

# Cardinal Tagle leads blessing of PLM Chapel

Renovation of Shrine of Jesus, the Divine Teacher completed



**BLESSINGS FROM THE CARDINAL.** Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, assisted by other priests from the Archdiocese of Manila, blesses the newly renovated PLM Chapel.

“Since God is everywhere, we can spray to Him anywhere we are. But there are some special places where His presence is somehow stronger, and this is one such place.”

With these words, mentioned in his homily, Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle underscored why the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)

Chapel, that was recently renovated, is a very special place.

Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila, led the blessing of the newly renovated chapel last Jan. 18, 2017. He also officiated the Eucharistic celebration with the help of Father Vincent Bauson, Father Rico Gracia, Father Jek Arada, and other priests



**CHAPEL MARKER.** Manila Mayor Joseph E. Estrada unveils the liturgical marker that commemorates the blessing of the chapel as President Ma. Leonora V. de Jesus looks on.

from the Archdiocese of Manila.

The event was attended by Manila Mayor Joseph Estrada, top PLM executives headed by President Ma. Leonora V. de Jesus, campus ministers of the Archdiocese of Manila, University faculty members, staff and students.

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## PCSO ambulance donation boosts PLM medical program

The Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) last December donated a fully-equipped ambulance to the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila to significantly boost PLM’s capability to safeguard the health and well-being of its students, faculty members and employees.

was approved after the PLM submitted the necessary requirements, including a letter of request and the justification for the donation. The donation was part of the PCSO Ambulance Program that provides medical vehicles to government agencies and institutions.

“On behalf of the PCSO Governing Board, we wish to commend your medically-allied project as pretty laudable as you take into consideration the health and safety concerns of your students, officials and employees,” said Corpuz. “It is truly

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**AMBULANCE FOR PLM.** PCSO Chairman Jose Jorge E. Corpuz (left photo, extreme right) presents a symbolic key to PLM officials to formalize the agency’s donation to the university of a fully-equipped ambulance (right photo).



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## Nursing continues to shine for PLM

CN posts 95.56% passing rate in latest board exams



The Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila College of Nursing (PLM-CN) posted a 95.56% passing rate in the 2016 Nurse Licensure Examination given last November to maintain its stature as one of the best nursing schools in the Philippines. The college’s passing rate was well above the national average of 47.73%.

The passing rate was based on the performance of 47 examinees, 45 of whom made the grade, according to the records of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) which administered the board test. The score would have included PLM-CN in the PRC 2016 list of the Top 10 performing nursing schools, but the college fell short of the commission’s cutoff figure of 50 or more examinees to qualify for inclusion in this elite roster.

However, one PLM-CN graduate did make it to the list of the Top 10 successful examinees. Mary Grace B. Polancos registered a 84.60% average in the examinations to land on the 10th spot.

Saying she was not surprised by the satisfactory results of the 2016 examinations, Dr. Ma. Cecilia O. Martinez, dean of the college, attributed the consistent performance of PLM-CN to the tight coordination of the administration, faculty members, and students. She believes that this close relationship has been and continues to be an essential factor in the achievements of the College of Nursing.

“Since its inception, the College of Nursing has always expected good results in the licensure examinations because we’ve remained confident that each graduate of PLM-CN is competent enough to pass and even excel in the board test,” Dr. Martinez said. ■

## Pamantasan ends 2016 with party

By Mary Lane D. Liporada

The Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila closed 2016 with a fun-filled Christmas party that served as a fitting end to a year full of achievements.

With the theme “Back to the ‘60s: A Retrospection of PLM’s 50 Golden Glorious Years,” the party

was held on Dec. 15, 2016 at the Rajah Sulayman Gymnasium. Attended by over 700 PLM employees and a number of guests, the event also celebrated the many achievements the university earned during the last 50 years and honored the people who have been instrumental to its success.

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# Will federalism be good for the Philippines?

Former senator tackles question in PLM forum

Changing the form of government is a critical issue that is bound to have a tremendous impact on the lives of all citizens. It is therefore the role of learning institutions to arm the community with the necessary knowledge so that people can make informed decisions on matters of national interest.

The Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila did this for the students and staff of the university when it conducted a public policy forum on the issue “Is Federalism Good for the Philippines” last Dec. 9, 2016 at the Bukod-Tanging Bulwagan.

Jose “Joey” D. Lina Jr., who served as senator, secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Laguna governor, general manager of the Metro Manila Commission, and who now sits as the president and director of the Manila Hotel, was the main speaker at the forum.

“The Philippines, at present, has a unitary system of government and

a unitary state is an independent country or state governed as a single entity,” Lina said. “The national or central government is supreme, and all subnational administrative divisions exercise only powers that the central government has decentralized, delegated or devolved to them. Sub-divisional units are created and abolished, and their powers may be broadened and narrowed by the central government.”

He added that of the 193 member-states of the United Nations, 165 are governed as unitary states.

A federal system of government or a federal state, on the other hand, is a political organization that unites separate states within an overarching political system that allows each state to maintain its own fundamental political integrity, Lina pointed out.

In a unitary system, the central government has all the power. The central government decides what powers, if any, to give to the lower levels of government. Even if it gives them some power, it can always take them back. The lower levels of government have no right to their power.

In a federal system, some powers are exercised by the central government and other powers are exercised

by the lower levels of government (states). The states have a right to their powers. The central government cannot just take those powers away. Typically, as with the United States, there is a written constitution that tells what powers go to the national government and what powers go to the lower levels.

However, Lina explained that the Philippines has a long history of decentralization and autonomy, policies which are also enshrined in the 1987 Philippine Constitution. “Article II, Section 25 of the 1987 Constitution states the State shall ensure the autonomy of local governments,” he noted. Autonomy is defined as the right of provinces, cities, municipalities, and barangays to self-government or self-rule. He added, “Article X, Section 3 also stated that Congress shall enact a local government code, which shall provide for a more responsive and accountable local government structure instituted through a system of decentralization.” Decentralization refers to the transfer of authority and responsibility for public functions from the central government to subnational administrative units and local governments.

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# PLM student joins Ayala Young Leaders Congress 2017

Michael de Chavez, a third year BS Mass Communication student of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS) of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, was chosen from among 600 applicants to take part in the prestigious Ayala Young Leaders Congress (AYLC) 2017.

A total of 163 short-listed applicants were interviewed by a panel of judges that included executives of the Ayala Group of Companies, on Nov. 29 and Dec. 1–2, 2016.

De Chavez will join 80 delegates to the AYLC that will be held in February 2017. The delegates were chosen based on their leadership track record, strong positive impact, and dedicated service to others.

The Ayala Young Leaders Congress, the flagship leadership program of the Ayala Group, is an annual student leadership summit for the most promising student leaders selected from the best colleges and universities in the country. The congress is designed to build the delegates’ confidence and leadership skills, nurture commitment to integrity and principled leadership, foster nationalism and idealism, and



YOUNG LEADER. Michael de Chavez poses in front of an AYLC tarpaulin.

encourage faithful stewardship of communities and the country’s future.

The AYLC features talks, outdoor activities, plenary sessions, and workshop group discussions. Well-known and highly respected leaders from government, civil society, business, the arts, media, and entertainment will share leadership stories and experiences, and challenge the participants’ perspective and paradigms.

After the congress, participants are expected to undertake a change

project within one to two years. Working with mentors, fellow youth leaders, and members of their community, they can start something new, or affect changes to existing projects that make an impact on the lives of the people they serve.

AYLC participants automatically become members of the Ayala Young

Leaders Alumni Association (AYLAA) and have the opportunity to collaborate with their fellow alumni on bigger causes and advocacies while they are in school and until they assume positions of responsibility in the government, private, and social sectors. AYLC alumni are envisioned to become a collective and powerful catalyst for change and national renewal.

De Chavez follows the footsteps of Ron Reyes of the College of Nursing (CN), who was a delegate to the AYLC 2013. ■

# PLM medical program gets boost from PCSO From page 8

heartwarming to know that we can be of immense help in serving the academic community.”

