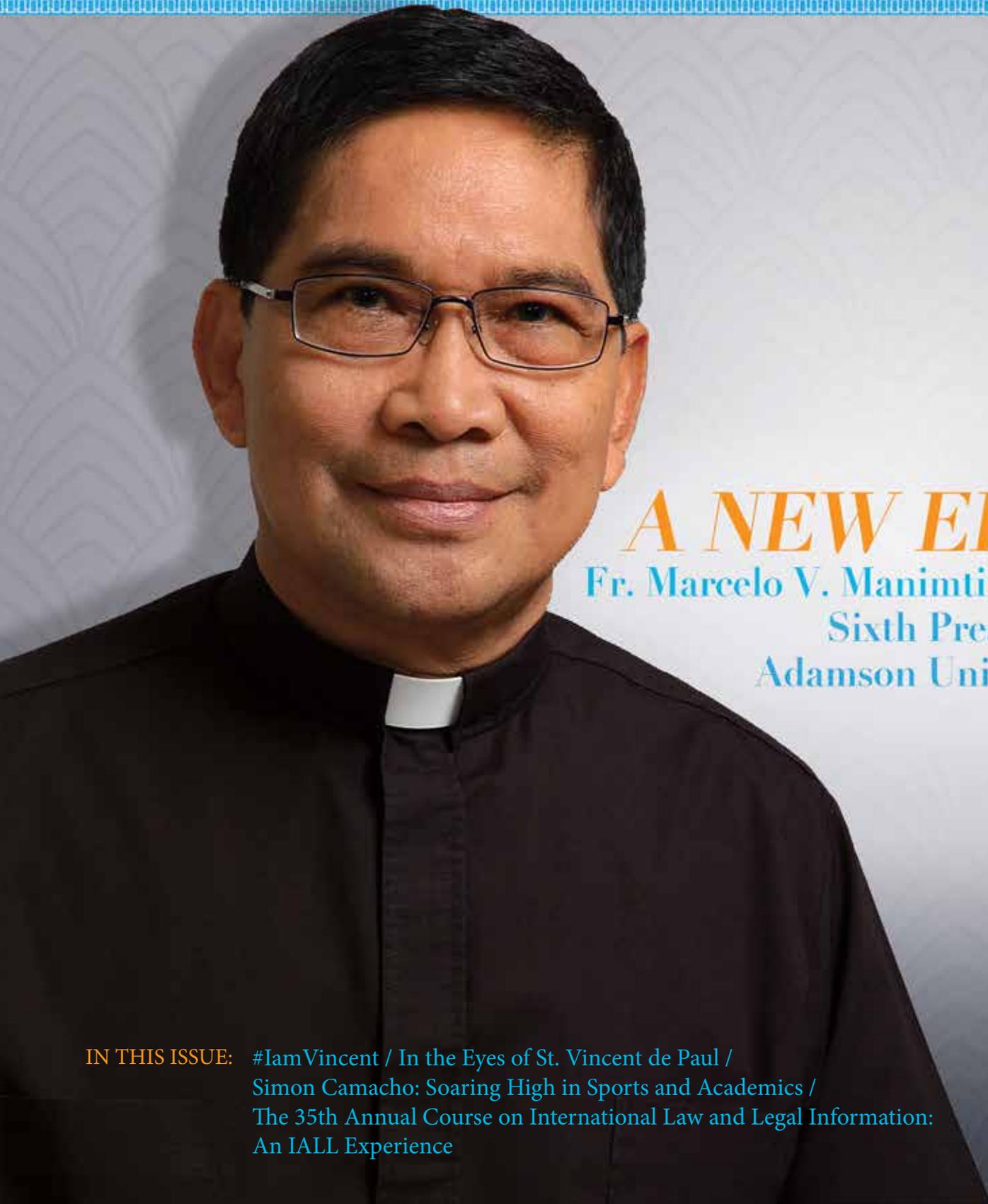


TOUCHSTONE



Semestral Magazine of Adamson University

June - October 2016 Vol.9, No.1



A NEW ERA:
Fr. Marcelo V. Manimtim, CM
Sixth President,
Adamson University

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The 35th Annual Course on International Law and Legal Information:
An IALL Experience

#IamVincent: I Come into This World to Leave a Mark

As has become a tradition, each year the Office for Vincentian Identity and Mission, Cultural Affairs Office, and Institutional Development and External Affairs conduct the On-The-Spot



#IamVincent: I HAVE COME INTO THIS WORLD TO LEAVE A MARK

My personal essay on the feast of St. Vincent de Paul

By Alejandro “Dondon” Nueva, Jr.

“From dust thou art, to dust returneth,” so goes the admonition from a priest or a lay minister on Ash Wednesday

as foreheads of the faithful are imposed with ashes. The antiquity of this ritual carries with it both a solemn duty to faithfully observe the Church’s teaching as a follower of Christ and a stark reminder of one’s limited earthly existence. Allowing oneself a soulful time gives him or her a clear reflection of his or her own life’s journey, from the process of being born into this world to the eventual passing away from this earthly life. This, in philosophical concept, is a journey from *terminus a quo* to *terminus ad quem*, that is, a journey from beginning to end.

But many tend to forget that there is a chasm between birth and death in our lives. It is in this chasm where we must find meaning into our search—one that leads to fulfillment and happiness in living life to the fullest, in the service of others. In our journey, the goal is not supposed to be directed to our end (death) but on the journey of life itself. And many, forgetful of finding meaning in this chasm, go about life without a clear goal, thus wandering about listlessly. Sadly, man will find life wanting no matter how long he lives—as if lived without the purpose of finding meaning, fulfillment, and happiness for oneself and for others. In such a case, life itself (or humanity, for that matter), even with all its beauty, may be said to be just like an empty shell, without splendor—so ordinary and too hollow.

