

# Galing MC

CONNECTING MC TO THE  
MARYKNOLL/MIRIAM COLLEGE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2024

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## MARYKNOLL HIGH SCHOOL BATCH 1969 TURNS OVER "ELSA'S GARDEN" BOOK

By: Anjanette Paule

Last October 10, 2024, Maryknoll College – High School Batch of 1969 turned over their batch-authored storybook entitled *Elsa's Garden*, drawing inspiration from their engagement with Grade 4 – Carinosa of SY 2023-2024.



*Elsa's Garden* is about a Knoller named Elsa and her love of gardening. In the story she finds herself helping her neighbor, Mang Jose, take care of his garden. The book dwells on the importance of plants, the types of plants, and gives gardening tips for young garden enthusiasts.

During the turnover, certificates of appreciation were awarded to the Maryknoll College – High School Batch of 1969 for the publication of *Elsa's Garden* and for their donation to Mother Mary Joseph (MMJ) Community Garden.

The donation will surely help revitalize the MMJ Community Garden, an alternative learning venue envisioned to be an ecological space for faculty and students, and an "edible garden" accessible to all members of the MC Community; and with the hope that others will realize the importance of gardening to everyone.

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Maryknoll High school 1969 with Dr. Kristine Lesaca-Saludez, Miriam College Grade School Principal, Ms. Ma. Margarita Acosta, PhD, Alumni Engagement Director, and Sr. Marvelous L. Misolas, M.M., Executive Director of the Environmental Studies Institute.



Messages of appreciation and inspiration were delivered by Dr. Kristine Lesaca-Saludez, Miriam College Grade School Principal and Sr. Marvelous L. Misolas, M.M., Executive Director of the Environmental Studies Institute. In response to these messages, the representatives of Maryknoll College – High School Batch of 1969 expressed their special thanks to the ones who brought them inspiration, the Grade 4 – Carinosa SY 2023-2024.



Truly, Elsa's Garden is not just a storybook about gardening. It is also an instrument which brings people to connect with nature, and that's what one of the environmental principles tells us – "Everything is connected to everything else".

This ceremony is organized by the Alumni Engagement Office, Grade School, and Environmental Studies Institute.

Photos by:  
Grade School – Learning Media Center.



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# UNVEILING CEREMONY OF THE ASI MARYKNOLL MARKER

By Eunela Rain, Feature Writer, Chi Rho

Last November 23, Miriam College (MC) unveiled its third historical marker at the Asian Social Institute (ASI) in Malate, Metro Manila. The Unveiling ceremony of the Maryknoll marker commemorates the rich history and heartfelt contributions of the Maryknoll High School Class of 1964.



This event, held in partnership with the Asian Social Institute, was attended by the alumnae of the Maryknoll High School Class of 1964, members of the Miriam College community, and the Asian Social Institute. To also honor the experiences and histories shared within Maryknoll College, a mini-exhibit on the Maryknoll Sisters, and their legacy at ASI alongside photographs of the alumnae on the campus was open throughout the day.



The program began with a holy mass, setting the reverent tone for the day led by Fr. Aung KoKo. Following the mass, the program facilitated by Ms. Jann Erin Castro transitioned into messages that celebrated the school's history and looked ahead to its future. Alumni, faculty, and partners shared their reflections and messages of gratitude and nostalgia.

Miriam College President, Amb. Laura Quiambao-Del Rosario thanked the MC High School batch 1964 for their generosity and dedication to the MC community. Amb. Del Rosario also brushed through the journey of Miriam College and the historical heritage it witnessed as reflected by the campus' location's historical context.



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She also shed light on the future outlook of the MC community, such as the opening of a third campus in Alviera, Pampanga, and plans to take over the Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary in Baguio, paving the way for Miriam College to continue its development and legacy, setting the stage for its 100th-anniversary celebration in 2026.

ASI expressed heartfelt gratitude for its collaboration and partnership with the MC Community over the years through messages from Dr. Felipe M. De Leon, ASI President, and Dr. Mina M. Ramirez, ASI President Emerita.

Dr. De Leon emphasized the spiritual and academic bond between ASI and MC, strengthened further by both institutes' shared values in promoting peace and social justice.



Dr. Ramirez further reflected on the shared mission to empower communities and promote environmental stewardship, through education and social development. She also mentioned the collaborative efforts of Maryknoll fathers and sisters, and the influence of the partnership in instigating social action.



To represent the Maryknoll High School Class of 1964, Ms. Imelda Perez Lopez gave a message highlighting her years of experience at Maryknoll College. Ms. Lopez revisited her nostalgic memories and challenges during her youth and how she continues to carry the values of discipline, good manners, and humility thanks to the guidance of her former nun teachers.





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She touched on how the marker represents the shared fond memories under Maryknoll College, ending with the note "This school marker will keep our personal and collective memory of Maryknoll College alive."



