

The Crusader

THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF HOLY CROSS COLLEGE



S.Y. 2020-2021



WHERE CHARITY BEGINS AND NEVER ENDS Holy Cross College employees visited and continuously reach out to people in need through Caritas projects.

PHOTO BY MULTIMEDIA DEPARTMENT
CAPTION BY JOYMEE CULLADO

FIDES
CARITAS
LIBERTAS

HCC hailed as top 1 in community extension program

BY JANETTE FRANCO

The Holy Cross College (HCC) outranked all private higher education institutions in Central Luzon when the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) III recognized the school as the leading higher education institution (HEI) in Community Extension Programs in the entire region.

HCC President Atty. Denis C. Pangan accepted the distinction virtually. He thanked the commission but said an award is not necessary. "I don't want the regional office to have an impression that we are bragging about the Caritas

programs we have done and we are doing in Holy Cross College, Pampanga," he said in his acceptance speech.

He added, "We never expected this award... We are just doing our jobs in line with the three core values of the school, Fides, Caritas, and Libertas."

HCC has been active in organizing several charity programs for victims of natural disasters. During the Taal volcano eruption in Batangas early January 2020, HCC administrators personally handed cash and in-kind donations to victims. The school also arranged relief operations for victims of typhoons and flooding within and outside Pampanga. In April 2021, the school put up a com-

munity pantry after taking inspiration from the Maginhawa community pantry in Quezon City. Later, it brought its operations to the neighboring towns of Sta. Ana—Mexico, San Luis, Candaba, and Arayat—through a mobile community pantry. In July, the pantry adapted a drive-thru system to hand relief goods to local tricycle drivers.

Apart from this, the school partnered with different barangays in Sta. Ana to conduct livelihood training programs for workers affected by the pandemic. HCC Director and Community Extension Unit Head Amiel Ly Lazatin said the school emphasizes with Kapampangans who lost their source of income because of the global crisis.

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Educate as one: HCC shares Heart Cloud to 12 public schools

BY REGINE DELA ROSA

With the public school still struggling with the changes brought by the pandemic in the educational set-up, the school with a heart opened its doors to 12 public elementary schools in Santa Ana, Pampanga

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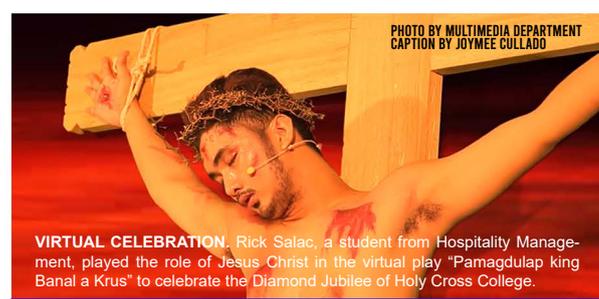


PHOTO BY MULTIMEDIA DEPARTMENT
CAPTION BY JOYMEE CULLADO

Celebration of faith: Krus Festival ramps up storyline, production

BY REGINE DELA ROSA

Holy Cross College, one of the Catholic schools in Central Luzon, launched the first virtual stage play to celebrate its 75th founding anniversary and premiered last November 27, 2020.

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INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS: MASSIVE DIGITALIZATION ANSWERS DEMAND ON ONLINE COMMUNICATION

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GROWING FAMILY. The school observed health and safety protocols as students queue during the registration period.

Enrollment jumps to 11%; 4k students join school with a heart

BY JOHN MICHAEL FUERTEZ

Over the last four years, Holy Cross College grew about 41% in student population and jumped to its highest record in enrollees under the supervision of the new administration headed by Atty. Dennis C. Pangan.

In the last academic year (2019-2020), it reaches 3,913 students from Elementary to College according to the data provided by the registrar's office. Of this number, 1,064 are college learners, 320 in basic education, and 2,569 in the high school department.

The latest enrolment data is an 11.7% increase in the 2018-2019 school year under the past administration.

College student's population is doubled in the last semester (2019-2020), from 451 students in the first semester of 2018-2019, it jumped to 1,064 students.

The college department faced decreasing enrollees from 2016 to 2019. Comparing to the data of 2016-2017 there are 476 (first semester) and 451 (second semester) registered tertiary learners which are lowered in the preceding year 2017-2018 to 311 (first semester) and 288 (second semester).

Students started enrolling as early as February just to reserve slots. Among them is Patriz Diane Esguerra who chooses HCC as her next home.

"Marami po ako naririnig na best

quality po ang pag-aaral hindi po sila titiglang hangat po naiintidhan ng mga tinuturuan po nila yung lesson na kailangan po nilang ituro sa mga estudyante," Esguerra said.

Another aspiring public accountant chose the school the heart to guide her into a quality learning path, Angel Eira Calilung said that BS Accountancy of HCC will help achieve her dreams.

"Pinili ko pong Holy Cross College kasi po yung mga professors po pagdating sa accountancy po kasi magagaling na po na sila tiyaka po it is a school with a heart, concern po sila sa welfare pong students at hindi po nila pinapabayaan ang estudyante," Calilung said.

The tertiary level of the school now offers about 19 programs, including Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Development Communication, Hospitality Management, Information Communication and Technology, Business Administration, Criminology, Psychology, and Education.

The elementary department maintained its phase in enrollment data of students, comparing to the 296 students in 2018-2019, it reached a 320 mark in the last academic year.

While, elementary and college continue to increase in enrollees, the high school department is pursuing to beat their registration data in 2017-2018 that reaches 2,703 student.

CHED UniFAST displays HCC's best practices

BY JOYMEE CULLADO

While other schools are still planning for the distribution of the Tertiary Education Subsidy (TES) last May to June 2021 during the pandemic lockdown, the Holy Cross College is more than one step ahead in delivering service to its students.

Just a few weeks after the release of the budget from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) the school with a heart finished distributing the subsidy via a house-to-house delivery.

To avoid the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the school decided to go extra mile just to deliver the subsidy.

The Unified Financial Assistance System (UniFAST) shared the official video of HCC as it was the first school in Region 3 to finish the TES distribution. The government agency expressed heartfelt gratitude in their social media post.

The administration fast-tracked the house-to-house distribution of TES to help students and parents aid their living expenses. The school with a heart distributed the subsidy to 987 students at the tertiary level.

"Ginawa po natin itong maaga para po mapakinabangan ng mga magulang ang ayuda ng binigay ng ating Pangulong Duterte at para na rin po na mapakita sa president na sulit ang bawat sentimo na binibigay niya sa mga mag-aaral ng Holy Cross na mula isang third class municipality," HCC President Atty. Dennis C. Pangan said.

The Holy Cross College plans to execute the same strategy with some modifications for the next distribution of the said scholarship to lessen the contact from the crowd and burden for the students while the pandemic is still affecting everyone.



Numbers don't lie: HCC hits record-high, reaches 168% increase in revenues

BY SARAH KEZIAH EVANGELISTA



Along with the transparency vision of the school with a heart, the audited financial statement reveals a net income of P25,376-million for 2019-2020, it is 168% increase compared to last year.

The potentials without limit of Holy Cross College is being proven by the current administration after attaining a more than double raise in the revenue of last academic year (2019-2020).

In the last academic year, it only hit a P9,461,072.45 profit but now the school reached a good financial position to keep a quality and efficient service.

The school also has high infrastructure and services expenses in which the admin eyes to turn into investments. According to the financial report, a whopping P54-million budget was allocated for employee's compensation and benefits, repairs and maintenance, digitalization projects, I.D. pictures, and athletic expenses.

The growth and improvements do not only credit individuals but a team effort to keep the school soaring high in the cloud

according to the HCC president, Atty. Dennis C. Pangan.

"Together, Everyone Achieves More," cliché it may sound but President Pangan quoted this to remind that if employees continue to give the same effort and cooperation it would result to a better community.

"Holy Cross College can sustain this progress and with God's help, we can achieve more without sacrificing the quality education of our students," President Pangan said.

The school had undergone reforms and cleansing to achieve progress. Employees who don't produce outputs are removed and proper utilization of funds is being strictly observed.

President Pangan set an example to employees by reporting to work every day to monitor and manage the school as early as 6:30 in the morning.

"In the present organization, we do not tolerate the practice of receiving salaries without doing anything," he said.

The school with a heart assures that every centavo being paid by the students and parents will be properly utilized and accounted for.

Corrupt, indolent employees axed by new HCC Admin

BY AARON SOMBILLO

Unfazed and unstoppable, this is how the Holy Cross College administration can be described as it undergone an internal cleansing under the leadership of President Dennis C. Pangan, removing unnecessary functions, unqualified and indolent employees who cannot produce quality outputs.

More than P400,000 a month was saved from the school's annual budget after removing these consultants, teachers, engineers, and corrupt staff who do not help nor contribute to the betterment of the school and community.

The school has now restructured a strong foundation in the academic department after placing qualified deans, principals, and program heads. Six teachers in the Junior High School who are non-LET (Licensure Exam for Teachers) passers were also removed. The administration believed that teaching without a license is a clear violation of the law and a manifestation of less quality education.

In the series of internal cleansing, President Pangan emphasized that the school need employees who worked for the betterment of the school.

"We do not tolerate the practice of receiving salaries without doing anything. There are no more personal who go to school once a month, once a week, and sometimes only on the 15th and 30th but they receive big salaries," President Pangan said.

Four consultants were hired and paid monthly from

P25,000-P50,000 without submitting output. Among them received a P50,000 monthly salary after coming to school once a week.

A total of P130,000 a month was paid for nothing. Additional to this was a consultant in the engineering department who is doing nothing.

Some positions were not filled up because they were deemed not important and will not contribute an impact on the current administration. The positions removed were assistant to the president, facilities manager, executive assistant (OVPA) assistant to the OVPA, laboratory custodian, and TES (Tertiary Education Subsidy) assistant.

Another P190,000 was added to the saving of the school. An honorarium of the chairman and several special designations salary were also cut off.

UNNECESSARY PROGRAMS DISCONTINUE AFTER OVERSPENDING WITHOUT OUTPUT

The current administration also eliminates unnecessary expenses for unproductive activities like General Assembly. Among the disadvantage of this is the cancellation of classes during weekdays to conduct entertainment programs. The school was turned into 'HCC GOT TALENT' every month which also became a leisure activity over time.

A hundred thousand from the budget was also spent every year for a so-called planning session in

a resort in Angeles City. After investigation of the new admin, this turned out to be a vacation of some employees because no output was being produced. Thus, action plans and proposals were just replicated from the previous school year with minimal revisions.

Instead, this year's planning session was accomplished inside the school where a P20,000 budget allocation sufficed a productive day. The budget covered the meals of the participants and tokens for speakers. Concrete action plans for the next three years were crafted and submitted to Commission on Higher Education and the Department of Education.

NEW ADMIN REVEALS CORRUPTION, BRIBERY, MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS

HCC underwent a deep cleansing and even discovered income-generating projects where a former employee collects fees directly from students.

"This practice has been stopped and all income now goes directly to the school such as the income from the Junior and Senior prom, intramurals, field trips, and others," President Pangan stated.

Canteen management also changed due to misconduct of the previous manager. The previous canteen operator also served as the main supplier of the campus canteen from food, water, and even LPG. The school canteen became an extension of his store according to the report.

Admin soars high in infrastructure investments

BY REGINE DELA ROSA, JANETTE FRANCO
& SARAH KEZIAH EVANGELISTA



After a decade of sleeping investments, Holy Cross College restored its vigor in serving the community and general welfare by improving and accelerating its infrastructures.

The new administration headed by President Dennis C. Pangan believes that investment infrastructures hold a key to development. Right after the installment of the new management of the school with a heart, immediate concerns were already answered by actions.

From old-looking and unmaintained facilities, the school had undergone a major renovation. The façade is now welcoming not just for students and employees but also for visitors. Buildings are also repainted and restored to a wide-clean looking working and studying area.