But there are individuals in the annals of our history whose existence provides a contrast to an otherwise drab and ordinary life journey. They come to be an inspiring model of a life of service willingly offered and continually lived for others. Their

lives exemplify meaning, fulfillment, and happiness in serving the needs of others. Among them is Saint Vincent de Paul, born in Pouy, Landes, France on April 24, 1581 to French peasants Jean de Paul and Betrande Mores.

St. Vincent de Paul, being a poor man himself, did not enjoy luxuries in life. He was shaped by the guidance of his parents who resolved to simply give him a good education to develop his talents and enable him in life. St. Vincent lived his life differently despite personal challenges and tumultuous situations, mindful of the limitations and circumstances that surrounded his family and the society he lived in. He stood out among the rest to become a man for others, offering his life to the poor and downtrodden, the galley slaves and prisoners, the sick and the homeless, the abandoned and the elders, the orphaned children left on the gutters and the hungry. He was instrumental in bringing about change to the deplorable conditions that he saw firsthand in the villages around France during his time. This he did personally by dint of prayer, hard work, and strong reliance to the Divine Providence. He also organized his contemporaries in the Church and government, including acquaintances who were rich and privileged, to act with love and charity toward those who needed help. He organized the Ladies of Charity, the Confraternities of Charity and charged them with the zeal of compassion to care for those in the margins of society. With the help of St. Louise de Marillac, he co-founded the Daughters of Charity and later on the Congregation of the Mission, popularly known today as the Vincentians.

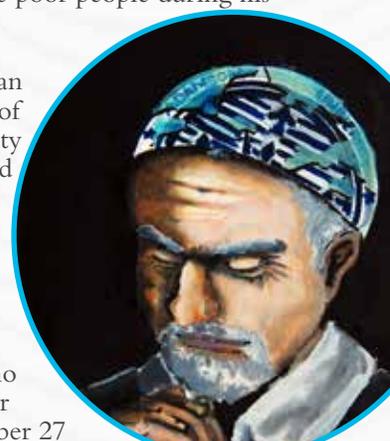
Helping each other, St. Vincent and St. Louise were drawn to the consuming fire of Christ’s love—*Caritas Christi Urget Nos*—as true servants of the poor and began the mission of embracing the world in a network of selfless acts of charity and personal loving service to the poor. St. Vincent became actively involved in the work of the church to alleviate poverty, bring about humanitarian assistance to

the community, and spiritually guide the flock who were under his pastoral care. He unrelentingly pursued a vision of carrying out the work of the church based on the universal teaching of not only preaching the good news through effective evangelization, but more importantly, in reaching out—person to person—in order to see Christ in the poor. He squarely answered the call to serve those that God has called Him to serve: the poor, whom he calls his masters. Here was a man who heeded the call of his time and did not hesitate to invest his life in the service of the lives of the poor people during his lifetime.

Here was a man whose works of love and charity has now spread to all corners of the globe through the tradition of Vincentian charism. Here was a man who we now honor every September 27 as the Universal Patron of Charity, who lived meaningfully the chasm of his life for others.

Here was a man whose statue stands in the company of saints and martyrs at the Saint Peter’s Basilica in Rome as a testament to his greatness of spirit. Here was a man whose life has found meaning—fulfilled and happy—in serving the poor.

He was Vincent. He came to leave a mark, not in the graveyard where he is peacefully interred, but in the hearts of the poor, in the bosom of humanity.

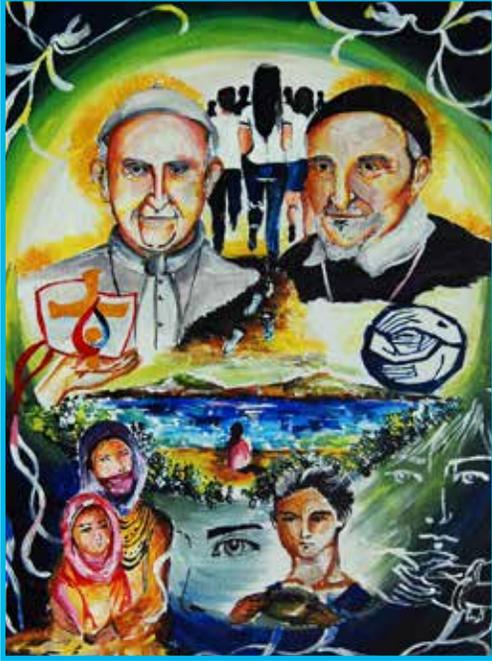


About the Author

Alejandro Nueva, Jr. was a former professor from the Social Sciences Department and taught for 20 years at AdU. He was also previously the Coordinator of the Student Recruitment Section under the Office for University Relations.

Painting and Essay Writing Contests to commemorate the feast of St. Vincent de Paul. The theme for this year's contest draws its inspiration from the call made by Pope Francis during the recent

World Youth Day. In this issue, Touchstone publishes two essays each with their own unique take on how to emulate St. Vincent and leave their legacy in society.



