning institution, it has translated its policies into quality assured and accredited programs. It has established its internal quality assurance system, affirmed by an external reputable international certifying body. It has developed systems and processes to ensure attainment of desired outcomes, sustainable programs, and initiatives. Further, it is committed to accomplish more.

It was not a walk in the park. But the institutional performance demonstrates luminous results.

The quincentenary marks the seed of Catholicism in the country. As San Beda University shares in the mission, its fruits could be seen even by the blind. It cannot go unnoticed because its impacts and influence are deeply etched in the lives of every Bedan – past and present.

We look forward to another 500 years and beyond.

NURTURING

HOLISTIC HEALTH & WELL-BEING AT HOME AND IN THE WORKPLACE



The Fourth Senator Edgardo J. Angara Memorial Public Lecture on Public Policy

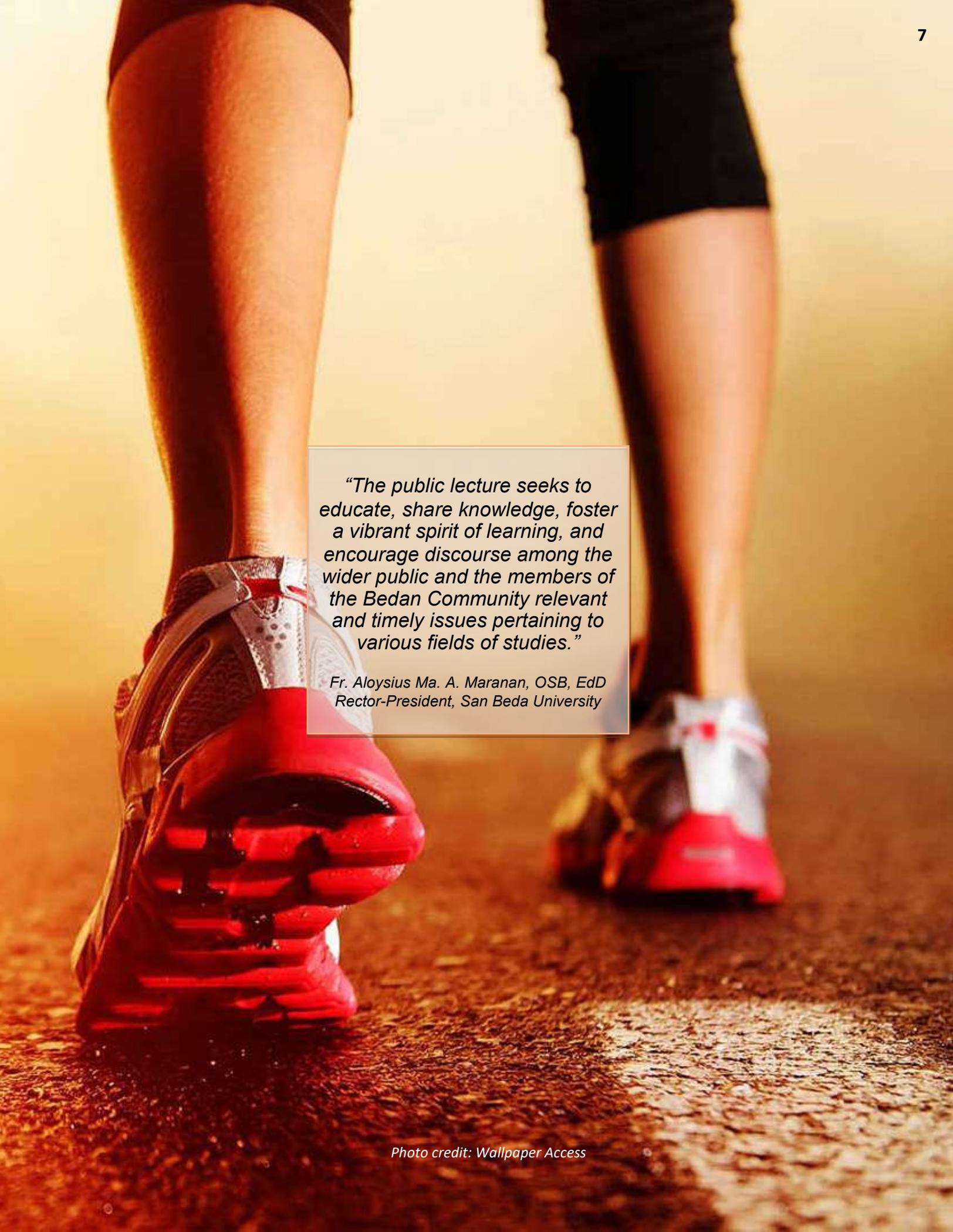
Greg Emmanuel D. Baniaga

The Fourth Senator Edgardo J. Angara Memorial Public Lecture on Public Policy, part of the series of The Venerable Bede Distinguished Public Lecture Series, was held online on February 11, 2022. The public lecture dubbed as “Nurturing Holistic Health and Well-Being at Home and in the Workplace” was spearheaded by the Office of the President under the headship of Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, SBU’s First University President. Dr. Divina M. Edralin, Vice President for Academics, assisted the Rector-President in the planning and supervision of the activity.

The Rector-President, in his opening remarks, underscored that the public lecture seeks to edu-

cate, share knowledge, foster a vibrant spirit of learning, and encourage discourse among the wider public and the members of the Bedan Community relevant and timely issues pertaining to various fields of studies.

The Fourth Senator Edgardo J. Angara Memorial Public Lecture on Public Policy aims to honor and propagate the admirable vision, achievement, contributions, and legacy of the late Senator Edgardo J. Angara who is a great Filipino leader, an exceptional lawyer, a dedicated educator, accomplished lawmaker, and patriotic statesman. It also aims to secure the continuance of his aspirations for national development, justice, and stability.



“The public lecture seeks to educate, share knowledge, foster a vibrant spirit of learning, and encourage discourse among the wider public and the members of the Bedan Community relevant and timely issues pertaining to various fields of studies.”

*Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, EdD
Rector-President, San Beda University*

Meanwhile, Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara, son of the late Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, in his inspirational message, expressed heartfelt gratitude to San Beda University and speakers for accepting the challenge to leverage the awareness on mental health among Filipinos. He emphasized the escalating cases of mental health issues in the Philippines - spousal abuse, cases of domestic violence, alcoholic consumption related phenomena to mental health crisis among others. To address these challenging issues, the Senator said, "we should therefore normalize mental health conversations since much of our population are very reluctant to seek professional mental health advise to genuinely nurture people's health and sense of well-being for the achievement of self-actualization."

What are the challenges of pandemic as perceived by the iGens?

The session highlights four main speakers starting off with the main speaker, Dr. Cornelio G. Banaag, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry University of the Philippines-PGH who laid the carpet of discussion. In his talk titled, "Gen Z and the Challenges of Pandemic," he particularly pointed out the role of social media as a moderator of envy and a predictor of symptoms of depression underlining the fact that gadgets are not just simply a tool for them, but acts as an extension of themselves, thereby, proving that social media is one of the major suicide factor. According to the Global School-Based Student Health Survey from January to March 2015, 17% of High School students 13-15 years old said they attempted suicide at least once. Further, 12% said they seriously considered attempting suicide, while 11% have made plans on how they would commit suicide. Other factors such as lack of sleep is also attributed to persons who are likely to suffer from depressive symptoms. Also, the pandemic situation elevated the level of stress and toxic anxiety such as constant worrying, problems in sleep, eating habits, and handling emotions. Learning institutions are affected by this proliferation as persons with depressive attacks are observed to have difficulty concentrating in studies, easily get bored, irritable, restless, nervous, lonely, uneasy, and worrisome.

What are the signs of an unhealthy mental state?

Educators must always be attentive to the different signs



Photo above shows Honorable Sonny M. Angara, Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, as he delivers the inspirational message in the public lecture.



Dr. Cornelio G. Banaag, Jr., Professor Emeritus, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry from the University of the Philippines - PGH discussed the challenges of the pandemic to Generation Z.

“The pandemic situation elevated the level of stress and toxic anxiety such as constant worrying, problems in sleep, eating habits, and handling emotions.”

Dr. Cornelio G. Banaag, Jr.

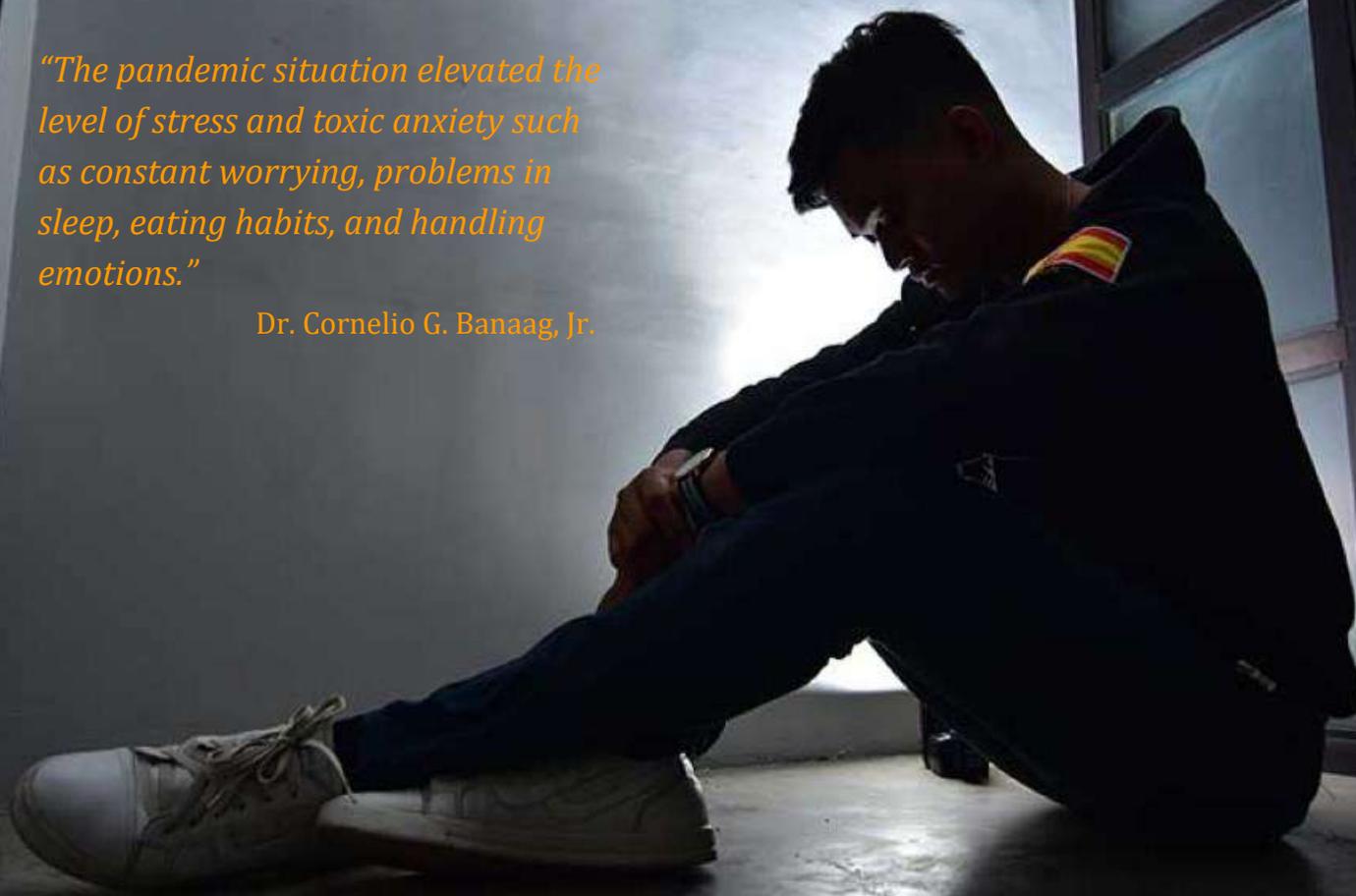


Photo credit: SunStar Publishing Incorporated

of mental health withdrawal which could start off with poor attendance, particularly frequent absences of vague, non-specific physical health problems. They also exhibit difficulties with academic work, withdrawal from social interaction, poor adjustment to school, indefinite behavior regulation and attention, and lack of concentration. Often, they cry for help on social media.

