

Galing MC

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MARYKNOLL/MIRIAM COLLEGE ALUMNI COMMUNITY

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

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MCGS STUDENTS TALK AND TASTE WITH MARYKNOLL ALUMNA NINA DAZA-PUYAT

Written By: Ruth Nacional, Editor-in-chief of Chi Rho Publications
Photos by: Angelei Brin of Chi Rho Publications

Filipino food culture and kitchen values taught through the beloved Filipino tradition of *pagkukuwento*— a powerful recipe for passing down values that make for a warm Pinoy home.

It was from one Maryknoll-Miriam generation to another on September 15, when Maryknoll alumna (GS 1976 & HS 1980) Nina Daza-Puyat came home to Miriam College Grade School Loyola Heights, and brought her story to life through a storytelling session and cooking demonstration featuring her second children's book titled "The Forlorn Rice Cooker".

Nina is a culinary icon following in the footsteps of her mother, the late culinary legend Chef Nora Daza, whose work as a veteran restaurateur revolved around making Filipino food accessible.



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In 2020, Nina gave tribute to her mother by updating “Let’s Cook with Nora”, Nora’s best-selling cookbook published in 1965. She also served as the editor-in-chief of Appetite Magazine.

Being a grandmother inspired Nina to take on children’s book writing. She wanted to leave a legacy to her grandchildren by introducing the rich culture and heritage of food close to Filipinos’ heart.

Nina’s animated storytelling got the Grade 4 students from section Bulaklakin and Cariñosa engrossed until the very end. “The Forlorn Rice Cooker” is about a rice cooker in the Balboa family’s kitchen complaining about its mundane task of cooking just rice, compared to other appliances that are able to cook more exciting dishes. Through relatable concepts, the book imparts the importance of embracing one’s purpose and the unique role every person (or even everyday objects) play.



After the book reading, Nina and the students had the opportunity to reflect on the moral of the story and reiterate the Filipino values and elements of our culture captured in each page. She was surely explicit about being impressed from the students’ understanding of the story and its themes.

In the afternoon, they spiced things up by heading to the cooking room facility to bring the “Super Duper Fried Rice” recipe from the book to the dining table. Nina did not only demonstrate her cooking skills, she also engaged students by letting them help in simple tasks such as beating eggs and stir-frying. She also let everyone in on techniques and ingredients that make fried rice even more special.

From a thoughtful book reading to a gastronomic cooking demonstration, what a super duper learning experience it was indeed, helping Knollers build awareness and appreciation for the blend of values, culture, and wisdom enclosed in a Filipino kitchen.

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CAMPUS TOURS

CAMPUS TOUR/MEET & GREET WITH MCHS 1975



CAMPUS TOUR WITH COLLEGE 1999



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TENNIS COURT BLESSING

The newly constructed Tennis Court at the High School unit is a collaboration among the members of MCHS Class of 1969, the parents of the Pink Batch, MCHS Class of 2028 and MCGS Family Council for SY 2024-2025. Construction reached a total of PhP 774,000 with the following breakdown of donation:

- ₱310,000 MCHS Grade 9 Family Sub-Council
- ₱300,000 from Alumni (MCHS 1969)
- ₱164,000 MCGS Family Council

As a testament to their generosity, the MCHS Class of 1969 also donated the commemorative marker.



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The representatives from the alumni and parent councils highlighted that the project is an indication of the school community's commitment to support girls in sports.

"To foster strength, confidence, and excellence in every girl who steps onto the court."



SONG OF THE FIREFLIES SHINES BRIGHT IN MC

Written by: Daniel Victolero, Humanities and Social Sciences Strand Coordinator

September 15, 2025 served as another homecoming as past and present generations of Knollers gathered at the Marian Auditorium to watch a special screening of the award-winning film, *Song of the Fireflies*. Set in between 1980 to 1993, it features the triumphs and tribulations of the Lobo Children's Choir as they compete in the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA). Directed by King Palisoc and written by Sarge Lacuesta, the movie features the talents of seasoned actress Rachel Alejandro, youth singer-actress Krystal Brimner, actor-model Noel Comia Jr., and Asia's Phoenix Morissette, who plays the role of Teacher Alma Taldo, the choir's founder.