In the Eyes of St. Vincent de Paul

Alexius O. Bantoto

4th Year, BSBA Financial Management

Winner, 2016 Vincentian On-The-Spot Essay Writing Contest

Growing up, my mother taught me the values of sharing what I have with the needy. After hearing Mass at the Baclaran Church, I would see kids holding not toys but sampaguita garlands to be sold at a modest price. In my innocent mind, I would look in the eyes of my mother and she would give me a meek smile, which was my go signal. I would get a coin from my pocket and give it to the child. The child would stretch out her thin hands as she welcomed my simple present and I could not forget how her eyes lit up with gratefulness and delight.

Vincent, in his simple life, has touched the lives of our forefathers and continues to touch the lives of today's generation. In his devotion to charity, he selflessly offered what was best for others even when it meant foregoing the matters that were important to him. This is the true essence of seeing people in the eyes of St. Vincent: acknowledging the message of charity as inspired by him. And through that, we would be enabled to extend our hand and offer what is good and beneficial to others.

It is still vividly written in my mind. I saw a man holding a cup in his hand one afternoon as I was traversing my path home after a long, tiring day. His eyes were sullen. His skin was marked with bruises. His clothes were tattered. He extended his empty cup at passersby, hoping for some spare change or food. Others would throw dirty looks at him; others would extend a little of what they have in their pockets and throw it in his empty cup. This man was familiar to me. As I passed by him, words escaped from his mouth. "Anak, pangkain lang." The place was filled with noises from people passing by and the cars were as loud as drums yet I clearly heard his pleading. It resonated the sound of a father sincerely speaking to his son. I looked at him. As my eyes met his, mixed emotions poured from my heart. How long has he been here begging? When was the last time he ate?

In any circumstance that I am in, with whatever kind of people I rub elbows with, I always take a moment to look in their eyes. In those random moments in my ordinary life, I have come to realize that the eyes are indeed a window to the soul. It speaks of words unspoken. It expresses emotions dwelling in the deepest pit of a person's heart. It communicates what words cannot express. And in that simple deed, it would imprint in me the image of the man begging in the streets, the eyes of my mother as she gave me her sweetest smile, and that kid's joy when I gave her my coin after mass at Baclaran Church.

The image of St. Vincent de Paul is present in everyone. When we choose to take a different path and look at circumstances with a heart like St. Vincent, a different perspective flows from the heart. St.

In the eyes of charity, in the heart of helping, in the image of kindness, St. Vincent de Paul truly forged a remarkable image. Something that is not unique to him alone but something that we can also practice in our daily lives. For the true message of his life is best embraced when we choose to take a step beyond ordinary kindness and walk an extra mile to reinforce the noble values and attitude St. Vincent de Paul has exhibited.

In the days to come, you will surely meet the same people I met in my ordinary life – the hungry man on the streets, my mother's loving eyes, and a child wandering around selling sampaguita. We all share an ordinary life, but life in itself gets extraordinary through the paths we choose to take. I urge you to follow the footsteps of St. Vincent de Paul.



Mr. Raul D. Agner
Director

Yael Tamara B. Esperat
Associate Editor

Mar P. Bustamante
Photographer

Sheryl B. Duhaylungsod
Coordinator

Jonathan S. Tolores
Graphic Artist

Mico John Razzel R. Coquia
Student Assistant

Letters and comments must be addressed to:

The Editor, Touchstone

(A semestral supplement of The Adamson News)
Institutional Development and External Affairs Office

Adamson University
G/F Cardinal Santos Building, 900 San Marcelino St.,
Ermita, Manila, Philippines 1000

Te. No.: (02) 524-2011 loc. 122 / Telefax: (02) 522-0550
Email: adunews@adamson.edu.ph

Entered as 3rd Class Mail at Adamson Post Office under
Permit No. 3C-14-02-222 NCR valid until
December 31, 2016. Postage paid.



A New Era: Fr. Marcelo V. Manimtim, C.M. Sixth President of Adamson University

In December 2015 Adamson University ushered in a new era in its illustrious history with the turnover of duties to its new President, Fr. Marcelo V. Manimtim, CM. He comes to the university at a time when AdU is banking on its sustained strengths to tide itself through the seismic changes brought about by the K-12 transition. With a new foresight and approach for the university, Fr. Manimtim takes on the presidency mindful of its capabilities and opportunities for further growth, and the Adamson

community looks to continue its journey with him with optimism and faith.

In this issue of Touchstone we introduce the University's sixth President to our readers. Apart from his biography, we are also publishing his inaugural speech given during the Investiture Ceremony so as to share with everyone his vision and plans for the University.

Biography

Fr. Marcelo V. Manimtim, CM was born on October 30, 1950 in Tagaytay City, Cavite province. He began his elementary studies in Tagaytay and entered St. Vincent's Seminary in Valenzuela, Bulacan in June 1963 after a chance meeting with a Vincentian priest during the summer.

Fr. Manimtim finished his AB in Philosophy at Adamson University in 1972, thus making him the second alumnus to become President of the university. He then studied Theology at the University of Santo Tomas, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1976.

His path to priesthood continued at the Vincentian Hills Seminary, which he entered in June 1968. Fr. Manimtim made his perpetual vows on May 26, 1975 and was ordained to the priesthood on March 15, 1976.

He took graduate studies at the Gregorian Pontifical University in Rome, Italy, finishing his special studies in Church History in 1980 and his doctorate in Philosophy in 1993.