The ceremony concluded with the official unveiling and blessing of the 3rd marker of the Miriam College. The marker represents the contribution of the Maryknoll College Alumnae in upholding the MC values as they dedicate this to their time of growth within the Maryknoll College formerly located within the site of the ASI along the roads of Pennsylvania Street, now known as Leon Guinto, St.



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# PAG-IILAW NG TALA NG ADBIYENTO

by: Stephanie Joy Flores, Lingkod Mag-aaral Volunteer, MMISMO



Last December 2, 2024, a unique and heartwarming celebration marked the Lighting of the Advent Star at Miriam College. Hosted by the Maryknoll-Miriam Identity, Spirituality, and Mission Office (MMISMO) in partnership with the Miriam College Skills Development and Technical Education Center (MC SDTEC), this cherished tradition brought the community together to prepare for the Advent season.

The event took place in the Marian Auditorium, with faculty, staff, and students from the Loyola Heights campus joining in this solemn yet joyful occasion.

The paraliturgy, led by Ms. Angelina Alcazar, set the tone for the evening with a spirit of reflection and anticipation. This was followed by Ms. Jeannie Muñiz, MC SDTEC Faculty President, lighting the candle, symbolizing the light of hope in Christ's coming.



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Afterwards, a moving reflection on the enduring peace promised by Christ reminded everyone of the hope and clarity that His light brings into their lives. Dr. Trixie Sison, Vice-President for Academic Affairs, then led the lighting of the Advent Star, illuminating the hall with its symbolic brilliance.

A touching doxology, performed by MC SDTEC's Grade 11 students, closed the event, leaving the audience inspired and uplifted.

The Advent Star shone brightly, rekindling not only the lights of Miriam College but also the faith and hope of the Knoller community. Despite the gloomy weather, the tradition carried on—a testament to the steadfast spirit and light of faith among Knollers, as they look forward to the fulfillment of His promise. May this Advent season continue to be a time of hope, peace, and renewal for all.



Retrieved From Maryknoll-Miriam, Identity, Spirituality, and Mission Office (MMISMO) Facebook Page: <https://shorturl.at/XLDhW>

Photos by: Hannah Kwan, Lingkod Mag-aaral Volunteer

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## THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN (TOYM) AWARDEES



 <b>DIZON-MOUNTFORD, JENICA BEATRIZ</b> HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AND SOCIAL WORK	 <b>DULAY, ZIG</b> ARTS AND CULTURE (TV/FILM)	 <b>DUMALIANG, BILLIE CRYSTAL</b> ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	 <b>LUMBRES, ROSCINTO IAN C.</b> FORESTRY AGRICULTURE AND OTHER APPLIED SCIENCES
 <b>MARTINEZ, VENAZIR</b> ARTS AND CULTURE	 <b>MEJIA, JOSE GABRIEL</b> ARTS AND CULTURE	 <b>RANADA, PIA</b> JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATIONS	
 <b>UMALI, DENNIS</b> VETERINARY MEDICINE	 <b>VIRAY, BRENT ANDREW</b> RURAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY	 <b>WURTZBACH, PIA</b> HUMANITARIAN SERVICE AND SOCIAL WORK	

2024 HONOREES

THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN

www.jciphilippines.com

**Billie Crystal Dumaliang (GS 2006, HS 2010)**, Masungi Georeserve co-founder, and **Pia Ranada (GS 2004, HS 2008)**, Rappler's Head of Community, were recognized as two of the 2024 The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees.

"TOYM is an esteemed national recognition that honors Filipinos who have made exceptional contributions to their respective fields and communities. These extraordinary individuals have demonstrated exemplary leadership, innovation, and service, embodying the spirit of excellence and dedication."

Retrieved From:

Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association Facebook Page: <https://shorturl.at/y7ZL1>



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## 50TH METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL (MMFF)

In the 50th Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF) Gabi ng Parangal, held last December 27, **Abelardo Dennis Ho "Dennis Trillo" (COLL 2001-AB International Studies)**, was recognized as Best Actor in a Leading Role for his performance in "Green Bones." **MCHS 2003's Kakki Teodoro** was recognized as the MMFF's Best Actress in a Supporting Role for her performance in "Isang Himala."

MQuest Ventures Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer **Jane Jimenez-Basas (MCHS 1988)** won 2nd Best Picture for the motion picture "The Kingdom."

**MCHS 1984's Madonna Tarrayo's** co-produced film, "Isang Himala" won 4th Best Picture. "Isang Himala" is a film adaptation of the 2018-2019 award-winning musical play.

The Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), organized by the Metro Manila Development Authority, annually celebrates Filipino-produced films and talents. It is held nationwide from December 25 to the first weekend of January. This year marks the festival's 50th anniversary.

**Congratulations, Dennis, Kakki, Jane, and Madonna!**



Retrieved From:

Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association Facebook Page: <https://shorturl.at/dqpHm>

Photos from: CinemaBravo

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**ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT**

# **CHEF MAIDAH ARUGAY**

by Princess Ruth DV. Nacional, Associate Editor, Chi Rho

Chef Maidah Kherina Arugay, a BA Psychology Batch 2011 alumna, has found a recipe for success in being an award-winning chef and culinary expert based in Wellington, New Zealand.