How can we help ourselves and others from unhealthy mental thoughts?

Mental health affects how we think, feel, and act. Thus, we must deliberately shift bad insights to feeding our mind with inspiring thoughts and avoiding negative beliefs about ourselves. Overthinking is also a contributory factor. It is imperative to avoid information overload and get facts straight from credible source of information for validation.

Parents, on one hand, need to communicate with anxious

or depressed teen. The key to communicating to them is to “connect first before you correct.” By doing so, parents are exemplifying a sympathetic and empathetic parental figure. Being non-judgmental, calm, accepting, and using sympathetic statement when talking is a good start.

As a rule of thumb, it is important not to minimize the person’s feelings or problems and learn to avoid statements that could seriously take the person’s pain. In addition, avoid making the person feel guilty and refrain from accusing the person of attention seeking. These are excellent initial steps to combating unhealthy mental thoughts.

The Physical Health and Well-Being

The Director of the Office of Student Affairs of University of the Philippines-Manila, Dr. Blesile Suzette S. Mantaring, corroborates the previous talk with emphasis on the physi-



Photo above shows Dr. Blesile Suzette S. Mantaring, Director of the Office of Student Affairs, University of the Philippines, Manila.



Dr. Antonio Fernando III, former Senior Lecturer, University of Auckland, Psychiatrist, and Sleep Specialist

cal health and well-being at home and in the workplace. According to her, wellness should be integral to our daily lives to foster resilience and manage stress by developing a regular sleep routine, aiming for a healthy diet, exercise, deep breathing, yoga, and Pilates.

Dr. Mantaring stressed the importance of a consistent sleep schedule to help us protect our mental and physical health. A lot of processes are involved when we sleep, including increased blood flow to muscle promoting energy restoration, growth and development, and repair of cells and tissues in our body. When one gets a good sleep, it can lower blood pressure and provide support for short- and long-term memory. Good nutrition, on the other hand, is another key. Eating vegetables and legumes, fruits, lean meat and poultry, fish, eggs, nuts, tofu, milk, yoghurt, cheese, grain food, sliced bread, cooked rice, pasta, noodles are excellent sources of nutrients to maintain a healthy diet and improve our mental health coupled with physical activity.

Learn to Understand Suffering

Apart from one's full understanding of the physical well-being, it is also imperative to look as to how we understand the ambiguity of the word "suffering." Dr. Antonio Fernando III, former Senior Lecturer from University of Auckland, a psychiatrist, and a sleep specialist, dug deeper on understanding suffering. He reiterated that to fully understand the world we live in, we must accept the fact that life itself is hard and that it is in our nature to experience suffering, dissatisfaction, and frustration. Our brain always wants and craves. For this reason, we tend to focus on what's wrong, lacking, and what can be improved. He mentioned that *papanca*, or mental proliferation, is our biggest source of suffering - intense cravings, extreme attachments, and the likes.

The Hidden Blessings in the Pandemic

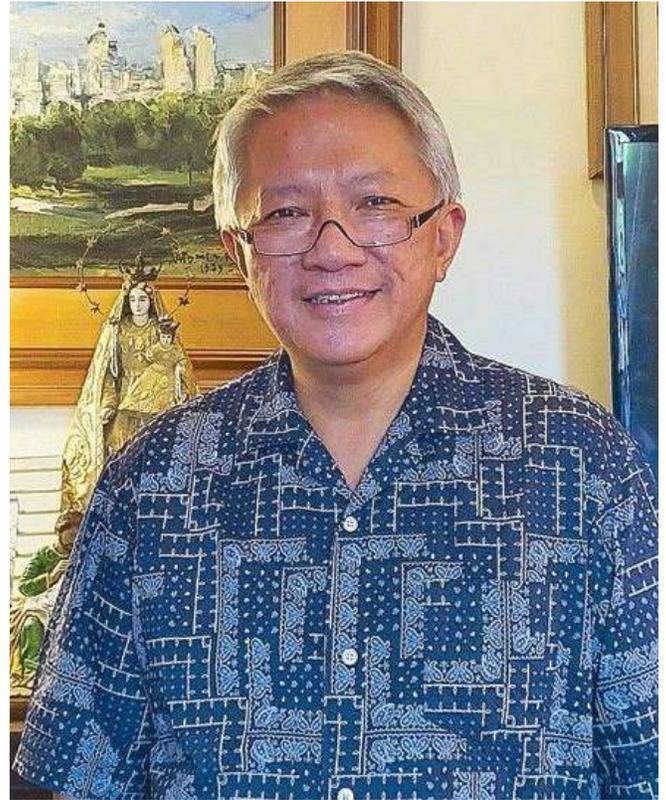
Rev. Fr. Carmelo A. Caluag SJ, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Formation of Magna Anima Teachers College, focused his talk on the blessings brought forth by the pandemic. He pointed out two key reflections – choosing and crisis. The pandemic, though bad as it may seem, still favors positive life experiences. The pandemic forces us to choose from dichotomous options: essential and non-essential. This situation calls for us to create greater harmony in life. It also exposed the disparity and gaps in the distribution of the worlds' resources and revealed the great generosity of people around us. It also redirects us to get our relationship

with nature back on track.

His second point of reflection about crisis presents the multi-stage pathway to harmony – see clearly, be more discerning, acceptance, and make choices. Eventually, these will allow us to know ourselves better than anyone else. It brings to the fore a realistic knowledge of ourself, aware of our own talents, gifts, and at the same time of our woundedness and brokenness. As such, he also presented three elements for a full human life including something to live on (job), something to live for (discovering one’s purpose), and something to die for (a sense of mission). These, in turn, should create harmony or balance in life. We should look at our work and life as one and not dichotomous. After all, it is in the choices that we make and the actions that we take to gain wholeness and well-being.

“To fully understand the world we live in, we must accept the fact that life itself is hard, and that it is in our nature to experience suffering, dissatisfaction, and frustration.”

Dr. Antonio Fernando III



Fr. Carmelo A. Caluag, SJ., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Formation of Magna Anima Teachers College (Photo Credit: Philstar Global)



Photo credit: Google Image



Photo shows portion of the solar panels installed atop the Lydia Tan Sy Building with the Manila skyline in the background. (Photo: Joel G. Filamor)

GREEN ENERGY FOR THE RED SCHOOL:



SBU UTILIZES **SOLAR POWER**

FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Benjamin B. Sonajo, Jr.

The University, through the Office of the Vice President for Administration, pursued the acquisition of commercial solar panels. “The solar panels, currently being installed on the roof of the new Lydia Tan Sy eight storey building, are clean and green source of energy. It will provide power generated from a natural process that is continually replenished,” said Fr. Aelred U. Nilo, OSB, Vice President for Administration.

“This innovation, which will lower our monthly electric cost, is part of our commitment to the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals and Pope Francis’ Laudato Si,” Fr. Nilo added.

Here are other reasons why solar panels were acquired for SBU’s new building:

1. Solar power is good for the environment.

Solar power significantly reduces the University’s carbon footprint - the amount of carbon dioxide and other carbon compounds emitted due to the consumption of fossil fuels.

2. Solar power taps from a free source of energy.

Solar panels get energy from the sun which is the largest source of free energy. It is a renewable energy resource that is sustainable because it is inexhaustible.

3. Solar power causes less electricity loss.

Electricity is transported from big power plants to end-consumers. Based on data, long distance transmissions results to power losses. The solar panels, on the roof of the Lydia Tan Sy Building, get energy from the sun. Hence, it increases electricity efficiency, because of the short distance. As a result, the building’s power source becomes domestic. It is also worth mentioning that solar power systems are durable. Therefore, chances of service interruption are reduced.

“We look forward to the day when all our buildings run on solar power and help preserve the earth for our future generation,” Fr. Nilo closes.



Photo Credit: Electricrate

There is nothing about solar power that pollutes the environment. It does not release any greenhouse gasses. The shift to the use of solar power is San Beda University’s contribution to a sustainable future.



Photo Credit: Business Pulse

Solar power is an alternative source of energy that makes the Lydia Tan Sy Building run on clean power that is more energy efficient and cost-effective.



Photo Credit: The Freeman Online

The mitigation of “electricity loss” demonstrates the University’s commitment to ensure consistent resonance of its initiatives with its vision-mission, goals, and objectives.

San Beda University Ranks 3rd Among TOP LAW SCHOOLS

Atty. Lyan David M. Juanico

San Beda University College of Law (SBU-COL) placed 3rd in the recent 2020-2021 bar examinations administered by the Philippine Supreme Court (SC) among law schools with more than 100 examinees, garnering an impressive passing percentage of 98.10% for first-time takers.

Recognizing the unprecedented and distressing conditions brought by the pandemic, the SC for the first time, did not release a list of topnotchers. Nevertheless, it published the names of excellent and exemplary bar passers to recognize their outstanding efforts by obtaining a rating of more than 90% and 85%, respectively.

Law graduates from SBU-COL made it to the illustrious list.

Chelsea Eichel R. Daus is at the forefront of Bedan passers having been labeled by the Philippine SC as “Excellent Bar Passer.” Further, 94 passers from SBU COL are labeled Exemplary Bar Passers.

SBU’s College of Law is bedecked with luminaries who also acted as examiners in the 2020-2021 bar examinations. One of its current professors, Judge Wilhelmina B. Jorge-Wagan, was the examiner

for Criminal Law. Hon. Pablito A. Perez, former Vice Dean of SBU-COL, now an Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals (CA), and Hon. Fernanda C. Lampas-Peralta, also an Associate Justice of the CA, were examiners in Procedure and Professional Ethics.

The record holder for the highest average in the Philippine Bar Examinations belongs to a Bedan, SC Associate Justice Florenz D. Regalado (+), with his 1954 mark of 96.7%.

All of these resonate with the University’s long-standing history of excellence in legal education. The Institution is grateful to the outstanding dedication of the College’s administrators and faculty with Atty. Marciano “Rocky” Delson at the helm.

That in all things, God may be glorified!



CAS BAGS

RE-ACCREDITATION OF PROGRAMS

Raffy D. Quines



College of Arts and Sciences Dean, Professor Doctor Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, holds a virtual meeting with CAS faculty and administrators relative to PAASCU re-accreditation.

Aligned to the commitment towards continuous quality enhancement, San Beda University (SBU) passed the re-accreditation of its programs for a period of five years in the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) by the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities (PAASCU) held on January 10-11, 2022. The team was headed by Sr. Caroline Capili, OP, President/Member of the PAASCU Commission on Tertiary Education.

Seven (7) undergraduate programs have successfully passed the re-accreditation status for a period of five years. Below are the following re-accredited programs:

1. Arts and Sciences
2. BS Accountancy
3. BS Legal Management
4. BS Psychology
5. BS Economics and Public Policy
6. BS Entrepreneurship
7. BS Business Administration, majors in Financial Management, Marketing Management, Operations Management, and Human Resource Management

In addition, a year after obtaining the PAASCU Report, the Human Biology program was granted eligibility to apply for a Formal Survey.

As San Beda University continues in upholding its tradition of excellence, this initiative ensures the delivery of quality education to students, guided by its Vision-Mission and Core values which are anchored on the ten (10) Hallmarks of Benedictine Education. Furthermore, this successful endeavor is a testament to the College of Arts and Sciences' administrators, faculty, and staff, as well as the entire Bedan Community's joint efforts in providing exceptional and creative pedagogical techniques in delivering quality education.