Fr. Manimtim's pastoral ministry began in 1976, when he was appointed Prefect of Discipline at St. Vincent's Seminary in Bulacan. After finishing his studies in

Rome, he returned to the Philippines in 1980 and taught Church History at the San Carlos Major Seminary in Cebu City for a year. In 1981, he became the Spiritual Director at Vincentian Hills Seminary in Angono, Rizal for three years and Rector for four years. After pursuing his doctorate, he was sent as a missionary to the Solomon Islands in 1993. Together with two other Vincentians, he established the Holy Name of Mary Seminary in Honiara, which is the first and so far only seminary in the Solomon Islands.

After his mission, Fr. Manimtim became Rector of the St. Vincent School of Theology (SVST) in Quezon City in 2001 and became Superior/Rector of the St. Vincent Seminary, also in Quezon City, in 2002. From 2004 to 2007, he became the Provincial Visitor of the Philippine Province of the Congregation of the Mission. As Provincial Visitor, he had supervision of all Filipino Vincentian priests and brothers working in the Philippines and those assigned abroad. He also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Adamson-Ozanam Educational Institutions, Inc., the corporate entity that governs and controls the management of Adamson University.

After his stint as Provincial Visitor, Fr. Manimtim was sent to the Maison-Mère (Mother House) of the Congregation of the Mission in Paris,

France to become the director of the Centre International de Formation (CIF). The CIF functions as the center for continuing formation and renewal of Vincentian Priests and Brothers from around the world. Fr. Manimtim served as CIF director from 2008 to 2014 and was the first Asian CM priest to hold the position.

Upon his return from Paris, Fr. Manimtim went back to SVST as professor and Rector. He was elected President of Adamson University in September 2015 and will be installed as its sixth President on December 7.

In accepting the position of University President, Fr. Manny—as he is called fondly by the community—will embark on a journey that comes at a time of great challenge brought on by the shift to the K+12 educational system. Fr. Manny is undaunted, however. “We build on strength,” he says. Strengthening the commitment of the faculty is one of his top priorities, adding, “The services that the students get is the bottom line that has to be guaranteed and enhanced.”

His experience as a priest, missionary, educator, and administrator bodes well for Adamson University. With Fr. Manimtim at the helm, the university can face its challenges with a steady hand guiding them through.



Inaugural Address

Given during the Investiture Ceremony
held on September 9, 2016
at the AdU Theater

Dr. Patricia Licuanan, chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education; Presidents and representatives of distinguished universities and colleges; Officers of government institutions allied with education; Honored ambassadors; Administrators and colleagues of Adamson University; Vincentian conferes; dear family and friends, good afternoon.

In 1932, George Lucas Adamson had a simple vision: to give the Filipino youth a fighting chance as far as livelihood is concerned. So he founded a technical school that taught young Filipinos practical things, like making soap, tanning leather, and preserving meat. Those were the 1930s—a distant halcyon time when the country was at the threshold of industrialization.

Today, things are different and much more complex. Today, our country's future rests not only on teaching our youth how to make soap or tan leather, but also in helping them grow into well-rounded professionals and committed, socially engaged men and women.

Thankfully, we have a rich, full-fledged technical foundation to bank on. But although we have a number of excellent facilities—we have the biggest chemical laboratory in Asia, for one—I believe we still have to complement this by further ramping up our research efforts. We must continue cultivating a culture steeped in innovation—among the faculty and students—and setting our sights on finding lasting solutions to our nation's problems.

Those were what the Vincentians inherited when they became stewards of the university in 1964—to continue Adamson's vision of offering high-quality education but infusing it with the immortal Vincentian ideals of helping those who need us most: the destitute.

Today, the needs of the times are calling upon us and we must, like what we've always done, respond to this call in the best way we know: as a dynamic, socially responsible community. As I often say, as an institution of learning, Adamson University is at the forefront of this perpetual campaign to achieve social

transformation. As educators, we must step into the breach left by the family and organized religion to supplement what has been perceived as lacking in the emotional and character development and social responsibility of students.

To achieve this lofty goal, we must constantly ensure that we continue to provide a brand of education that enables our students to effectively recognize the organic relationship between the social and the individual—between merely knowing about something and understanding one's place and power in it. To be part of social change.

That is why it is not enough to rely too much on traditional methods of instruction—we must, instead, go beyond the classroom and expose our students to the Christian values we wish for them to inculcate. As it has been said, "it is in doing good that one becomes good."