In attendance were MC alumnae who helped make the movie a success: Executive Producer Celeste Legaspi (Maryknoll College Class of 1971), Associate Producer Gay Ace Domingo (Miriam College High School 1989), and Song Composer Mookie Katigbak Lacuesta (Miriam College High School 1997). After the viewing, audience members comprised of students from the Humanities and Social Sciences (HUMSS) strand from both the High School and Skills Development & Technical Education Center (SDTEC) and Gr.12 students taking Contemporary Philippine Arts from the Regions (CPAR) participated in an engaging talkback session, gaining more insight into the behind-the-scenes of the production, from filming during the COVID-19 pandemic to advice for future screenwriters and directors.

This special screening event was a collaboration among the Alumni Engagement Office, the High School Unit, and the alumni. Miriam College is proud to support its alumnae in their endeavors!



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PILGRIMAGE TO THE MARYKNOLL MOTHER HOUSE

Written by: Leah A. Macatangay (MCHS 1978)

On July 6, 2025, five Maryknollers from High School Batch 1978 from the Philippines, paid a visit to the Maryknoll Mother House at Ossining, New York. Three of them – Ernestine 'Bing-Bing' Villareal-Fernando, Leah A. Macatangay, and Josie M Acosta – were doing parallel trips from Manila to Boston and New York, which intersected at some events. Christie Diy-Rodis and Marivic Cruz-Samson were based in the United States since the 1990 but all came together to make the trip to Ossining to visit Sr. Rosalie Lacorte, their Grade 1 Religion Teacher in Maryknoll in the mid-60s. Together with them was Arcus Fernando, Bing-Bing's husband, and Sheila Salamanca, Leah's friend, and colleague.

The visit was remarkable! Sr. Rosalie toured them around the various areas of the lovely, sprawling estate – the various chapels, the museum, the cafeteria, the library, the garden, and the grounds. They met many of the Maryknoll Sisters and managed to catch up with some of them who had spent some years in the Philippines. Below are the reflections on our visit and what it meant for some of them.

Josie Acosta: "We had such a wonderful time at the mother house. I personally feel I have come full circle – being with Maryknoll from kindergarten to now, in our mid-60's. Thank you sooo much for the heartwarming welcome! Wishing all the Sisters continued good health."



Ernestine 'Bing-Bing' Villareal-Fernando on her message to Sr. Rosalie: "I feel inspired and sort of completed by our pilgrimage to the Maryknoll Mother House in Ossining. It had been a dream to visit the Mother House since we were Grade One and your students in Religion. I, in fact, still have a vivid picture in my mind of what you looked like in Grade One!

"I was also blessed to be brought by a colleague of Arcus to the Maryknoll Home in Hong Kong when he found out that I was a Maryknoller. He and his Family had been attending Mass there.

"Regarding the fabric, I acquired them before Covid from some sellers from Abra, based on the contacts I saw in my phone. Based on a little sleuthing in Facebook, they are Tinguian in origin, from the Cordilleras..."



Leah A. Macatangay: "I, too, will attempt to describe the impact of the visit to the Maryknoll Mother House at Ossining. It brought a quiet, deep, and true joy - a sense of homecoming to the roots of the school and the spirit that had molded me from childhood till adulthood. It was just later in life I realized just how much the Maryknoll spirit, taught by you and our other Sister-teachers had influenced me. I appreciated your presence and kind welcome, as well as that of the other sisters during our visit and our time together that memorable Sunday.



I am very glad for this recent trip to the States, but the special touch was the visit to Ossining. I treasure it and recall it occasionally and take advantage to pray for all of us who gathered.

"Do take care, Sr. Rosalie. You and the other sisters are loved and cherished. Please keep in contact."

Their visit to the Maryknoll Mother House was more than a reunion—it was a heartfelt return to their roots, rekindling the Maryknoll spirit that had shaped their values and lives since childhood. As they parted, the alumnae carried with them renewed gratitude, cherished memories, and the enduring sense of home that only a Maryknoller heart can truly know.