New amenities area also added for the convenience of the stakeholders.

REINVENTING MODERN LIBRARY

The modernization of the Library Services Division is also one of the first projects that the new admin focused on. The facility can now accommodate 250 students for modern learning because of its simple yet refreshing design. The library is now divided into three sections from basic education learning resources, instructional media center, and college learning resource center.

New books, journals, activity books, and other reading materials are now available for students and employees. In addition to that, students can have conducive learning time because of its air-conditioned rooms.

“It was good to have a new library again because almost all of our assignments we could do it there. The new Library of Grade School Department is good to look at. It has a reading ambiance where you can read whatever books you want and they made it soundproof so that even if it’s noisy outside we can still read peacefully,” Mia Arabella Manaloto, a grade school student said.

The digitalization of the library is also part of the modernization program. Students will no longer

spend time finding books on the shelves because in just a few clicks on the computer search engine they will have immediate results on the books they are looking for. All the books available in the library are encoded in the library management system for easy access.

Books and technology can now be enjoyed without limitations all you need is just to visit the library or its electronic management system and read the books you want.

NEW GYMNASIUM: A BREEDING GROUND FOR CHAMPIONS

The school is known for winning different tournaments and competitions around the region, it also became a breeding ground for the best athletes before. To revive being a home of champions not just in academics, HCC built a new gymnasium to show support to the sports division of the school.

The new gymnasium is located on the third floor of the Senior High School building. Student-athletes can now enjoy athletic activities without burning their skin under the sun.

In addition to that, sports equipment was also procured for the betterment of the performance of the basketball and volleyball team.

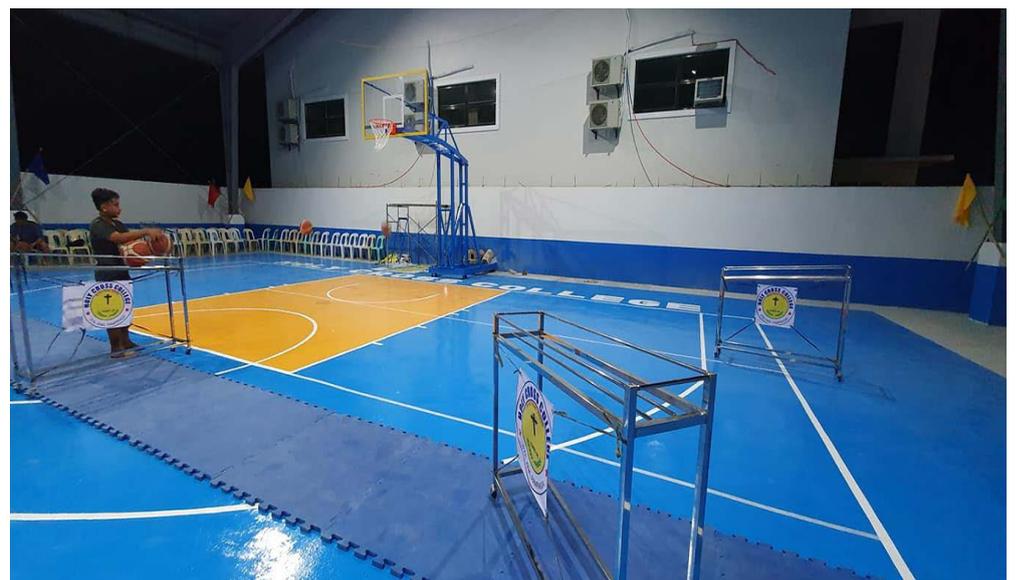
The dream of being a powerhouse is now at work. Teams are continuously training with the head coach President Pangan for basketball. The school is still recruiting new trainees which will soon be the stars in sports.

The gym is also multipurpose it can also host volleyball, badminton, and other games.

NEW ROOMS FOR LEARNING

A three-storey building was established to facilitate the growing number of students in the Holy Cross College. It has spacious classrooms, clean comforts, and an audio-visual room.

The new building is a conducive learning facility for 21st-century learners, each classroom was 70 square meters, big enough to house 40 students at a time. HCC believes that effective and efficient learning needs a breathable classroom where students can learn and rest.



HIGH-TECHNOLOGY TEACHING AND LEARNING

If you are already amazed by the new facilities, the school with a heart also poised its new computer laboratories. From elementary to college, each building facilitates modern computer laboratories for teachers and students.

A PLACE TO REFLECT AND MEDITATE

The school with a heart continues to be an advocate of catholic doctrines and Christian ideas to everybody. To continue serving God in promoting morals and participation in catechism, HCC renovated the chapel to invite student's involvement.

The reformation and air-conditioning of HCC's chapel allow spiritual renewal and reflection in peace. It gives space to students to pause for awhile and meditate while being away from the noisy surroundings.

It is also important to provide chapel with proper ventilation to continue promoting the school's core value Fides (Faith).

WAITING IS NO LONGER A PAIN

Is it hot or rainy? You don't need to worry because HCC got you covered. It is a long untold struggle of students and parents during the rainy season to wait for their service or to ride back safely to their homes in an open area. Student and parents either they get soaked under the rain or get burn under the sun, so to ease the problem of almost all commuters, HCC now built a waiting shed.

"We at the safety and protection division our main goal is for the security of our students so we have come up for a waiting shed that will be used by the student, visitors, and our parents while waiting for their kids," Chief Paul Jeffrey Lansangan of Safety and Protection Division said.

The waiting shed is built in partnership with Judy Javier of Gintong Aral Publications, Incorporated.

In addition to that, a waiting area was also built for parents and guardians who are waiting for the dismissal of pre-elementary and grade school students. Instead of waiting outside the gates of the school, the new admin designates an area where they can wait for their child. The school also gave comfort to all the visitors with proper chairs and ventilation while waiting for their transactions.



RESTROOM FOR ALL

It is also been a decade since comfort rooms in the school are innovated. The new admin also prioritized the proper hygiene and cleanliness of the students, employees, and staff.

Bidet or plumbing fixtures and water systems are now installed in every comfort room in the school. Gender-neutral restrooms are also opened for students and employees for their convenience and preference.

BAWAL PLASTIKAN: PROPER WASTE FACILITY IN EVERY CORNER OF CAMPUS

Plastic usage is one of the main environmental problems that the world faces right now due to the high consumption of foods and other packages. To share an answer to the growing problem, the school with a heart implements a segregation facility.

HCC President emphasized the significance of access to proper hygienic facilities and proper waste disposal for the health of everyone.

"Mas malinis ngayon kesa dati, wala ng nakakalat at nakakapag segregate na ng maayos ngayon," said student Krishna Sadie.

Waste segregation bins were also designated in almost every corner of the school to maintain cleanliness. The school strictly implements Waste Segregation, Waste Management, and Clean As You Go (CLAYGO) policies.

CAPTURING MOMENTS OF HCC

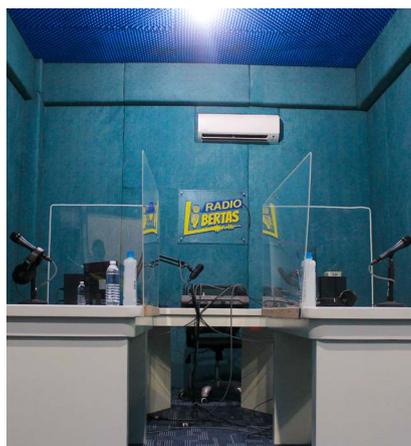
No more hassle, all you need is to smile.

Students, employees, and staff used to have their identification cards, yearbook photo shoot, and other pictures being processed outside the school.

But now that the photo studio is already set inside the campus, they just need to visit the Multimedia Department office to have their photos. The studio is equipped with modern cameras and lights to capture that picture-perfect smile.

Moreover, the staff of the department covers all important events of the school and captures momentous changes in the community. They serve the school by crafting and releasing informational videos and announcements on the official social media page to keep the stakeholders updated on the happenings inside and outside the school.

All these programs and innovations of Holy Cross College are waiting for you as we all hope for a pandemic-free country this incoming academic year.



HCC He♥rt Cloud adapts to new learning environment

BY REALYN MANALOTO

The Holy Cross College did not stop from preparing for each academic year, this time, the school with a heart adapts to the new normal in education.

Last May 22, 2020 another milestone has been reached by the school with a heart, a less hassle, easy-access online service is now available for students, parents, and employees.

HCC Heart Cloud is a virtual platform of the school that seeks to cater to students' and employees' information needs without sacrificing their safety and health during community quarantine due to pandemic. Each student was given an account to access the student portal and check their report cards for the previous academic year.

"Sa pagkakaroon ng HCC Heart Cloud ng ating school, mas napapadali na 'yung pagkuha or pagkita ng mga grades kasi online na siya, hindi kagaya dati na class card, kinukuha pa sa teacher mo isa-isa pero ngayon easy-access na rin siya," Mark Justine Batuhan, Development Communication student said.

More than 10,000 logins were recorded for the first two days of the HCC Heart Cloud during the release of the grades.

The Multimedia Department and Registrar's office together

with President Dennis Pangan fast-tracked the launching of the website due to the demands brought by the pandemic.

"Minarapat ko pong madaliin ito dahil ang nakaplano po talaga ay gamitin ito sa school year 2020-2021 pero minadali na para gamitin sa school year 2019-2020 para hindi na po kayo mapagod at para maiwasan yung pagkahawa or pagka-infect sa COVID-19 lalo ngayong umiiral pa rin ang quarantine dito sa ating lalawigan," President Pangan said.

The technical committee is still working on its additional features to keep the Heart Cloud runs smoothly and reads some evaluations from students and employees to better improve the service of the Heart Cloud. Chief Registrar Ester Muldong reminded students to keep their accounts privately. "Pagkalog-in kaagad palitan ang password para masiguro na ligtas ang inyong account. Maari pong tumawag sa telephone ng registrar o mag message sa official Facebook page para sa katangunan ng grades ng inyong mga anak," Muldong said.

To effectively implement an efficient communication system for HCC, an e-library will also be added to the platform.

While we are still in a flexible learning system due to CoViD-19, expect the school with a heart to upgrade HCC Heart Cloud for convenient access for students, teachers, and other employees.



FREE WI-FI FOR STUDENTS. The school with a heart lends Wi-Fi and a computer set to aid the learning needs of students.

E-Caritas promotes inclusive education amid pandemic

BY JANEH CARROL BULAUN

With the new learning environment where classes are online, some students are not yet on the same page as the others due to slow internet connectivity or lack of technological equipment.

To make education inclusive, Holy Cross College rolls out an E-Caritas project to reach out to students who are struggling to attend their online classes. A portable and postpaid PLDT Home Wi-Fi was given to selected students.

One of the beneficiaries of the project is a BS in Accountancy student, Jemine Santos who has difficulty focusing on lectures because of an unstable internet connection.

"Masaya po kasi hindi na po ako mahihirapan mag access sa internet lalo na po kapag may kailangan i-search or kailangan po naming mag-join sa online class especially sa mga mahihirap na subjects," Santos said.

"Malaking tulong na rin po sa pagpapasa ng activities and activities at tiyaka po doon sa pakikipag-cooperate sa mga teachers and kaklase ko," she added.

To provide conducive and quality education during this new learning environment, the school with a heart also extends its hands to students who are struggling even more in their personal life.

A BS in Hotel and Restaurant Management student, John Britz Garcia lost his home due to fire. To help him continue his studies during this crucial time, he also received PLDT Home Wi-Fi which can also be used by his 4 siblings who are also studying.

"Makakasabay na po ako sa klase hindi na po mahina signal namin, thank you po sa Holy Cross College especially kay Atty. Pangan," he said.

Jemine Santos and John Britz Garcia are just a few of the students who will benefit from the project. According to the Campus and Outreach Ministry head, Ronnie Carlos, there are still more to come for this E-Caritas project.