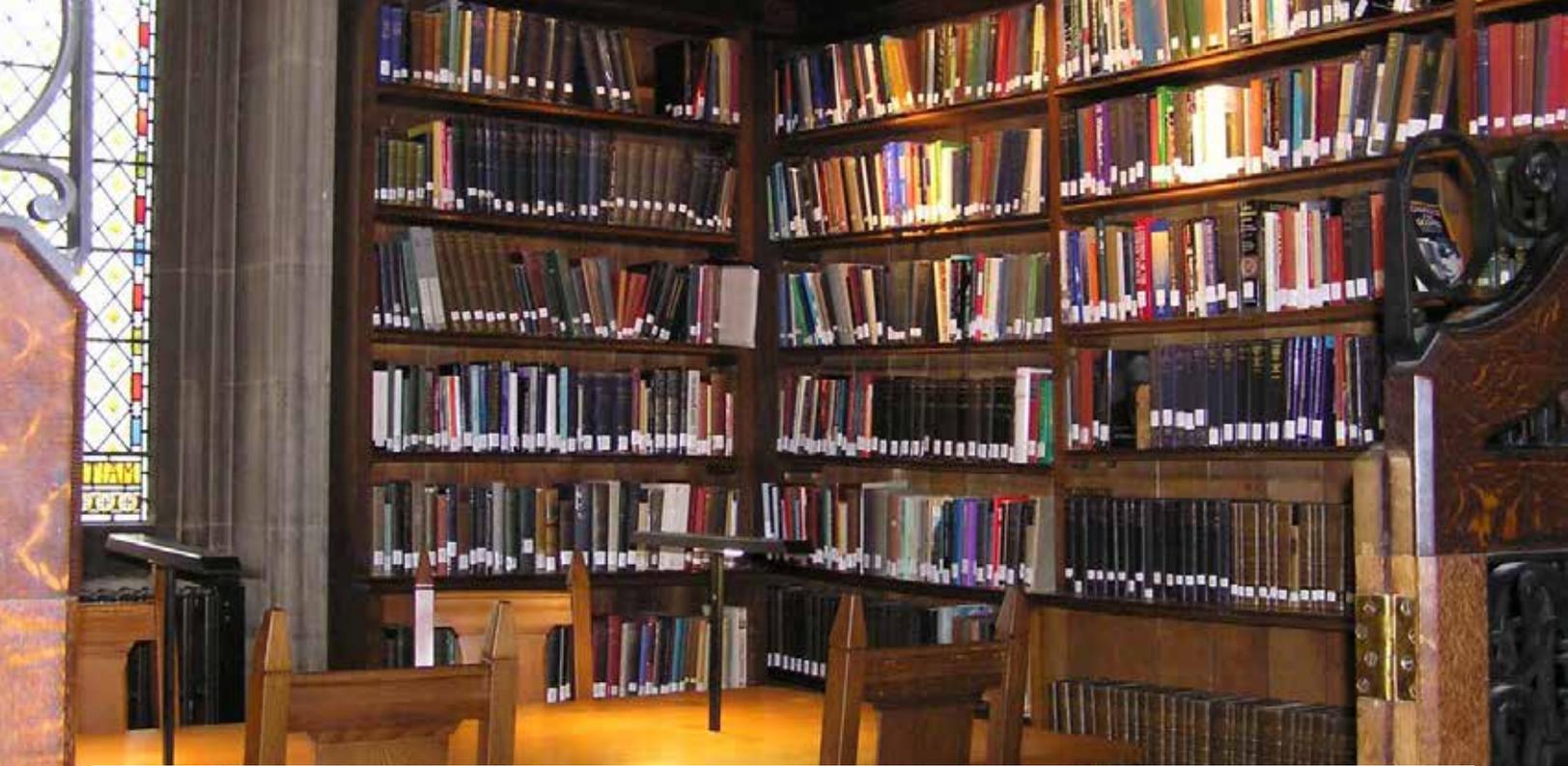
How do we achieve this? For one, we have basically overhauled the usual approach to service and laid down the foundation of much more robust and

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PHOTO GALLERY: Fr. Manimtim's Investiture







The 35th Annual Course on International Law and Legal Information: An IALL Experience

By Vivian A. Lirio

Editor's Note: In this essay, Ms. Vivian Lirio, librarian of Adamson University's St. Thomas More Law Library, shares with us the experiences and insights she earned during the International Association of Law Libraries (IALL) annual course in the United Kingdom. In May 2016, she received a bursary to attend the four-day conference. IALL is a worldwide cooperative non-profit organization of librarians, libraries, and institutions concerned with the acquisition, dissemination, and use of legal information. Ms. Lirio was granted the bursary along with two other librarians and her attendance to the course earned her membership to the IALL.

A total of 198 law librarians, library personnel, research specialists, and exhibitors from across the globe gathered in Oxford, England to attend the International Association of Law Libraries' (IALL) 35th Annual Course on International Law and Legal Information. The conference was held on July 31 to August 3, 2016 at Keble College, a constituent college of the University of Oxford. The conference carried the theme *Common Law Perspectives in a Global Context*.

As a bursary recipient, my attendance at the conference was made possible by the generosity of IALL. This year's conference was also attended by three Filipino delegates from the University of the Philippines: Ms. Lilia Echiverri, President of the Asosasyon ng Aklatan at Sinupan ng Diliman, Inc. and IALL board member; Ms. Mila Saguil, College Librarian from the Institute of Islamic Studies; and Judith Elisha Saguil, Mila's daughter who is currently studying at UP.

The conference started with an opening reception at the Oxford University Press (OUP), where participants were welcomed by Mr. Jeroen Vervliet, IALL President, and Professor Ewan McKendrick, Registrar of the University of Oxford. Their speeches were followed by a brief presentation on the history of Law Publishing at OUP presented by its Editorial Director, Mr. Andy Redman.

It was a great pleasure to meet various people and gain friends from different foreign countries during the

opening ceremony. They were Mr. Andreas Knobelsdorf from Universitat Hamburg; Ms. Lyonette Louis-Jacques from University of Chicago Law School; Mr. John Borden from Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library; Mr. Per Teglborg, a retired librarian from Denmark; Mr. Peter Zawada from University of Cambridge; Ms. Lisa Anderson from University of Birmingham; and Ms. Antonida Kocharova from Oxford University Press.

I also had conversations with Mr. David Gee, Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, and with my fellow bursary recipients Mr. Holger Aman from Australia and Ms. Jennifer Findlay from Scotland. Mr. Gee told us that there were 29 competitive applicants around the world but our applications were significantly promising.

A walking tour to allocated libraries in Oxford was also organized. For this tour, I was able to visit the Bodleian Library, one of the oldest libraries in Europe and has been a library of



enormous difference in my career. This is incomparable from my other professional experiences and I hope to attend IALL's future activities.