After finishing her degree in Miriam College, Chef Maidah worked as a human resource specialist prior to moving to New Zealand to study cookery while juggling part-time hustles as a kitchenhand. Later on, she would earn a diploma in Applied Management and dive head-first in the culinary industry ready to work full-time. Seven years of experience with different cuisines sprung her to a quicker career path

of being a head chef in just 5 years, compared to the usual time it takes to get promoted into one.



Chef Maidah has also participated in Wellington's biggest culinary festival that allowed her to innovate dishes promoting a fusion of Filipino and Latin-American cuisine, a step forward to her dream of bringing the Philippines' proudest flavors to this area. She was then named Best Chef of the Year in 2023 by another hospitality festival, Wellington Hospitality Eat, Drink And Play.

Culinary is her greatest passion and her Psychology degree equipped her with management and relation skills, helpful in her pursuit of excellence in the industry. Her favorite college memories were hanging out with friends from the Entrepreneurship department at the Cafe Entrep and singing in school events.



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Chef Maidah Kherina Arugay with the Miriam College Skills Development and Technical Education Center (MC SDTEC) students



Aside from the sister-like bond found in her friends, she also had an enriched experience as her sisters were also Knollers (Marianne Arugay-McArdell, BA Communication Arts major in Digital Media Batch 2015; Maryjo Arugay-Cinco, BA Communication Arts Cum Laude Graduate Batch 2010; and Maraiza Arend Arugay, High School ABM Batch 2018).

From a colorful college life to a flavorful career journey, Chef Maidah's master tip is to never give up. Her advice for aspiring chefs: grab opportunities and charge these to experience. Additionally, remaining determined to achieve one's goals doesn't have to be in the name of adversity— even before dominating the kitchen, she already reinforced the dream of being in one by having a toque and knives tattooed on her arm.

Womanpower is what comes to Chef Maidah's mind when capturing her experience as a Miriam graduate. Her successful role as a woman leader committed to culinary excellence involved being true to herself and to the Miriam values to this day.



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# **MC** *Give*

## **CELEBRATING THE MARYKNOLL-MIRIAM LEGACY: A SHARED HISTORY OF SERVICE**

By: Sofia Soledad DG. De Guzman, High School Principal



Miriam College High School Class of 1995 initiated efforts to explore a possible collaboration between Miriam College (MC) and Cardinal Santos Medical Center (CSMC) to honor their shared roots and recognize the transformative impact of the Maryknoll Sisters in the Philippines. As institutions that were profoundly shaped by the vision and mission of the Maryknoll Sisters, both MC and CSMC aim to celebrate this legacy of selfless service, compassion, and dedication to nation-building.

The Maryknoll Sisters, known for their missionary work, arrived in the Philippines in 1925 and dedicated themselves to the healthcare, education and social service of the Filipino people. In 1926, they laid the foundations for Maryknoll College (now Miriam College), fostering transformative education that uplifts women to become leaders in society. In 1927, Archbishop Michael O'Doherty turned over the St. Paul's Hospital of Manila to the sisters.

The hospital was destroyed during World War II. A partnership between the Archdiocese of Manila and the Maryknoll sisters was resumed in the 1960's leading to the construction of the new hospital in Greenhills. In 1968, Sr. Maura Shaun turned over co-ownership and administration of St. Paul's hospital to the Archdiocese of Manila and was later renamed Cardinal Santos Memorial Hospital. The enduring legacy of the Maryknoll sisters continues to inspire MC and CSMC in their pursuit of excellence in education and healthcare.



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Thus, on October 3, 2024, representatives of MCHS Class of 1995, namely, Ms. Lourdes Espiritu, Ms. Michelle Reyes-Navarro, Ms. Leah Czarina Guevarra, Ms. Sofia Soledad De Guzman, Dr. Kristine Marie Lesaca-Saludez, with Maryknoll-Miriam College Alumni Association Director, Dr. Ma. Margarita Acosta and the College President, Ambassador Laura Q. Del Rosario, visited CSMC. They were warmly welcomed by the officials of CSMC headed by its president, Mr. Raul C. Pagdanganan.

In recognition of this shared heritage, MC and CSMC are preparing to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will formalize their collaboration. This partnership underscores their common commitment that echoes the Maryknoll Sisters' mission. The agreement will include possible benefits for alumni and faculty including an installation of a stone marker at the hospital. MCHS Class of 1995 will sponsor all costs related to the installation of the said marker.

This historic collaboration reaffirms the lasting influence of the Maryknoll Sisters and highlights the power of collective action in advancing the greater good. Together, Miriam College, through its alumni, and Cardinal Santos Medical Center aim to inspire future generations to uphold the principles of service, integrity, generosity, and leadership that the Maryknoll Sisters embodied.