"It'y isang tulong sa ating mga estudyante lalo na yung walang mga connectivity sa bahay or internet lalo na ngayon sa panahong ito na kailangan nila sa kanilang online class," Carlos said.

Campus publications of the school will also be given PLDT Wi-Fi to help them adapt to online publishing during this time when students need most of the right information. In addition to that, the Supreme Student Council will have one to continue serving their fellow Crusaders.





HCC employment surge to serve increasing enrollees amid pandemic

BY GRACEL TIQUI

During this pandemic, one of the hardly hit is the education sector. Other private schools opted for temporary closures while other institutions lay off employees due to decreasing enrollees.

In another scenario, just before the opening of classes, a lot of students withdraw their papers and transferred to state-run universities and colleges. However, state universities and community colleges cut off their student admission due to lack of facilities and overpopulation.

But this is not happening in Holy Cross College, the administration assured.

The school with a heart is determined to go beyond excellence, overcoming the struggles bought by the pandemic. The employment rate of the school is even higher compared to previous years, just in time for the increasing population of the school.

There is no option of closure or laying off of teachers for HCC because of the measures taken by the current administration. They even improved the schools' facility and an internet connection, and answers teacher's needs to better serve the stakeholders.

From 161 teachers and staff in the school year 2017-2018, the school with a heart now grew into a larger community of competent teachers. HCC is now a powerhouse of 205 full-time teachers and 50 part-time teachers who are more than ready to serve this incoming academic year.

John Rheno Bernal, 25, is among the new faculty of Information Computer Technology who goes all the way from the City of San Fernando, Pampanga. He has been an educator since 2016 at a university in Angeles City but chooses HCC now to be his partner to educate the youth.

"I can see on the social media page

that employees are satisfied with the organization and based on my colleague's feedback. The management and people are nice," he said.

The HCC President, Atty. Dennis C. Pangan assured parents and students that the school with a heart will continue to give quality and affordable education with its strong organization and foundation.

"At Holy Cross College, there is no misinterpretation. Not a single teaching personnel is using bogus or fake documents. We had a total reorganization wherein those who are dedicated, competent and passionate in their job remained and others promoted," President Pangan said.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Leticia Flores explained that employees are more than qualified because they have proven their dedication and compassion for their students and fellow employees.

"Regardless of the number of students, quality education can be achieved by continuously monitoring and improving instruction and primarily, the recruitment/hiring of qualified, competent and dedicated teachers and staff people who work not because of the requirements and compensation but who see each student as our contribution to humanity – the school's legacy. HCC will not abandon its commitment to provide holistic education by integrating moral, spiritual, psychosocial, and physical aspects of the individual in the recalibrated curriculum," Dr. Flores said.

HCC increases teacher's salary

The school with a heart also adjusted the basic salary of college teachers from the P18,000 starting rate of the teacher during 2017-2018, it now reached P20,254 monthly salary. While the wage for basic education teachers also increased by

more than P2,000 per month.

In addition to the improved salary rate, the teachers also received different benefits during the pandemic. A vacation pay was given to all employees to financially aid them during the crisis.

The school with a heart treasured its teachers like Rowena Asuncion who already considered HCC as her home for 28 years. She was among the teachers who just receive a salary increase for her hard work and dedication.

"Nagpapasalamat ako na tumaas ang sweldo naming mga guro lalo na kaming mga matagal na sa Holy Cross College, nakatulong ito ng malaki sa aming pamumuhay lalo na ngayong panahon ng krisis," Asuncion said.

"Malaking kaginhawaan ang aming nangangap na benepisyo kung ikukumpara sa ibang mga pribadong paaralan dito sa ating bansa, kaya't masasabi kong hindi kami pinapabayaang HCC," she added.

While HCC community continues to grow because of increasing enrollees, the school also added new programs to cater academic needs of the students. The school with a heart now offers Bachelor of Library and Information Sciences and Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.

Holy Cross College projected a double increase in college enrollees this semester compared to the more than 500 student population last academic year.

A new three-storey building is already set to serve students. Classrooms will be more than enough to cater students following strict social distancing if the government permitted face-to-face classes. The school e-learning management system is already up to facilitate remote learning.



RDU launches first faculty research colloquium

BY SARAH KEZIAH EVANGELISTA

Holy Cross College Research and Development Unit (RDU) believed that having a school with a strong research foundation will boost the competence of the academe. Thus, pursuing its core value *Libertas* (Liberty) the school supported teachers who engage in research by launching the first Faculty Research Colloquium last October 28.

The school will also publish the first Research Journal headed by the RDU Head, Rizalde Capio, and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Leticia Flores.

This will be the first publication of HCC in the span of its 75 years of operations which was pushed to reality by President, Atty. Dennis C. Pangan.

“As teachers do not rely on what’s written, because if you have students like me, we will have problems because I will out research you. We are in the age of the internet, do not stop reading, and always ask questions. I will reward teachers who delve into research even at the time when the board will scold me. I will reward the teachers who are doing their jobs,” Atty. Pangan said.

During this first colloquium, four types of research were presented. The school’s Associate Guidance Counselor, Frizza Antonio presented two studies entitled “Behind Stories: The Needs, Concerns, and Psychological Well-being of OFW’s Children at Holy Cross College,” and “Body Image Perception in the Development of Filipino Adolescents’ Self Esteem.”

Frizza Antonio focused her studies on the current situation of

the sons and daughters of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the school. The research revealed that a big number of enrolled students in the school are relying on the financial assistance of parents who are abroad. The findings of the study aim to identify and address their issues and concerns.

“At least one in the family works abroad to find work opportunities and to support the financial needs of the family. So this focused on what happened to the people left behind,” Antonio said.

She also presented another research that tackled the stereotypes and perceptions of the youth on the body image.

Survey research entitled “HCC Faculty Members’ Status and their Perceived Advantage and Disadvantage Using Digital Technology.” This study was conducted to look into the Flexible Learning System and concerns arising during the online classes amid pandemic.

“All research and manuscript will be published in the research journal, we are hoping through this first colloquium we can encourage more teachers and students will join and write research,” former RDU Head, Rizalde Capio said.

Capio presented also their study on the “Level of Research Capabilities of HCC Faculty Members.” He stated that this is an integral part of strengthening the research culture in the school. The study shows the capabilities and knowledge of teachers to do research.

The school targets to publish the first research journal during the academic year of 2020-2021. All the research mentioned in this article will be published in the said journal.

Institute of Accountancy’s powerhouse to change HCC’S CPALE record

BY MAYETTE MESA

Always set the right foot forward, this is what Holy Cross College - Institute of Accountancy envisions with its new Dean Mrs. Yolanda P. Manalili, a Certified Public Account (CPA) and holds a degree in Master in Business Administration.

To change the licensure examination results in the coming years, the school with a heart strongly believes that a competent academic foundation and professors must be built first.

Among the line-up for the said powerhouse includes Dean Jesus Sigua, a CPA and master’s degree holder, Atty. Kristanico S. Abad, Engr. Fernando B. Canlas and Ms. Edwina P. Dizon.

The institute is also joined by pro-

fessors Wency M. Giron, Mark Anthony P. Gulapa, Jaypee V. Lagman, Jonel F. Santos, and Dr. Antonietta P. Tungcab.

HCC President Atty. Dennis C. Pangan who is also a seasoned professor will also be teaching in the said institute to help students have a better grasp of the law.

“We have a good line-up of faculty members from those handling the professional subjects down to those general education courses, we have certified public accountants, lawyers and business educators who possess the necessary educational qualifications the competence and experience to deliver quality accounting education,” Dean Manalili said.

The institute targets to cater to about 30 students for the Academic Year 2020-2021 with the new learning environment. However, the registrar already has about 60 enrollees for the first semester as of June 17.

Doubling the number of students is not a problem, according to Dean Manalili the school is prepared for any circumstances just to teach the students.

“The institution will adapt to a flexible learning approach where printed modules will be provided to those students who do not have access to the internet and for those who have access, there is an LMS available that is user friendly. The school with a heart will also provide a seminar

for students, reference books, and other learning materials which will be available at the library and enhancement during summer all for free,” Dean Manalili emphasized.

With all these plans for the students, they just can’t resist but to accept the challenge and be the future CPA from HCC. Students started enrolling as early as February just to reserve slots.

“Pinili ko pong Holy Cross College kasi po yung mga professors po pagdating sa accountancy po kasi magagalang na po na sila tiyaka po it is a school with a heart, concern po sila sa welfare po ng students at hindi po nila pinapabayaan ang estudyante,” incoming accountancy student Angel Eira M. Calilung said.

Radio Libertas goes on air to amplify community's voice

BY REALYN MANALOTO

Amidst the pandemic, Holy Cross College had opened its very own radio station that remarkably serves as the very first community radio station that operates by an educational institution in the eastern part of Pampanga.

On the 15th day of February 2021, the institution had opened its radio operation with a station name Radio Libertas that accommodates different programs that could inform, educate, and entertain the listeners.

Despite of the crisis, HCC still manages to adopt numerous improvements in the school that could help build every student's capability to learn and be educated. As well as being a community driven institution that helps nearby community development.

Radio Libertas is an internet radio station that can be streamed via official Facebook page, zeno fm and on the official website of the school. It has 17 different programs compose of news, music, and other programs that aim to develop and give progress to the people of the community.

Some of its programs tackles the latest issues around the community that needs attention in order to solved the problem that gives hardship to every citizen. Radio Libertas, is a community radio station that give people the freedom to voice out their opinion to the public.

"During this pandemic, we are hoping the students will be informed and educated about social issues and national concerns," said Angelica Marie Simpao, Bachelor of Science in Development Communication Program head and one of the person in charge on Radio Libertas.

Together with the TV program "Usapang Millennial" of the school, the Radio Libertas will tackle different issues on the national level down to the community to informed people about the latest updates.

In times of crisis where information is much needed by people, Radio Libertas serves as a voice that aims to help people by keeping them informed in this crucial time by delivering accurate and credible news.

The institution also uses this radio station to promote the Fides, Caritas, Libertas that represents the three core values of the school.

Thus, Radio Libertas is not just about news updates, it also accommodates entertainment programs like music and storytelling that could entertain and give relaxation to the listeners. However, as an educational radio station, it always aims to give knowledge and wisdom to every program it airs.

"It is not just music but there will be a lot of programs that will help individuals and the community move towards progress," said Ms. Simpao.

Radio Libertas airs from Monday to Friday with a timeslot of 6 AM to 3 PM while on Saturday programs it will start at 6 AM and end up at 11:30 in the morning. The programs are hosted by chosen teachers of HCC that serve as a DJ on different programs of the station.



PHOTO BY MULTIMEDIA DEPARTMENT
CAPTION BY JOYMEE CULLADO

NOW ON AIR. Radio Libertas, the first educational radio station in the eastern part of Pampanga started broadcast last February 2020.

UPD recognizes HCC's efforts in community journalism

BY MARK EDWIN DIZON

University of the Philippines College of Mass Communication recognized Holy Cross College for contributing to the development of community journalism in Pampanga during the Philippine Journalism Research Conference (PJRC) last March 6, 2020, at the Cine Adarna, University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City.

PJRC is a venue for journalism students to present their journalism-related research outputs and a platform for comprehensive talks and discussion of known journalists in journalistic freedom matters. The conference was participated by more than 500 students and faculty members from various journalism departments and colleges of different universities.

This year's keynote speaker Christian Esguerra, ANC anchor and Senior reporter from ABS-CBN, delivered his speech regarding "Journalism in Dangerous Times" and highlighted the challenges faced by journalists today.

"Journalism is the perfect tool that allows us to raise questions, demand compatibility, insist on competent and strong leadership but not a distance of basic human rights," said Esguerra.

According to him, the ultimate danger that many journalists facing today are the possibility of physical harm or even death at the hands of media oppressors.

