

Quadricentennial Year Two
Celebrating the here and now

*“Imagine yourself here. In the now. This moment where everything begins. In this present, where stories are crafted, where seeds are planted. Here, now.”**

To live in the moment, where you are faced with decisions that can set the tone for your future undertakings, can sometimes be daunting. It is easy to relive the past, remember those memories in which we have learned. It can be comforting just to dream about the future and disregard the discomforts one might find in the path towards it. But, to live in the here and now – it’s a reflection of your past, a projection of your future.

Last November 24 – 29, the Colegio had the second part of its Quadricentennial Celebration with the theme, “Tantos Hombres y Mujeres Ilustres Formar” or “Forming Illustrious Men and Women”.

The Year Two Celebration focused on Letran’s present, the achievements and the glories being reached by its students, even its employees – Letranites creating history in the moment.

The event began with the Eucharistic Celebration held at the Manila Cathedral on – fittingly – the Feast of San Vicente Liem de la Paz, the school’s foremost alumnus saint. The Colegio’s rector and president, Rev. Fr. Clarence Marquez, OP, officiated the mass.

A parade and streetdance competition followed after, spreading the festive atmosphere to different locations in Intramuros such as the San Agustin Church and the Plaza Roma. Participants of the parade and dance events were students from Basic Education, Senior High, and Collegiate.

In honor of the Colegio's patron saint, Teatro de Letran, along with the Letran Filipiniana Dance Company and the Letran Singing Ambassadors, presented a play entitled, "LOL: Liem, Oh My Liem!", held at the SC Auditorium. The play depicted the life of Saint Liem in a modern setting. The protagonist, Miel Vicente, is a communication arts student (played by Godfrey Siochi) who needed to summarize the life story of Letran’s saint to pass his Theology course. The artistic director of the play was Fr. Jude Roquero, OP while the assistant artistic director was Lygie Carillo.

Another feature of the opening day, of course, was a basketball competition among employees, alumni, and current Knights. The All Star game of the Arriba League, a basketball league organized by alumni, was also held that day.

Inside the campus, students enjoyed the launch of the open mic event at the College Grounds, as well as the booths selling food, pre-love items, and other merchandise. There were also carnival rides, to the delight of many.

Employees were honored later in the evening during the Appreciation Night/ Employee Reunion organized by the Human Resource Department.

Sharing the blessings to the community

The following day, November 25, the Center for Community Development held its annual community service day called “Lingap Arriba 2018”. The theme was “Share the Blessings”.

Colleges and departments participated; each had their own community service activities scheduled.

The College of Engineering and Information Technology held a basketball clinic for the youth of Sitio Puting Bato in Navotas. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences catered the senior citizens of San Nicolas, Binondo, with an activity on their rights and privileges, as well as a free haircut event.

The College of Business Administration and Accountancy had a candle making activity with the adults of Barangay 672 in Paco while the Graduate School taught dishwashing liquid making to the senior citizens of Barangay 106, Tondo.

The Senior High Department conducted a Health Awareness seminar and gave free medical and dental checkups to the adults of Barangay 85, Tondo.

The College of Education and Religious Education area focused on Math and English Literacy for the children of Barangay 657.

The CCD had a tree planting activity with the employees while the Letran Community Volunteers made a visit to the residents of Tahanang Walang Hagdanan in Cainta.

Also on the second day of the Quadricentennial Week, the Graduate School held an Alumni Homecoming entitled “AlumKnight”.

The Bazaar also opened its doors at the gymnasium, providing the students and employees a wide selection of booths that not only sold food and drinks, but also clothing and apparel.

On the third day...

The Religious Affairs gave the faithful the opportunity to partake of the Sacrament of Confirmation, which was held at the Manila Cathedral. A total of 101 people participated, mostly from the Junior High School. There were also alumni who were confirmed that day.

The Letran Student Council, among its many activities during the week, provided excitement in the form of a scare fair entitled “Mysquery” held at the Balagtas Hall.

A Dominican Quiz Bee was also held, with contestants from UST Angelicum, Aquinas School – San Juan, Dominican School, Siena College – QC, Sta. Catalina College – Legarda, Siena College – Taytay, Letran – Calamba, and Letran – Manila.

Sta. Catalina College took home the championship while host Letran – Manila ended as the first runner up, followed by Siena College – Taytay in second.

The College of Business Administration Frontliners 2017 competition was also held, with Arnel Legaspi, Angela Ocampo, and Jon Marc Gamban emerging as the winners.