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ALUMNI *in the Spotlight*

2025 AMAZING ALUMNI ACHIEVERS



NINA DAZA-PUYAT

MCGS 1976 | MCHS 1980

*Children's Book Author • Food
Connoisseur • Marian Devotee*

ANNETTE A. FLORES GARCIA

MCHS 1979

*Award-Winning Author • Early Childhood
Educator • Advocate for Children's
Literacy*



URSULA CONSUELO LIJUACO-MACAPAGAL

COLL 1970 - AB Communication Arts

Writer • Editor • Rotarian

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EMMANUELLE PERLAS A. ANDAYA

MCGS 1991 | MCHS 1995

*Development Professional •
Community Enterprise Specialist*



BERNADETTE LUGUE KIRK

COLL 1967 - B.S. Mathematics, Cum Laude

*Computational Scientist • Nuclear
Applications Pioneer • Advocate for
Women in STEM*

SOLITA MAGAHUM-WAKEFIELD

COLL 1975 - AB Economics

*International Economist • Community
Advocate • Service Leader*



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ROSE LINDA B. OLYMPIA-BAUTISTA

*MCGS 1961 | MCHS 1965 | COLL 1969 - AB Business
Administration, Magna Cum Laude*

*Humanitarian • Organizational
Development Leader on Mission*

**MARIA ANNA ELIZABETH
PANGILINAN-VALENCIANO**

MCGS 1971 | MCHS 1975

*Entertainment Visionary • Faith
Advocate • Philanthropist*



MARIA MADONNA GOMEZ TARRAYO

MCGS 1980 | MCHS 1984

*Production Maven • Visionary
Storyteller • Super Wow*



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MC *Announcements*



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- demonstrate a spirit of service and volunteerism.
- be willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines for 6 months to 1 year.
- be prepared to live a simple lifestyle.
- be between 24 and 30 years old.

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- SECRETARIAT, CATECHISTS & MODERATOR

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FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Ms. Isabela Marie Uytengsu
MMISMO Program Coordinator
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MMCAA *Corner*

COMING HOME: MC CALLING 2025

The campus of Miriam College came alive on September 6, 2025, as alumni from near and far returned for MC Calling 2025: The Grand Alumni Homecoming. Laughter, embraces, and the familiar spirit of sisterhood filled the air as the Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association (MMCAA) welcomed jubilarians, awardees, and friends to a celebration that was as heartfelt as it was historic. The festivities began with a Thanksgiving Mass, where prayers of gratitude were offered and departed classmates lovingly remembered, was held at the College Chapel.

Soon after, the program started at the Marian Auditorium with speeches given by the MMCAA Chairperson, Ms. Elaine Gavino-Urbano (GS 79, HS 83, COLL 87), MC OIC-President, Ms. Grace Flores-Favila (GS 59, HS 63, COLL 67) and by MMCAA President, Ms. Nina Maria Alentajan-Santiago (GS 88, HS 92).

Then, Jubilarians took center stage—Diamond (Coll and HS 1960), Emerald (Coll 1970), Gold (Coll and HS 1975), Sapphire (HS 1980), Ruby (Coll and HS 1985), Coral (HS 1990), Pearl (HS 1995), Silver (HS 2000) and Crystal (HS 2005) proudly strutted on stage and on camera, their smiles reflecting decades of shared memories and unbreakable bonds. This year's Host Batch, HS 2000 together with program hosts, Zeena Zalamea and siblings Chiara and Mark Zambrano kept the audience entertained and the program going.



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One of the evening's most inspiring moments was the recognition of the Amazing Alumni Achiever (Triple-A) Awardees. Nine remarkable women were honored for their contributions in education, public service, the arts, and social development. Their stories of leadership and compassion stood as shining proof of how an MC education continues to ripple out into the world. A special number was also rendered by Mr. Pure Energy himself, Gary Valenciano as he honored all the Triple A Awardees, most especially his wife, Anna Maria Elizabeth "Angeli" Pangilinan-Valenciano (GS 1971, HS 1975).

The evening ended with more music, surprise collaboration performances, and an after-party alive with laughter and song. More than just a gathering, MC Calling 2025 was a reminder of what it means to be a Knoller: to cherish the past, celebrate the present, and walk together into the future. With the Centennial just a year away, the spirit of coming home has never felt more alive.