"This to me is the biggest danger journalism is facing, a crisis of truth, driven by systematic disinformation," he added.

Meanwhile, campus journalists of Holy Cross College from Senior High School and College Departments and their Paper Advisers, Mark Joshua Lansangan and Jerwin Recitas, also witnessed the different parallel sessions in the conference.

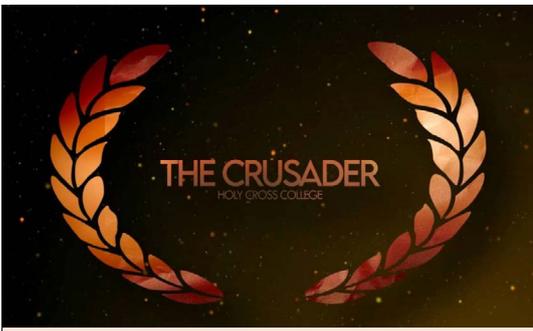
Kara David, an award-winning broadcast reporter known for her remarkable documentaries, was the moderator of the Special Projects that the student journalists attended.

"This conference did not just open me in the wide realm of journalism but I was also able to meet some of my inspirations in my chosen field personally," BS in Development Communication student and The Crusader correspondent Mark Justine Batuhan said.

ABS-CBN anchor and broadcast journalist Christian Esguerra left a message for all the Crusaders who also want to pursue journalism.

"Sa mga students ng Holy Cross College, try to be good at your craft, hone your craft, galingan niyo, eventually try to develop the right character and values to become good journalists," he said.

The PJRC was hosted by Holy Cross College journalism moderator Angelica Simpao who is currently taking her Master's Degree in Journalism at UP Diliman.



The Crusader bag awards at 1st AOCPA

BY JOYMEE CULLADO

The official student publication of Holy Cross College, The Crusader, bagged awards from the First Assumption Outstanding Campus Press Awards (AOCPA) last December 2020.

AOCPA was hosted by the University of the Assumption in line with the celebration of the 55th year of their school publication, Regina. The said award giving event was participated by universities and colleges in the province of Pampanga.

All of the participants from the college publication of the school with a heart emerged victorious in their category. The campus journalist awardees are:

Aaron Sombillo - Best Editorial Writing (5th Place)
 Joshua Pascua - Best Editorial Cartooning (5th Place)
 Mark Edwin Dizon - Best Opinion Writing (5th Place)
 Joymee Cullado - Best Photojournalism (3rd Place)
 Sarah Keziah Evangelista, Janette Franco, Jaria Mallari and Realyn Manaloto
 Best Investigative Journalism (2nd Place).

Also, The Crusader, official publication achieved the 5th Place in Best Campus Paper headed by the campus paper adviser Angelica Marie Simpao.

The editors and writers vowed to continue giving accurate information and serving the students through responsible campus journalism.



Crucian accepts challenge of filmmaking during health crisis

BY JANETTE FRANCO

Amid the pandemic, Crucians accepted the challenge to produce quality, relevant and unique short films during the 4th Crucian Film Festival in line with the 75th Founding Anniversary of Holy Cross College.

Six final entries had the chance to win the title and the awards this year 2020. This competition allowed all students, school officials, and alumni to present their very own short film focusing the three core values Fides, Caritas, and Libertas.

Participants are required to send one entry per team. They must be following the health protocols and the guidelines provided by the organizers posted on the official Facebook page of Holy Cross College.

Civil Engineering, Computer, and Library Sciences Dean Marvin Mallar said the Crucian Short Film festival

(CSFF) is part of the yearly celebration of the school foundation to catch the audience's attention with different short films genres.

"Sa pamamagitan ng CSFF nabigyan natin sila ng pagkakataon na ma-hasa o maibahagi ang kanilang galing sa pag-arte, pagsusulat ng mga storya o paggawa ng pelikula," Dean Mallari said.

In 2016 the school with a heart launched the first-ever Film Festival Competition, where a senior high school student "Bucket list" won the title and most of the awards.

Beforehand, a film-making webinar is conducted to discuss how short films are produced during the pandemic.

On December 2020, the virtual awarding had happened on the official Facebook page of the school with the heart wherein the following won the awards:

- Best Poster, Best Trailer, Best Screenplay, Best picture- **Alas Diyes**
- Best Writer/ Best Supporting Actor - **Ephraim Jeremiah D. Matias**
- Best Actor- **Andrei Balagtas**
- Best Actress- **Marefe Balagtas**
- Best Supporting Actress- **Carol Musngi**
- Best Director- **Renz Baig & Aaron De Guzman**
- Best Cinematography & Best Sound track- **Iskwat Ranger**
- Best Short Film (Fides)- **Ing Biye**
- Best Short Film (Caritas) - **Karamput a Saup**
- Best Short Film (Libertas)- **Alas Diyes**

Devcom webinar highlights local journalist importance in a health crisis

BY REGINE DELA ROSA

In line with the 75th Diamond Jubilee of Holy Cross College, the Development Communicators Association (DCA) successfully launched the first-ever Devcom Webinar workshop, November 24, 2020.

This webinar is in pursuit of HCC's core value *Libertas* which aims to educate future media practitioners and hone their skills in reporting. This event will be held annually every November.

The Bachelor of Science spearheaded the event in Development Communications students and with the help of their program head, Angelica Marie Simpao.

"The Institute of Development Communication will be a leader in preparing future communicators who will be agents of change, advocates of peace and community development. Further, the Institute of Development Communication will prepare future communicators who will provide leadership through words, written articles, and film guided by a strong faith in God instilled by Holy Cross College," Simpao said.

It was entitled *E-Communicate Mo: Development Communication*



in time of the pandemic. Guest speakers are from the local and national broadcast industry: Nielsen Ocampo, Executive Producer of GMA 24 Oras Weekend, Reiniel Pawid, Reporter of CLTV36, Mark Fernando, faculty of Adamson University.

Not less than 300 journalism and communication students from different schools and universities in Luzon joined the webinar.

It was also simulcast using the blackboard application of Adamson University, which was participated by communication students.

FEATURE

READY AMID PANDEMIC: COVID-19 QUICK RESPONSE PLAN

BY JENNY TAN AND JENNY MARIN

There is no time to panic for Holy Cross College current administration as the threat of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) continues to spread worldwide. While pandemic is hardly hitting the economy and academic sector, the school with a heart finds its way to ease the situation.

The administration made a Pandemic Operation Plan to keep the school and community on track for the academic calendar. It also aims to ensure the health and safety of all school employees and students amid pandemic.

HCC creates an institutional committee that will supervise, oversee and communicate specific actions inside and outside the school.

The school designated a contact person per department or program who will send a message or perform text brigades for important messages regarding health and safety matters. The school's Multimedia Department often disseminates new information and updates on the COVID-19 situation of the school.

The academic department also planned ahead of the pandemic the flexible learning approach for the resumption of classes. The E-learning management system is also launched to facilitate online education.

Grades for the academic year 2019-2020 were released online via HCC Heart Cloud to avoid physical contact and prevent the participation of the crowd.

Moreover, class programs and activities that will need physical contact will be suspended until further guidelines from the national government. All activities will be conducted in consonance with DOH, DepEd, and CHED guidelines according to the Student

Affairs Services Dean Benjie Nolasco.

"Kung ang prinsipyo hindi kailangan tumigil ang pag-aaral ng mga estudyante dahil may pandemya ganun din naman hindi kailangan tumigil ang student services. Complimentary sa pag-aaral ng mga mag-aaral ang mga serbisyong may kinalaman sa guidance and counseling, library, medical and dental, at extra-curricular activities ay ating isasagawa gamit ang offline at online modalities. Gaya ng pagsasagawa ng tele-consultation para medical at dental services, tele-counseling at webinars," Dean Nolasco said.

He also mentioned that student officers also planned for their programs that will cope with the current situation. The annual events like Krus Festival, Student Government Officers Election, Dula-Dulaan for Buwan ng Wika will push through online.

HCC imposes strict health protocols

Due to increasing COVID-19 cases in the province, HCC imposed stricter health and safety protocols. Aside from frequent hand washing, the school installed the sanitizing device on the entrance and exit gate of the school.

The school nurse is stationed at the front of the school to monitor the body temperature of employees, teachers, and visitors entering the school. A new contact tracing procedure was also implemented in the school which will record all individuals going in and out of the school. New sanitizing equipment was also purchased to ensure the safety of all the employees currently working at the school. The school also frequently disinfects office and school grounds.

"Ang school po natin nag purchase ng mga makabagong disinfecting equipment para safety ng ating mga empleyado at mga bisita meron din tayong UV light na magsisilbing disinfectant sa room," the Safety and Protection Division Chief Paul Jeffrey Lansangan said. In addition to the face mask, everyone is also mandated to wear to face shield before entering the school.



Outstanding teachers receive first ever Gawad Antonia

BY REALYN MANALOTO

Holy Cross College celebrated World Teachers' Day last October 5 with an awarding of the first-ever Gawad Antonia H. Dizon for Fides, Caritas, and Libertas. Teachers were recognized for their hard work and service to the school.

The awards committee is headed by the HCC President, Atty. Dennis Pangan and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Leticia Flores. The said award-giving body aims to thank the teachers for their unending love and support to the students and the school.

The award given was named after the first principal of the school in 1945, Antonia Dizon or known as Apung Nena. She is the embodiment of a teacher who devoted her life to serving the Lord and the community. She is remembered as 'a woman of faith' and married to her profession as a teacher.

Gawad Antonia H. Dizon for Fides was given to Ferdinand Cunanan and Joselito Macapagal, teachers of faith who have a good relationship with God and to their fellowmen, good reputation, and actively engages in church and religious activities. Teachers with a "pure heart" who gives without motives or expecting anything in return, who are compassionate, caring, generous, and unselfish in sharing their service to others.

The Gawad Antonia H. Dizon for Caritas was given to Human Resource Staff Jorge Lumbang and Guidance Counselor Marissa Basilio who serves as an agent of change who is willing to take the risk and help others.

Also, educators who serve as an agent of change

who is willing to take risks and help find creative solutions for substantial change in the school and the community. The Gawad Antonia H. Dizon for Libertas was awarded to Frizza Antonio and Dean Marvin Mallari.

The awardees resemble Apung Nena who played a major role in the academe according to HCC President, Atty. Dennis C. Pangan "Gusto kong tumawid tayo papasok na ang 75th natin tumawid tayo sa tuwid na landas, tumawid tayo sa tamang pamamaraan kung saan ipapakita natin na sa Holy Cross College mayroon intellectual honesty," President Pangan said.

"Ang isang Antonia H. Dizon hindi lamang nagtu-

"...basta mahalin ninyo ang profession niyo."

ro sa Holy Cross College ng buong giting at buong sigasig, nagturo siya ng buong puso," he added. 12 teachers were awarded of 25 Years of Dedicated Service Award for their relentless support and service to the school.

Rowena Asuncion, a grade-school teacher for 28 years said her secret in staying in the school is her love for the profession.

"Ang mensahe ko sa mga bata na nagtuturo pa lang ngayon basta mahalin ninyo ang profession niyo," she said.

The Prime Teacher Award for Perfect Attendance was given to Student Affairs and Services Department Dean, Benjie Nolasco who has been a role model in delivering service on time. He has perfect



attendance and no record of late.

Moreover, all the teachers of Holy Cross College attended the awarding at the New Gymnasium wearing their Filipiniana and Barong while the Board of Directors and other part-time teachers watch via Zoom and live streaming.

The school followed the safety guidelines to ensure the health of the attendees.

FIVE-DAY WELLNESS BREAK PROMOTES HEALTHIER STUDY HABITS, PRODUCTIVE WORKFORCE

BY MARK JUSTINE BATUHAN

A time to spend with family, rekindle motivation, and a day to pause and meditate...