L-R (Representatives of MCHS Class of 1995 Dr. Kristine Marie Lesaca-Saludez, Ms. Leah Czarina Guevarra, Ms. Lourdes Espiritu, Ms. Michelle Reyes-Navarro and Ms. Sofia Soledad De Guzman)



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# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION: **THE ANNUAL MC 100 TEACHER AWARDS**

By: Gail R. Galang, PhD, RPsy\*

The poster for the MC100 Teacher Awards Year 4. It features a dark blue background with a yellow banner at the top reading 'MC100 TEACHER AWARDS YEAR 4'. Below the banner is a row of ten portrait photos of teachers. At the bottom, there are three award categories: 'MC GLOBAL TEACHER AWARD', 'GURONG VERITAS AWARD', and 'AMAZING ALUMNI TEACHER AWARD'. The date and time are listed as '3 DECEMBER 2024 TUESDAY | 3:00 PM' at the 'MC-Henry Sy, Sr. Innovation Center'. Zoom details include 'Meeting ID: 985 0103 0689' and 'Passcode: MC100'.

Since its inception in 2021, the annual Miriam College Awards has become a cherished tradition that honors the remarkable contributions of educators at Miriam College. This yearly event acknowledges teachers' dedication and inspires and motivates them in their vital roles as mentors and guides for future generations.

The objectives of the awards were clear and impactful: to honor teachers, motivate them, and showcase the outstanding educational environment at Miriam College. Over the years, this celebration has evolved into a platform highlighting the exceptional achievements of Miriam College educators, who have played a pivotal role in shaping the lives of countless students, including many successful alumni.

At the heart of the awards is the recognition of teachers who have honed outstanding students. The Gurong Veritas Awards, a key ceremony award, celebrates educators who exemplify the values of truth and excellence in their teaching practices. These dedicated professionals impart knowledge and inspire their students to embrace the core values of Miriam College—truth, justice, peace, and integrity of creation. Their commitment to nurturing the minds and hearts of their students has resulted in a legacy of alumni achievers who continue to make a positive impact in various fields.



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In an ever-changing academic landscape, the role of teachers has become increasingly challenging. The awards also aim to motivate educators who consistently go the extra mile for their students. The MC Global Teacher Awards recognize those who have made significant contributions beyond the classroom, employing innovative teaching methods that foster a love for learning and global citizenship. These educators are not just instructors; they are catalysts for change, inspiring students to think critically and engage with the world around them.

Moreover, the presence of outstanding teachers at Miriam College serves as a psychological pull for new learners, drawing them to the institution. The Amazing Alumni Teacher Awards celebrate the achievements of MC graduates who have embraced the teaching profession and made a positive difference within the Miriam College community. These awardees embody the spirit of the institution, demonstrating that the lessons learned here continue to resonate and empower future generations.

As the awards ceremony unfolds each year, it serves as a reminder of the importance of valuing the voices of teachers and alumni. Its Year 4 theme, "Valuing Teachers' Voices: Towards a New Social Contract for Education," underscores the need to listen to educators as we collectively forge a path forward in education.



Ms. Lot Ortis, 2024 Amazing Alumni Achiever Awardee as this year's Teacher Awards Special Speaker.



Gurong Veritas Finalists Micah Ramos and Sherwin Allan Labarez from SDTEC holding their certificates.

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Gurong Veritas Winners Hyacinth Escolano-Lagran of MCQC Grade School, Janver Wylie Bondoc and Josephine Gador-Gayod of MC Nuvali posing with their trophies and congratulatory flowers.



Global Teacher Award Winners Joseph Richard Renta III of Higher Education Unit, Zorvin Patrick Ferrer from MC Nuvali, and Esmeralda Bunag-Villafuerte from MCQC High School smile at the middle of the stage with their awards



Amazing Alumni Teacher Award Finalist Ma. Gregoria Sadicon from MCQC High School is all smiles as she poses with her award certificate.



Amazing Alumni Teacher Award Winner Mary Ann S. Ortega, from MCQC Grade School smiles with her trophy and congratulatory flowers at hand.

- The Gurong Veritas award is sponsored by Miriam College High School Batch 1999.
- The Global Teacher Award is sponsored by Miriam College Batch 1974 and High School Batch 1979 and 1989.
- The Amazing Alumni Teacher Award is sponsored by the Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association



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With heartfelt gratitude, the Miriam College community acknowledges the efforts of its president, Ambassador Laura Q. del Rosario, whose vision and commitment have made it possible to recognize the extraordinary contributions of teachers. We also extend our appreciation to the Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association (MMCAA) and the yearly alumni Jubilarians, whose invaluable contributions provide the resources and inspiration necessary to honor the winners and finalists each year.

As we celebrate our fourth year of this inspiring tradition, we look forward to continuing to honor those who dedicate their lives to the noble profession of teaching, ensuring that the legacy of excellence in education at Miriam College endures for generations to come.



