ST. SCHOLASTICA’S COLLEGE
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

For the past few years, quiet preparations for the centenary of ST. SCHOLASTICA’S COLLEGE (SSC) and the MANILA PRIORY of the MISSIONARY BENEDICTINE SISTERS of Tutzing in Germany have been underway. The centennial — which activists place this year — is a twin celebration of the Priory and the School, and carries the umbrella theme “A Century of Missionary Benedictine Presence in the Philippines.” A Hundred That Has Subsumed the School themes “100 Years of Scholastic Education: Excellence in our Benedictine Service to the Community.”

While special activities already began taking place during the drumbeating phase as early as June 2005, the Centennial season formally began when the Priory kicked off celebrations on September 12, 2005 when it turned 99 years old and entered its hundredth year. SSC followed three months later with its own kick-off celebrations when it turned 99 and entered its hundredth year on December 3, 2005

Each celebration was a commemoration of the two significant dates that marked its beginnings: Manila Bay, September 14, 1905: five brave Benedictine Sisters from Germany respond to the appeal of Apostolic Delegate to the Philippines Monseigneur Arbeoulo Agius, OSB. The date is auspicious: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Three months later, they set up a “Free School” in Moriones Street in Tondo, later moving to San Marcelo Street and then to Pennsylvania Avenue, now known as Leon Guino Street, where St. Scholastica’s College stands today.

On September 14, 2005, in Mo, Prorress General Irone Delos Santos, OSB, flew all the way from Rome to deliver her keynote address and formally open the centennial activities. Benedictine Sisters from neighboring provinces, the SSC school community represented by the administration, faculty, students, not-teaching and general services staff, officers of the Parents-Teachers Association, alumnas, Alumnatas, and guests from other civic and religious organizations joined in the festivities.

After the morning Thanksgiving Mass, committee rose at St. Cecilia’s Hall in the evening to usher in the first of a series of CENTENNIAL CONCERTS. After the concert was the drawing of lots for the winners of "RAFFLE FOR A CAUSE," a fund-raising project for the Archives-Museum. The lucky winner of the house and lot was Ms. Rosario Esguerra and winner of the Toyota Vios was Ms. Linda Pantiño.

Three months later, on DECEMBER 3, SSC had its KICK-OFF Celebration, beginning with the “Teakco Para sa St. Scho” FUN RUN which drew 6,144 registered participants composed of Sisters, students, parents, alumni, faculty, relatives and friends of SSC, interested spectators, and hundreds of well-wishers who assembled with the rest at 5:50 AM at the SICC and ran/jog/walked with all the rest even if they had not been able to register. More than a fund-raising activity, the 3k-5k-10k Fun Run was a means of gathering all members and stakeholders of the Scholastican community on the first day of its hundredth year—a symbolic way of wishing SSC off to a running start as she moves toward her centennial.

After the Fun Run, a 99-car motorcade took off from the HarbourFront parking area and went to Moriones, Tondo — the site of SSC’s first classroom. Motorcade and runners then headed for Leon Guino and Estrada Streets where the rest of the crowd awaited them as they enjoyed the Bazaar that was in full swing. A Thanksgiving Open-Air Mass was then celebrated for the entire Scholastican community by the Papal Nuncio Most Rev. Msgr. Antonio Franco.

After Holy Mass the crowd resented their visit of the colorful booths (bazaars and food stalls), strolling through campus enjoying the Open House, attended ribbon cutting ceremonies of photo exhibits, participated in the on-the-spot giant mural painting, watched games, trivia contests, pop squad and dance numbers, and many other activities filling the day.

The highlight of the afternoon was an open-air CONCERT dubbed “100 YEARS AS ONE,” featuring songs, dances and bands performed by some 300 faculty, parents, staff, students, alumnae and Benedictine Sisters. The day ended in the chapel where the newly installed giant stained glass windows of the Blessed Trinity, St. Scholastica and St. Benedict were blessed. Vespers at commencement closed the day.

After staying abroad for some 20 years, Scholastican families are returning to SSC for its grand CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. They believe it is worth coming back since St. Scholastica’s College will celebrate its 100 Years of Benedictine Education in the Philippines – a once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon. Many grand activities are in store for this year long celebration which can all be found in our website at www.ssc.edu.ph.