These are just a few of the reasons why Holy Cross College, the school with a heart implemented a "Wellness Break" in each semester in every grade level.

During the pandemic, students, teachers, and employees are forced to adapt to the new learning environment which may cause stress and anxiety among individuals. In today's modern work and study place the pressure to cope with the new better normal is not easy. Thus, the school decided to give a wellness break.

According to studies, taking a break to relaxed and reboot can

increase productivity and can promote a healthier workforce. This is also essential especially for students and employees who hurdled a lot of hours in front of a computer.

"Drop academic thing that you have, kung mayroon kayong hindi macomply na subject it is the time for you to take a break. Kasi ito ang panahon na binigay sa atin ni President Atty. Dennis C. Pangan para huminga," the Program Head of BS Psychology, Shaira Regala said.

"It is a time for you to focus on yourself, to focus on your family, to focus on just being you kasi baka ang iba sa atin nawawala na sa landas right now," she added.

Some students took a time off on their smartphones and computers to

reconnect with family, friends, and classmates. It also became a time to reflect and sort inspiration to continue their endeavors during this crucial time.

Self-care was among the forgotten task to do during this pandemic according to a third-year student of Bachelor of Secondary Education Major in English. Jaria Mallari mentioned that giving time for oneself to understanding things in the environment is also essential.

"I had time to reconnect and meet with my friends. I also watched Reply 1988 - a Korean Drama series that I wanted to watch before and read a book entitled Wrinkle in Time. Most importantly, I finally had the time to meditate and organize my thoughts, especially during this challenging time," Jaria Mallari said.

"The five-day break made me realize that it is very important to give yourself a break when the situation gets exhausting. Aside from physical rest, the wellness break

allowed me to know myself better," Mallari added.

After the wellness break, the students, teachers, and employees welcomed a new month full of exciting activities for the upcoming celebration for the 75th Founding Anniversary of the school, it's Diamond Jubilee. To express gratitude towards everyone who supported the Holy Cross College, the school will live stream game shows, a film festival, stage play, and other fun activities to showcase the talents and wit of the whole Crucian community.





Pandemic hero

BY JANETTE FRANCO

Is that you?

Hero, is it enough to call you? To all the people who sacrifice life to save humanity during this pandemic, we salute you.

Their life is in between death and survival, where weapons are not the usual deadly guns but a surgical mask, face shield, and disinfectant.

Eleven months and still counting when the world starts the fight against a virus named COVID- 19. A battle between a virus that our naked eyes can't see.

Different stories are told, highlighting the lives of the doctors, nurses, and non-essential workers who had already sacrifice a lot for the safety of others.

Losing the chance to be with their family and the chance of going home safe and healthy, not in a jar that symbolizes death.

We also have the street sweeper that kept the cleanliness of the road, and the education team: utility, security officers, teachers, and admin that keeps on printing

and delivering modules, improving the online platform, and making the virtual class more productive.

Noemi David, 40, a mother of three and a utility team leader, is one of the pandemic heroes that the school with a heart has. From keeping the campus neat and clean, they are now delivering student's modules.



As ate Noemi said, from the start of the pandemic, it became hard to become one of the front-liners but even though it's not their job as utility workers to deliver the student modules, they accept it because this is a student need.

Amidst the threat of the coronavirus disease, Holy Cross College employees continue their support in fulfilling a student's dreams, together with the Doctors and medical staff who sacrifice to save people in death, to Philippine soldiers and all the officers for the security. To the media and the world of journalism who keep on providing factual news- those people are your Pandemic heroes who continue the fight against the virus.

There are many good stories to share, good Samaritan to thank, and inspiring stories to hear. Open your eyes, and see that you can also be one of the pandemic heroes.





The sudden change of plans

BY JANETTE FRANCO

The little ones who wish that time fly so fast up to the time that they can finally consider themselves as professionals so that everything they do corresponds to salary or pay are suffering from the sudden change of plans, from the effects of COVID-19. From a student who reviews lessons to a laborer who towels sweat, even blood.

Child labor issues become so loud today as the pandemic fuels its increase to more than four percent of the 1.4 million domestic workers. These are young and innocent faces working in the heat of the sun or in the raindrops full of uncertainty in the mind of what the future may bring unto them.

Kassandra, 17, is an incoming senior high school student this academic year is supposed to enroll in the strand of HUMSS in the modular set-up of class. But this thin line of hope to continue her study and pursue criminology in college became so thinner because of the pandemic. After her father got jobless in the construction company due to an employment personnel decrease, she has to take over as a responsible daughter to her parents helping her mother to take mountains of laundry, washing for almost half a day for just less than five hundred peso pay - small money for very tiring work, hard-earned money for a young laborer like her.

Kassandra is just one of the many students around the Philippines that due to the COVID-19 that we are experiencing for almost 2 years lost her right to study and pursue her dreams because of being

in the underprivileged sector of the country.

What is more saddening is the fact that there are some jobs that are not meant for minors yet they still want to work regardless of the job description and low salary, some of these works are even unethical. This is why 80% of the cybersex victims are Filipino minors according to a report from Asian Times.

For young Filipinos like Kassandra who is very loving and selfless for her family, she can sacrifice her dreams of studying just to have a meal at least three times a day, a medicine in times of sickness, and a shelter during storms. This is not what our youth deserves. As the hope of the fatherland, our government should recalibrate the educational system that can easily adjust to pandemic time or any calamity so that our youth can still study even in the midst of calamity. The administration together with the Department of Labor and Employment and the Department of Social Welfare and Development should implement the promise of the K-12 curriculum to make technical-vocational graduates as professionals in the corporate world earning a high salary.

Our youth is promising - with their potential inside and desire to become better each day, regardless of a pandemic or any circumstances, they can shine brightly from being a student to a worker.

The Crusader

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Pondohan ang kinabukasan

BY AARON SOMBILLO

Kamakailan ay nagsilabasan ang mga balita tungkol sa mga mahuhusay na mag-aaral mula sa Philippine Science High School na nakatanggap ng imbitasyon o admission offers mula sa mga tanyag at prestihiyosong unibersidad sa labas ng bansa – isang patunay na mahuhusay ang kabataang Pilipino at may magandang kinabukasan ang Pilipinas mula sa kanilang kamay. Ngunit sa kabilala ng mga magagandang alok, may ilan pa rin sa kanilang hindi mararanasan ang kalidad ng edukasyon sa abroad dahil sa kahirapan ng buhay.

Isa ang labing walong taong gulang na si Dominic Navarro sa hindi makalilipad abroad upang makapag-aral sa kabila ng imbitasyon ng tatlong malalaking unibersidad dahil sa kakulangan sa salaping kailangang ibayad para sa kanyang pag-aaral. Hindi niya kaagad nakumpirma ang kanyang slot dahil sa problemang pinansyal. Maliwanag na hadlang talaga ang kahirapan sa minimithing pangarap.

Isa lamang si Dominic sa maraming mag-aaral na naunsiyami ang pangarap na kinabukasan at patuloy na sisihihin ang kalagayan o estado ng kanilang pamumuhay. Ngunit sa husay ng batang Pilipino, bakit hindi na lang gobyerno ang magpondo?

Bukod sa libreng tuition fee na pinaairal sa mga pampublikong unibersidad at mga government scholarships na natatanggap ng ilang mga nasa pampridadong paaralan, kailangan ding bigyan ng pansin ang potensyal ng mga batang may angking husay na ipadala abroad upang patuloy na mahasa ang galing sa larangang pinili na suportado ng sariling badyet ng gobyerno upang walang ng aalalahanin ang mga Pilipinong mag-aaral.

Ito’y magandang plano upang maging globally competitive ang mga Pilipino sa kinabukasan kasama ng kasunduan mula sa gobyerno at mag-aaral na maglilingkod ang batang iskolar sa bansa kapalit ng tulong pinansyal na inilaan ng gobyerno sa loob ng napagkasunduang haba ng taon. Ito’y nasimulan na ng “Doktor Para Sa Bayan Act” na may pro-

bisyong magpopondo ng mga mag-aaral na nagnanais na maging doctor kapalit ang kanilang serbisyo matapos nitong maka-graduate.

Ang Holy Cross College ay kasamang naniniwala na kailangan pondohan ang pag-aaral ng mga mag-aaral upang maging maganda ang kinabukasan ng bansa kaya patuloy ang mga scholarship programs nito gaya ng Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education (UniFAST), discount programs para sa mga dean’s at president’s lister, private school scholarship programs at maging ang Alfredo M. Yao (AMY).

Sa panahon ng pandemya na pinaghiwa-hiwalay nito ang kamay ng bawat Pilipino, kailangang ipakita ng bawat Juan ang pagkakaisa sa pamamagitan ng pag-suporta sa pangangailangang pinansyal ng bawat isa – lalo na sa mga hikahos na mag-aaral na kinakikitaan ng maliwanag na bukas dahil sa bandang huli, siguradong bayan din ang makikinabang.





HEALTH BATTLE: HOW PH FACES DENGUE DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

BY JANEH MARTINITO, JOHN ASHLEY LISING

The outbreak of COVID-19, has been a global concern since it started and continues its surge until the present year. Nearly a million people have been infected in the Philippines as of April 19, 2021.

Simultaneously, as COVID-19 continues to ravage the world, some countries are also on the verge of facing another outbreak – dengue.

Dengue fever is a virus spread by female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitos. Based on the World Health Organization (WHO) data, there have been 17,630 dengue cases, with 63 deaths recorded in the Philippines from January 1 to March 27, 2021.

In August 2019, the Department of Health (DOH) declared a national dengue fever epidemic as a public health alarm when the country recorded a high rate of cases in the first half of the year.

As dengue fever and COVID-19 share similar clinical and laboratory profiles, it is challenging to distinguish these two viruses, and as a result, misdiagnosis would be more constant on patients who show the same symptoms.

WHO also recorded the first case of Dengue-Coronavirus disease 2019 co-infection in the Phil-

ippines from a 62-year-old woman who had a fever as her first symptom that tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 and dengue.

The meld of these two diseases in patients could raise death and disabilities by various folds. Therefore, the country would have to pay a heavy toll if the dengue epidemic could not be handled early.

However, the government of the Philippines has generated health measures to manage dengue outbreaks and the suspected dengue cases amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

To reduce the increasing cases, the DOH reaffirmed its call for the public to help avoid dengue fever by adopting the enhanced 4-S strategy in their homes, which includes searching for and destroying mosquito breeding sites, taking self-protective measures such as wearing long pants and long-sleeved shirts and using mosquito repellent regularly. To avoid an imminent outbreak, seek early consultation and support fogging/spraying only in hotspot areas where a rise in cases has been observed for two weeks.

The health agency of the Philippines believes a combination of these measures may help prevent the impact of the dengue outbreak amid COVID-19 in the Philippines. Thus, it will reduce the case fatality rate and increase the recovery rate of COVID-19 cases.

The alarming polio outbreak in PH

BY JANETTE FRANCO & SARAH KEZIAH EVANGELISTA



After 19 years of being a polio-free country, the Department of Health confirmed 17 total cases of polio in the Philippines since September 2019.

Polio was known as poliomyelitis and infantile paralysis, an infectious disease that spreads rapidly, a highly contagious viral infection that can lead to paralysis, breathing problems, or even death.

The contagious viral illness is classified as occurring with or without symptoms. About 95 percent of all cases are asymptomatic, and between 4 and 8 percent of cases are symptomatic. Symptomatic polio can be broken down further into a mild form, called non-paralytic or abortive polio, and a severe form called paralytic polio that occurs in around 1 percent of cases. Non-paralytic polio, also called abortive poliomyelitis, leads to flu-like symptoms that last for a few days or weeks. These include fever, sore throat, headache, vomiting, fatigue, back and neck pain, arm, and leg stiffness, muscle tenderness and spasms, meningitis, an infection of the membranes surrounding the brain.