In his letter, the PCSO chair pointed out that PLM’s medically-allied project was “parallel to our efforts to groundswell the delivery of charity services to the people, particularly in 2017 and onwards.”

Dr. De Jesus said in her thank-you letter that with a dedicated transport service that could immediately bring an injured or a seriously sick student or employee to a hospital, “we are better positioned to take care of the safety and well-being of all the members of the PLM community.” She added that the PCSO donation has also significantly bolstered the agreement that the PLM recently signed with the Ospital ng Maynila mandat-

ing the hospital to provide medical and other healthcare services free of charge to all employees and officials of the University.

The PLM president informed Corpuz that the ambulance has been placed under the supervision of the University clinic which will also choose the personnel who will undergo the necessary emergency medical technician (EMT) training at the Philippine Red Cross. These EMTs will be assigned to manage the ambulance which is equipped with a spine board, an oxygen tank with a cannula (a thin tube inserted into a vein or body cavity to administer medicine, drain off fluid, or insert a surgical instrument), a collapsible stretcher, and a first-aid kit.

Together with the letter, Dr. De Jesus gifted the PCSO chair with a replica of a

monument of Dr. Jose Rizal as a student as “a simple token of our appreciation for your generous donation.”

Unveiled on June 19, 2015, the monument located in the PLM campus serves as “an inspiration to PLM students whose health and welfare — as well as those of the rest of the University community — can now be safeguarded better and more effectively, thanks to PCSO’s ambulance donation,” said Dr. De Jesus.

Aside from the newly-acquired ambulance, the other medically-allied projects that Dr. De Jesus has initiated include the Government Service Insurance System accident insurance for PLM students and the free health services for PLM employees administered by the Ospital ng Maynila. ■

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TOKEN OF THANKS. Former Senator Joey Lina receives a plaque of appreciation from President Ma. Leonora V. de Jesus and Executive Vice President Nelson J. Celis.

## Will federalism be good for the Philippines? *From page 2*

“Decentralization is not a new concept in the Philippines,” Lina noted. “The 1899 Malolos Constitution established decentralization and administration autonomy. A number of policies and laws for decentralization were enacted since then until 1972, when then President Marcos abolished local elections and exercised supervision and control over local governments. While a Local Government Code was guaranteed in 1983, then President Marcos continued to control and supervise local governments.”

In 1991, however, Republic Act No. 7160 established the Local Government Code, which devolved powers to local government units (LGUs) and the President only supervises, and does not control, LGUs.

Discussing the highlights of RA No. 7160, Lina said: “The law granted autonomy to local governments so that LGUs may become more self-reliant communities and become more effective partners in the achievement of national goals. LGUs have been granted power over respective terri-

tories, as long as projects comply with national requirements and laws, have been approved by the Sanggunian, and are conducted for the welfare of the people.”

LGUs are expected to provide basic services and facilities, and to this end, regional offices of national government agencies were phased out, and their powers and functions were devolved to LGUs as well. RA No. 7160 also created Autonomous Regions in Muslim Mindanao and the Cordilleras covering provinces, cities, municipalities, and geographical areas sharing common and distinctive historical and cultural heritage, economic, and social structures.

Several powers remain with the national government, however, particularly on issues of foreign policy, national security and defense, power to declare war, foreign relations including the ratification of treaties; foreign trade, customs and quarantine; currency, fiscal and monetary system, taxation, budget and audit; immigration, emigration and extradition; na-

tional government public works and infrastructures; postal; national air, sea and land transportation; intellectual property and copyright; meteorology; standards of weights and measures; grants-in-aid to local governments; census and statistics; cloning, genetic research and engineering; penal system, offenses defined in the Revised Penal Code, and crimes under special laws, among others.

Lina provided interesting insights on the current form of government and how it compares with federalism, particularly as modes of decentralization are currently in place. However, the question remains: “Is federalism good for the Philippines?” Although Lina did not give a categorical answer, saying that perhaps more discussions are necessary to shed light on how federalism can work for the country, he stressed that “servant leadership is the key to good government.”