In his congratulatory message to the College of Arts and Sciences, the Very Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, Rector-President, expressed his commendations to the diligent and competent CAS administrators headed by the Dean of the College, Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante, Vice-Dean Dr. Jackqui R. Moreno, and Vice Dean Dr. Moses Aaron T. Angeles, faculty, students, and staff.

The San Beda University CAS-Department of Accountancy & Taxation has recently partnered with the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). The ACCA shall serve as its independent examination provider for the subjects Synthesis 1, 2, and 3 included in its BS Accountancy, BS Accounting Information Systems, BS Internal Audit, and BS Management Accounting curricula.

It is worth noting that San Beda University's accounting programs are accredited from January 2021 to December 2025.

Consequently, Bedan accounting majors will be appraised by the independent reputable professional organization, apart from the University's

DEPT. OF ACCOUNTING AND TAXATION PARTNERS WITH ACCA

Dr. Jackqui R. Moreno



Dr. Jackqui R. Moreno, Vice Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Accountancy and Business Cluster, is pivotal to the partnership with ACCA. With the support of CAS Dean Christian Bryan S. Bustamante and Rector-President Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, the Accountancy Program of the University is consequently made more robust and globally relevant with ACCA on board.



internal departmental assessments. This development further bolsters the quality assurance mechanisms in place.

The ACCA Exams ratings shall make up 60% of the grades in Synthesis 1, 2, and 3. Subsequently, this mechanism will only advance students who meet not only the content and performance standards of the subject, but also that of a globally recognized institution abreast with critical dynamic industry skill sets.

To resonate parity with standards, faculty members shall be more closely monitored in terms of instruction and assessment to make sure that students acquire necessary competencies prior to the industry-based examinations by ACCA. Further, analysis and insights from examination results will be utilized to continuously evaluate the rigor of the curriculum.

SBU's partnership with ACCA opens the door to students towards becoming a member of the qualification body for professional accountants whose headquarters are in London. Another merit arising from the partnership is that upon graduation from San Beda University, graduates can also pursue a BSc. (Hons) degree in Applied Accounting awarded by Oxford Brookes University or even get an MSc in Professional Accountancy awarded by University of London.

How did the SBU-ACCA symbiotic relationship evolve?

We are steadfast in the attainment of our goals as a department. And so, when we started our synthesis program, we integrated the ACCA papers in our student performance appraisals. We discussed our program with ACCA Philippines representative, Mike Castro. He introduced us to ACCA Singapore education leaders who helped us craft our course of implementation. We learned that there are also other organizations we can



Photo Credit: iStock

work with to help us assist our students in their preparation for the professional exams. We were able to touch base with Sunway TES Center of Accountancy excellence in Malaysia through ACCA. On a side note, ACCA also subsidized our students' tuition upon learning of their predicaments relative to the pandemic. Because of this, we were able to kick-off our tuition classes program. Our students are truly grateful.

Some of our students who experienced challenges in their preparation while also taking academic units in the University were offered intensive revision classes for free to ease them of the burden of additional fees. ACCA understands that our students are not yet financially independent professionals. When our student organization needs resource persons for their events, ACCA connects us to their able members who are always willing to share their work experiences and expertise. We also get invitations for ACCA events such as job fairs, webinars, and faculty training seminars participated by professionals from all over the world.

Our accreditation by the ACCA, opened a whole new world of opportunities for advancement – fees, faculty resource support, technical assistance, and a lot more.

How does ACCA complement the department in achieving SBU's goals?

We want to graduate students who are highly employable and will be the next leaders in the Accountancy profession. This has been the sustained tradition of excellence in San Beda. Many of the accounting firms in the Philippines, which are affiliated with the Big 5 in the world, have executives, if not founding partners, who are accounting graduates of San Beda University. Since 1985, we have produced 43 top-notch passers in the CPA licensure exams in



Photo Credit: Commercenotes.com

the Philippines. Our affiliation with ACCA significantly increases employment opportunities of our accounting graduates. ACCA members are known for their high competence and notable work ethics. It is worth noting to cite that ACCA has 7,300 approved employers, and over 80 accountancy partners who hire ACCA members all over the world. Our partnership with ACCA will contribute to our accounting graduates' employability as many good employers here and abroad recognize the ACCA badges we are requiring our students to have before they are conferred their respective university degrees. Our students, when they graduate from San Beda, are confident that they can ace future exams and job applications with the diligence they developed over the years while working on their ACCA papers.

Our accounting curricula has an embedded quality-assurance mechanism. At the end of each year, starting in sophomore, our students take a synthesis class. This is aimed at testing each student's lesson retention, deepening, and application. This is where ACCA plays an important role in the achievement of our goals. Students should pass designated ACCA papers

depending on the course they have already completed. What is admirable with ACCA papers is that they not only include stem-options questions but also task-based questions. These promote higher-order thinking skills and 21st century skills. When our students pass their ACCA exams, we are certain that our students can prove that they have a deeper understanding of not only accounting, but technology, economics, leadership, and business as well.

When our students become the Christian, ethical professional accountants who are globally competitive, we believe we have achieved our goals. ACCA provides us with independent appraisals. This is crucial in validating the quality of our curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

What's on the drawing board with ACCA?

Prior to the community lockdowns caused by the COVID19 pandemic, we were applying to become a testing site for on-demand ACCA papers. Hopefully, once the COVID19 pandemic restrictions are eased, we can become a testing site for both our students and outsiders.

We are also planning to widen our network by tapping industry-based connections of ACCA. By doing so, we can deploy students on board with employers who value ACCA badges which our students obtained.

We look forward to working with ACCA for a long time.



Bedan Japeth Z. Rueda ranked 7th in in the 2018 CPA Board Examinations by the Professional Regulation Commission of the Philippines. He is now a full-time promising entrepreneur utilizing his prowess in accounting and business.



Photo Credit: Mark Eslao

SBU RIZAL HOLDS PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINATION ON CAMPUS

Romman V. Cubacub

The Integrated Basic Education Department of San Beda University in Rizal held a Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccination on campus for registered students. To provide strong protection against serious illness, hospitalization, and death related to COVID-19, the campus Health Office, led by Dr. Glizeria Ramirez, organized vaccination sessions in coordination with Administrative Officer, Johnny Rivera, Taytay Municipal Health Office led by Dr. Jocelyn Zambas. Dr. Chona Collado and Dr. Patricia Anne Suleik-Aragon volunteered for the pediatric COVID 19 vaccination of Bedan students.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “children and teens who get COVID-19 can develop serious complications like multisystem inflammatory syndrome (MIS-C). MIS-C is a condition where different body parts become inflamed, including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes, or gastrointestinal organs.”

The Center further states that “since the beginning of the pandemic, thousands of cases of MIS-C have been reported. Children ages 5 through 11 years are most frequently affected by MIS-C, with almost half of all reported cases occurring in children in this age group.”

Data from the Center show that COVID-19 vaccination reduced the possibility of MIS-C in children whose age range from 12-18

by 91%. “Data from July to December 2021 show that 95% of children ages 12 through 18 years hospitalized with MIS-C were not vaccinated.”

Recipients of the vaccine were also reminded that despite receiving the vaccine, utmost precaution should still be observed to protect themselves, their family, and friends. While COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective, a number of people still get infected. Hence, the strict observance of basic health protocols such as physical distancing, wearing of mask, avoidance of poorly ventilated spaces and regular washing of hands were underscored.

On a related development, the Department of Education stressed the importance of pediatric vaccination on the reintroduction of face-face-classes and general welfare of Filipino learners. Education Secretary Leonor Briones said, in a statement, that pediatric vaccination drives are “vital” and that “we cannot achieve and move to new forms and ways of teaching unless our children are healthy.”

The first of the pediatric vaccination series at the SBU Rizal campus was on March 16, 2022, while the last was held April 6, 2022.

Aside from students, registered employees also received Pfizer vaccine.



Modified Photo Credit: Adeo Group

FINANCE DEPARTMENT PURSUES DIGITALIZATION

"Consistent increase in efficiency and effectiveness of finance related operations have always been our mantra in the office,"

Charmaine T. Chin

Benjamin B. Sonajo, Jr.
and Joel G. Filamor



The Finance Department and Accounting Office integrate on an escalated scale the upgrading of technology as part of the University's short- and long-term development plan. It has also strengthened various enabling mechanisms that will further upscale its operations and quality in favor of stakeholders.

"Consistent increase in efficiency and effectiveness of finance related operations have always been our mantra in the office," said Charmaine T. Chin, former Chief Accountant now Comptroller. The latter's proficiency in PowerApps and PowerAutomate complemented the institutional direction towards digitalization.

"We are in pursuit of developing the University's online accounting system. We want our probity, compliance to strategic vision, accountability, management of risks, and monitoring of performance to be consistently on the rise," she added.

Aside from what has been mentioned, the Finance Department is also in the process of implementing and improving its asset inventory system. "By bolstering our asset inventory

system, the streamlining of operations, retaining of asset value, continuous improvement of stakeholders' experiences, and informed financial decisions will be very sustainable," Ms. Chin explains.

Further, the digitized and online budgeting system, along with other enabling mechanisms, are also pursued. "By doing so, we can promote cost savings, access control, file integrity preservation, organizational agility, and ease of report generation," said the new Comptroller.

The online students and employees servicing applications are also in the priority list of the Finance Department. This is relative to promissory notes, scholarships, clearances, pay slips and other concerns. The digital mechanisms related to these were found most efficient at the height of mobility restrictions caused by the pandemic.

"Just like the rest of the University Administrators, along with Fr. Rembert Tumbali, OSB (Vice President for Finance), we fully commit to the sustainability and continuous development of San Beda University's operations," Ms. Chin closes.

Editor's Note: Ms. Charmaine T. Chin, SBU's former Chief Accountant/Interim Systems Administrator and now Comptroller, is a Certified Public Accountant and has nine years of solid professional experiences under her belt. In 2019, she was tapped by the Apostolic Nunciature of the Philippines as a consultant to increase the Nunciature's efficiency in the updating and documentation of its payroll policies and procedures.



SBU LIBRARIES EXPAND ACCESS TO LEARNING RESOURCES

Joanna C. Camante

Though the pandemic compromised several library services, the yearn for learning never ceased. Hence, to address compromised services, the University utilized modern technology. Acquisition of technology and subscription to vast online resources neutralized mobility restrictions and made students and faculty access to library resources possible while maintaining the integrity of its collections.

The “Wednesday Walk Through Webinar Series” held on March 16, 23, and 30, 2022 bridged the gap between users and library services. The webinar series is a part of the information literacy program of the University and IBED Libraries. It aims to provide the academic community with the fundamentals of efficient access to online library resources.