Many people with non-paralytic polio make a full recovery. Unfortunately, those with paralytic polio generally develop permanent paralysis. The first case has been confirmed in a one-year-old boy from Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija. The patient manifested with fever and sudden onset weakness of the left lower limb. The case was detected through surveillance of Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases in the communities done and reported by barangay health workers.

The synchronized polio vaccination campaign conducted from November to December 2019 reached 1,404,517 children below five years old in the National Capital Region.

According to the survey, 71% of the total number of children are not yet vaccinated for anti-polio. Some of the reasons are lack of knowledge, medical contraindication, and the parents refusing.

Pregnant women and children are more susceptible to polio.

Polio is often recognized because of symptoms like neck and back stiffness, abnormal re-

flexes, and trouble with swallowing and breathing. A doctor who suspects polio will perform laboratory tests that check for poliovirus by examining throat secretions, stool samples, or cerebrospinal fluid.

There is no cure for polio but it can be prevented with complete doses of polio vaccines which are the Oral polio vaccine and inactivated poliovirus vaccine that have long been proven safe and effective.

However, there are supportive treatment options to consider aiming to manage the effects of the disease. This includes antibiotics for secondary infections and pain-relieving medication, portable ventilators to assist breathing medication to reduce muscle spasms, moderate exercise, massage, physiotherapy, heat treatments, and a nutritious diet.

DOH also reminds the public to practice good personal hygiene, regularly wash hands, use toilets, drink safe water, and thoroughly cook food. The Philippine government declared the end of the polio outbreak on June 3, 2021 after a 16-month no detection of the illness.

DENR flags Sta. Ana open dumpsite



2018 NOTICE OF VIOLATION

As per the investigation of the DENR, the open dumpsite had already received a notice of violation way back in 2018 concerning its operation. However, the Sta. Ana Pampanga LGU did not respond to the notice.

The 2018 notice of violation on the dumpsite was originally reported by Bryan James Garcia, a former employee of DENR-Region 3.

SOLID WASTE: IMPACT TO HUMAN HEALTH

Improper waste segregation and illegal dumping shipments will not only damage the environment but as well as human health. Pile garbage can lead to different serious health issues that people near the open dumpsite can acquire by inhaling the contaminated air from the said waste yard.

Other problems caused by improper or poorly handled waste disposal can lead to a serious impact on residents within the area, including their safe water supply, and the impurity air they breathe in.

Leakage from improper waste management can also contaminate soil and water supplies, affecting the nature of the field that may result in damage to the food chain due to the toxic substances produced by the garbage that has long been piled up where animals and other living species eat.

As the residents bring up the issue, they mentioned that the open dumpsite was originally an open field where people like to visit because of the fresh air the area brings.

Garbage such as plastic, diapers, and some wrappers can cause salmonella, typhoid fever, food poisoning, and other major illness.

It is shown in the 2012 introductory-level Geology and Human Health course in the Department of Earth that plastic takes thousand years to decay. As a result, plastic toxins have infiltrated the food chain, posing a health risk to humans.

“Kapag alam mong mabaho kapag kumakain kayo, di ka makakakain nang maayos kasi syempre naaamoy mo yung basura,” a halo-halo vendor near dumpsite said.

TOXIC LEADS TO DEATH

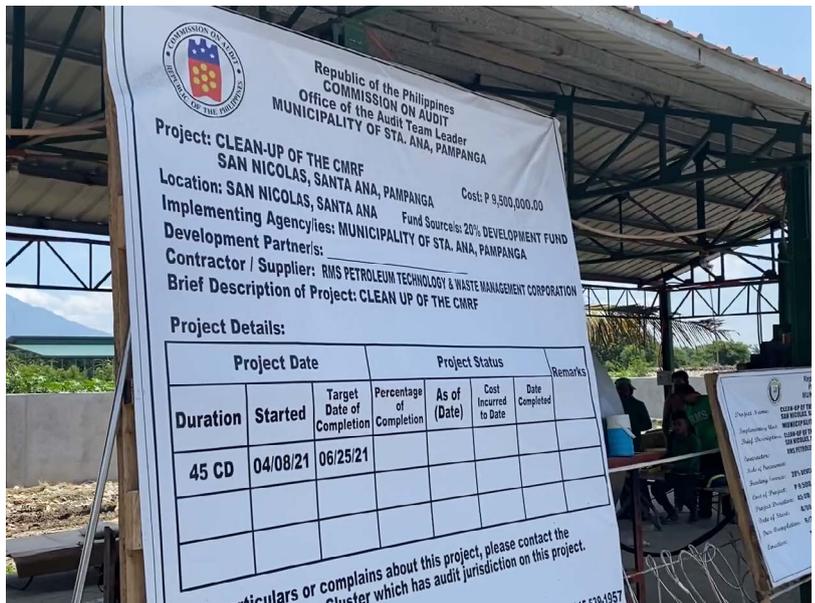
New information from World Health Organization (WHO) shows that 9 out of 10 individuals inhale air containing significant degrees of toxins that lead them to death.

“Yung mga anak ko asthmatic din sila, ayaw din namin yung .. may naaamoy sila na mabaho,” an anonymous residence near dumpsite said. “Naka-kaano sa sikmura talaga pag mabaho, nakakasu-ka talaga tapos nakakasakit sa ulo,” she added. Based on the conducted interview, residents near the dumpsite mentioned that the stinky smell only lasts for a minimum of half-day up to a maximum of three days.

There was an occurrence where the site produced a large amount of smoke due to the chemical reaction that came from the stack garbage. The smoke lasted for a month that led the residents to leave for the meantime to avoid inhaling contaminated air.

“Nasunog na nga dati yan, one month yung usok dyan e.... Na-suffocate kaming lahat dito, umalis yung mga tao dito lalo na yung may mga asthma,” an 18 year-resident within the area said. “Talagang yung bahay mo papasukan ng mabahong plastic kasi yun e... umalis kami nun dito one month nasunog yan. [Ang] tagal, yung sunog niya nasa ilalim, wala siyang apoy, usok lang,” she added.

As of writing, the bidding is still in process. Based on the interview with the caretaker of the open dumpsite and Mr. Garcia, whoever wins the bidding will be in charge of rejuvenating the dumpsite into a material recovery facility. They have also started transferring the tons of garbage at Calangitan, Tarlac gradually. Sadly, the Sta. Ana LGUs remains silent on the closure of the open dumpsite.



THE INVISIBLE KILLER

Air pollution may not always be visible, but it can be deadly.



36%
OF DEATHS FROM
LUNG CANCER



34%
OF DEATHS FROM
STROKE



27%
OF DEATHS FROM
HEART DISEASE

BREATHELIFE.
Clean Air. Healthy Future.



PRODUCT ON THE SPOTLIGHT



BALUT NI PONG!

BY MARK EDWIN DIZON
AND GILBERT CORDOVA

Which came first: Chicken or Egg, Egg or Chicken? I would say Balut!

I mean, take a break in that never-ending debate of answering that riddle, and have a sip to the tasty broth of a newly boiled Balut Egg, cracked from its shell, and slurp, without looking, the chick or baby duck and finish with the yolk or yellow then disregard its stone or the white.

Yummy! If that is, you are a Filipino, by blood and by stomach. This infamous street food of the Philippines is commonly dreaded by foreigners who came to visit. With its odd and exotic appearance, eating a Balut is a classic dare and an absolute must for a complete delicacy experience.

Balut or Balot is a developed embryo inside that is boiled and eaten in the shell, commonly accompanied with salt or spiced vinegar. It is considered a delicacy in some parts of South East Asia, including the Philippines. Popularly believed to be an aphrodisiac and considered a high-protein, hearty snack, balut is mostly a midnight snack to many and a “pulutan” for others with the accompaniment of beer, and sold by street vendors chanting a very long “Baloooooooooot!”. The Filipino and Malay word balut means “wrapped”.

The town of Sta. Ana will never run out of balut supply because of the numbers of poultry farms that produce balut eggs, making the town one of the primary producers and suppliers of balut from their nearby towns.

And if there's someone whom you can rely on when it comes to balut, Pong is the man! Popularly known as Pong Balut or Pong, Rodolfo Buan is a successful ballot businessman in Sta. Ana and lives in San Nicholas, Sta. Ana, Pampanga, where his poultry farm is also located.

Like any other success story, Pong started from just making salted eggs, but when someone offered him to sell balut, he

eventually grabbed it. And there came the idea that since he sells balut, it might be better to produce and make balut by himself utilizing the few ducks he owned.

With his dedication and perseverance, Pong was able to grow his balut business. He was able to have his poultry farm now with more than ten thousand ducks and lays more than five thousand eggs each day. With that, he was able to supply balut not just within Pampanga but also in other places such as Manila. From a simple balut vendor, he is now a supplier and a successful businessman. Indeed, balut is Pong's golden egg.

“Ang balot business ay mahirap na negosyo. Hindi nawawalan ng problema, minsan sobra minsan namn kulang. Matotorture talaga ang utak mo kung hindi mo alam i-handle ang mga problema na dumaring. Ang kailangan lang ay dedikado ka, gusto mo ang ginagawa mo at tiwala sa Diyos,” he said.

No doubt that amid the growing competition in his field of business, Pong's balut remains undefeated. But how is balut made?

Here's how:

Duck or Itik eggs that have not exceeded five days after being laid were collected and are put in an incubator for 15 days to help fertilize the eggs. Then the eggs were segregated from fertilized, not completely fertilized, and the ones with slightly damaged shells. Fertilized eggs become the balut, unfertilized eggs were called Penoy, and the fertilized eggs with damaged shells are balut sold at a lower price.

And when in Pampanga, you'll expect something new when it comes to their delicacies, and balut is not an exemption. From street food and a usual snack, balot is now also the main ingredient in some famous dishes like adobo, sinigang, caldereta, and many different innovations.

It even makes its way to the menus of other restaurants.

Basta balut, tatak Sta. Ana yan!



MACOY

NI AARON SOMBILLO

Kusa na akong ginising ng sumisilip na sinag ng araw sa mainit kong kwarto, walang pang-ib-abaw na damit, bakas ang mapa ng Cebu sa unan kong gamit. Pagkaraa'y tumayo na upang mag-almusal, ang tanging inabutan ko ay ang dalawang piraso ng tuyo, hindi ito sapat kaya binuksan ko na ang natitirang de-latang sardinas, pwede na para harapin ang panibagong araw na hahamon ng aking pasensya't pagiging anak.

Tatlong araw na ang naklilipas mula nang makatanggap ang aking pamilya ng tulong pinasyal mula sa gobyerno – tila biyaya na itong maituturing dahil ang totoo, wala pa man ang sakit na kumakalat ay matagal ng walang trabaho si ama. Si Ina ay inabutan kong dala-dala ang good morning na bimpo bilang pamunas ng pawis habang naglalaba. Pagkalabas ko ng bahay ay dali-dali ko siyang inalukan ng kape, walang pagdalalawang isip, hindi siya tumanggi bagamat matabang ito dahil halos ubos na ang asukal.

Habang nagpapalit ng suot para maghanda sa trabahong animo'y tinanggal ko na ang aking sariling ilong, hindi pala biro ang maging tagapagkolekta ng mga basura ng mga may basura. Hindi pa man ako nakalalabas ng tuluyan sa compound ay nadatnan kong may nagkukumpulan na mga tao sa bahay ni Tita Be-beng, ang tahananang walang hinto sa pag-aayos ng mga lamesa't upuan upang magsugal. Nang akmang didiretso na ako palabas, hinabol ako ng tinig na unti-unti ko ng tinuring na kaaway – araw-araw ay nababawasan na ang takot ko na harapin siya't suntukin dahil siya mismo ang nang-ubos ng respetong dapat kong ibigay sa kanya. Bago ako umalis, habang pinalalanghap sa akin ang usok ng kanyang sigarilyo ay nanghingi pa siya ng dagdag puhunan para ipangsugal.