The Miriam College community celebrating MC100 Teacher Awards Year 4

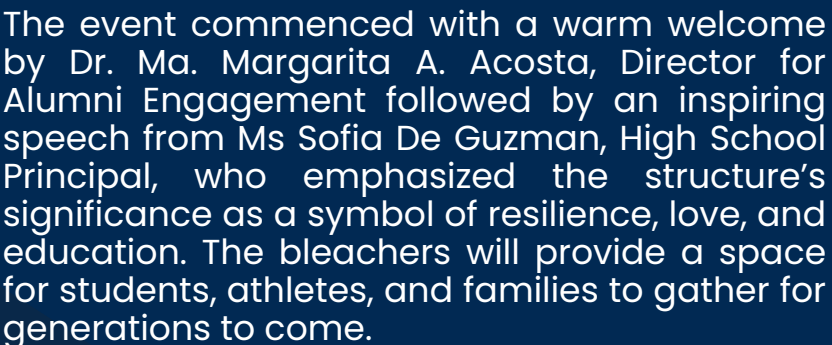
\*Dr. Gail is the Program Chair of the Department of Psychology, the Chair of Family Studies, and the Associate Director of the Center for Peace Education. She is the MC100 Teacher Awards Coordinator.

**MIRIAM COLLEGE CELEBRATES  
DEDICATION OF COVERED BLEACHERS  
IN MEMORY OF GLORIA JEAN  
ONGOGAN-RAMIRO**

By: Ms. Ma. Margarita Acosta, PhD, AEO Director



A heartfelt tribute unfolded on December 13, 2024 as representatives from the Miriam College community gathered for the dedication ceremony and turn over of a new covered bleacher on the school's football field, a generous gift from the Ramiro family in memory of their matriarch, Gloria Jean Ongogan-Ramiro.



In their response, the Ramiro family, represented by Ms Glowillyn Ramiro-Robillo (CSC 1984, GS 1991, HS 1995) expressed their deep gratitude to the school community for honoring their mother, whose legacy of strength and commitment to education inspired this donation.



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This gift stands as a testament to the power of family, education, and generosity, embodying the values Gloria Jean Ongogan-Ramiro held dear.

Miriam College is grateful to the Ramiro family: Col. Wilson Ramiro, Ms. Glowillyn Ramiro-Robillo, CSC 1984, GS 1991, HS 1995 Dr. Jewehl Gay Ramiro-Salo, CSC 1985, GS 1992, HS 1996, Atty. Tanya Faye O. Ramiro, CSC 1989, GS 1996, HS 2000, and Engr. Mark Wilson O. Ramiro, CSC 1990.



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## MARYKNOLL ALUMNA FROM COLLEGE 1966 DONATES SPIRITUAL BOOK



Dr. Josefina J. Card, also known as "JJ" Card, is a distinguished author and CEO of Sociometrics Corporation, a leading organization in the field of social and behavioral science research in the U.S. With a career spanning over four decades, Dr. Card has founded and led four companies, with Sociometrics Corporation standing out for its contributions to the scientific community. The corporation is home to the Sociometrics Social, Behavioral, and Health Sciences Library, an invaluable online resource offering more than 400 exemplary datasets and evidence-based programs that bridge research with real-world applications. \*

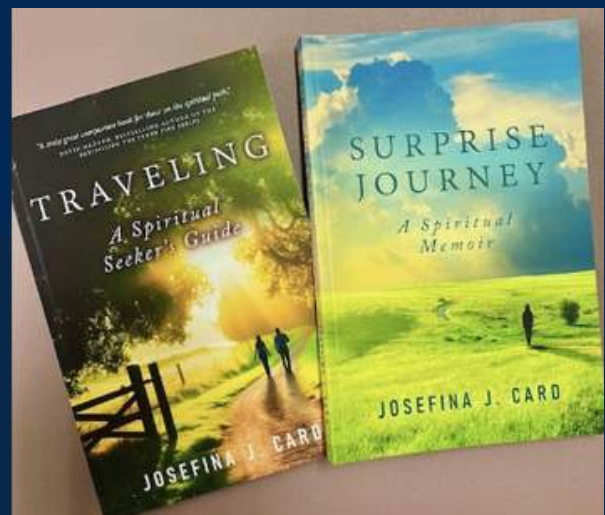
In addition to her professional achievements, Dr. Card is the founder of Social Research Applications (SRA), a non-profit organization dedicated to benefiting communities, schools, clinics, and hospitals across the country.

Dr. Card's intellectual contributions extend beyond her scientific work to her literary endeavors. She authored *Surprise Journey: A Spiritual Memoir* and *Traveling: A Spiritual Seeker's Guide*, two books that offer a deeply personal look into her spiritual journey. These works explore profound themes of faith, personal transformation, and spiritual seeking.

Sister Teresa Dagdag, MM, shared her thoughts on Dr. Card's memoir, expressing her admiration for the depth and sincerity of the book. "It is a work of art and bears the depth of Dr. JJ's spirituality," she wrote, acknowledging Dr. Card's ability to capture her spiritual journey in a way that resonates deeply with readers.

