

STF NEWSLETTER

STUDIUM THEOLOGIAE FOUNDATION, INC. (PHILIPPINES) • ISSUE FIFTEEN

Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Students, “seekers after truth”

THE PRELATE OF OPUS DEI opened the academic year at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome by urging the faculty and students “never to separate the pursuit of truth from fraternal love.”

“For college students, promoting charity means placing emphasis on working with others. It is in conversation and the exchange of views and experiences that people mature as seekers after truth,” said Bishop Javier Echevarria, chancellor of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross and Prelate of Opus Dei in opening the new academic year on Oct. 9.

Bishop Echevarria went on to cite a passage of Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” that urges everyone “never to separate

investigation of the truth from love for others. A Christian is a person with a heart that sees, a heart that is sensitive to the needs of others and ready to respond.”

The inaugural ceremony took place in the new auditorium dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II. The university’s rector, Mariano Fazio, opened the session, which, along with faculty and students, was attended by diplomats—among them the Iranian ambassador to the Holy See, Mohammad Yavad Faridzadeh.

“This new academic year,” the president said, “is full of potential for continuing last year’s growth in the

continued on back page

In collaboration with the
• Pontifical University of the Holy Cross (Rome, Italy)

• Ecclesiastical Faculties of the University of Navarre (Pamplona, Spain)

Brought to you by the
Theological Centrum
Executive Committee
5th Floor

Quad Alpha Centrum Bldg.
125 Pioneer Street,
Mandaluyong 1501
Metro Manila, Philippines
Tel. 635-6113 • Fax 634-8590
e-mail:
theocent@uplink.com.ph



Participants of the Retreat for Diocesan Priests held at the at the Tagaytay Conference Center.

continued from previous page

size and diversity of the student body and in the opening of new areas for study and research.”

“We intend to continue along this course,” he added, “but in addition to numerical increase are many cultural challenges that give to the work of this university, and of all the pontifical universities in Rome, such pressing responsibilities.”

“The world around us is rich in human and Christian resources that enable thousands of people to offer their lives in the service of others, often unseen but nonetheless fruitful. These persons are the salt of the earth,” Msgr. Fazio added.

“We cannot, however, close our eyes to the complex problems that trouble contemporary culture and menace respect for the human person,” he stressed.

It is, then, “at this moment in history” that “we Catholics, other Christians, and all people of good will must find a clear and certain reference point: the teaching magisterium of our beloved Roman Pontiff, Benedict XVI.”

This year’s enrollment of 1,467 includes 930 students in the four divisions of the university (Philosophy, Theology, Canon Law, and Church Communications) and 537 in the Institute of Advanced Religious Studies. Seventy-six countries are represented from every part of the world; in percentages: 21 Africa, 13 Asia, 23 Europe, 17 North and South America, and 2 Oceania.



Dearest Friends,

My warm greetings to all:

Here is a picture of Pope Benedict XVI’s Holy Mass on Pentecost Sunday where I served as one of the servers. It was indeed an unforgettable experience being near with the Holy Father. I am very happy to share this with you. Pray for the Holy Father, and pray also for me especially for coming ordination. Thank you very much. May God bless you.

—Seminarman Manuel Manggao of the diocese of San Pablo, Laguna, a graduate of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross.

New Palo Archbishop Praises Predecessor for Success in Clergy Formation

On March 9, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI appointed Bishop Jose S. Palma as the archbishop of Palo, Leyte. Installed in his new Archdiocese on May 2, 2006, the Archbishop shared his views about his clergy.

Q: As the new archbishop of Palo how is the clergy in the Archdiocese?

Archbishop Palma: “First, I would like to reiterate my appreciation to my predecessor archbishop emeritus Pedro Dean for his successful program regarding the formation of the clergy. We have at present about 150 priests in the archdiocese. Really, the former archbishop had great concern for the formation of the clergy such that in the past years, numerous priests were sent for further studies locally and internationally. I also thank God that our vocation program in the archdiocese has been going well. Lately, I had the opportunity of celebrating the Mass of

the Holy Spirit in our archdiocesan seminary and I emphasized the formation of seminarians. And also in my last meeting with the clergy, I once more emphasized the importance of our ministry as servant leaders and, of course, of the challenge to become not just priests but zealous, holy, and dedicated priests who, as good shepherds, are after the welfare and concerns especially of the poor and the needy in our society.”

The archdiocese of Palo has sent the highest number of priests and seminarians for advanced studies at the University of Navarre and the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. The archbishop emeritus, the Most Rev. Pedro R. Dean, D.D., occupies the place of honor of being one of the first bishops in the Philippines to entrust his priests and seminarians to be trained at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross and the University of Navarre.