Allow me to extend my profound gratitude to the administrators who have supported me in this endeavor: Fr. Marcelo Manimtim, our

University President; Dr. Catherine Castañeda, Vice President for Academic Affairs; Fr. Rafael Eloriaga, Vice President for Financial Affairs; Atty. Anna Maria Abad, dean of the College of Law; and Ms. Helen De Castro, Library director.

I also thank the local organizing committee headed by Ms. Ruth Bird for being so accommodating and for giving us travel updates, as well as the whole IALL Board—Mr. Vervliet, Mr. Gee, Ms. Echiverri, Mr. Kurt Carroll, Ms. Barbara Garavaglia and Mr. Ivo Vogel—specifically the Scholarship Committee for considering my application.

legal deposit for 400 years. It houses priceless collections of more than 281 manuscripts, including important classical texts donated by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester and his younger brother King Henry V. Aside from its rich classical collections, the library is a favorite location for films (If you're a Harry Potter fan, you are probably familiar with this library.).

The academic sessions consist of competent speakers discussing a variety of topics, including common law, family law, big data and algorithmic regulations, globalization, refugee law, data protection law, human rights, Brexit legal issues, and open access for law libraries. Open forums were held throughout the lectures. Insights conveyed from the sessions were indeed helpful as organizers have gathered essential topics to further enlighten participants on current legal issues.

Following the academic sessions was the annual general meeting where reports from different committees were presented. The Philippines was voted by the Board as the next country host of the conference. Ms. Echiverri, together with the Philippine Embassy in London consuls Mr. Rommel Romato and Mr. Gerry Panga, did a presentation on the proposed activities for next year's annual course. The Adamson University Library was among those identified to be visited next year. The supportive consuls also distributed Philippine tourism bags with goodies and brochures to drum up attendance for our country.

During the conference, I was able to visit the exhibits of different legal publications and software vendors.

Apart from getting freebies, this was also a great time to communicate with other participants. I met people who were inviting legal experts to write articles on various law branches and methodologies in the field of comparative laws.

Aside from the experience and new learning, some of the benefits we got from the conference were the free membership in IALL for one year; free subscriptions to the International Journal of Legal Information; establishment of linkages, where we can invite possible speakers for the university's founding anniversary celebration; and a call for articles that can be included in peer-reviewed journals or funding applications that can be referred to the faculty members of AdU's College of Law.

Participating in this conference was very rewarding and enriching. I consider this endeavor as my "great first time" experience. It was my first time to receive a bursary, first time to travel alone to a European country, first time to obtain a visa, first time to attend an international convention and interact with a diverse group of people. With all these "first time" experiences, I realized how fortunate and blessed I am to receive such a prestigious grant. As Archibald MacLeish (an American poet and Librarian of Congress) once said, "There is only one thing more painful than learning from experience, and that is not learning from experience." The whole experience was indeed extremely invaluable; it boosted my self-confidence and made an



The author (second from right) with fellow librarians at Keble College

Lastly, I thank my new friends in IALL: Ms. Mila Saguil and her daughter Judith, Mr. Knobelsdorf, Mr. Teglborg, Mr. Zawada, Ms. Louis-Jacques, Ms. Anderson and Ms. Findlay for their heartwarming companionship and for making sure that my stay was remarkable and gratifying. I look forward to seeing them all again in Manila next year.

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Fr. Manimtim's Inaugural Address cont'd

systematic outreach programs. Our programs are widely encompassing—they are not only meant to express our commitment as a partner in the growth of selected poverty-stricken communities, but also to help marginalized communities identify and develop their own local leaders—people who will help ensure that participative learning methods can be learned and practiced, hard-earned experience can be reflected upon, and skills shared in a democratized process.

Moreover, academic service learning—a special educative program that includes within its fold the development of communities—can be an integral component in enhancing the institution's academic reputation and produce socially responsible, ethically-minded students who see service and civic engagement as important parts of their lives.

As students learn to think more critically about their social

engagement, they will understand the limitations of community service in resolving systemic social issues. While continuing to work with local people on the ground, they will begin to understand that structural change requires deeper involvement in politics and policy making. As this consciousness seeps into the educational fabric of the institution, the pedagogy has the tremendous potential to transform the university into a more effective producer of social change rather than simply a credential-bestowing educator to those who can afford.

In essence, our outreach programs and academic and social innovations like the Academic Service Learning reflect what St. Vincent de Paul realized: that when we live and work with the poor, the poor in turn empower and transform us. Adamson University's unique position as both educator and evangelist gives our community—consisting of students, faculty and administration—the

humbling privilege of learning the kind of lessons one would otherwise miss if one would remain stuck in the center.

This is the reason why, in the end, the Adamsonian's three distinct qualities, the three Cs—competence, character, and charity—arise not from accident or from an unsubstantiated claim, but from a real, organic, palpable place—from the heart of any Adamsonian you meet.

As I humbly take on this responsibility, as Adamson University stands on the cusp of change, I renew my commitment to leading the community in instituting an educational process that helps the socially disadvantaged to rise from poverty into full development, and hereby make significant contributions to the betterment of our country. We can, and we will—with your support.

Again, thank you, and good afternoon.

Former AdU president conferred honorary degree by DePaul University

Fr. Gregorio Bañaga, Jr., CM, president of Adamson University from 2003 to 2015, was conferred the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, by the College of Education of DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, USA last June 10, 2016. Another educator was given an honorary degree in the same college while seven others were conferred in other colleges.