“Leaders make the difference in a nation’s life,” he said, “and the people must raise up effective servant leaders.” ■

## Cardinal Tagle leads blessing of PLM Chapel *From page 8*

The PLM Chapel, known as the Shrine of Jesus, the Divine Teacher, was built in 1990. It was designed by the renowned architectural firm T.J. Mañosa and Associates. The construction of the original chapel was made possible through the fund-raising efforts of a committee headed by then Rev. Teodoro Bacani Jr.

Built to address the spiritual needs of the PLM community, the chapel was first blessed and inaugurated by Jaime Cardinal Sin, former Archbishop of Manila, on Dec. 17, 1990.

The altar and images of Jesus, Mary and Joseph were gifts from the Confradia De la Inmaculada Concepcion headed by Severina de Asis and Conrado Escudero. They were installed on Dec. 3, 2000.

The renovation of the PLM Chapel was a project of the Archdiocese of Manila with the assistance of the city government, led by Mayor Estrada.

The Eucharistic celebration for the blessing of the renovated chapel began with the introductory rights, followed by the liturgy of the word. The preparation of the altar was integrated in the liturgy of the Eucharist. Engr. Karen Leyson and Grace Mauricio covered the altar with white cloth. Faculty members Lalaine Isip, Roberto Dela Cruz, and Cecil Jabardo, and students Edwin Karl Basa and Kent Zellary Enriquez brought the flowers.

President De Jesus, Engr. Jose Silerio, vice president for information technology, and Arch. Gil Evasco, vice president for academic affairs, offered the ciboriums. Ibarra Gutierrez, vice president for public affairs, and Atty. Rufino Abuda, vice president for legal affairs, offered the candles, while deans Clydelle Rondaris of the College of Engineering and Technology, Risa Asuncion of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences,

and Jimmy Romero of the College of Education offered the fruits, good and cruets respectively.

After the mass, Mayor Estrada and President De Jesus unveiled the liturgical marker, which states “In the Name of the Father, of the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. This Chapel of Jesus, the Divine Teacher at the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila was solemnly blessed according to the rites of the Second Vatican Council for the glorification of God and the sanctification of the faithful, on the 18th day of January 2017 by His Eminence Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila. That in all things God may be glorified”.

Following the blessing of the renovated PLM Chapel, the Archdiocese of Manila is expected to set Jan. 18 of every year as the new date of the Feast of the Shrine of Jesus, the Divine Teacher. ■

## Secrets to happiness unlocked in PLM forum

Welcoming 2017 on a lighter and a more positive note, students of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila were recently taught the secrets to achieving happiness as part of the university’s ongoing drive to raise the level of awareness of the importance of mental health.

The secrets were shared by Dr. Margarita Go-Singco Holmes, renowned psychologist, author and educator, during a discussion entitled “Happy Hacks: Unlocking the Secret Codes of Happiness” held last Jan. 5, 2017 at PLM’s Justo Albert Auditorium. The event was organized and facilitated by three student groups — the Bukluran Students’ Alliance-Integrated Student Organization represented by Casina Mae Cenit, the Society of Pre-medicine for Edification, Assimilation and Reform represented by Ray Kristoffer D. Arellano, and the Alliance of Students for Tourism, Assimilation, and Respondence represented by Diane Kimberly D. Mapoy — in partnership with the Office of the Vice President for Public Affairs.

The secrets to happiness may be different for everyone, but it is very important to always consider oneself, Dr. Holmes pointed out. “Kailangang alam n’yo ang kahalagahan ninyo. Mabuting makinig sa ibang tao, pero hindi lahat ng bagay ay kailangang sundin. (You should know that you are important. It is all right to listen to what people say, but not all they say should be followed.)” she said.

A person’s locus of control, or center of activity or power, is also significant, Dr. Holmes stated. “Pag internal, alam n’yo na ang mga pangyayari sa buhay n’yo ay dahil sa inyo. (If it is internal, whatever happened or is happening to your life happens because of you.)” she explained, saying that someone with an external locus of control blames outside forces for everything.

Keeping secrets affects happiness and mental health, said Dr. Holmes, who continues to actively support increasing awareness of mental health, including the ailments that affect it such as anxiety, depression, and bipolar disorder.



