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### UST anniversary

File photo shows the University of Santo Tomas on España, Sampaloc, Manila, which starts its two-month anniversary celebration today. The school, founded in 1611, is celebrating its 386th year.

## UST celebrates 386th anniversary

By JOEL C. ATENCIO

The University of Santo Tomas (UST), Asia's oldest Catholic university, begins its two-month 386th anniversary celebration today, Jan. 11, with a number of activities at the UST campus in España St., Manila.

The university was founded on April 28, 1611, by the third archbishop of Manila, Msgr. Miguel de Benavidez, OP, together with Fathers Domingo de Nieva

and Bernardo de Santa Catalina.

First called Colegio de Nuestra Señora del Santísimo Rosario, the institution was originally conceived as a school to prepare young men for the priesthood. It was later renamed Colegio de Santo Tomas in memory of Dominican theologian St. Thomas Aquinas.

The school was located in Intramuros, Manila ( *Tuntopage 8, col. 1* )

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nila, before it was transferred to its present site in 1927.

In 1624, the Colegio was authorized to confer academic degrees in theology, philosophy, and arts. On Nov. 20, 1645, Pope Innocent elevated the college to the status of a university and in 1680, it was placed under royal patronage.

In 1785, King Charles III granted it the title of "Royal University." On Sept. 17, 1902, Pope Leo XIII made UST a "Pontifical University" and in 1947, Pope Pius XII bestowed upon it the title "The Catholic University of the Philippines."

UST's academic life was interrupted in 1898-1899 during the Philippine Revolution against Spain and in 1942-1945 during the Japanese Occupation of Manila, when the campus was used by the Japanese forces as a concentration camp.

To start off the activities which end on Feb. 27, a free clinic will be held starting at 9 a.m. today at the UST Health Service center for indigents of the Sampaloc area.

Free medical and dental checkups will be provided by the center. It will be assisted by the UST-Central Red Cross Youth Council (CRCYC), the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (FMS) under Dean Ramon L. Sin and the UST College of Nursing.

The degree of doctor of theology, hon-

oris causa, will be conferred on Focolare Movement founder Chiara Lubich by UST rector Fr. Rolando de la Rosa, OP, on Jan. 14.

On the same day, a four-day book fair sponsored by the UST Publishing House will open at the covered walk on the campus, featuring exhibits by leading book sellers, publishers, and distributors.

On Jan. 15, the College of Architecture and Fine Arts will hold art lectures at the AFA Conference Hall, featuring prominent painters Manny Baldemor and Jose Tence Ruiz.

Also lined up for January is a blood typing service at the UST Health Service Center, book launching by the Education Technology Center, a symposium by the UST College of Commerce Student Council, the Leon Ma. Guerrero Lecture, the Benavides Lecture, photo exhibits, an open house, a variety show, a fashion show, academic conferences, a military parade and review, oratorical contests, and art contests.





Deedee M. Siyangco

Mea culpa. The holiday hiatus in the hills must have spooked our laptop. The Angel Thought last Thursday should have read — "You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving."

This came from a favorite Focolare priest-friend of ours, Fr. Victor, whose brief but thought-provoking homilies we relish. We interpret it this way —

Those who genuinely want to serve the poor, help the oppressed and the depressed are the ones who give with love since they see Christ in those help.

\* \* \*

And when we remembered our departed lady friends, everybody's friend, Bessie Bautista Legarda, was left out...Bessie's daughter, Loren, sent Christmas cards with Bessie's painting on the cover, one of the very few she did. She titled it "Stairway to Serenity" and gifted her idol, PCCA with it. After Bessie died, PCCA gave the painting to Loren, so she and her children could have something of their mom and grandmother. Amateur painter PCCA spent the holiday season painting and several lucky friends received her works this Christmas.

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These days are exciting days for members of the Focolare Movement in the country as their foundress and president, Chiara Lubich is here for a visit.

Lubich, a lay woman, founded the movement in 1966 which is officially called "The Work of Mary" by the Vatican. This was when communism was at its height in Europe. Focolare is now a fast-growing movement around the world, active in various lay and religious fronts, especially social work in which rich

and poor equally collaborate and cooperate.

Highlight of her visit here is the conferment of a Degree of Doctor of Theology "Honoris Causa" by the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas on Jan. 14. This is the first time that the oldest university in Asia is giving a doctorate in theology on a lay woman.

Tagaytay where she will be based during her stay will adopt her as an honorary citizen and city hall officials, led by Mayor Francis Tolentino are eager to make her visit pleasant. A very simple person although revered all over the world, she has asked that there be no police escorts and other trappings.

Lubich has made such a mark with her doctrine of new unity in the church that bishops and clerics all over the world look-up to her for spiritual guidance. Forty-one Filipino bishops requested UST to confer the honorary degree on theology on her including cardinals Sin and Vidal. (Lubich will also be speaking to the Plenary Assembly of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines in Tagaytay and will meet bishop friends of the movement from Asia.

It will also be from Tagaytay that she will speak to the worldwide network of Focolare centers on her regular radio broadcast on gospel teachings. These broadcasts are eagerly awaited by the members and friends of Focolare.

Also a visitor here is the Archbishop of Prague and the president of the European Episcopal Conference, Cardinal Miloslav Vlk.

Why all this fuss about this lady?

The Focolare movement and the work its lay and religious members do (among the 18 schools of formation of

the movement are the School of Dialogue for the Oriental Religions, the School of Formation on the Spirituality of Unity of Priests and Seminarians, a dozen business enterprises running according to the principles of Lubich — the Economy of Sharing) is Lubich's lifetime work. She is truly a "mother" and the guiding spirit to all its members and those who have gone through their schools of formation. Even the religious that she has touched are convinced that her spirituality bears a doctrine that is capable of wedding personal fulfillment, theological knowledge and the ecclesiastical community.

Originally composed of lay volunteers, Focolare is now a world-wide Christian spiritual organization which aims to contribute to global peace efforts and to spread ecumenical evangelization.

Owing to her work, Lubich has been honored even by other religions. For instance she received the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion in 1977 from the Duke of Edinburgh, the Cross of Order of St. Augustine of Canterbury from the Church of England in 1981, the Byzantine Cross from the Greek Orthodox Church and numerous honors from the Catholic Church.

In recognition of her work in spiritual unity is the honorary president of the World Conference of Religions for Peace.

While we are not members of the movement, we admire the commitment of its followers, especially their sense of community. When we were in Rome in 1985 for the installation of Cardinal Vidal, we had the opportunity to watch the Gen Rosso, a youth band, perform to thousands of screaming fans. The Gen Rosso sprung from the youth movement of the same name which Lubich founded within the movement and it has since brought her message to millions of young people all over the world through happy music.

Mabuhay, Ms. Lubich!