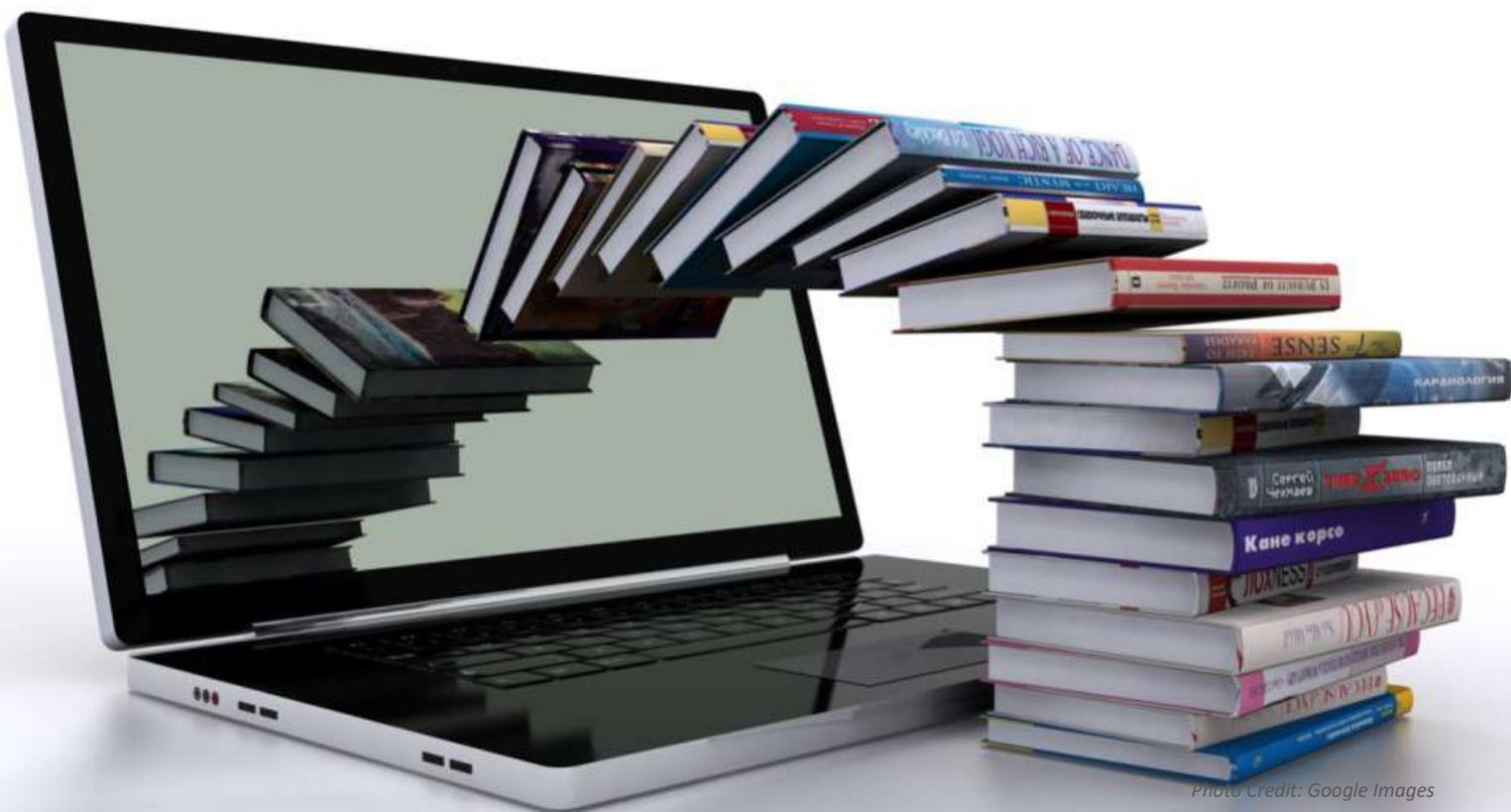


Photo Credit: Google Images



Based on the survey conducted in December 2021, the library ensured access to the following needed selections:

EBSCOhost – a database containing the full text of over 6,000 scholarly journals, magazines, and newsletters

ProQuest – a multidisciplinary resource featuring a diversified mix of scholarly journals, magazines, and newsletters

Turnitin – a feedback and grading tool that fosters writing excellence and academic integrity. It combines cutting-edge tools with curricular resources to deter plagiarism, teach the value of authentic writing, and protect the institution's integrity

CD Asia Online – a platform providing access to the complete databases of Philippine laws and jurisprudence comprising over 70,000 documents through the most advanced search engines for legal databases in the country

ORBIS Asia Pacific – contains information on around 53 million entities in Asia Pacific – banks, insurance companies, public and private companies.

GALE EBooks – a database of specialized reference sources for multidisciplinary research that offers hassle-free e-book experience, anytime, anywhere on any device

DynaMed – a collection of the most current evidence curated from over 500 medical journals and presented in a bulleted summary, ideal for making clinical decisions at the point of care.

Nursing Reference Center Plus – a platform providing evidence-based information for point of care, continuing education, nursing research and more. Nurses can get answers to questions quickly, strengthen their skills and read full text journal articles.

AccessMedicine – a comprehensive online medical resource that provides complete spectrum of knowledge from the best minds in medicine, with essential information accessible anywhere.

The SBU libraries continue to ensure that credible and updated resources are accessible to students, faculty, and other stakeholders for optimum utilization.

PISTA NG STO. NIÑO SA SAN BEDA



Photo shows the Opening Program of the Pista ng Santo Niño sa San Beda, streamed live online from the Abbot Lopez Hall to the world, enabling Bedans everywhere to participate in real time despite mobility restrictions during pandemic.

THEN AND NOW

Dominador B. Manlincon

The devotion to the Sto. Niño is the oldest and probably the most popular religious tradition in the Philippines. In San Beda University, the driving force that led to the devotion of Bedans to the Sto. Niño de Praga through the years was the establishment of the Confraternity of the Child Jesus of Prague on December 13, 1903. It was Fr. Arsenio Insausti,

OSB, who granted the collective request of students to allow them to establish the Confraternity.

On January 17, 1904, the feast of the Sto. Niño at San Beda was celebrated for the first time. Since no statue was available, a framed picture of the Holy Child was used. On November 4, 1904, a wooden image of the Sto. Niño de Praga, made by Maximo Vicente, was installed at the chapel of the Benedictine community in Tanduay, Manila. The hymn, *O Niño Dios*, was composed by Fr. Jaime Bofill, O.S.B., who taught music at the Colegio de San Beda.

The first procession of the Sto. Niño with the image was held on January 20, 1905. Its route was from the Colegio de San Beda in Arlegui to the chapel of the Benedictine community on Balmes Street. Since 1975, the Feast of the Santo Niño de Praga has been celebrated by the Benedictine Abbey in Manila as a Solemnity.

Pista ng Sto. Niño sa San Beda 2022

The Pista ng Sto. Niño this year was hosted by the Office of the Vice President for Administration (VP Admin) Rev. Fr. Aelred U. Nilo, OSB, Information and Communication Technology Center (ICTC) Director Albert C. Silva, Office of Student Affairs (OSA) Dean Dominador B. Manlincon, Human Resource Management Office (HRMO) Director Manolo A. Peñaflor, and Integrated Basic Education Department (IBED) Principal Mrs. Teresita T. Battad for Rizal campus. Delegated by the Rector-President, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, these administrators served as *Hermanos y Hermana Mayor* for the annual religious festivity.

The Bedan family marked another milestone in the celebration of the Pista ng Sto. Niño 2022 with the theme, *Sto. Niño: Biyaya at Gabay sa San Beda at Sambayanan*.

For the second year, due to the health crisis brought by the COVID-19 pandemic, the celebration of the Pista ng Sto. Niño was conducted online. Regular annual major events such as the motorcade, parade of festivals, street dancing, fun run, car show, concerts and procession were suspended.

The Fr. Rector, however, ensured everyone "...that despite the altered manner of celebrating

the Pista, the Bedan community's religious fervor will be undiminished."

Indeed, the tradition continues through the years, even in the most challenging periods in history. Even in time of atrocities during the second world war, the Prior Administrator Eladio de Juan concelebrated Holy Mass with Fr. Alfred E. Koestner on the feast day of the *Sto. Niño de Praga*. Clearly, this is a testament that even in the mess of crisis, there is always something that keeps afire in the hearts of Bedans the devotion and faith in the Sto. Niño.

The Pista ng Sto. Niño 2022 in SBU Manila campus commenced through the Enthronement of the Child Jesus of Pra-



Photo shows Senior Highschool street dancers during the pre-pandemic Pista ng Santo Niño in 2018. The opening activities were aired live via ABS-CBN Channel 2 morning program, Umagang Kay Ganda.

gue officiated by the *Hermanos y Hermana* led by Fr. Aelred U. Nilo, OSB. For San Beda Rizal, the Enthronement was officiated by Fr. Angelo Ma. S. Legal, OSB, Chaplain SBU-IBED Rizal. The event was introduced by a recant of history, *Pagbabalik-tanaw: Pista ng Sto. Niño*.

The SBU On-the-Spot Online Poster-making Contest, conducted last December 11, 2021, produced the official poster design for the Pista. SBU also featured different images of the Sto. Niño, owned by internal and external devotees, through virtual exhibits. The exhibits highlighted the history of the celebration and devotion to the Sto. Niño. The triduum to the Sto. Niño was also celebrated from Friday to Sunday of the feast.

To maximize the participation of all Bedans and non-Bedans alike here and abroad, these events were streamed live via SBU's Facebook page and YouTube channel.

All sectors of the Bedan community actively engaged in

the Pista virtual events. The different departments hosted varied activities faithful to this year's theme.

The San Beda Rizal campus conducted virtually the annual singing contest, *Himigsikan: Handog Himig Kay Sto. Niño 2022*, Dance Presentation with accompaniments of Original Pilipino Music (OPM) Retro for the Grade School, OPM Modern for the Junior High School, OPM Disco for the Senior High School and the solemn Bedan community reflection, *Pagnilay: Si Niño Hesus sa Buhay-Ispirituwal ng mga Bedista*.

In the Manila Campus, the Bedan Pastoral Ministry (BPM) launched a special podcast, *Niño: Ang Debosyon sa ating Banal na Sanggol*. The student organization also initiated virtual activities such as novena, prayer, and reflection. Benedictines monks such as Rev. Fr. Placid Ma. B. Acta, Chaplain SBU-CAS, Rev. Fr. Angelo Ma. S. Legal and Rev.

Philippines. Professor Michael Tabuyan, a staunch devotee to the Sto. Niño, was the invited guest speaker.

The San Beda English and Literature Society (SBELS) also unveiled the official music video of its original composition *Babangon Muli: A Song of Hope Amidst the Pandemic* last January 29, 2022.

To conclude the three-day event, a community recitation of the Holy Rosary was hosted by the Abbey Postulants. It was followed by a meaningful celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, SBU Rector-President.

Indeed, the Bedan community's devotion and faith to the Sto. Niño will never diminish but continue to flourish even in the most challenging times!

Viva, Viva, Viva Sto. Niño!



Fr. Anselm M. Manalastas OSB, graced the event. A significant reflection that resounded in the sharing was an attestation of the crucial role of the Sto. Niño in the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. Devotion and faith in the Child Jesus have always been central in the Filipino Catholic identity.

The Junior Bedan Law Circle (JBLC) also hosted the fifth episode of its flagship project In Between Podcast that featured the history and culture of the Sto. Niño in the

Photo shows the entrance procession during the enthronement of the Child Jesus of Prague at the Abbot Lopez Hall which was part of the opening program of the Pista ng Santo Nino sa San Beda 2022.



LORD, MAKE ME

Love your Cross

A LENTEN REFLECTION

Rt. Rev. P. Austin Cadiz, OSB

With Palm Sunday, we will celebrate the beginning of the holiest week of the year, the week we refer to as “Holy Week.” The days of this week summon us to an intense desire to be united with Jesus in his passion, death, and resurrection. Christian life is a constant invitation to live the paschal mystery. It is therefore fitting that we should observe this very important event in the life of Christ with fervent devotion and solemnity. As Benedictines, we look upon this reality with an eye on participating in the Lord’s passion and death, that we may share in His resurrection. In this regard, St. Benedict wrote in his *Rule*: “*Persevering...until death, we may, by patience, share in the sufferings of Christ that we may deserve to share also in his kingdom*” (RB Prol 50).



One of the passages in the scriptures that has a deep impact in my life especially in these trying times is *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors, through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord"* (Romans 8:35, 37-39). Indeed,

"When we walk without the cross, when we build without the cross and when we confess a Christ without a cross, we are no longer disciples of the Lord."

Pope Francis



Photo Credit: Google Images

nothing can separate us from the love of Christ on the cross. If we put our trust in the Lord, then there is nothing to fear. Most of the times, we are troubled and afraid in the face of sufferings and trials. We are like those apostles in the boat with Jesus pleading: *"Lord, we are perishing, don't you care about us?"* But in all gentleness, the Lord assures us: *"Why are you afraid, you of little faith!"* Yes, we acknowledge this before the Lord, and we ask him to sustain and increase the little faith that we have.