As is the tradition every Colegio week, Letran held its Bingo Social at the Salon de Actos with thousands of pesos that had been up for grabs. The grand prize was a whopping P 30, 000.00. The San Juan Macias Student Assistantship Program played a big part in organizing the event.

In the evening, the Triduum Dance Concert was held, featuring the Letran Squires UKnighted, as well as the dance groups of other Letran campuses such as the Letran Street Dance Crew Calamba and the Letran Performing Arts Group Bataan.

Penultimate

The winners of the Letran Research Center's Photo Restoration Contest were announced on the fourth day of the celebration. The entry of Grace Cabigao of the Planning Office ('A Letranite's Soccer Dream') won second place while Mark delos Santos, OP of Letran's Dominican Third Order emerged as the winner with 'The Façade of the Colegio in 1887'. He also got third place with 'Typical Classroom of the Colegio c. 1887). The exhibit began on November 24 at the TV Studio. Judges were the overall chairperson of the Quadricentennial Celebration, Jhennie Villar; Davy Chioa, OP of the Media Center; and Mario Fernandez of Finance.

Employees had their share of fun with Palaro ng Lahi and Scavenger's Hunt. The latter was an edition of last year's Amazing Race with the College of Engineering and Information Technology emerging as the winners.

Students from all levels also had a chance to showcase their talents in singing and dancing during the Sayawit competition headed by Asst. Prof. Randy Lero of the PE Area.

For the final event of the fourth day, the Letran Student Council set up an Open Cinema for students to watch three acclaimed short films under the stars. The films that were shown were 'Nakauwi Na' by alumni Marvin Cabangunay and Jaynus Olaivar, a Cinemalaya 2017 Audience Choice awardee; 'Butas', a Cinemalaya 2015 finalist; and 'Bar Boys', an official entry to the Pista ng Pelikulang Pilipino 2017. 'Bar Boys' actor Rocco Nacino surprised the Letranites with an appearance to discuss his film while also spending time to interact with the students.

Finale

While all the booths, rides, and other exhibits continued to operate on the last day of the Quatricentennial Celebration Year Two, the Basic Education department organized the 2017

Little Mr. and Ms. Letran, enabling young students to showcase their pageantry skills, as well as their hidden artistic talents.

_____ was crowned Little Mr. Letran while _____ was named Little Ms. Letran.

Late in the afternoon, the faculty presidents treated the Letran community with a series of performances – through dance and song – during the Faculty Frolics entitled, “Las Estrellas del Cielo”. The twist, which came in the middle of performances, fueled the excitement that already was brewing. Singer – songwriter Moira dela Torre, who is best known for her hit, “Malaya”, came on stage, not only to wow Letranites with a mini-concert, but also join the faculty during the “Titibo Tibo” number.

As if Moira was not enough, December Avenue then came on stage, fully capping off the rush of emotions that would usher in the final event of the Celebration.

With the night came the Run HueKnighted: A Color Fun Run for A Cause, which was the first part of the Arriba Fest, in which, under the leadership of the College of Business Administration and Accountancy, Letranites enjoyed a night run filled with color and vibrancy. Major sponsors were Pony, Pocari Sweat, Smart, Quaker Oats Good Start, Benby, and Gardenia.

Wish 107.5 also joined the celebration, bringing in its famous Wish Bus wherein selected students and faculty got the chance to experience singing inside the vehicle that has been showing performances by famous local and international artists. OPM singer Bryan Termulo guested during Wish’s visit to the Colegio.

To end the night – and the week – the main Arriba Fest concert was held, with the help of Vibrant and guest artists such as Marc Marasigan, Katsy Lee, Alwyn Cruz, Chunk, and MVRXX.

The official audio visual presentation for the Year Two Celebration was also released during the Arriba Fest.

Phase Two done, the Letran community is hyped up enough to anticipate the next phase, which is, fittingly, concentrated on the Colegio’s future, entitled, “Conquistar Nuevas Glorias” (Conquering New Glories).

*“We rejoice in them – the blessings and successes of the now. The excitement of this moment. It’s a wonderful thing how fate has brought all of us here, now. What can be more exciting than this?”**

(with reports from Aikon Yu of the Office of Student Welfare and Development, Bernadette Tee of the Center for Community Development, Franz Abelgas of the Letran Research Center)

*quotes from the Year Two Celebration AVP