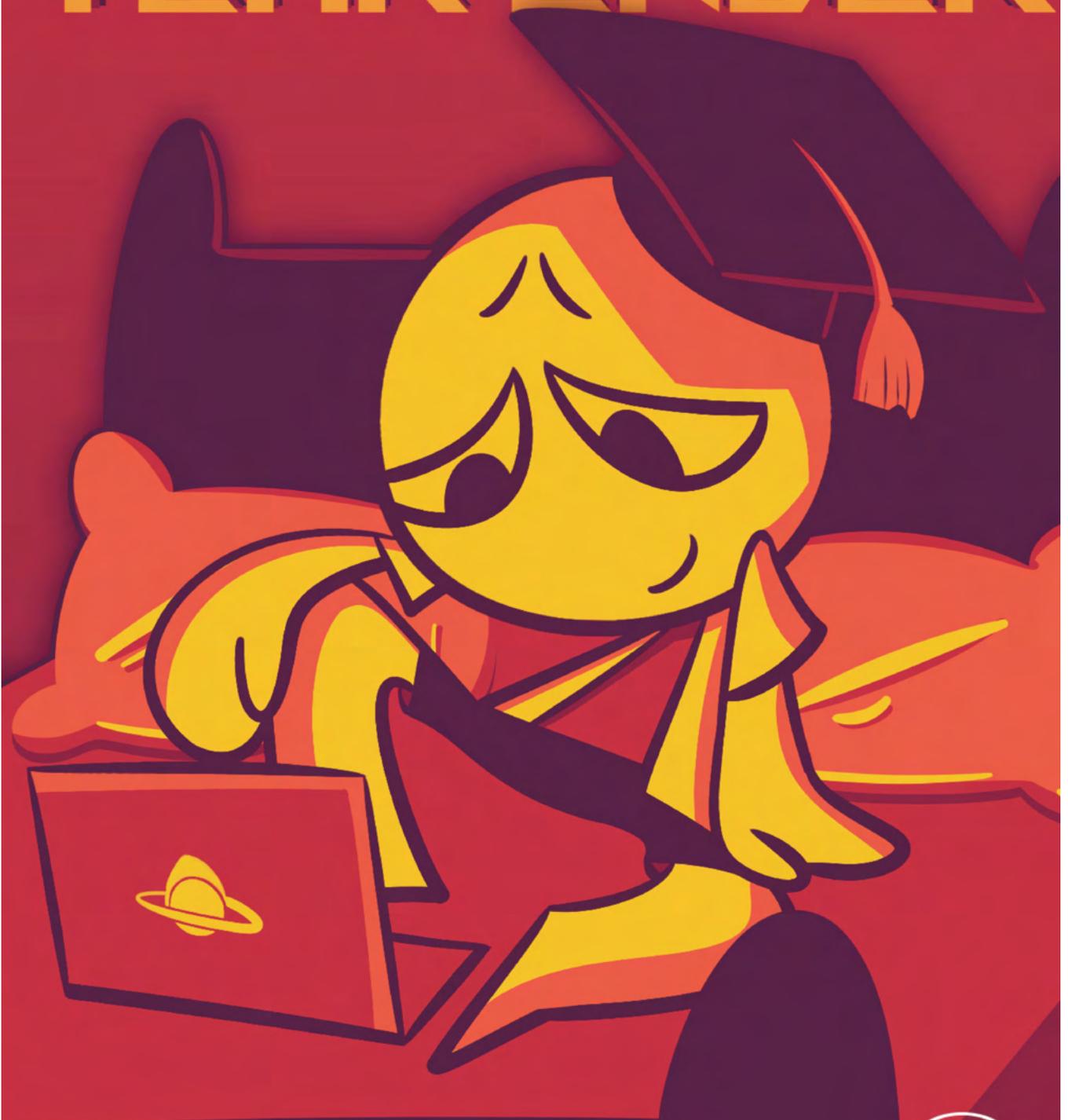


ONLINE 2020-2021: YEAR ENDER



Poster by: Yoriq Laxa



CBS Elections Held in an Online Setting

Kirk Mara



Source: Microsoft Teams, CBS Channel

The Central Board of Students held its annual elections on September 14, 2020, during the Homeroom periods.

