Here were insights that could only have come from years spent either joyfully or recklessly navigating through life, or waiting on God, or learning from the School of Hard Knocks. Are these not proofs of spirituality?


Sister Baptista arrived in Manila in 1907, and immediately gave piano lessons in the first Benedictine house in Moriones, Tondo. With the permission of the Apostolic Delegate, she gave two public recitals to raise funds for the financial demands of a growing school, by now located in San Marcelino. These concerts brought not only funding to the institution but also fame to Sr. Baptista, resulting in a rise in enrollment of students, whose impressed parents were most eager for their daughters to learn from this wonderful musician. Thus was the School of Music born, with just one teacher and a few second-hand pianos.

Battig's Children: Every Tone for the Glory of God by Della Gamboa Besa, HS 1951, College 1955

On this centennial of St. Scholastica's College, we come together as women of all ages now residing in our country or elsewhere in this complex world, running, or participating in, institutions, companies, movements, or creating art and edifying cultures, protecting the environment, or advancing science. The signposts we were used to can no longer be located; the terrain has become almost unrecognizable. We can only fall back on what we have always believed from youth, from school that fortunately turned out to be a school of life and for life.

A School for Life by Karina Africa Bolasco, College 1976

On August 13, 1906, five young sisters stood on the platform at a railway station in Munich on their way to Genoa. The youngest of them was barely 23. Their black woolen habits that were heavy and thick on their young shoulders and the red belts they wore as a symbol of their readiness for martyrdom in the new land must have called attention to that little band saying goodbye to a slightly older nun who embraced each one of them tightly, hiding the anxiety in her eyes with parting words that were both prophetic and hopeful: “My dear Sisters, I see in spirit our Sisters in big numbers spread over the Philippines, in many houses working for the salvation of immortal souls for the greater glory of God.”

The Early Years: From Moriones to Singalong By Florina Feliciano Castillo HS 1961, College 1965
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