NEWLY ELECTED DIRECTORS OF THE MMCAA



*Congratulations to the newly elected
2026 Board of Directors!*



PIA ESPERANZA E. AGBAYANI
CSC '74, GS '81, HS '85



LOURDES ALVIAR-YAM
CSC '75, GS '82, HS '86



ELAINE GAVINO-URBANO
GS '79, HS '83, COLL '87 - ABCA



GLENDA FAYE LEDESMA-PEREIRA
GS '78, HS '82 | 2022 Triple A



ANNE MICHIKO TRIA-TETANGCO
CSC '91, GS '98, HS 2002



MARIA LYDIA YSIP-OROSA
COLL '68 - ABCA | 2023 Triple A

Congratulations to the newly elected MMCAA Board of Directors for 2026! We look forward to seeing your leadership and vision in action. We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to all who stepped forward to serve. Your willingness and commitment to our community are truly valued.



THE LEGACY WE CARRY: 100 YEARS FROM MARYKNOLL TO MIRIAM

As part of our **Centennial Celebration**, we present a **once-in-a-lifetime keepsake: a limited-edition coffee-table book featuring 100 alumni and families** who have lived lives of **service, courage, thought, creativity, and education, empowering women and children across generations.**

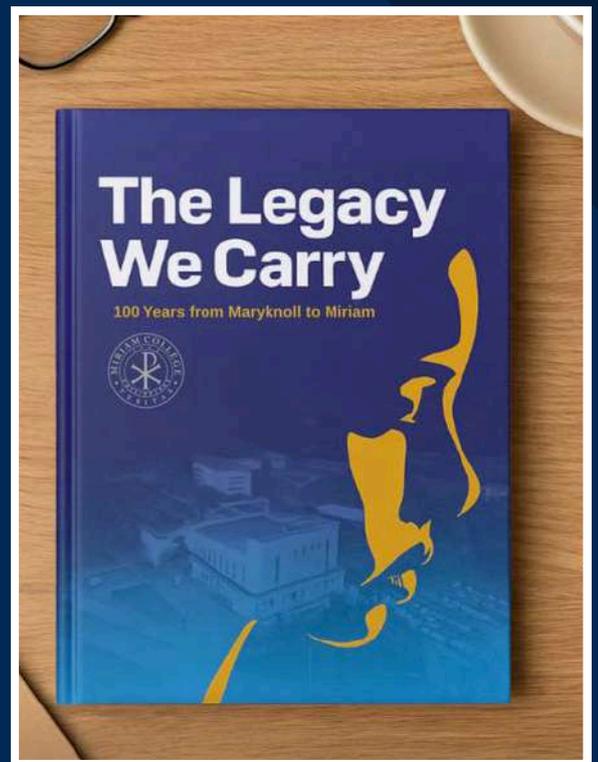
With stunning photography and stories written by **award-winning alumni writers**, this book is more than a collection of memories—it is an **inspiration, a source of pride, and our gift to the next generation.**

Only a limited number of copies will be printed. Be among the first to secure your copy of this historic treasure.

The book is set to be released in time for our Centennial in **September 2026.**

Reserve here: <https://forms.gle/MJRaWiX74ksUCWdW7>

Note: Tentative price is ₱5,000. Final pricing will be confirmed closer to release.



[Click this for the video!](#)

PLANTING TOMORROW: THE MC GREEN LEGACY

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A Centennial Reforestation Initiative for
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For inquiries: alumni@mc.edu.ph /
alumni.mmcaal1979@gmail.com

As part of Miriam College's centennial celebration, we invite all alumni to be part of a meaningful legacy – a reforestation program that symbolizes MC's commitment to truth, peace, justice and integrity. Sponsor a hectare (or 2!) today!

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EMPOWERING EARLY-CAREER ACADEMICS: ALUMNI MENTORING FOR FACULTY SUCCESS

After nearly nine months of planning and coordination, the highly anticipated Alumni Mentoring Programme between MMCAA Europe and Miriam College officially launched with an inspiring Orientation Event to mark its beginning

Originally envisioned for undergraduate and graduate students, the program has evolved into something even more impactful. With alumni mentors—Dr. Marissa Pablo-Duerr (Germany), Dr. Gina Macatangay-Ledda (Belgium), Dr. Joanna Marie Oliva-Pesquidous (UK), and Dr. Liza Castro-Christiansen (Denmark)—all established academics, Miriam College leadership, VP for Academic Affairs Trixie Marie Sison, and Deans Francis Julius Evangelista and Ruby Alminar-Mutya, refocused the initiative to support early-career faculty members.