**HAPPY SPEAKER.** Dr. Margarita Holmes (center) beams after receiving a plaque of appreciation from PLM officials. Shown with her are (from left) VP for Information Technology Jose A. Silerio, VP for Public Affairs Ibarra C. Gutierrez, President Ma. Leonora V. de Jesus, ALLSTAR President Diane Kimberly D. Mapoy, BSA-ISO President Casina Mae Cenit, and SPEAR President Ray Kristoffer D. Arellano.

“You are mentally healthy the fewer secrets you have. The more people you tell, the more you have feedback. It is also important to note that we are shaped by those who love and refuse to love us,” she stressed. It thus becomes important to know how to handle relationship challenges.

“People value experiences more than material things,” Dr. Holmes said. “For instance, if you buy someone a very expensive gift, the experience of purchasing that gift together may be more memorable than the gift itself. Time spent with loved ones is more important.”

She continued: “There is a saying that the grass is always greener on the other side. People will always compare. But grass is always greener when you water it. Alagaan mo ‘yung nasa iyo, yun ang mahalaga. (Take care of what you have; that is what’s important.)”

The discussion also tackled challenges in relationships with parents, friends, and significant others, and in sexual orientation. Family expectations regarding academic performance, issues of intimacy and rejection among friends and with boyfriends or girlfriends, cultural norms regarding behavior and appearance, and sexual identity, are all potential sources of conflict and may affect

one’s happiness, Dr. Holmes said. Biology, temperament, and upbringing also play significant roles and should be considered in resolving conflicts, she added.

Keeping relationships happy remain a preoccupation among Filipinos, Dr. Holmes disclosed. Other issues include financial security, work-life balance, and effects of the overseas Filipino worker phenomenon on families.

On the whole, happiness “comes to you,” Dr. Holmes said. “It’s something that you do not run after. Darating kung darating. Kung hindi, maghintay ka lang ng konti, baka dumating (It will come if it is meant to be. If not, wait a while, it may still come). It is not one thing only and, once you get it, you’re already happy. It is more of a skill. Kaya mo bang maging mayaman kung hindi ikaw ang pinakamayaman? (Are you able to feel rich even if you’re not the richest?) It is something that you practice. It is also about relationships, it’s about knowing that you’re loved by the people that you love.”

Representatives of the student organizations agreed, saying that belief in one’s self and in others is crucial to happiness. There is always something positive to be learned, no matter how big the challenge, especially with the support of family and friends. ■

# Pamantasan ends 2016 with a party

From page 1

The party began with a Eucharistic celebration led by Reverend Monsignor Jose Celestino F. Ignacio of the Archdiocese of Manila. This was followed by several musical numbers that were highlighted by the performance of the Glass Onion band, a sumptuous dinner, the Ultimate Talent Competition, and raffle draws.

There were 25 winners of Cherry Mobile phones, 10 winners of P500; 20 winners of P1,000; 10 winners of P2,000; 10 winners of P3,000; five winners of P5,000; one winner of P10,000; one winner of P15,000; and one winner of P25,000, the raffle draw's grand prize.

"It was such a great blessing and a sign of hope for me," Marianne Yu of the Office of Student Development and Services (OSDS), the grand prize winner, said. "It's really great to be grateful! Thank you, PLM."

The Ultimate Talent Competition received an overwhelming response from the PLM community. The contest was designed to showcase the extraordinary singing and dancing talents of faculty members and administrative staff. Wearing classic 1960-style costumes and dancing to music from the 1960s, five groups competed for the following cash prizes: first prize, P15,000; second prize, P10,000; third prize, P5,000; and consolation prizes of P3,000.

"We participated in the competition to help make the party a truly joyous celebration," Jonalyn S. Lee of the Admin Group that won first prize, said. "We really worked hard on our presentation. After all, parties this grand don't happen that often here in Pamantasan."

The party was an unforgettable celebration of thanksgiving and camaraderie. According to Andrea Solomon, acting vice president for finance and management, "It was the best and happiest Christmas so far in PLM. Congratulations and thank you Ma'am Lenny for a wonderful Christmas celebration at our dear Pamantasan." ■

