

A Tale of Farewell and Hello

109-Year-Old College of the Holy Spirit Manila Closed its Doors but the Spirit Lives On

Marilou Capistrano-Parcero (Toronto) CHSM HS 73

On Apr 29, 2022, CHSM closed its doors on one sweltering hot day. With a palpable sense of loss, tears flowed, and sweat dripped that added to the intense humidity of the day for the alumni, Sisters and guests who gathered to say their farewell to our grand old dame, the College of the Holy Spirit Manila (CHSM).

CHSM was founded in 1913 by the Missionary Sisters Servants of the Holy Spirit (SSpS sisters). In an official statement in October 2020, Sr. Carmelita Victoria of the Provincial Leadership of SSpS, announced that the 109-year-old institution faced many challenges, making it difficult to attract new students in the past decade. "Private education has faced an increasingly challenging environment resulting from (i) government policies on K-12; (ii) free tuition in-state colleges and universities, local universities and colleges, and state-run technical and vocational institutions; and (iii) the significant increase in public school teachers' salaries compared to their private school counterparts."

Here in Mississauga, as I prepare for my Golden Jubilee grand reunion on February 2023, it hit me that there is no CHSM Campus to go home to. My heavy-laden heart remembers our old Alma Mater song. "Someday when far from you we roam; our thoughts will surely travel home. And mem'ries sweet will be to me, those dear old days..." February 2020, 2021, and 2022 were about virtual homecomings as the world knelt in a standstill to address the covid pandemic. Finally, on February 2023, there is hope we can do a face-to-face homecoming. At about this time – the Auditorium programs are project-planned, costumes are Pinterest-Board-designed, and choreographers are short-listed as we rally (coerced at times) classmates to attend. Yes, CHSM jubilarians and others get passionately serious about coming home. But wait, where is the home to come back to?

I commanded my natural happy dopamine hormones to transport me to some happiness at CHSM - oh those elementary days we played Chinese garter on the corridors, *piko* with our favorite *pamato*, show-off contests on who jumped highest from the swings (I have knee scars to brag about that!). Ah yes, those unforgettable sweat-inducing pre-technology gadget days of games of *patintero*. Fast forward to high school, I remember the Kick-a-Pow wow school fair days of field demonstrations, jail booths, horror and other game booths, reminiscing those days when sister and brother schools' friends dropped by. Those were the *tambay* days at the iconic Dennis Bookstore, which carried everything but books and those unforgettable yummy yemas at the Pastellerria at Concepcion Aguila St.

I am proud to say that some of our notable alumnae are the following:

- UPM Chancellor Dr Carmencita Padilla
- Laura Pascua, Retired Undersecretary at the Department of Budget and Management
- Gloria Dino Steele, Acting Head of the US Agency for International Development (USAID).
- Investigative Journalist Sheila Coronel
- Newspaper Writer Conchita Razon
- Fashion designer Josie Natori
- Jeweller Mila Dayrit
- Academicians Dr. Cynthia Banzon-Bautista and Dr. Edna Zapanta- Manlapaz
- Renowned artists such as Imelda Cajipe-Endaya, Dolly Quimbo-Perez, Edith Oliveros and Lenore Raquel-Santos -Lim
- Imelda Ongsiako -Cojuangco
- Government leaders include Tessie Aquino -Oreta; Charito Planas; Victoria Garchitorena; Teresita Herbosa; and Ambassadors Isabel Caro-Wilson and Consuelo Puyat-Reyes
- Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism and founder of the Philippine Daily Inquirer Eggie Apostol

We, the alumnae, will fiercely keep the Spirit alive in our other SSpS schools and the mission schools with the Mangyans in Mindoro and the Aetas in Tarlac. We are determined to make sure we continue the excellent work our SSpS sisters started in 1913.

Join us as we pay homage to our dear old CHSM and all our alumnae as we celebrate the Spirit that will continue to live in our other campuses and mission schools. College of the Holy Spirit North American Foundation Inc (CHSNAF) will hold its conference gala at the Royal York Hotel on Oct 1, 2022. Please go to www.chsnaf.org for more information.

Please send email inquiries to CHSNAF.reunion2022@gmail.com.