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We are excited to begin this mentoring journey with:

- Marisol A. Napier
- Marion Nina Nicole Goyena
- Kyla Eirene Limbo Gonzales
- Vanessa Katrina Villanueva-Espinosa
- Tomasito Gutierrez Umali

To ensure smooth implementation during the 10-month pilot (October 2025 – July 2026), we are grateful for the guidance of Rorit Mendoza (Former MMCAA Europe Chair) and Resty Collado (Director, GURO – Growth, Upgrading, and Resource Office) as Liaison Directors. Project management is led by Liza Castro-Christiansen, MMCAA Europe Chapter Head.

This pilot is only the beginning—we look forward to expanding the programme across other MMCAA international chapters to empower more Miriam College faculty in building their academic careers.

Derived from:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1228492309296541&set=pb.100064073496256.-2207520000&type=3>

Maryknoll/Miriam College Alumni Association Official Facebook Page



LAUNCH OF CENTER FOR CRITICAL THINKING



The Klaus Hoffarth Center for Critical Thinking (KHC) was formally launched in Miriam College on August 28 with the blessing of its library. Quezon City Mayor Joy Belmonte delivered the opening remarks while DepEd Undersecretary Ronald Mendoza was the keynote speaker. Mendoza spoke about reforms in the education sector under the leadership of Education Secretary Sonny Angara, who said that “Instead of memorization, we are shaping students to become critical thinkers and have 21st century skills.”

KHC, which was established in partnership with Miriam College through the generous support of alumna Dr. Victoria Bantug Hoffarth and her son Paul, aimed to empower the next generation of Filipinos to become engaged, responsible, and questioning citizens capable of making informed decisions about issues affecting themselves, their communities, and the country.



“With the Philippines facing significant economic, social, and political challenges, we were inspired to create an initiative that could make a meaningful impact,” said Gerry van der Linden, Chairperson of the KHC Advisory Council. “When there are more questioning minds in the country, more people who do not just accept the way things are – we can contribute to a better future for Philippine society.”

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The Center is named after the late economist Dr. Klaus Hoffarth who spent many years in economic development, including at the Institute of Economic Research in the University of Munster, Germany; the German Ministry of Economic Cooperation; the Asian Development Bank; and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the UK.

The library, which was designed by Leandro V. Locsin Partners will be the center of several activities such as lectures, debates on critical thinking and good governance; film screenings; story-telling and summer boot camps. It is also envisaged to be a resource center for reference materials and literature on critical thinking.

Derived from:

<https://mc.edu.ph/institutional-news/launch-of-center-for-critical-thinking/>

Miriam College (formerly Maryknoll) Official Facebook Page



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*"Wherever we are, wherever we'll be.
Faithful we'll always be to thee."*

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WITH BONFIRE, HOTDOGS, AND MARSHMALLOWS
• COMPLIMENTARY ACCESS TO JULYAN'S FARM

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

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2025 Q3 Snapshots



MARYKNOLL COLLEGE CLASS OF 1975, THIS YEAR'S GOLDEN JUBILARIANS, EXTENDS THEIR GENEROSITY TO **SDTEC**



TALITHA CUMI SCHOLARS WITH MS. ALICE REYES AFTER PASASALAMAT, AN EXCLUSIVE PREMIER PERFORMANCE BY THE ALICE REYES DANCE PHILIPPINES (ARDP), ON AUGUST 1, 2025, AT THE PROSCENIUM THEATER, ROCKWELL



MRS CYNTHIA MORALES AND DR MARGE ACOSTA VISIT THE MARYKNOLL MARKER AT THE CARDINAL SANTOS MEDICAL CENTER ON ITS 51ST ANNIVERSARY



MIRIAM COLLEGE AND CARDINAL SANTOS MEDICAL CENTER PARTNERSHIP DURING THE 2025 ALUMNI HOMECOMING



MARYKNOLL COLLEGE CLASS OF 1975 DONATES TO VICTIMS OF THE FLASH FLOODS THROUGH **MMISMO**



HEU CELEBRATES COLLEGE DAY WITH MS BABY NEBRIDA, TRIPLE A AWARDEE (COLLEGE 1969)