Oftentimes, we doubt, like Thomas who said that unless he sees the wounds in Jesus' hands and feet, he will not believe. And Jesus said to him: *"Thomas, look at my hands and my feet... Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed."* With Thomas, we say: *"My Lord and my God."* With Thomas, we seek the identity of Jesus in His wounds of love".

In relation to this, Fr. Ron Rollheisser relates a story about St. Theresa of Avila. One day, while Teresa of Avila was praying in her inner room, the devil appeared to her disguised as Christ. Teresa was not fooled for even a second. She immediately dismissed the devil disguised as Christ. However, before leaving, the devil asked her: *"How did you know? How could you be so sure I wasn't Christ?"* Teresa replied: *"You didn't have any wounds! Christ has wounds."* To experience God in a most intimate way is to see Christ in his woundedness, which we behold in our woundedness, in our fears and doubts, in our sufferings and trials and in the woundedness of other people. We realize that it is when we embrace our woundedness and vulnerabilities, and look at them with the eyes of faith in the risen Christ, that we will experience God from the depths of our hearts. Only in this way that we can bear our wounds - "sacred" wounds - with hope and trust.

In his first homily as Pope, Francis, the Holy Father said: *"When we walk without the cross, when we build without the cross and when we confess a Christ without a cross, we are no longer disciples of the Lord."* This echoes the prayer of Pope St. John XXIII when he visited one of the monasteries in Italy: *"Lord, make me love your cross."*

"Lord, make me love your cross," this is our prayer every single day of our life. It captures the heart of God's mercy and love which tell us that Jesus, who died on the cross, will never abandon us. He thought about us when he rose every time he fell to the ground on his way to Calvary. He thought about us when he was on the cross, entrusting everything to God saying: *"Into your hands, Lord, I commend my Spirit."* He thought about us when he breathed his last so that we can rise again with him to new life.

We ask the Lord during the darkest moments of our lives: *"Where are you, Lord? Where are you, when I needed you the most?"* The Lord assures us: *"I am with you always."* He promises us: *"I will be with you till the end of time."* The comforting words of Pope Francis when he visited the people of Tacloban are relevant here: *"Please remember that Christ, silent on the cross, will never let us down."* In times of sufferings and pain, in times of darkness and desolation, we draw strength from the heart of Christ, silent on the cross. We humbly approach the throne of grace and mercy. And we hold on to Christ and



*Seek God above all else,
and prefer nothing whatever
to the love of Christ, for he
has preferred nothing to us
when he gave up his life on
the cross, and rose again to
new life.*

embrace his sufferings in our sufferings, embrace His cross in our own crosses.

Who can separate us from the love of Christ? This pandemic, in a way, has separated us from each other, family and friends. But we are made closer to each other because of Christ, who loves us. We may be apart from each other, but may we not forget that Christ dwells in each one of us. We are united in Christ wherever we are. Right now, at this very moment in history, our country, the Church, and the world are at the foot of the Cross - grappling and struggling to find meaning in our sufferings, in our pains and uncertainties, in the face of death. There are many who struggle to find the radiant light of Christ in the midst of the darkness that this pandemic brings and in the face of the war between Ukraine and Russia. But the Lord Jesus continues to assure us not to be afraid. He entrusted us to his Mother Mary. We have a mother who loves us. We have a mother who will accompany us as she accompanied her Son on the cross.

May we continue to *look forward to holy Easter with joy and spiritual longing* (RB 49:7), full of gratitude to the Lord and to our Mother Mary who never fails to be with us, and we hope for a deeper faith as we face the future full of trust in His providential care and love.

Let us pray that, as St. Benedict admonishes, we may *seek God above all else and prefer nothing whatever to the love of Christ for he has preferred nothing to us when he gave up his life on the cross and rose again to new life*. We pray for this. And we pray for one another.

May God bless us all.

Editor's Note:

The Rt. Rev. Dom Austin P. Cadiz, OSB is the current and 8th Abbot of the Benedictine Community of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat.



*Even when it is still dark and the tomb is empty,
in all manner of thing,*

ALL SHALL BE WELL

An Easter Reflection

Fr. Matthew B. Rios, OSB

A Blessed Easter to all of us! The tomb is empty, new day has begun. “The Lord Jesus is Risen! He is Risen, indeed!”

Easter actually begins with *“Early in the morning, while it was still dark”* It begins in darkness. It begins with the start of day that is still dark, it begins with someone weeping, in pain, and with a profound loss of certainty. The hymns, the rituals, the liturgies, and all things that we enjoy during the season of Easter actually came later. The first Easter was nothing of what we think as was bright and happy as far as the disciples lived experience were concerned. What came first was one dominant theme: hope in times of a struggle, as many of us are experiencing in our present global context. Hope in the midst of an empty tomb. As happened in the gospel of John: Mary Magdalene came to the tomb while it was still dark and saw the stone has been moved away and she wept. It reminds us to



Photo Credit: churchofjesuschrist.org

what happens when ordinary people like almost all of us react against an extraordinary God. In our experience during the pandemic, we can resonate with Mary.

In our Gospel story of the Resurrection, we usually hear in the Easter Sunday Mass, Mary Magdalene sees Jesus first because she chooses to remain in the darkness. Peter and the beloved disciple leave when they see the empty tomb, but Mary stays, bewildered, weeping and surprised. As a gospel commentator said, she “remains present to what is real, to what is actually happening.” She does so even when what is real feels unbearable. We can say then that true clarity, hope, and healing come when we are willing to linger in hard and barren places, places where the usual experiences and expectations do not happen, and all easy answers prove inadequate. Jesus comes in the darkness, and sometimes it takes a long time to recognize him. He does not look the way we expect him to look. He does not let us cling to our old ideas and preconceived ideas. But he comes, he calls each one of us our names, as he called the name of Mary, and in that instant, we recognize both ourselves and him.

Jesus comes in the darkness, and sometimes it takes a long time to recognize him. He does not look the way we expect him to look. He does not let us cling to our old ideas and preconceived ideas. But he comes, he calls each one of us our names.



Photo Credit: Pinterest

The Gospel of John tells us of the following narratives (*John 20-1-18, NABRE*):

The Empty Tomb. ¹ On the first day of the week, Mary of Magdala came to the tomb early in the morning, while it was still dark, and saw the stone removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and told them, “They have taken the Lord from the tomb, and we don’t know where they put him.” ³ So Peter and the other disciple went out and came to the tomb. ⁴ They both ran, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and arrived at the tomb first; ⁵ he bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. ⁶ When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, ⁷ and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. ⁸ Then the other disciple also went in, the one who had arrived at the tomb first, and he saw and believed. ⁹ For they did not yet understand the scripture that

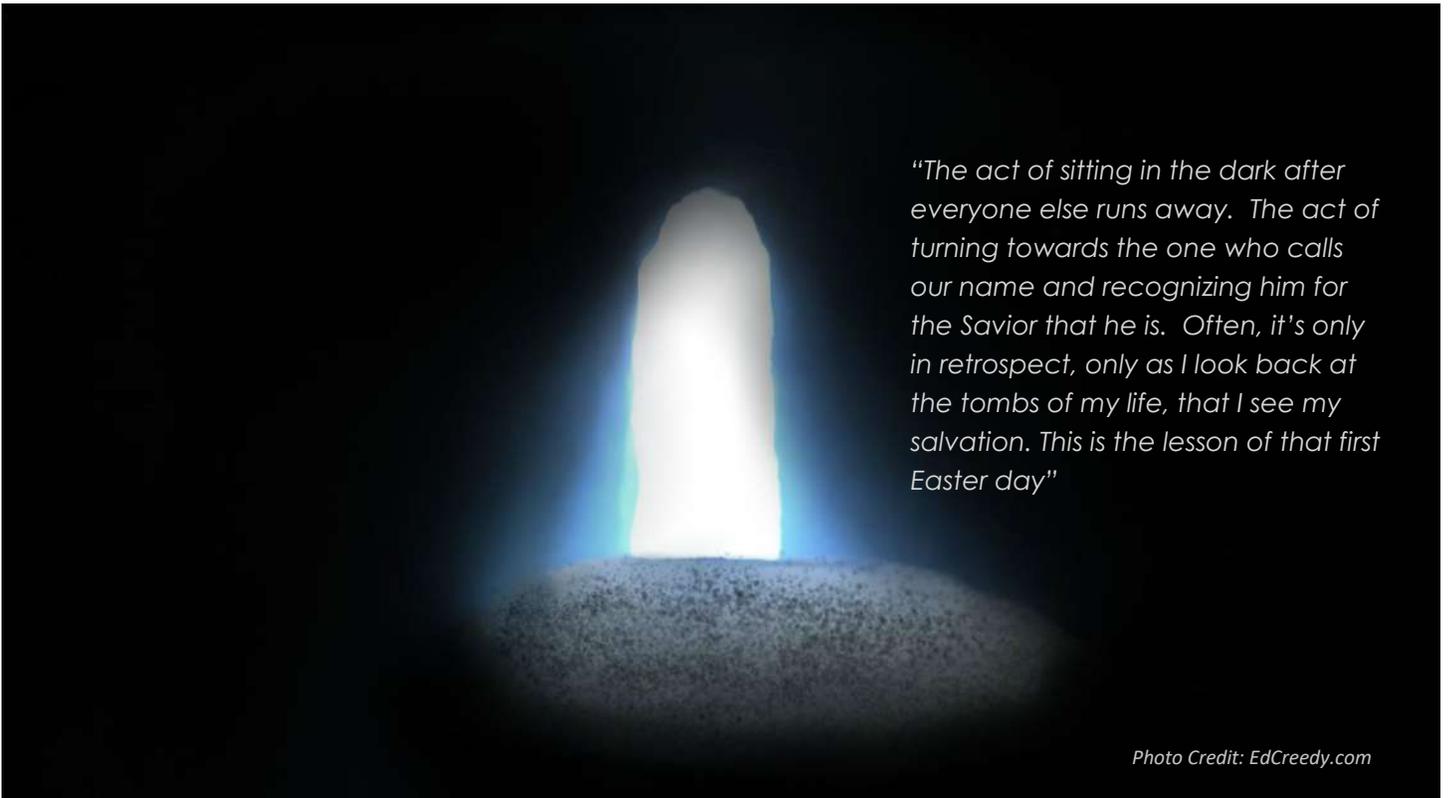
he had to rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned home.

The Appearance to Mary of Magdala. ¹¹ But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb ¹² and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been. ¹³ And they said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken my Lord, and I don’t know where they laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus there, but did not know it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” She thought it was the gardener and said to him, “Sir, if you carried him away, tell me where you laid him, and I will take him.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni,” which means Teacher. ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and tell them,

‘I am going to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” ¹⁸ Mary of Magdala went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord,” and what he told her.

It is interesting to see their (Peter, John “The Beloved”, and Mary Magdalene) varied reactions to the first Easter dawn, and we find ourselves in the three individuals having profoundly individual encounters with Christ. The encounters do not look the same. When Peter sees the empty tomb, he runs away. When the beloved disciple sees it, he believes without comprehension. When Mary sees it, she weeps and waits for more. The experience of Mary teaches us that this type of witnessing is not automatic nor easy. It requires taking a leap of faith — the act of hanging on to hope when all else fails. The act of sitting in the dark after everyone else runs away. The act of turning to-





"The act of sitting in the dark after everyone else runs away. The act of turning towards the one who calls our name and recognizing him for the Savior that he is. Often, it's only in retrospect, only as I look back at the tombs of my life, that I see my salvation. This is the lesson of that first Easter day"

Photo Credit: EdCreedy.com

wards the one who calls our name and recognizing him for the Savior that he is. Often, it's only in retrospect, only as I look back at the tombs of my life, that I see my salvation. This is the lesson of that first Easter day. This is the lesson that perhaps we have learned in the pandemic in retrospect and as we move forward to the continuing crises that probably may come in our lives.