Pontifical University of the Holy Cross Alumnus Invested as “Chaplain” to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI

MSGR. JUANITO FIGURA, of the Archdiocese of Jaro, an alumnus of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, at present the Secretary General of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), was invested on October 30, 2006, as “Chaplain” to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI, with the title of “Reverend Monsignor” before a crowd of over 1, 500 faithful who filled the Sto. Tomas de Villanueva Parish Church in Miag-ao, Iloilo.

Msgr. Juanito Figura’s investiture, a source from the Archdiocese of Jaro said, was “one of the most significant Catholic Church events in our archdiocese”.

The solemn investiture attracted Church leaders and dignitaries, including archbishops, bishops and priests.

Principal Consecrator was CBCP President and Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo with San Jose de Antique Bishop Romulo de la Cruz and Surigao Bishop Antonieto Cabajog as Mass concelebrants.

In his homily, Archbishop Lagdameo considered Msgr. Figura’s appointment as a “great honor” to all the clergy of Iloilo.

The new Monsignor-elect, meanwhile, thanked the Pope for his appointment “and the responsibilities that comes along with it.”

Born in Bacauan, Miag-ao in Iloilo, Figura spent his high school at the St. Joseph Junior Seminary and earned his degree in Philosophy from St. Vincent Ferrer Seminary, both in Jaro.

He finished his training for priesthood at the U.S.T. Central

Seminary, where he earned a degree in Sacred Theology; and was ordained to priesthood on April 27, 1981 at the age of 25. In the same university, he later earned Licentiate in Sacred Theology and Master’s degree in Higher Religious Education.

From 1983 to 1984, he served as Dean of Studies and Professor in Moral Theology at the St. Joseph Regional Seminary in Jaro.

In 1994, he also obtained his doctorate in Sacred Theology degree from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome.

Msgr. Figura also served as parochial vicar of the parishes of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage and Holy Name of Jesus, both in Iloilo City, respectively; and as parish priest of San Jose Obrero, also in Iloilo City.

Greetings from Rome!

I have been out of Italy on the whole month of September doing my pastoral work with the homeless in London. I have good news to share with you. Finally, with God’s grace, my deaconate ordination will be On October 21, 2006, at the Basilica of Santa Maria in Trastevere, Rome. I will be ordained with my classmates from Cameroon and Uganda. The bishop who will ordain us is the new president of the Pontifical Academy, Msgr. Justo Mullor. I am assured of your prayers. My retreat that will start today. It is really God’s gift. My greetings to all the benefactors. Thank you very much for all the help and prayers.

—Rev. Expedito Torevillas of the Archdiocese of Cebu,
a student of the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross





We are going home. Fr. Orly and Fr. Oliver, Jesse, Anthony, and I are about to finish our studies. We have only one examination left, God-willing, next week.

Most of us will be going to Valencia, Spain, for the World Meeting of Families. I hope to meet the Filipinos there and I hope also that we can be in the Thanksgiving Mass of the Filipino community. God Bless you all and I count on your prayers.

—Rev. Trini Pinca of the diocese of Catarman,
a graduate of the University of Navarre, Pamplona, Spain

Make an Investment in the Training of a Priest

In the past 17 years, donations from benefactors in various countries have allowed at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross to award scholarships to priests and seminarians from countries around the world. With your help, the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross will be able to award more scholarships in the next academic year. We would like you to join us in multiplying good deeds in order to help the Church and the world.

Give a priest or a seminarian the opportunity to study in Rome at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross. That is an investment sure to return a profit, one that will go on multiplying in the lives of the many people who the priest will help with his pastoral ministry.

How much it costs to study in Rome?

Academic fees	1,150 Euros
Board and lodging (1)	7,100
Books and medical insurance	850
Other expenses	900
Total	10,000 Euros

How can you send a donation?

- *You can send a check to our mailing address:*
Studium Theologiae Foundation, Inc.
5/F Quad Alpha Centrum
125 Pioneer Street
1550 Mandaluyong City
Philippines
- *Or send a bank transfer to the following account:*
Bank of the Philippine Islands
Account name: Studium Theologiae Foundation, Inc.
Account number: 1891-0015-13 (peso deposits),
1894-0661-01 (foreign currency deposits)

To request information please e-mail us at: theocent@uplink.com.ph, or call tel. (02) 635-6113, fax (02) 634-8590.

“According to Gaudencio Cardinal B. Rosales, the single biggest problem facing the whole Catholic Church today is the failure of Christian men and women to believe that they can transform the world they believe in into the world that Christ had always wanted, to become yeast in the mass of flour that becomes bread. There is a hesitation and a reticence to make a difference and use the gift of one’s faith to enrich other people’s faith.”

from “Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales:
A Capacity for Great Sacrifice”

**Visit the new
Theological Centrum
website at:
www.theologicalcentrum.org**