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2025 Q3 *Snapshots*



MCHS 1995 GIVES BACK TO THEIR ALMA MATER



TUGTUGAN PAMORNINGAN BOOK TURNOVER BY SUSAN CLAIRE AGBAYANI (COLL 1984)



MCHS 1978 IN A MEETING WITH MIRIAM COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES AS THE CLASS PREPARES FOR THEIR GOLDEN JUBILEE LEGACY IN 2028

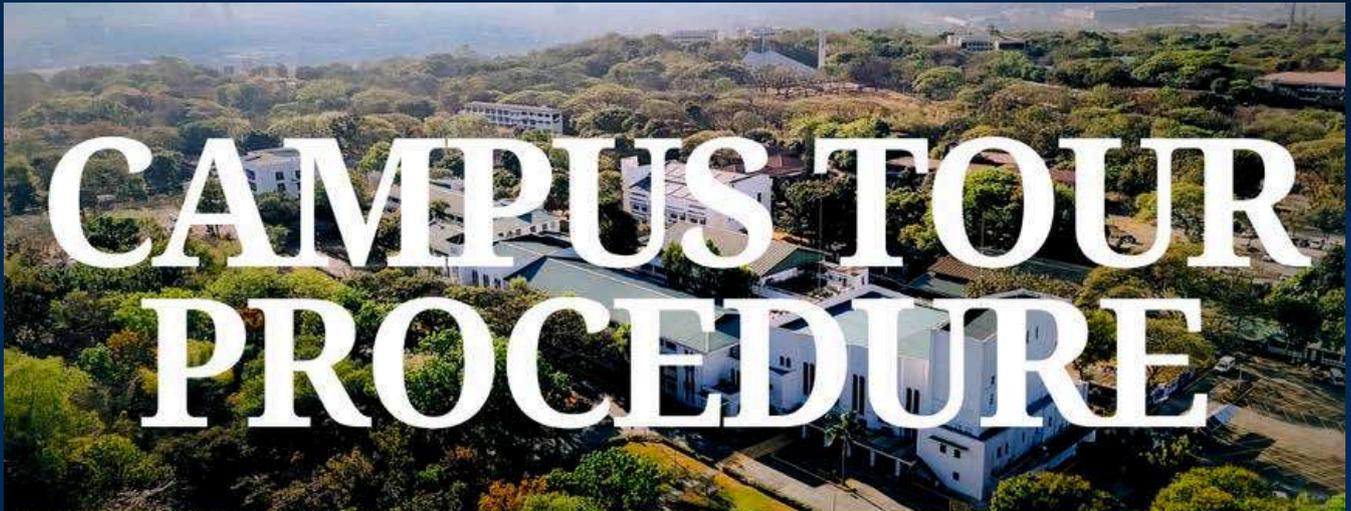


PART OF THE LEGACY PLANNING FOR MCHS 1978 IS A CAMPUS TOUR WITH ASD DIRECTOR, MR. TENG ALVAREZ

JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

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CAMPUS TOUR PROCEDURE



Campus Tour Procedure

1. Schedule the Tour

Contact the Alumni Engagement Office (AEO) to schedule your campus tour. Please include the specific locations you wish to visit.

✉ Email: alumniengagement@mc.edu.ph

☎ Landline: (02) 8930 6272 loc. 1189



2. Coordination

The AEO will coordinate with the Department of Leisure and Tourism Management (LTM) to facilitate your tour. Once arrangements are confirmed, the AEO will get back to you with the details.



3. Submit Visitor List

Provide the full names of all attendees in advance for security and gate pass processing.



4. Dress Comfortably

Wear comfortable clothes and rubber shoes suitable for walking.

5. Prepare for the Weather

Bring essentials such as a water bottle, mini fan or handheld fan, hat or cap, and an umbrella to stay comfortable during the tour.

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P1,110



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DIWATA SERVING TRAY
BY DITA SANDICO
Maryknoll College High School 1977
In collaboration with *Des Casas*
P 3,500



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MC100 HEIRLOOM COLLECTION

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MC100 HEIRLOOM COLLECTION

BY: MARIA ANGELICA 'GIGI' BERMEJO (MCHS 1977)

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MC RELICARIO
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Miriam College High School 1994

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