The Resurrection of Our Lord also reminds us that the last word will always be mercy, love, and eternal life in Christ. The tomb is empty! Death has no sting! That in the midst of all things that seem impossible, "all shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing all shall be well." This quotation is actually from Julian of Norwich, the mystic who during the current pandemic times has become popular among spiritual writers. She is known to

have learned her early spirituality with the Benedictines of Norwich. She is a mystic of her time who lived during one of the darkest histories of the western world: the Black Death **pandemic** that ravaged Eurasia and North Africa between 1346 and 1353, taking a proportionately greater toll of life than any other known epidemic or war up to that time. A great fraction of the western world perished (from low estimate of 25 million to a high of 75 million) because of the grave and long recurring plague that ravaged the world. (The Covid19 pandemic death is just comparatively small as of today.) Julian lived at a time of perhaps history's greatest turmoil, but her theology was optimistic and spoke of God's benevolence and love in terms of joy and compassion. Her greatest work, *Revelations of Divine Love* contains a message of optimism based on the

certainty of being loved by God and of being protected by his Providence. That it is in the midst of sin and darkness that God reveals himself more vividly and more powerfully. The Risen Christ has conquered death, and so shall we be if only we believe, when we place our hope in him, and imitate in his Divine Love. In the Risen Lord, all indeed shall be well!

Our patron saint, St. Bede, made a classic statement that we will carry through this Easter Season: "Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will...Christ is the Morning Star, who, when the night of this world is past, gives to his saints the promise of the light of life, and opens everlasting day."

In this issue of *The Bedan Today*, it banners "Upholding 500 years of Filipino Catholic Faith and Education" as its

theme. May the wisdom of St. Bede inspire us in our next years together: “Unfurl the sails, and let God steer us where He will.” May the Risen Christ be our Morning Star amidst the pandemic and all the global, national, and individual challenges we face these current days. Jesus rises from the dead so that those who believe in him and dies to sin with him may also rise with him and live with him forever. Jesus does not die for Himself, but he dies for us. Jesus rises again, not only for Himself but also for us. “Christ is the Morning Star, who, when the night of this world is past, gives to his saints the promise of the light of life, and opens everlasting day.”



Photo Credit: 104.5 WBVN

We thank God for the gift of 500 years of our nation’s Christianity. Looking forward as Bedans, we must then spread the light of the Risen Christ from the four virtual or real corners of our University into the hearts and minds of our faculty, administrators, employees, students, and alumni, and stake holders into the “disruptive world” of technology, innovation, border-lessness, and inter-relatedness. That is because the university’s spiritual and intellectual missions must involve the Benedic-



Photo Credit: Google Images

tine and Christian spirituality of hospitality, common good, stewardship, stability, and awareness of God in all things and at all times. It must be in dialogue with truth, with justice tempered with the spirit of St. Benedict’s moderation and compassion, and all that is holy and pleasing to God. It must be in dialogue with the present problems of proliferation of fake, false, and obvious unrealistic alternative lies our society has been encountering. It must be in dialogue with our cultural world of division, a world of fast changing economic and political conditions, a world that needs to breathe peace. It must always lead us to the Risen Lord who is our Truth, our Way, and our Life. It must lead us to Peace, the word that pervades in the spirit of the true Bedan, then and now.

As we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus, may the One who suffered, died and who rose in the darkness lead us into new life, new light, and new hope. May we know him in the difficult places, the dark and uncertain places, the hard places. May we dare to stay and contemplate at the tomb until he calls our names and sends us forth to share his good news with the world. When we are asked, “Why do you do this Bedan?” may our answers be honest and humble, full, active, conscious, and true. May they witness to hope *and* struggle, joined together. May they witness to faith coupled with concrete works of *ora et labora* (prayer and work). For San Beda, our country, and God. That in all things, God be glorified!

Happy Easter. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!



Editor’s Note: Fr. Matthew B. Rios, OSB is a member of the Board of Trustees of San Beda University. To this writing, he is also the Subprior of the Order of Saint Benedict, Congregation of Subiaco.

UP & LOADED

**SBU ID IS NOW A
PAYMENT CARD**

Romman V. Cubacub and Joel G. Filamor



Photo Credit: CNN Philippines

The Information and Communications Technology Center (ICTC) launched the first phase of the University ID upgrade. Contactless smart card form factor is integrated to the new ID enabling it to make payments for public transport, specifically the LRT 1, LRT 2, MRT 3 systems, P2Ps, modernized Jeepneys and even Ferry in Cebu.

“The Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius A. Maranan, OSB approved our tie-up with beep™. This tie-up put Bedans to advantage in payment environments where speed and convenience are crucial, such as transit, and convenience stores,” remarked Ms. Barbie Yanga, IT Development and Services Office Head.

The SBU ID is now able to store peso value for use as payment for more than 1,000 Buses with the following classifications: Point to Point (P2P), Multi Point, Multi-Fare (MPMF), Long Distance and other Bus Operational Set Ups. It can also be used as payment card in 700 modernized Jeepneys with AFCS, the number of which is still growing. Bedans can also utilize their new ID as payment card in more than 3,000 retail outlets in the country.

“All we need to do is to ensure that our new ID is loaded with peso value. We can load at LRT/MRT stations and various convenience stores with Beep loading facility,” added Ms. Yanga.

This electronic payment solution is much appreciated especially in the context of the pandemic because it eliminates physical contact when loading peso denominations and payment in various point of sales.

As of press time, the upgraded ID of all non-teaching personnel in Manila and Rizal campuses are issued for use. According to ICTC, the non-teaching personnel were prioritized because they report to work on site.

“My friends and I have tried using the upgraded ID. It was very convenient,” said Mark Eslao, a non-teaching personnel. “We are thankful for this innovation,” he exclaimed.

The second phase covers the issuance of the upgraded ID to university administrators, faculty, and students.

The upgrade is connected to the University’s institutional direction, among which is the utilization of Information and Communications Technology for efficient and effective operations.



500 GIFTS FOR FAMILIES

Norielyn C. Tabag, RSW

In solidarity with the Catholic Church, San Beda University, through the Campus Ministry Office, the Community Engagement Center, and the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, culminates the celebration of the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

As the former CBCP President and current Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles shared during the bishops' 121st Plenary Assembly, *the best way to celebrate 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines amid the health crisis is to make our faith shine in deeds of charity and mercy*, San Beda University culminates with a program dubbed, *500 Years of Christianity (YoC): 500 Gifts for 500 Families*.

This is also in consonance with the celebration of Lenten season, which is a moment for repentance, sacrifice, and almsgiving. Our Holy Father Pope Francis, in his Lenten 2022 message, reminds that Lent is a time for personal and community renewal and to reflect on Saint Paul's exhortation to the Galatians: "Let us not grow tired of doing good, for in due time, we shall reap our harvest, if we do not give up. So then, while we have the opportunity, let us do good to all" (*Gal 6:9-10*).



500
YEARS

Thus, *500 Years of Christianity (YoC): 500 Gifts for 500 Families* is anchored to the tripod of Benedictine Formation, the components of which are education, celebration, and outreach. The program includes the conduct of evangelization, Eucharistic celebration, and a conclusion of the sharing of gifts to partner communities, organizations, and institutions. San Beda University was able to reach out to 500 Filipino families from Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal; Barangay Anahaw, Silang,

Cavite; Claro M. Recto High School; Manila High School; and the Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene Interfaith community and extend the 500 gifts as a manifestation of Benedictine Catholic faith.

The culminating program kicked off on March 4, 2022, during the Non-Teaching Personnel's Lenten Recollection and was followed with departmental activities. The highlight of the simultaneous culminating activities took place on April 20-22, 2022.

Schedule	Partner Community/ Organization/ Institution	Sponsoring Department/College
April 20, 2022	Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal Claro M. Recto High School Manila High School	Integrated Basic Education Department College of Arts and Sciences SBU Employees College of Arts and Sciences
April 21, 2022	Barangay Anahaw, Silang, Cavite	College of Nursing College of Medicine
April 22, 2022	Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene	College of Law

The Bedan community, spearheaded by student leaders, took active involvement, and provided generous assistance for the project. Student Councils from various colleges and the Integrated Basic Education Department served as primary sponsors of the 500 Gifts, with support from the CAS Bedan Volunteers and some SBU employees.

Indeed, sharing our giftedness is our mission as Christians; an opportunity to take advantage to do good and reach out to those who are in need. As Bedans, we are called and act to serve the common good.

That in all things God may be glorified!

The Logo Explained

CROSS
is depicted as Magellan's cross and a ship's mast to carry sails

SHIP
symbolizes the navigators who brought faith to the Philippines

BLUE
represents the Holy Spirit in a form of a dove

FIGURES
are depicted from the painting of Fernando Amorsolo's 'First Baptism in the Philippines'

SUN
is derived from the Philippine flag, portraying new life and the Risen Christ

ICHTHUS
or fish that symbolizes Jesus was used by early Christians to introduce themselves to fellow Christians

BLUE BEADS
outline the holy rosary

BROWN LINES
represent the hand of God

Credit: CNN Philippines



IF YOU LOVE YOUR GIFTS YOU'D LOVE TO GIVE IT TOO

Klenarchi Mae E. Flores, RSW Merielle O. Palacio, RSW Norielyn C. Tabag, RSW

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.

1 Peter 4:10

San Beda University, through the Community Engagement Center (CEC), is a committed and faithful steward in helping its partner communities through the collaborative implementation of programs, projects, and interventions.

We are all witnesses of the torments brought by the continuing pandemic manifested in numerous aspects. It heavily affected the lives of every individual. However, despite the devastating effects of the pandemic, the University continued to execute its programs and services utilizing various mechanisms and online platforms. Through community involvement, Bedans utilized their gifts of expertise to help partners enhance their skills

and gain knowledge imparted from the webinars conducted.

As the COVID-19 restrictions eased, CEC resumed field visits to partner communities in Sitio San Gabriel, Brgy. Dolores, Taytay Rizal, Sitio Pactil, Bauko, Mountain Province, and Brgy. Anahaw II, Bulihan, Silang, Cavite. The community visit provided a clearer picture of the communities as they navigate the new normal.

Faculty members have actively participated during the community visits, namely: *Dr. Bayani Matitu*, and *Prof. Gary M. Galang* from College of Arts and Sciences in Barangay Anahaw II, Silang, Cavite; *Prof. Gil P. Soriano* from College of Nursing in Barangay Dolores and Barangay San Juan in Taytay, Rizal; and *Messrs. Aris A. Algonahota, Ervin Q. Mata,*

Anthony Eric T. Cabbab, Henrick Lararo Go, John Vincent Gonzales from the Integrated Basic Education Department-Social Action Program in Claro M. Recto High School and Manila High School on the occasion of SBU institutional Christmas 2021 celebration themed PasKOMUNIDAD: Paskong Pusong Nagkakaisa sa Pag-silang ni Hesus.

On the other hand, other faculty members and administrators generously shared their knowledge and skills with students at partner schools, specifically Claro M. Recto High School and Manila High School. Integrated Basic Education Department Assistant Prefect for Student Activities, *Mr. Benjamin Sonajo*, served as Resource Speaker for the **Career Guidance Seminar** for Grade 10 learners of Claro

M. Recto High School (CMRHS) on February 23, 2022. Mr. Sonajo explained the different tracks and strands in Senior High School. He also shared the factors to consider in deciding which course to take.

The College of Arts and Sciences' Dunong Agapay Project composed of Psychology, Languages and Literature, and Theology departments, delivered the Student Work Immersion Program, themed **Building Resilience, Enhancing Competencies and Thriving in Uncertainties**, for Grade 12 students of Claro M. Recto High School. *Prof. Alvin M. Nieva* served as Resource Person for the webinar entitled **"Workplace Rights and Responsibilities"** on March 2, 2022, while *Prof. Neiley P. Satumira* discussed **Confidentiality in the Workplace** on March 9, 2022. Profs. Nieva and Satumira are

both from the Department of Psychology.