Both of Dr. Card's books are available at the HEU Library and Media Center. The books are also available for purchase on Shopee, Lazada, and the Philippine publisher's website, Bookshelf.com.ph, as well as at select Fully Booked bookstores. Through her professional work, charitable efforts, and personal writings, Dr. Josefina J. Card continues to inspire and uplift individuals and communities alike.

\* Bio note was taken from her Amazon author page.





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# MC100 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR YEAR 2

Article by by Sophia Mikaela Segundera, Opinion Writer, Chi Rho



The much-anticipated MC100 Christmas Bazaar officially kicked off last December 17, marking the second celebration of Miriam College's countdown to its centennial year in 2026.

The momentous occasion took place at the College Parking Lot as the Miriam College community from students to administrators gathered to commence the second installment of the MC100 Bazaar.

Miriam College President Ambassador Laura "Lullah" Quiambao-Del Rosario delivered the opening remarks, highlighting the event as an opportunity for collaboration for student-organizers who will later on transform into the leaders of the future. Moreover, Ambassador Lullah also emphasized the spirit of the season that embodies the act of giving back to communities and demonstrating kindness in this most wonderful season of the year.

The segment was followed by the sound of the gong as the symbolic commencement of the two-day celebration, and was ended by the singing of the school hymn.

The MC100 Christmas Bazaar was open to the public last December 17-18 from 8AM to 6PM.

Photos by Jamie Singh, Photographer, Chi Rho

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# CHI RHO PUBLICATIONS INTERVIEWS **MS. ALICE REYES**

Article by Geneva Dela Torre, Photographer, Chi Rho



Chi Rho Publications held a short interview with Ms. Alice Reyes at the Manila Metropolitan Theater last October 18, 2024 to explore her journey from Maryknoll College (now Miriam College) to her path to becoming a national artist.

**From MC Pride to National Artist:**

As a Filipina dancer, choreographer, teacher, art director, and producer who pioneered the first modern dance concert at the Cultural Center of the Philippines in 1970, Ms. Alice Reyes has earned the title of the Mother of Contemporary Dance through her efforts to elevate and professionalize contemporary dance as a recognized art form in the Philippines. Her notable works include *Rama Hari*, *Cinderella*, and *Itim-Asu*—which all have significance to Filipino culture, gesture, and grace—established her remarkable career as a performing artist. In 2014, her contributions to the progress of Philippine dance were finally recognized as she received the highest award for arts as the National Artist for Dance from the late Philippine President Benigno Aquino III.



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In 1969, Ms. Reyes established the Modern Dance Company, now known as Ballet Philippines—the country's most renowned and longest-running professional dance company—aiming to solidify dance as a recognized profession.

"The fact that Filipinos are such naturally talented dancers... I thought it was time for Filipinos to have the opportunity to have a career in dance as professional dancers, but that was the first step and we were the first ones to do that," Ms. Reyes said.

More than a National Artist for Dance—Alice Ms Reyes is a living embodiment of the art itself.

After her recognition as a National Artist for Dance in 2014, Ms. Alice Reyes maintains that her life as an artist, or even as an individual, has not changed. She remains to be the same person who is passionate about everything she does for art. While such tremendous honor has given her some unique advantages, Ms. Reyes believes that the title is not the only thing that defines her as an artist.



"If I weren't a National Artist, my sharings, comments, and thoughts would be as viable because of my 70 years in dance, so it's really a matter of how you, the other person, see that award," she said.

Her decades of experience, the amount of notable work she has produced, and her unwavering advocacy for aspiring Filipino dancers have elevated her beyond the title of National Artist—defining her as a living embodiment of the art itself.

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### Trailblazers in Habits

Reflecting on her education at Miriam College, Ms. Reyes credits the institution as the foundation of her success. From her grade school years through earning a bachelor's degree in AB History and Foreign Service, Maryknoll's unique educational approach instilled in her the discipline, confidence, and passion that shaped her artistry and leadership. Ms. Reyes highlighted the school's balance of intellectual rigor and moral guidance as pivotal in her growth.

"This whole approach that I learned from Maryknoll-Miriam is still happening, and that's the beauty of that vision of the missionaries," Ms. Reyes said. She emphasized how the nuns' commitment to empowering young women through education inspired her to follow her dreams. According to Ms. Reyes, Maryknoll's nurturing environment taught her to embrace her talents and use them to serve the community—values she carried throughout her career.



It was this foundation at Maryknoll College that prepared Ms. Reyes to thrive on the international stage and return to the Philippines as a trailblazer, transforming the landscape of Filipino dance.

This December 18, 2024, watch Ms. Alice Reyes' 'Puso ng Pasko' production at the Miriam College Marian Auditorium for an original, full-length Christmas ballet show in collaboration between National Artists Ms. Alice Reyes and Ryan Cayabyab to witness the magic of Filipino Christmas—with its traditions and practices that bring the holiday spirit to life, no matter where you are.