Sister Withburga Kliger, OSB, Sister Wilibald Schroeder, OSB, Sister Baptista Bätti, OSB and other similar names, bring back to our dear Scholasticas, names and timeworn values which have been ingrained in their lives. Discipline is one such word, at times said with fun, and yet with appreciation and acknowledged “that one would not change it for anything.” Special thePropagation of the Faith is another. They were societies Scholasticas got into: but much more that than these have instilled in their hearts that love venerated every storm, and brightened the darkest night.

Fifty years later and more, these names are hardly heard on Scholastican lips. But through the years that I have been a Scholastic from Kinder to College graduate to even a Sister, now, there is something I see that is different – of if one lives to say it, is a “hundred years old and more”. It has been a hundred years ago, and it is here now and a hundred years hence. What is discipline for? What is the Societu bonae or the Propagation of the Faith? Or Social Action or the Lay Apostolate? Teaching in the Public Schools? Doing Catholic Action work in St. Peter’s Patronage? Visiting the children in Walesville? Or the oldest? Or even one’s own original research work? Why original? Why not copy? What was the Honor System for? No proctors – but no cheaters either?

Little actions . . . big actions. What was behind them all? The indefinable Something that Scholasticans call: “SCOLASTICAN.” It is a Person that stands for what is right, and good, and worthy: for Excellence in service. A Person whom we call upon several times a day: “That in all things God may be Glorified”.

MAJOR CENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE REST OF 2006

Feb 3-5 Student Leaders Congress (SLC)
Feb 6-7 College Retreat
Feb 10-12 College Week
Feb 16-17 Feast of St. Scholastica
Feb 23-24 Feast of St. Benedict
Feb 26, 27 Alumni Homecoming
Mar 1-9 Gina G 9th Scholastic Centennial Music Festival
Mar 10-12 Manila Centennial Concert
Mar 10-11 Visit to old Sisters in Baguio

March 3 Women’s Fair and Boxing/MMA to
April 2006 Visit to old Sisters in Baguio II
April 2006 Lunch with Alumnae and Student Concert
May 2006 College Graduation Concert
May 2006 Doctoral Thesis Medsical Mission with Scholastica doctors and nurses
May 2006 Worldwide Benedicta Pilgrimage Tour

July 2006 Institutional Students’ Month: School Spirit Week, RE Revision, etc. The Best of SSC Cultural Presentation: Classical Ballet Workshop and Symposium
August 2006 Centennial Conference of SCH/Clearly Papers
September 2006 Opening of SSC Archives-Museum and unveiling of the box containing the first five Benedictine Sisters
November 2006 Faculty Month for GS & HS St. 50th, St. 50 Tips Derived from Faculty: Staff & Alumni
December 2006 College Employees Centennial Concert

December 3, 2006 Icon 100 years old

AC K N O W L E D G E M E N T S

ANGELINA F. FRANCISCO
RAQUEL R. PEDRO
ZERAIMA BITARA
ETHEL JANE BACON
VIVIAN OLEVIDA
ROSETA COLADO
LOUIE A. PARAAN
CYNTHIA PAUSTINO REBULDO
MA. CORONZON G. ESQUERRA
NESTOR GOMEZ
MA. PATTI PAVIOTTI & DEY S. CORP.
RESTITUTO AGUNO
MARAGARITA F. FRANCISCO
MA. JEMMELLA S. JARRO DR.-SANCHEZ
P. A. ALZOLA & FAMILY
DINOC ARCENO
EMILY ALMABARBA

ANNE MARIVIC G. REYES
FREDERICO A. ARGuelles
YVETTE C. OHAN
JAMIE ANN S. JOSE
ZENOBIA M. BITARA
EMILY ALMABARBA

ELIZABETH T. GARCIA
TIMOTHY T. GARCIA
MIGUEL F. FRANCISCO
ROSA FABRIO
YOLLY VENERACION
MARCO RIVAS
EMMA S. PIZARRA
MARIAN C. PIZARRA
JENNIFER T. PIZARRA
EUGENIO J. PIZARRA