Subsequently, *Ms. Barbara Ann Yanga*, Head of the I.T. Development and Services Office, also served as Resource Speaker to the Manila High School Work Immersion Program for Grade 12-ICT students. The session was entitled **Introduction to Photoshop** which took place on March 17, 2022. She generously shared her expertise on the details of editing and layering of photos.

Undoubtedly, Bedans are *faithful stewards of God's grace*. Gifts come in various forms, and every BEDAN has always been willing to share these gifts as a clear demonstration of faithfulness and stewardship. Amidst the pandemic, volunteerism among staff, faculty, and administrators has proven that the love of Christ and neighbor can not be bound. Not even by the pandemic.



Photo shows Dr. Bayani Matitu sharing his expertise in health and wellness to one of San Beda University's partner communities.

Glimpses & Glitters

Greg Emmanuel D. Baniaga



Photo Credit: Wallpaper Safari

The Linkages and International Affairs (LIA) Office, since it was instituted in March 2014 as the then Office of International Cooperation (OIC), have boosted the international partnerships of San Beda University making its programs and activities at par with international standards. Through its academic, research, and community engagement programs, LIA organized, co-organized, and participated in varied activities that make the Bedan administrators, faculty, staff, and students invigorated with the latest trends and issues in interzonal higher education, cross-cultural understanding to be globally competitive.

Internationalization continued to flourish despite mobility restrictions in support of institutional goals and objectives.

Below are the contributions of LIA based on different Key Results Areas from January to March of this academic year.

KRA #1: Governance and Management

LIA has organized and hosted the initial meeting and discussion on the Online International Academic Lecture Series and Research Collaboration on March 3, 2022. It was participated by representatives from Indonesia - Langlangbuana University, Parahyangan Catholic University, and Universitas Bengkulu. The following Universities also participated: University Malaysia Kelantan from Malaysia, and Princess of Naradhiwas University from Thailand. As such, SBU and these internation-

Photo Credit: GoodFon.com



Photo shows the online meeting of LIA with Vice President for Academics Dr. Divina M. Edralin and partner-universities from Indonesia.

all partner universities were able to discuss and agree on possible collaborative online activities for international lecture, joint research project, and international publication. The meeting was facilitated by the Vice President for Academics and the Director of Research and Development Office, Dr. Divina M. Edralin, with the presence of the Vice President for Research and Innovation, Dr. Nomar M. Alviar. LIA also organized and



Photo shows the ASEAN Learning Network's Executive online meeting held last March 1, 2022.

hosted the ASEAN Learning Network's (ALN) 9th Executive Special Meeting last March 1, 2022, with distinguished personalities such as the Chairman of ALN, Prof. Emeritus Dato Ir. Ts. Dr. Zainai Bin Mohamed (UTM Malaysia), Vice Chairman I, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB (SBU Philippines), Vice Chairman II, Dr. Mangadar Situmorang (UNPAR Indonesia), Executive Director Prof. Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela (SBU Philippines), Deputy Executive Director Mr. Fernando Mulia (UNPAR Indonesia), Treasurer Dr. Teresa Freiburghaus, Auditor Dr. Titiek Kartika Hendrastiti (UNIB Indonesia), and Legal Advisor Mr. Naik Henokh Parmenas (Kalbis Institute, Indonesia). The meeting was also attended by Ts. Dr. Noorlizawati Abd Rahim from Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM).

Apart from ALN, SBU is also actively engaged in the programs and projects of the Swiss-Asean Learning and Teaching (SALT) Association Board. A preparatory meeting was held online last January 17 and 26, 2022, which paved way to identify international collaborative programs and activities in 2022-2023.

KRA #2: Quality of Teaching and Learning

As a learning institution, San Beda University through LIA, invests in its valuable stakeholders: Its teachers and learners. Relative to this, LIA attended and participated in various online activities including the UMAP-Canada Scholarship Program for the School Year 2022-2023 which is funded by the Government of Canada last March 02, 2022. Conducted also is the participation of SBU faculty to gain additional knowledge about the genre of poetry and encourage them to start writing from an award-winning international workshop instructors in the recently concluded, "SLI International Webinar on "Writers' Workshop: Introduction to Poetry," hosted by St. Laurent Institute (SLI), Massachusetts, USA.

LIA also facilitated the participation of SBU representatives in the public orientation on the CHED Memorandum Order No. 32 Series of 2021, "Monitoring Guidelines on The Implementation of Flexible Learning" held January 27, 2022, and the participation of Dr. Jennifer de Guia, CAS Chair- Department of Business Management and Entrepreneurship (DBME) in SALT's Social Entrepreneurship Acceleration Coopetition 2021 (SEAC) Academic Committee. The first ensured updated and other relevant information on CMO #32 for appropriate and effective implementation of flexible learning in SBU while the later provided opportunity to SBU administrator to join in an international teaching and learning program integrating academics, research, and community engagements with other SALT member-universities.

KRA #3: Quality of Professional Exposure, Research, and Creative Work

LIA co-organized the International Webinar on "Recovery after Disaster" with Langlangbuana University, Indonesia in cooperation with the CAS Department of Economics. Dr. Lorenzo A. Clavejo, Assistant Director-General of the National Security Council Secretariat and Prof. Rulina Viloria served as speakers.

LIA also facilitated the submissions of articles in the newly launched digitized The Bedan Today via zoom where Mr. Raffy D. Quines, Associate for Staff and Students and Mr. Greg Emmanuel D. Baniaga, Associate for Administrators and Faculty, served as contributors.

This collaboration between and among SBUs partners and networks, aim to further showcase professional competencies, all of which are relevant and responsive to the needs of society.

KRA #4: Support for Students

To ensure that students are exposed to multitudes of educational and cross-cultural development opportunities, various pathways were provided by LIA.

As such, participation in the "SLI International Webinar on "Writers' Workshop: Introduction to Poetry," hosted by St. Lau-

rent Institute (SLI), Massachusetts, USA rendered opportunities to students from the College of Arts and Sciences Department of Languages and Literature to supplement their academic knowledge and experiences in poetry writing. It was held every Sunday from January 23, 2022, to February 12, 2022.

KRA#5: Relations with the Community

To ensure that the University is seen as a valued institution by professional, government, and non-government organizations at the national and international level various community engagement activities were held.

Exhibiting the characteristics of a true Benedictine Community, SBU attended a webinar on International Linkages hosted by Mendiola Consortium last March 01, 2022, where LIA was able to identify strategies on internationalization in the new normal and identifies areas for international collaborative programs for stakeholders on academics, international research, and community engagement. Corollary to this, LIA also participated in the online “2nd PH-US University Partnerships Networking Event 2022,” hosted by CHED International Affairs Staff held Jan. 21, 2022. SBU maintains its active link with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the US Embassy for possible collaborations, and the Commission on Higher Education’s International Affairs Staff (CHED-IAS). Furthermore, LIA also joined another online event on January 20, 2022, “Honoring the Authors: Thanksgiving Tribute,” hosted by the Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations of the Philippines (COCOPEA).

Taking into consideration the building of good relationships with the international community, Prof. Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela shared San Beda University’s experiences in instituting a country chapter of ALN organization in Indonesia – including its historical background, previous activities like the Social Enterprise for Economic Development held in the differ-

ent Asian countries. The meeting was held on March 29, 2022, organized and hosted by Parahyangan Catholic University.

KRA#6: Sustainable Development Goals

Meanwhile, as the world struggles to combat and end poverty, to protect and conserve the earth, and make sure that every citizen of this planet is in harmony, peace, and prosperity with one another, SBU continues to adapt the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nation through its integration in the different curricular offerings. Several webinars manifest the university’s support to this call.

LIA participated in the ongoing international webinar of the Global Sustainable Futures Network (GSFN), “Shaping Sustainable Future Together Series,” hosted by Baliuag University. It was held every 3rd Friday of the month from Nov. 2021-April 15, 2022. This gave participants the opportunity to join and explore the international GSFN with member academic institutions, taking an active role in understanding and addressing the SDGs from action-based perspective and approaches for sustainability.

Parallel to this webinar, LIA also joined the “Higher Education in the Next Normal: Harmonizing Towards Complementarity, Continuity and Competitiveness” organized by the University of the Philippines Center for Integrative and Development Studies’ Program on Higher Education Research and Policy Program. It was held on February 3, 2022 via Zoom. The promoted complementarity, inclusivity, continuity, and quality in the higher education sector.

LIA extends its appreciation to all University administrators, faculty, staff, and students who have shown their outpouring support to these internationalization initiatives.

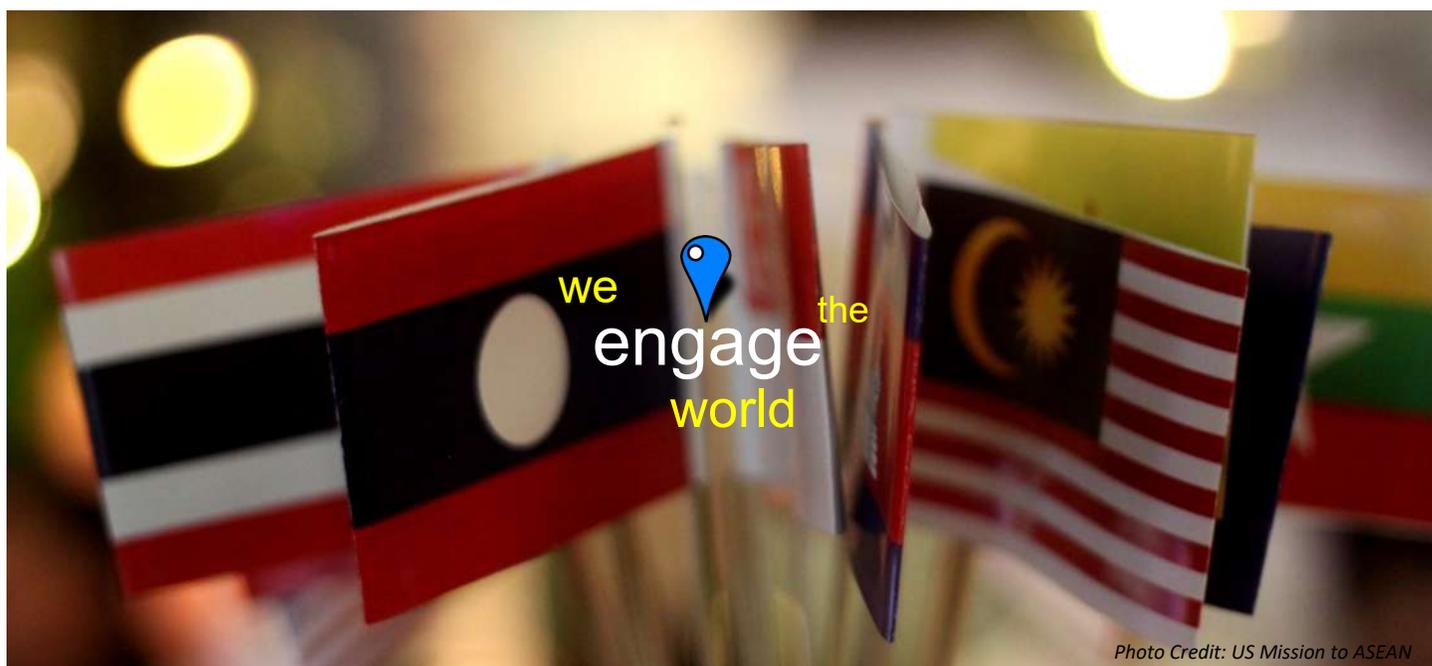


Photo Credit: US Mission to ASEAN



Photo shows Filipinos re-building their community after Haiyan, a destructive typhoon (Photo Credit: ILO)



SBU and Langlangbuana University-Indonesia Join Forces for “RECOVERY AFTER DISASTER” INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

Raffy D. Quines

San Beda University and Langlangbuana University-Indonesia, held their first international joint webinar titled, “Recovery after Disaster” on January 27, 2022, via Zoom through the Office of Linkages and International Affairs, headed by Prof. Dr. Tita Evasco-Branzuela, in collaboration with the Department of Economics, College of Arts and Sciences, led by Prof. Rulina Viloria.