References:

Century-old Manila school bids final farewell By [Stanley Buenafe Gajete, CNN Philippines](#) Apr 6/22
College of Holy Spirit of Manila to close in 2022 Jaehwa Bernardo, ABS-CBN News Nov 22 2020
Memories of College of Holy Spirit Manila ...- Inquirer.Net - Frances Anne Umali – March 2022
This Goodbye is Forever: As End Nears for College of Holy Spirit, ...ANCX Staff | Mar 20 2022



One Heart. One Mind
KEEP THE SPIRIT ALIVE

College of the Holy Spirit North America Foundation, Inc (CHSNAF)

A Gala Invitation

Hosted by

CHSNAF Canada East Chapter

Oct 1, 2022, 5:30 PM to 1 AM

Fairmont Royal York Hotel

100 Front St W, Toronto

We will continue to support our scholarship program in our remaining 5 campuses and continue the work of our Sisters with the Mangyans in Mindoro and Aetas in Tarlac.

Musical Band/DJ - For the Boyz with Karen Tan

Live Music and Cocktails start at 5:30 PM

Sit-down Dinner, Dancing, DJs for Hire

Silent Auction, Photobooth, Cash Bar

Early Bird: \$125 per person (CAD/USD at par)

Purchase by July 1st (11:59 PM EST) for a chance to win a Caribbean cruise for 2 (airfare excluded) and other prizes!

After July 1st, gala ticket is \$140.

Formal: Barong/Coat & Tie; Cocktail Dress/Long Gown

Inquiries & Registration: www.chsnaf.org

CHS Campuses



Tarlac



Malolos

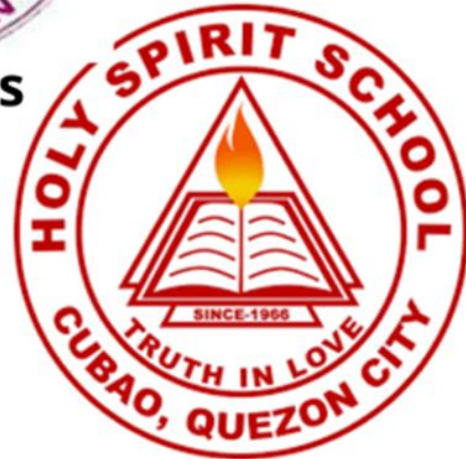


BF Homes

Irosin



Cubao



With One Heart, One Mind – Keep the Spirit Alive

College of the Holy Spirit Schools and Missions Run by SSpS Sisters

Deanna Go Bio (New York)- CHSM AB '58, BSC '59

College of the Holy Spirit Manila (CHSM) is now a page in the long history of the SSpS Missionary Sisters in the Philippines. CHSM is gone but we, the alumnae, are her living past igniting the present to keep the Spirit of our school alive in the future.

"With One Heart, One Mind, Keep the Spirit alive" is not just a bold but empty slogan to be used at our Grand Reunion on Oct 1, 2022. We have put this slogan into action by advocating for education through the SSpS Congregation.

College of the Holy Spirit North America Foundation Inc (CHSNAF) has pledged to support the SSpS schools by providing financial support to deserving students in the following schools under the SSpS System of Schools:

- School of the Holy Spirit of Quezon City, BF Homes, Q.C.
- Holy Spirit School Cubao, on Ylang-Ylang Street, Q.C.
- College of the Holy Spirit of Tarlac, Tarlac City, Tarlac
- Holy Spirit Academy of Malolos, Malolos, Bulacan
- Holy Spirit Academy of Irosin, Irosin, Sorsogon

At the same time, the SSpS are active in ministering to the marginalized - two tribes of Indigenous People, the Aetas in Tarlac and the Mangyans in Mindoro. Our SSpS Sisters live among the people in their communities, ministering to their spiritual lives while tending to their corporal needs:

- Aeta Mission, Tarlac – K-6, Maruglo Elementary School- Yangka School Annex
- Mangyan Mission – K-6 Naswak Hatubuan Bangon Elementary School and its K-1 Extension School in Hugon Liguma

The children go to the public schools set up by the Department of Education for them and the Sisters provide tutoring, catechetical studies, formation of Christian values and morals. In Tarlac, the children live in dormitories weekdays and hike up the mountain to their village homes for the weekend. Because of poor nutrition, the Sisters has a feeding program for the school children in the dormitories.

With the closing of CHSM, CHSNAF has redirected its Scholarship and Grant-in-Aid program to the SSpS schools and continues its fund-raising for this program. In 2021, CHSNAF started its support of the Indigenous Peoples' Mission Schools and raised funds for its annual operating budget covering the two sites.

**@AetasHolySpiritMission in
Paidyanan Tarlac
Sr Mel Geometry tutorial**