Isa akong batang walang magawa sa utos ng isang manong dahil alam niya ang aking kahinaan – ang mawalay ako sa tangi ko na lang na kapahingaan. Habang isa-isa kong binibitbit ang sako ng nakasisilaok na amoy ng mga basura, walang ibang nasa isip ko kundi kung ano nang nangyayari sa bahay. Nakakain na kaya sila? Anong ulam nila? Nakapagpahinga na kaya si Ina? At kung ano-ano pa.

Makalipas ng nakapapagod na araw, umuwi akong dali-dali sa pagpalit ng damit, agad akong nagtimpla ng kape para sa akin at kay Ina na papatapos na sa kanyang labada. Tinanong ko kung nasaan ang ama, “gaya ng dati,” walang kibo niyang sagot. Halos hindi ko matiis na ubusin ang kapeng iniinom ko dahil sa kung anong pagod ko at ni Ina na mabuhay para may makain ay siya naming nagpapakasasa sa buhay



si Ama.

At naulit, at naulit at naulit, gaya ng dati, araw-araw, tila ba ang tanging hinahanap niya na lamang ng kanyang katawan ay ang mga barahang umuubos ng kanyang oras at ng aming salapi.

Isang araw, habang nakikinig ng balita sa radio sa loob ng truck sa gitna ng trabaho ay nagulat kong narinig na ipinagbabawal pala ang mga sugal sa ilalam ng enhanced community quarantine at ang sinumang mahuli ay maparurusuhan ng kaukulang mga parusa, agad-agad na pumasok sa akin ang galit sa aking ama. Dali-dali kong kinuha ang basag kong telepono upang tumawag sa kinauukulan at nangyari na ang dapat mangyari.

Pagkauwi ko'y tahimik, makagagawa ng ingay ang hangang lalapat sa aking labi, hindi ko lubos akalain na ganoon pala ang mangyayari kapag nahuli halos lahat ng aming kamag-anak maging ang aking ama. Pagkauwi ng bahay, agad agad akong dumiretso kay Ina, habang hawak-hawak ang walang lamang tasa, mabilis na akong yinakap.

Akma na akong hihingi ng tawad sa kanya dahil sa galit ko kay Ama pero naunahan niya ako. Nagulat ako ng bigla siyang lumuha, masakit ang bawat patak ng kanyang luha, humahagulgol. Sabay sabing, “wala na ang ama mo.”

Buong akala ko'y tuwa ang aking mararamdaman kapag nawala siya sa buhay namin ni Ina pero bakit kusang nahuhulog

ang luha kong 'di ipinapakita kahit kanino?. Agad-agad kong inalis ang pagkakayakap ni Ina, lumabas ng bahay, nagmamadali kong hinanap si Tita Be-beng, pagkapasok ko ay malinis, wala ang mga lamesa't upuan, walang mababakas na anino ng sugalan. Naupo ako habang hinihintay siyang lumabas ng banyo at kusa niyang binuksan ang kanyang bibig.

“Inabutan kami ng mga pulis, akala ko'y huhulihin kami dahil sa pagsusugal naming, akala ko'y mayroong nagsumbong sa amin pero hindi pala. Ang iyong ama, matagal na pala siyang gumagamit ng droga. Habang nagsusugal, dumating sila para hulihin ang iyong ama, mabilis siyang sumuko at nahulian ng droga sa kanyang likurang bulsa sa kanyang pantaloon. Akala nami'y tapos na ngunit walang anu-ano'y bigla siyang nang-agaw ng baril ng isang pulis, akmang kakalbitin na niya pero nabaril na siya ng isang pang pulis, naisugod pa siya sa ospital pero huli na ang lahat.”

Hindi ko alam kung paano kong iha-hakbang aking paa pauwi sa sarili kong tahanan. Hindi ko matanggap na nawala sa masakit na paraan ang aking ama, hindi ko siya mapapatawad at hindi ko mapapatawad ang aking sarili.

Hanggang ngayon, dala-dala ko pa rin ang takot na maging iresponsableng ama. At hindi ko alam kung kusa ko bang piñata ang aking ama dahil sa sarili kong galit. Sinong mas mabuti sa amin? Ako si Macoy, ang batang nagsumbong sa mga sugarol sa gitna ng ECQ. At ako si Macoy na nawalan ng ama. Sinong sisihin ko?

Sakanto. pina Aling Nelda

NI AARON SOMBILLO

lilan na lang ang sumisilip na liwanag sa kada bubong ng mga tahanan, tinatahulan ako ng mga maiingay na aso, animo'y sasagpangin ako at kakainin ng buhay. Habang dala-dala ang aking selpon, naupo ako sa tindahan – linalagpasan lang ako ng hangin, walang kasama kundi ang hinahabol kong kalaro.

Halos tatlong araw na akong nakararanas ng trangkaso dahil sa sakit na bulutong, nahihirapan akong makatulog dahil medyo mahapdi, may kirot kapag natamaan ang mga ito. Maingat akong inaalagaan ng aking ina sa aking kwarto, nagdadala ng iilang tutugon sa umiiyak kong kalamnan habang pinagsa-

sabay ang labadang kanyang kinuha mula sa tita kong mayaman.

Maingay ako kung matulog – laging mayroong napapanaginipan. Minsan, maririnig na lang ako ng aking ina na nagsasalita, natatawa na lamang siya sa mga pinagsasabi ko. Pero hindi ito biro, hindi na ito naging biro nung 'di na ako narinig magsalita ng aking ina, dali-dali niya akong pinuntahan sa kwarto at doon ay mahimbing na pala akong natutulog kung kaya't kumalma na siya, pinuntahan na ang mga labada sa pag-aakalang tapos na, akala niya'y ayos na.

Tahimik na hinawakan ng aking kalaro ang dala-wa kong kamay, animo'y iniimbitahan niya akong maglaro sa ilalim ng bumababang buwan, nasa ikalawang palapag ako sa aking kwarto, hindi kami bumaba sa hagdan kundi dumaan sa bubong ng aming tabing-bahay. Sa yero, 'di kami

nakalikha ng ingay at dahan-dahang bumaba sa hagdan. Nauna na ang aking kalarong lumabas papuntang kalsada, hinahabol ko siya, naglalaro kami, masaya, hindi ako napapagod. Hanggang sa sabay na kaming nagtungo papunta sa kanto, sa tindahan ni Aling Nelda, may inaalok siyang makakain, kapareho ng pagkaing inihahapag ng aking ina.

Nakarinig ako ng mga nagmamadaling yabag, hinawakan niya ang aking kamay at mabilis niya akong sinampal. Nang masaktan ako, nalaman kong ang nanakit pala ay ang aking ina.

Magkahalong galit at pangamba niya akong tinanong kung saan ako pupunta, tinuro ko ang aking kalarong nag-aalok ng pagkain, pagkalingon ko'y wala na siya, naglaho. Hindi bumababa ang nagliliwanag na buwan, may mga nagdudugo akong sugat, mainit ang pakiramdam – yinakap ako ng aking ina, mahigpit na yakap, yakap ng pagkalinga.

May biglang dumaan na sasakyan – sobrang liwanag ng ilaw, nakita kong nakasakay ang aking kalaro habang kinakain ang pagkaing iniaalok sa akin, kasama niya ang aking ina, at mag-isa ako sa kanto, kina Aling Nelda.





INFORMATION AT YOUR FINGERTIPS:

MASSIVE DIGITALIZATION ANSWERS DEMAND ON ONLINE COMMUNICATION

BY MARIA RINA LOPEZ



Online communication has been part of an individual's life activity nowadays because of the current situation that the world is experiencing due to the pandemic. Social media and other communication platforms became popular due to the high demand for work and school from home.

One of the few institutions that worked on the early stage of digitalization before the COVID-19 pandemic is the Holy Cross College. From the last quarter of the year 2019, the school with a heart is on full blast to improve the technical performance of the school.

The official social media pages of the school were revamped and boosted to reach a wider scope of the community and better serve the stakeholders. Important announcements and messages were conveyed through social media pages for fast and easy dissemination. Through this, HCC became more open and engaged with the community's concerns.

Launching a website also became one of the most prioritized projects of the current administration headed by Atty. Dennis C. Pangan upon his installation as the school president.

Who would have known that online communication and education would be in demand and HCC became a model school in Central Luzon for launching a successful website.

HCC Heart Cloud is a virtual platform where you can access lessons, activities, exams, and grades. Online classes are done via this online classroom feature where learning can be more fun and exciting.

Online release of grades and enrolment is one of the many features of the website that was launched last May.

Each student was given an account to access the student portal and check their report cards for the previous academic year.

"Sa pagkakaroon ng HCC heart cloud sa ating school mas napadali na yung pagkuha or pagkita ng mga grades kasi online na siya hindi kagaya dati class card kinukuha pa sa teacher mo isa-isa pero ngayon easy access na rin siya," Mark Justine Bathan, Development Communication student said.

The new virtual platform of the school seeks to cater to students' and employee's information needs without sacrificing their safety and health during community quarantine due to pandemic.

Parents also praised the system after accessing grades conveniently. Angelina Llabres, used to travel to school just to get report card of her daughter.

"Malaking tulong sa aming mga magulang ang online system ng Holy Cross College dahil hindi na naming kailangang pumunta sa school para makita ang mga grades ng aming mga anak at madali rin ang pag eenrol ng mga estudyante kaya maraming salamat Holy Cross College," Llabres said.

To better build a communication system around the school, HCC also distributed smartphones to basic education teachers. It aims to help for the betterment of the school's working environment among employees, students, and parents.

"Para sa welfare ng mga bata for them na maiform and for teachers we will make sure na pagbubutihan pa namin ang pagtuturo," Abigail Caliwag of Grade School department said.

Communication is now for all because the school with a heart provides a P1, 000 monthly load for teachers.

Students can now also access the internet inside the campus because of the campus-wide free Wi-Fi service.

"Masaya po kasi makakatipid kasi hindi nap o naming kailangan magpload para makakuha ng data," Kimberly Pangan, grade 10 student said.

"Nagpapasalamat po kasi nakakapagresearch po kami ng libre," Jaimelene Santos, college student said.

Digital Library is also rolling for student's and teacher's convenience to find the books they want to read. E-library is also available in the learning management system of the school. The library management system will make all transactions paperless and easy.

A new radio frequency identification card (RFID) is also part of the massive digitalization program of the school. It aims to become a monitoring process for all students and employees. With just a tap on the ID, attendance is registered and a message will be sent to the guardians or parents of students.

Continuing the promotion of HCC core values Fides (faith), Caritas (charity), and Libertas (liberty), the school also provided online catholic activities. While mass gatherings are still prohibited, the school with a heart conducted online rosary and novena every day. Catechism and mass are live-streamed also on the official social media page of the school.

The school also promised to continue serving the public by providing and improving its communication systems. While everyone goes online, HCC reminded the community that it is still available for offline communication.

HCC HAILED...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

According to Lazatin, “During the pandemic, we know the challenges faced by our fellow Kapampangans, like unemployment and low income. We target to train everyone who is willing to learn and to help them put up a small business.”

Some of these livelihood programs include training on home production of dishwashing liquid soap and fabric conditioner, as well as hair-cutting. HCC, in partnership with the Technical Education and Skills

Development Authority (TES-DA), has trained residents from Brgy. San Isidro, Brgy. San Bartolome, and Brgy. San Joaquin. HCC also launched the “Agri Tayo sa HCC” program with TESDA and St. Isidore Farms. Local farmers in Sta. Ana underwent agriculture and farming training under this program. HCC is looking to educate more batches of farmers in the agricultural town of Sta. Ana.