The webinar on *Recovery after Disaster* focused on how to elevate awareness, and widen perspectives on disaster rehabilitation and synergetic recovery for both the Philippines and Indonesia.

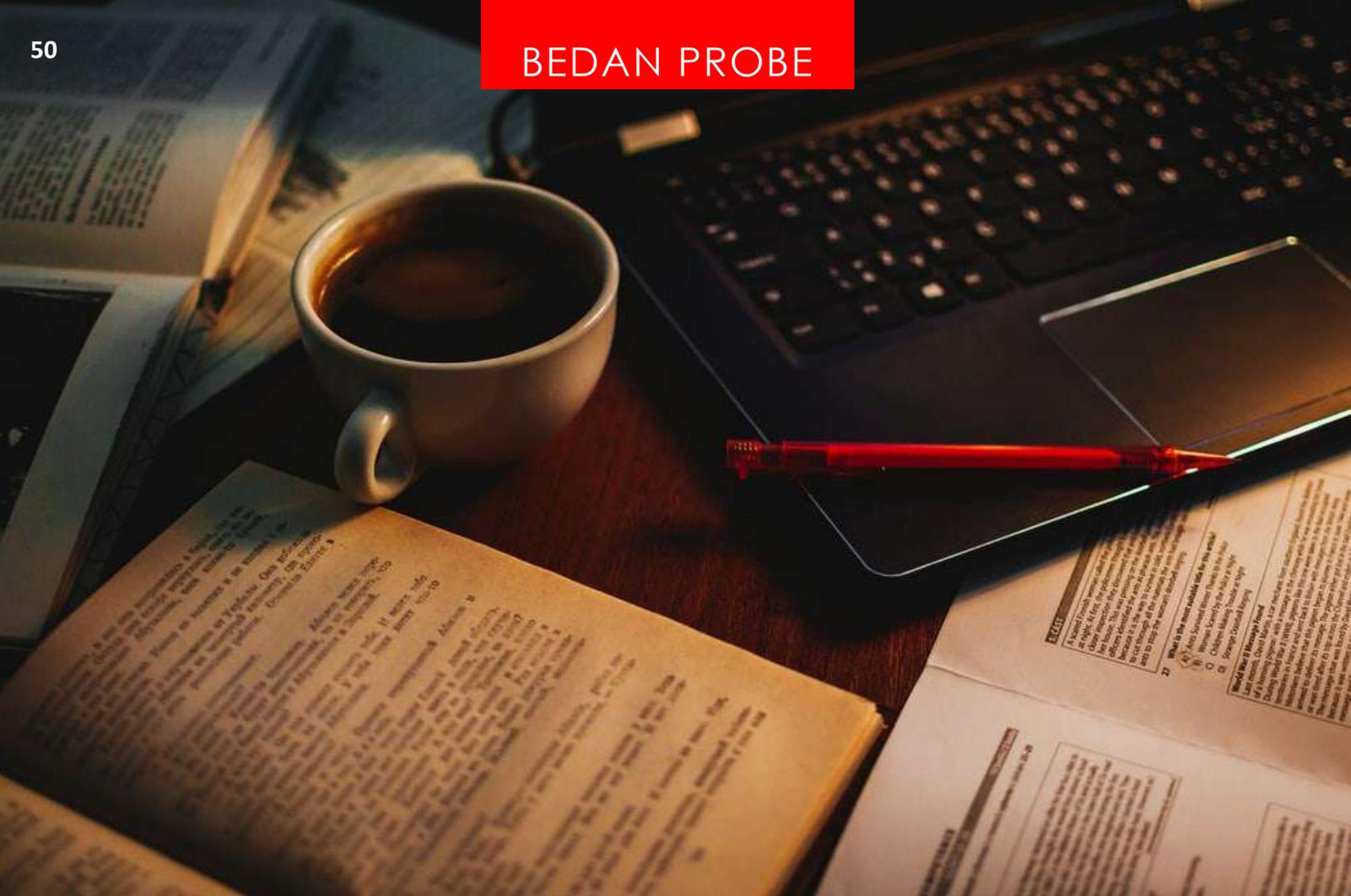
Two speakers shared their research-based perspectives, and country experiences. Prof. Dr. Lorenzo A. Clavejo, Asst. Director General for Strategic Management Staff, National Security Council of the Philippines, shared in his talk the policy guidelines of the Philippines on Crisis and

Contingency Planning, Institutions and Crisis Management Framework, Key Principles in Crisis Management, Preparedness Cycle, and the Five Ps in Crisis Management.

Dr. Hennie Husniah, Dra., M.T., Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering, Langlangbuana University, Bandung, Indonesia, presented a logarithm on how to predict fake news relative to disaster.

The international webinar was graced by the Rectors of the two universities, Rev. Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB, SBU Rector-President, and Dr. H.R.A.R. Hary Anwar, Drs. S.H., M.H., Rector of Langlangbuana University.

In attendance were the ASEAN Learning Network (ALN), University of Bengkulu, Indonesia, Institut Teknologi Kalimantan, Indonesia, Widyatama University, Indonesia, and San Beda University.



SBU HOLDS RESEARCH WEEK 2022

Romman V. Cubacub and Joel G. Filamor

San Beda University, a community of scholars of various collective expertise, held its University Research Week 2022. April 18 to 22, 2022 was loaded with scholastic activities which brought to front the research outputs of faculty, who are at the leading-edge of their fields. Students also presented their research output manifesting the breadth and depth of knowledge in various disciplines.

The University is cognizant of the fact that advancement of knowledge is key to national and global sustainability and advancement. For this reason, a significant volume of varied resources is consistently devoted

to the development of research and new knowledge. The Research Week affirmed that the institution is well within the sphere of higher education learning institutions where research scholars, facilities, and expertise thrive. Further, it

It is through research, scholarship, and discovery that we learn about our history and ourselves, understand the present context in which we live, and plan for and secure our future.

David Rosowsky

affirmed the seamless weaving of teaching and research endeavors for the common development of faculty and students.

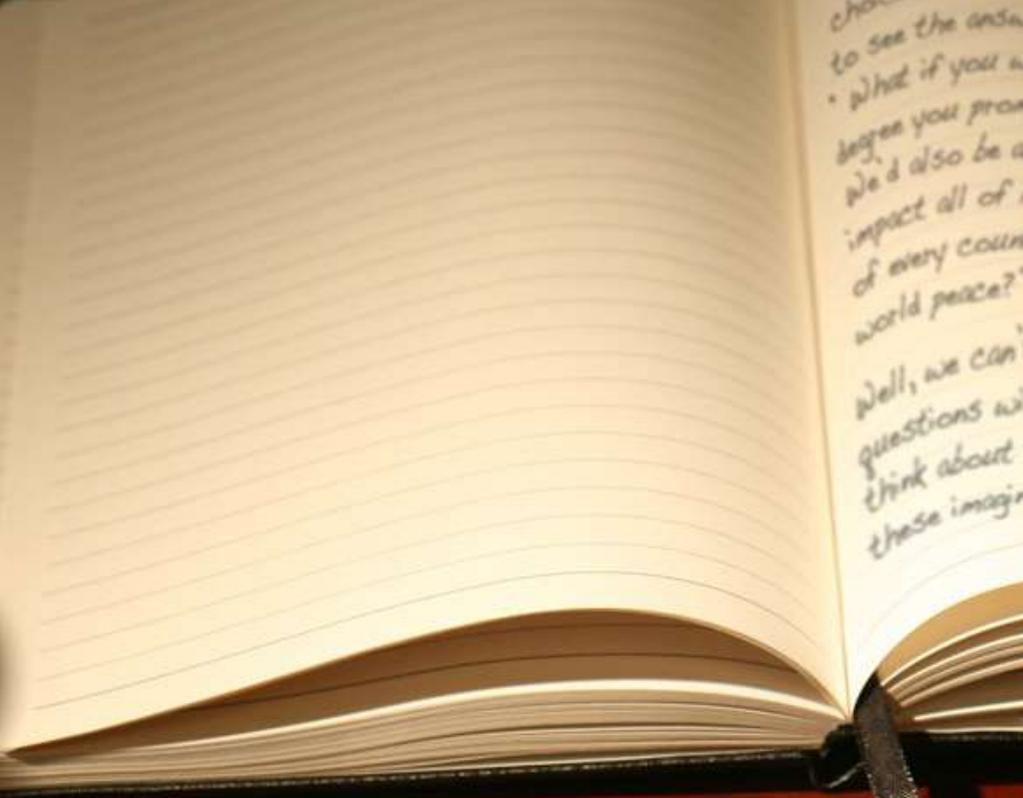
The Institution is committed to uphold continuous creation of pathways and opportunities of faculty and students to author, co-author and present at local and international conferences as these not only hone reputable Bedan scholars, but also lead to greater institutional visibility and credibility.

Research Week 2022 was themed “Gifted to Give: Harnessing Bedan Research for Sustainability” resonating the 500 years of Filipino Catholic faith and education and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The following is the program of the University Research Week planned and implemented by Dr. Nomar Alviar, Vice President for Research and Innovation, and Dr. Divina Edralin, Director, Research Development Center in coordination with the University Rector-President, Fr. Aloysius Ma. A. Maranan, OSB.

APRIL 18-22, 2022	Online Physical Display of Resources on SDG3
8:00 AM - 5:00PM	Integrated Basic Education Learning Resource Center San Beda University

APRIL 18, MONDAY	
2:00 - 3:00 PM	LUIS ABLAZA JR. PROFESSORIAL CHAIR LECTURE “The Question of God and the Language of Being in The Scientia Divina of St. Thomas Aquinas” Dr. Moses Aaron T. Angeles, Professorial Chairholder, College of Arts and Sciences
3:00 – 4:00 PM	JOSE G. ARAULLO PROFESSORIAL CHAIR LECTURE “Pope Francis’ Spiritual Domini and the Ministry of Women in the Liturgy” Dr. Josefina M. Manabat, Professorial Chairholder, Graduate School of Liturgy
APRIL 19, TUESDAY	
2:00 – 3:00 PM	JESUS P. FRANCISCO PROFESSORIAL CHAIR LECTURE “A Mixed Methods Analysis of an Online Medical Course during the COVID-19 Pandemic” Dr. Ma. Isabel M. Atienza, Professorial Chairholder, College of Medicine
3:00 – 5:00 PM	Forum on Getting Published in an International Journal for Social Science Linkages and International Affairs Office & Research and Development Center
APRIL 20, WEDNESDAY	
9:00 – 11:00 AM	Webinar on “TEACHERS: Enablers of Flourishing Students” Guidance and Counseling Office, Office of the Registrar, Benedictine Mission and Identity Office, and Office of the Student Affairs
2:00 – 3:00 PM	ENGR. ERIBERTO H. GOMEZ PROFESSORIAL CHAIR LECTURE “Religion in the Philippine Constitutional Context Social Theory, Jurisprudence and Interreligious Dialogue” Fr. Ranzilio C. Aquino, Professorial Chairholder, Graduate School of Law
2:30 – 4:00 PM	Webinar on “Optimizing Research Experience through Scholarly Online Resources” San Beda University Library
APRIL 21, THURSDAY	
1:30 - 5:00 PM	STUDENT RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM
APRIL 22, FRIDAY SBU RESEARCH SUMMIT 2022	



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