Chi Rho Photos by Fritz Uggas, Head Photographer

Photos of Ms. Alice Reyes Courtesy of ARDP

Article Retrieved from <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/15d1pYeQ4D/>



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# ARDP: PUSO NG PASKO

By Dasha Del Fierro, Literary Writer, Chi Rho



***"Ang mga alaalang iyon—ang pagmamahalan at pagbibigayan—ay ang puso ng pasko."***

Dancers from Alice Reyes Dance Philippines (ARDP) were met with enthusiastic applause after they graced the stage at the Marian Auditorium from December 16–18, 2024. Miriam College was the troupe's final stop in its tour of Puso ng Pasko, an original contemporary Filipino ballet.



Puso ng Pasko at its heart is a familiar holiday story for Filipinos; a one-act performance by OFW Lolo Val (played by Audie Gamora)

who takes his granddaughter Angelita (played by Trisha Lim)—and even the audience—on a blast from the past to share his favorite Filipino Christmas traditions. Accompanied by the music of Christmas carols we already know and love arranged by Ryan Cayabyab, no one can deny that the dancing gives the show a feel that's distinctly Filipino, distinctly ours.

The performance was met by a standing ovation by the Miriam College community. "Masaya siya," an audience member said, "and I really felt the Christmas spirit. I would have loved to see more of what happens next to the characters!"

The performance also serves as Ms. Alice Reyes' official homecoming to Miriam College as an alumna, gracing the HEU community with her legacy as the National Artist for Dance and founder of the longest-running professional dance company in the Philippines, Ballet Philippines.



Photos by Jamie Singh, Photographer, Chi Rho

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# MMCAA CORNER (JULY – DECEMBER 2024)

By: Ms. Valerie Baeyens, PRO, MMCAA Board of Directors

The Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association (MMCAA) celebrated a remarkable year marked by strengthened community bonds, increased visibility, and successful alumni engagement. Regular board meetings ensured transparency and alignment with organizational goals.

The Grand Alumni Homecoming on September 7 was held again at the Marian Auditorium (after 4 years). Hosted by MCHS 1999, it drew 800 attendees for a vibrant and successful celebration. Ten (10) distinguished alumni from various fields (arts, education, social entrepreneurship, community work, business..) were given the Triple A Awards. A Bazaar was simultaneously held during the Homecoming and exclusive MMCAA merchandise, including rosary bracelets, umbrellas, and Zarah Juan tote bags delighted alumni.



From Left: Iza Calzado-Wintle (MCHS '99) and GB Labrador (College 2000) hosting the Homecoming 2024 Para sa MC.



Silver Jubilarians, MCHS '99, Para sa MC at MC Homecoming 2024.



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Our Golden Jubilarians, COLL '74 came in full force!

The new Alumni Card was relaunched in September, offering school facility access and perks from 20+ partners.

Fundraising soared with the October 11 "Gary V Back @ MC" concert, organized with MCHS 1975, evoking nostalgia and joy.



MC Community "Sayaweh" with Mr. Pure Energy. "Gary V Back@MC" got the audience dancing and clamoring for more. October 11 at a full-house Marian Auditorium.

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Project MMaria delivered vital aid, including financial and medical assistance, typhoon relief, and support for literacy initiatives—contributions extended to the Maryknoll Sisters, Pag-asa sa Pagbasa, and student competition funding.

In December, MMCAA went out to give Christmas gifts and lunch treats to children patients of the Philippine Children's Medical Center in Q.C.

MMCAA "Kalachuchi" Talks featured global alumni successes. International chapters thrived with a new one in Australia/New Zealand nearing completion. MMCAA Manila participated in the Europe Chapter's pilgrimage trip to Fatima. The US and Canada Chapters continued their sisterhood bonding through various projects.

Preparations for the 2026 Centennial began with plans for a Coffee Table and Legacy Book honoring alumni legacies. Operational improvements included digitization and elections for the 2025 Board. Through its FB and Instagram accounts, the Association continued to promote MC, its alumni, and various related projects.

The MMCAA community anticipates more exciting initiatives ahead, continuing its mission of service, volunteerism, and empowerment.



A Christmas gift-giving visit on 17 December to the Philippine Children's Medical Center (PCMC) gave joy to over a hundred children after receiving teddy bears, hygiene kits, and Jollibee lunch treats. From Left: MMCAA Board Members Dir. Josefina Flores, MMCAA Office Manager Inna Angeles, and Dir. Doris Granada with PCMC Doctors Dr. Amparo "Itto" Agrava, MCHS 1983 alumna and Officer-In-Charge of Child Neuroscience Division and Dr. Krystle Rustia, MMCAA Chairperson Amb. Millie Thomeczek, and MMCAA Vice Chairperson Atty. Sam Celiz.