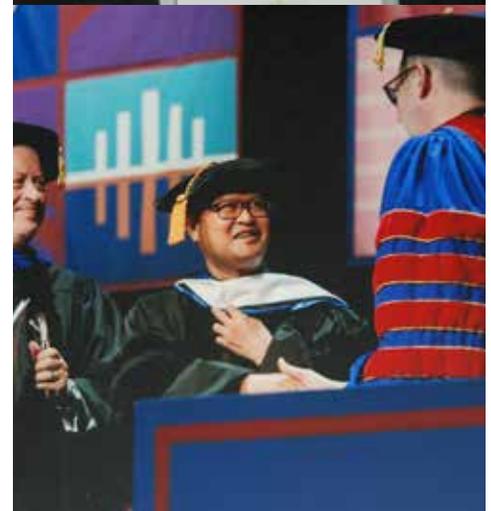
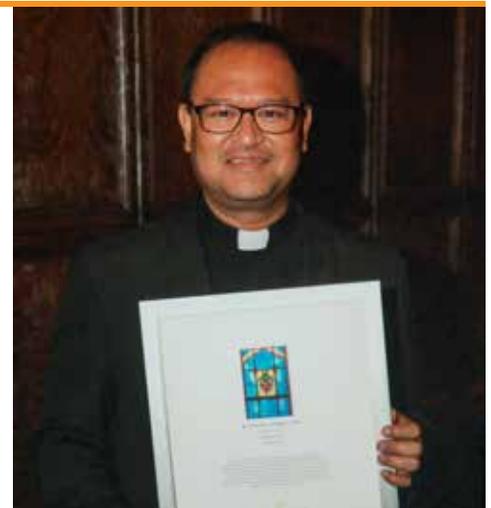
The conferment was done during the graduation rites where DePaul University president Fr. Dennis Holtschneider, CM and other university officials were in attendance. Paul Zions, PhD, dean of the College of Education, recommended the candidate for honorary degree while Sung Park-

Johnson, PhD, professional lecturer, then proceeded to read the citation.

Zions put the hood on Fr. Bañaga while Fr. Holtschneider handed the diploma to the honoree.

Adamson University was the academic home of Fr. Bañaga for the past 12 years. During his tenure, it reached unexpected heights and became recognized for its many achievements, thus putting in on the map as one of Metro Manila's, if not the whole country, best institutions of higher learning.

The university community is deeply proud and congratulates Fr. Bañaga on this well-deserved honor. *RDA*



From page 12

Soaring high..

para makarating,” he said, after being assigned the back-up center position behind lead center Pape Sarr during his first stint with the Soaring Falcons.

He did not rest on his laurels, though, as he added the daily practice sessions, conditioning, and team games to his routine that used to be limited to attending his classes only—an adjustment he accepted in order to live out his passion for basketball and the opportunity to play professionally one day.

Life as a student-athlete

Camacho did not put academics on the side track even as he pursued his basketball career. He was still motivated to get higher grades and finish his degree to help his mother and older brother. As an Adamson athlete receiving full scholarship, it helped his mother get a breather with their finances. His mother had been working tirelessly to give him and his older brother a bright future ever since their father left them.

Instead of doing other activities after practice, Camacho focuses on studying his lessons to prepare for quizzes or discussions. Despite having short rest on some days, he makes sure his assignments are done, he is ready for quizzes, and is well-prepared before attending his classes.

As to the importance of the recognition given to him by the UAAP, he says the award just proved that student-athletes can also excel in their studies, negating the belief that most athletes do not perform well academically. As he said, *“Sinasabi ng mga tao [na kapag] athlete ka, hindi ka nag-aaral at pinapasa ka na lang. Ako,*

pinapatunayan ko sa sarili at sa lahat na kapag student-athlete ka, student first before athlete, nag-aaral din kami. Nasa tao naman iyon; siguro yung iba ganun, pero sa sarili mo, kung sisipagan mo naman, mag-e-excel ka rin.”

The incoming UAAP season

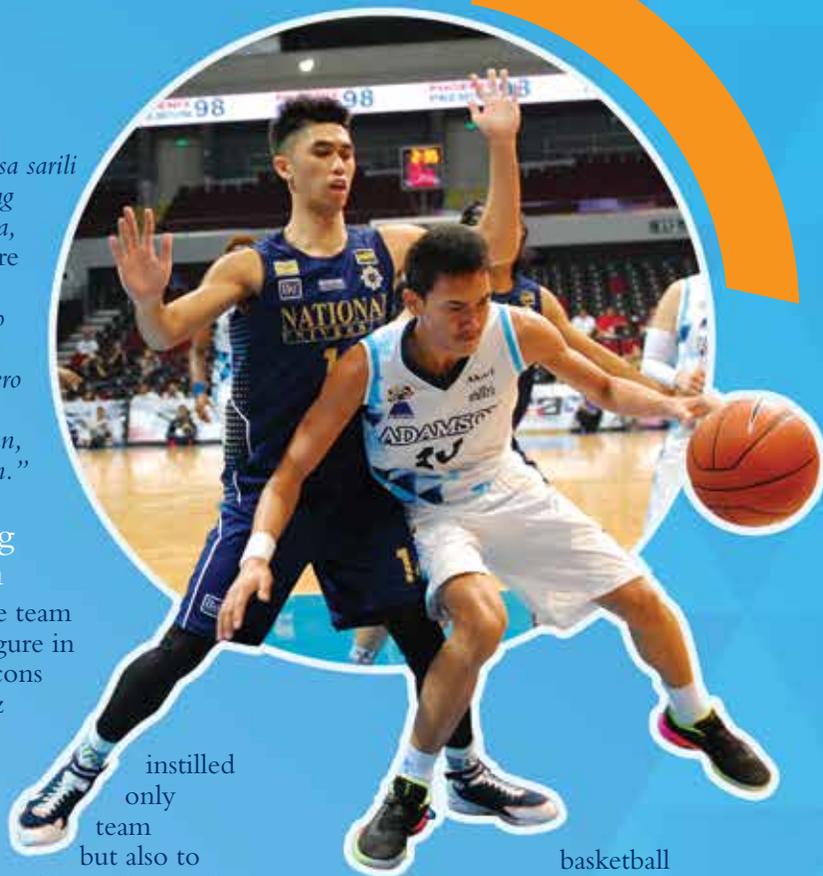
Camacho and the team found a father-figure in new Soaring Falcons head coach Franz Pumaren. Since day one, he has discipline not to improve performance make sure that his wards attend to their studies seriously, so that life after college basketball and their future as a whole will not be compromised. That they are ready to battle it out in the incoming UAAP season is part of the result of this discipline.