CHED III acknowledged the efforts of higher education institutions in organizing such programs during the Gawad PADY- AK Parangal, May 27. The awards ceremony was done virtually and coincided with the first National Higher Education Day and the commission’s 27th anniversary.

EDUCATE AS ONE...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Holy Cross College and Department of Education Santa Ana District signed a Memorandum of Agreement to educate as one during this crisis. The collaboration aims to set aside competition and help each other to reach and teach students.

HCC will share the e-Learning Management System (LMS), a virtual classroom platform for online classes for this academic year. Selected grade 6 students from 12 different schools will study using the HCC Heart Cloud.

The Supervisor of the Public Schools of Santa Ana, Mrs. Edna L. Pineda said this partnership will help the schools build a better relationship and produce the best learning outcomes in the region.

“First and foremost I would like to thank Holy Cross College for offering this to us imagine inoffer nila to samin sa mga students namin for free ang maexperience nila kung paano iyong online learning so malaking tulong sa mga bata, our grade 6 teachers will sit together with grade 6 teachers of Holy Cross and then titignan nila ang competencies namin at competencies ng Holy Cross which are just the same because we are just following the same MCLE,” Pineda said.

The school with a heart will also train teachers and students on the features of e-LMS before the start of classes to fully equip them in the new normal in education.

“Ito nga na sa new better normal na tayo it is very important talaga, wala tayong choice kung hindi i-adapt na natin ito and sabi nga there is always a room for improvement sa mga teachers,” said Santa Ana Elementary School Principal, Fe Macalino.

“Masaya ako doon sa collaboration kasi imagine public and private and school they will be working together sabi nga natin ang main objective ay itong mga batang ito, we heal as one, sabi nga two heads are better one,” she added.

In the middle of the pandemic, HCC stays true to its mandate to give quality and accessible education for all. The school did not stop to help the community in pursuit of their core value Caritas or charity.

HCC President, Atty. Dennis C. Pangan initiated the collaboration to help public schools and reach more students via the Heart Cloud.

“Nakita naman po ninyo na ang Holy Cross College ay laging tumatalima sa ating core values na Caritas at naniniwala kami na hindi maganda ang maging maramot sa panahong ito lalong lalo na sa pandemic gusto rin nating maabot ang mga estudyante natin sa public schools,” President Pangan said.

“Pinapahatid po namin sa kagawaran ng edukasyon at iba pang eskwela na ang Holy Cross College po ay handang tumalima, hindi po ito ang panahon para magkaroon ng kumpetisyon, pagalingan, o pasikatan ito po ang panahon na kaialngan magsama ang ansa public sector at tiyaka private sector...sharing makes wonders if we share what we have then everybody would have enough,” he added.

The collaboration between HCC and public schools will be limited to five subjects only, such as Mathematics, Science, English, Filipino, and Araling Panlipunan. The said subjects will be integrated into the e-LMS and will be available for students by August.

Teachers from different schools are also expected to work together to produce the best modules and best teaching practices to better serve the students.

CELEBRATION...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, the stage play pushed through while observing strict health protocols. The Krus Festival stage play is one of the highlights of the annual celebration was revamped to a semi-musical and digital play. The storyline, music, characters, settings, and technical productions were innovated to tell the untold story of the “True Cross.” This year’s play is entitled “Emperatris Helena at Pamagdulap King Krus,” starring Jeramie Gonzales as Emperatris Helena and Archilles David as Emperor Constantine. The story focused on the story of Helena’s journey on finding the true cross to pay for the sins of his only child Constantine.

The story brought back the ancient times through digital productions and storyline through the visions of the play Director and Stage Manager Arlene Marie Ocampo.

“Ito ay tungkol kay Empartris Helena at ang kanyang paghahanap sa Krus dahil sa kaniyang pagmamahal sa kaniyang anak, kinasasakupan, at sa

matinding paniniwala niya sa relihiyong Kristiyanismo. Dito rin ipinakita yung pananampalataya sa Diyos, Fides or Faith,” Ocampo said.

The script of the play was written for about 8 months before completed, a full Kapampangan quatrain poem with a measurement of 10 syllabi per line. It was written by Angelica Marie Simpao, publication moderator of the school, and with the help of Kapampangan writer Jessa Lacap.

“It is challenging to write a Kapampangan poem, it is my first time to write with measurement and with a strict storyline because this is based on the historical-religious story. We made thorough research about how the journey of Helena’s first pilgrim was,” Simpao said.

Pre-pandemic the play was presented in Patio, Santa Ana Parish Church and engulfed with audiences from different barangays. However, to cater to more audiences during the pandemic lockdown, the play was aired via the official Facebook page of Holy Cross College.

Mark Joshua Lansangan, the technical director, successfully made possible the virtual stage play using modern technology. To ensure the safety of the casts, the shooting was held in the audio-visual room while monitoring safety protocols.

CORRUPT...CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

According to President Pangan, this is also a violation of school regulations.

The previous canteen manager said he wants to resign even before but the former president said they are competent with him. “He trusts me fully that I am handling the canteen well,” the former employee stated.

President Pangan did not turn a blind eye to this issue and the school just decided to get concessionaires for the canteen.

Aside from the canteen, books transaction was also been a conduit of corruption inside the school. A former high-ranking employee who is in charge of communication with other bookstores pocketed about 5% annually of the total book sales.

The bookstore company disclosed to the school admin that P700,000 to P750,000 annually was being given to the school but about P50,000 was only remitted to teachers. In addition to this, an incentive worth P200,000 from another bookstore was given to the former employee and was not remitted to the HCC’s treasury nor the association. The said amount was not also properly liquidated.

HCC’s partnership with the Bookstore is tainted with corruption because some teachers were given junket trips before evaluation of the textbooks.

Thus, the corruption was stopped and the received amount in the academic year (2019-2020) from the bookstore was used for the procurement of smartphones of teachers. Smartphones are used for the development of communication systems among employees and stakeholders.

President Pangan vowed to continue working on the development of the school and save the budget for different significant projects for the modernization of Holy Cross College.

Justice prevails

The new administration did not tolerate this kind of behavior and the former employee was removed due to misappropriation of funds and for accepting bribes. He was also terminated for using the title Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) without having finished or obtained the same degree which is a violation of Chapter III, B.13 of the Administrative and Faculty Handbook, where the penalty provided for is dismissal.

However, the said former employee complained that he was arbitrarily dismissed from employment as a regular employee. He even claimed for moral and exemplary damages and attorney’s fees.

In the decision/resolution released by the National Labor Relations Commission, Regional Arbitration Branch No. III, City of San Fernando Pampanga said there is no illegal dismissal and the claims for damages and fees are likewise denied.

The complaint submitted to NLRC by the former employee is dismissed for lack of merit and not granted for a motion for reconsideration.

The Holy Cross College’s immediate action on the different issues on employees and members of the administration is a manifestation of the school’s dedication to providing quality service and education for the students. It does not matter whether some are in positions, as long as it takes away the right of every student to quality education, the school with a heart will surely act accordingly.



NI ANJANETH B. LEANO

Kasaysayang maituturing ang Olympics Tokyo 2020 para sa bayang Pilipinas matapos makapag-uwi ng mga atletang Pilipino nang hindi lang isa kundi apat na medalya mula sa larangan ng boxing na sina Nesthy Petecio at Carlo Paalam na kapwa nagkamit ng silver medal, bronze medal naman para kay Eumir Marcial at ang gintong medalya mula kay Hidilyn Diaz sa larangan ng weightlifting.

Pag-asa ang dulot nito sa mga Pilipino lalo na sa ganitong pagkakataon na dama pa rin ni Juan ang epekto ng pandemya. Silang mga atletang Pilipino ang inspirasyon ng bawat Pilipino.

Sa kabila ng pagiging inspirasyon nila sa marami, sa likod ng kanilang mga tagumpay ay ang mga paghihirap na naranasan dahil sa kakulangan sa suporta mula sa pamahalaan.

Sa katanayan, maging ang Olympic champion na si Hidilyn Diaz ay nangalap ng tulong mula sa mga pampridadong kompanya. Aniya, hindi raw siya nagsisisi sa paghingi ng tulong mula sa mga pampridadong indibidwal dahil bilang atleta, kailangan daw ang malaking suportang pinansyal upang makapag-training at makakuha ng panggastos sa mga kakailanganing gamit.

Ang pagkapanalo naman ng mga atletang gaya nina Carlo Paalam, EJ Marcial at Nesthy Petencio sa larangan ng boksing ay nagpalakas sa panawagang bigyang pokus ang mga palakasang may malaking tyansa ang Pilipinas na manalo. Bilang isang bansang mahilig sa pampalakasan, nawa'y patuloy na masuportahan ang lahat ng uri ng isports at hindi ang iilan lamang – bigyang pondo at suporta ang lahat ng isports.

Ang pagbibigay ng incentives – gamit, serbisyo man o salapi, ay isang magandang gantimpala para sa mga atleta ngunit hindi lang sana para sa mga nakapag-uwi ng medalya. Dahil kagaya ng mga nagwaging atleta, ang hiling nila'y pondo at suportang mula sa gobyerno't mga Pilipino, simula sa kanilang preparasyon hanggang sa mismong laban maging ang resulta man ay panalo o talo.

Athletes deserve a better treatment, hindi dapat makaranas ng maling pagtrato ang mga manlalaro lalo na't isa sila sa mga nagbibigay karangalan sa ating bansa – nagbibigay ng dahilan kung bakit nagkakaisa ng mga Pilipino. Hindi biro ang pagsasanay ng ating mga manlalaro, dugo at pawis ang kanilang inilalaan para maiuwi ang karangalan sa ating bansa.

HCC Cycling club umarangkada

NI ANJANETH B. LEANO

Umarangkada na ang Holy Cross College cycling club, papunta sa mga karatig na bayan ng Candaba na pina-ngunahan ni Atty. Dennis Pangan simula noong ika-9 ng Enero.

Sinabayan ng 25 siklistang nakilahok sa HCC cycling club ang pagsikat ng araw sa kanilang unang arangkada na tumagal ng isang oras. Mula sa eskwelahan nagtungo sila sa Candaba, at Santa Maria sa bayan ng Santa Ana Pampanga na may kabuuang 15-kilometro ang layo.

Sa pahayag ni Arren Joe Rosas, isa mga empleyado ng HCC sobrang pasasalamat niya sa pagkakaroon ng cycling club sa kaniyang trabaho upang ipagpatuloy ang kaniyang pagbibisikleta.

Mainam ang pagbibisikleta sapagkat nakakatulong ito sa pagkakaroon ng magandang mood at nakakapagpababa ng lebel ng stress lalo na sa mga empleyado tulad ng mga guro.

“Maganda sa kalusugan ang maidudulot nito (pagbibisikleta) at sana magtuloy-tuloy to,” dagdag ni Rasos.

Bukod sa nakakapag liwaliw ang mga empleyado, nakaka ganda rin ito sa kanilang kalusugan upang maiwasan ang pagkakaroon ng sakit, at nakakabawas sa posibilidad na atake sa puso.

“It’s a way of physical fitness natin no. Camaraderie ng empleyado, yun ang importante, samahan sa school, karamihan dun yun ang objective natin,” pahayag ni Benigno B. Navarro Jr., Head of Sports and Kinesthetics Department.

Mahalaga ang pagkakaroon ng magandang pangangatawan sa panahon ngayon, isa lamang ang ‘cycling club’ sa mga ‘wellness program’ ng Holy Cross College sa taong 2021.

Maaaring makilahok ang mga estudyanteng nasa edad 18- pataas magpasa lamang ng mga kinakailangang dokumento na nakatala sa ‘official Facebook page’ ng Holy Cross College.



PHOTO BY MULTIMEDIA DEPARTMENT
CAPTION BY JOYMEE CULLADO

FITNESS DURING PANDEMIC. Twenty-five employees of Holy Cross College joined the first ride of HCC Cycling Club, part of the school’s wellness program.