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MMCAA was a sponsor of the 2024 Amazing Alumni Teacher Award. The awarding was held on the 3rd of December at the Henry Sy, Sr. Innovation Center. From left, Dr. Margarita Acosta, AEO, Amazing Alumni Teacher Committee Members, Dir. Anna Luisa Garcia, Dir. Doris Granada, Dir. Gemmy Ronacin Domingo, awardee Ms. Mary Ann S. Ortega, GS '91, HS '95, COLL '99, and is a faculty member of MCGS, Dr. Trixie Marie Sison, VP for Academic Affairs, and Ambassador Millie Thomeczek, MMCAA Chair.



MMCAA BOD made a trip on August 10 to the soon-to-be-completed campus of MC Alviera in Porac, Pampanga. From left: MC Alviera Principal Justin Josef Villano, Viki Herrera-Encarnacion, Valerie Fajardo-Baeyens, Marge Tirona-Ducusin, Doody Granada (back), Sam Celiz, Patty Sianghio, Millie Thomaczek, Nina Santiago, Jojie Flores, Tala Ocampo, Gemmy Domingo, Marichu Hizon, Girlie Januszczak and Elaine Urbano.



MMCAA x Zarah Juan bag for a cause. Each purchase of the bag supports MMCAA and Project MMaria causes.



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# 2024 QUARTER 4 SNAPSHOTS



Happy Halloween from the AEO!



Trick or Treat 2024



AEO @ MGHS Fair 2024



AEO & The Department of LTM  
on Campus Tours for alumni



Bigkis Tree Planting 2024



AEO with HSSIC for BIGKIS



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To further understand, the experiences and insights of **MC alumni**, kindly answer the **survey** linked below:



To all Maryknoll/ Miriam College graduates, we want to hear from you!

**SCAN HERE:**



**click here!**



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Own your MC100 Limited Edition Noritake Dinnerware Set  
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**REBIE RAMOSO**

**P36,999**

Designer, MCHS '94 alumna

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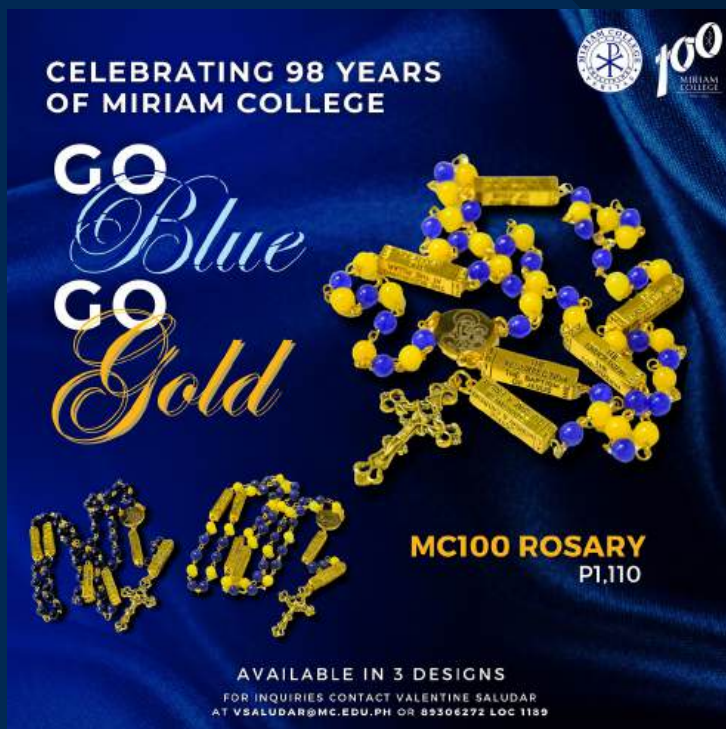
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PAMELA GOTANCO  
COLL '93 alumna

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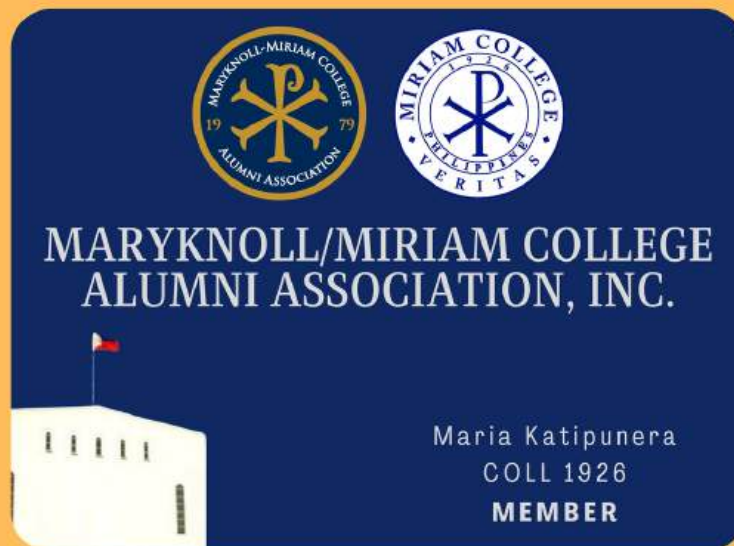
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