“Expect nila na iba na ang Adamson ngayon, mas lumalaban at hindi sumusuko. This season, target [na] mag-Final Four tayo dahil iba na ang ating coaching staff at players,” Simon said as the Soaring Falcons had a good outing during the pre-season tournament they participated.

What’s next?

Camacho says he plans to use his degree to jumpstart a career related to the IT industry, in case his basketball career does not prosper.

“Siguro sa tine-take up ko na course, kung hindi man ako mag-excel sa



instilled only team but also to

basketball doon ako mag-e-excel, kaya sinisipagan ko ang pagiging student at athlete... Kung hindi man maging maganda ang future ko sa basketball, may babagsakan ako na career,” he said.

He also had tips for kids who want to succeed not only as an athlete but also as a student while playing in the big collegiate leagues like the UAAP.

“Practice lang... Practice at diiplina sa sarili, sipagan lang nila. Kung gusto nila mag-excel sa basketball, ibigay nila ang kaya nila. Yung pagiging student-athlete, ilagay nila sa isip nila na mas importante ang pagiging student, kaya nga student first before being an athlete. So dapat, balanse silang dalawa pero dapat bigyan nila ng importansya ang pagiging student,” he shares.

Camacho, like other student athletes, might not take home a championship trophy during his playing years. But earning a degree while pouring out his passion and honing his skills is a big victory for him, since he is giving himself a bright future outside the court.

“Siguro sa tine-take up ko na course, kung hindi man ako mag-excel sa



Simon Camacho: Soaring high in sports and academics

By Mark Joseph F Ramos

Being a student is not easy, more so being a student and an athlete at the same time. But one Adamsonian student-athlete proved that he can succeed in both aspects.

Last May 21, 2016, varsity basketball team member Simon David Camacho was honored by the University Athletic Association of the Philippines (UAAP) as one of the eight athletes of the prestigious league who excelled not only in their respective sporting disciplines but also in their academics. The award was given during the UAAP Season 78 closing ceremony held at the UP Bahay ng Alumni.

Childhood

Camacho spent his early years in his hometown of Maragondon, Cavite, where he completed his elementary and high school education. His mother, a seafarer, and his older brother, a network administrator for a multinational consulting company, both provided for his needs and guided him as he grew up. His love for basketball found no outlet at the Bucal National High School—where he finished his secondary education—for it had no basketball varsity program. But this did not dampen his enthusiasm for the sport, for the streets of his hometown had courts and playmates that allowed his skills to flourish all the way to when he got to college.

Coming To Adamson

Camacho, who is currently taking up BS Information Technology and is a year away from earning his degree, said, “*Ang hilig ko talaga sa basketball... Bata pa [lang] ako mahilig na talaga ako. Parang libangan ko lang pero naging seryoso na ako noong college at naging part na ako ng team.*”

While other student-athletes were able to join the varsity team through direct recruitment or tryout, Camacho came to Adamson simply to enroll and pursue a degree. He was about to start his third year of studies when the opportunity to play for the Soaring Falcons knocked on his door.

“On my third year, *sinabi ni Ma’am Arlene Paredes (Executive Secretary of the Office of the President, who was also his mother’s acquaintance) sa akin may tryout daw. Nag-try-out ako, pero nung mga panahon na iyon sabi ko ayoko na dahil malapit na ako mag-graduate,*” he related.

It was a decision that he had to grapple with. His passion for basketball and a possible basketball career was competing with his desire to finish his degree on time, but in the end Camacho decided that he would do both. He got overwhelming support from his mother and older brother. “*Sina kuya at mama, pinush lang ako. ‘Sige, scholar ka naman at malay mo magkaroon ka pala ng career,*” he remembers them saying.

Adjusting to being a Falcon athlete

Camacho was included in the Falcons’ lineup and debuted in the UAAP last season under former head coach Mike Fermin. He considers it as a blessing, as he counts passing the tryout that year as an achievement in itself. “*Yung ma-lineup na last year, kasi kakaumpisa*

ko pa lang, kaka-tryout at kakatanggap ko pa lang, sa akin achievement na iyon. Hindi ko hinangad [na] ma-lineup pa... Parang nag-sink in na din sa ‘kin na nandito na ako at kaya ko naman mapa-lineup. Challenge iyon, adjustment

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