Every year, CBS holds an election to vote and elect new members into the student council, and this year was no exception. The Central Board of Students is a school-based organization that focuses on molding students into becoming servant leaders, and despite the challenges brought by the pandemic which forced schools to transition to an online learning system, the elections were still held through this new digital setup.

Even though the traditional voting process had to be adapted to fit the new arrangements made following government protocols, the CBS elections were still conducted because of their important nature. As CBS moderator, Mrs. Marjorie Cabilan says, "it is the responsibility of each Claretian to vote for the most deserving candidates who would represent them and their interests. And, by exercising their right to vote, they are exercising their democratic rights and involving themselves in the decision making that would affect them."

In the weeks leading up to election day, CBS experienced challenges as well. For one, most of the hurdles were "because the situation [the pandemic and online setup] almost controlled everything." There were hardships in encouraging Claretians to run in the CBS elections, but the organization is very thankful to the candidates who took the challenge, as well as the Claretians who participated in the election.

New CBS President Miguel Iñigo Lopez says that he is "really grateful for having to be a part of the organization once again." He was grateful for the support and the trust that he received from his friends, family, and peers. He also says that "it is an honor to serve them as their president of the student body."

Additionally, he says that although they are limited to some things due to the circumstances today, he would like to use those limitations as an advantage for greater opportunities. He says that these new adjustments do not stop CBS from pursuing its goal. They plan to integrate existing CBS projects through virtual means and also open the door for new activities that would signify this new setup. Some projects they have cited include the Virtual Carnival and the assistance to communities outside the school, like the ones affected by Typhoon Ulysses.

High School Unit Holds Virtual Recognition of Honors

Julian Roque

The trademark of Claretian excellence shined once more in the Honors Assembly held at various Level Assemblies in Junior High School and last February 1, 2021 for the Senior High School students through a Microsoft Live Event. While this school year has been a year of firsts for many, Claretians were able to push through and persevere.

For their unwavering efforts, students were recognized for their academic achievement and outstanding conduct. For the 2nd Trimester in JHS, there are 13 First Honors, 54 Second Honors, 6 Third Honors, and 8 Conduct Awardees in Grade 7, 38 First Honors, 47 Second Honors, 1 Third Honors, and 12 Conduct Awardees in Grade 8, 4 First Honors, 45 Second Honors, 1 Third Honors, and 3 Conduct Awardees in Grade 9, 42 First Honors, 102 Second Honors, 6 Third Honors, and 6 Conduct Awardees in Grade 10. For Grade 11, there are 23 1st Honors, 67 2nd Honors, and 7 Conduct Awardees. As for Grade 12, 12 1st Honors, 80 students became 2nd Honors, and 7 Conduct Awardees.

Despite the hardships during the pandemic, these students have embodied academic excellence, even inspiring others to take up the challenge and do the same. Congratulations to everyone and may your perseverance continue.



Photo by: Owen Valdez

Student Development Center conducts online Group Guidance Period

Anton Manguba



Source: Microsoft Teams, Claret Student Central Channel

The Student Development Center conducts the Group Guidance Period for the high school students once a month. During this online distance learning, GGP's are held through Microsoft Teams meetings. The Junior High School students have their GGP on Fridays while the Senior High School students have it on Mondays.

The topics for the GGP were based on the results of the SDC Needs Assessment Survey taken by students earlier in the school year. Some of the topics for this year were: stress, netiquette, emotions, coping mechanisms, and time management.

Ms. Hiyas Alipustain, the Grade 10 Facilitator, said in an interview: "GGP is a way for us to give information to students and to develop skills necessary for students to cope during this time of pandemic and to be successful online learners".

The SDC has decided to facilitate through an assembly-type meeting instead of the regular per-section or per-cluster format due to conflicting schedules between level activities and the GGP. However, plenary-type of meetings was seen to be not as effective as the smaller group meetings prompting the guidance facilitators to have the usual smaller group setup for future activities.

High School Administers an Exercise Routine for Students

Elijah Tiu & Gustavo Molina



Source: MAPEH Teachers

The Claret School of Quezon City High School Unit implements an online warm-up exercise routine in December 2020, to improve the physical and emotional strength of students.

Towards the end of the year 2020, the high school administration, with the assistance of the Music & Arts and Physical Education & Health Area, devised and administered a warm-up exercise routine. The said routine is to be done and followed by all high school students in the beginning of their synchronous classes.

The warm-up exercise routine is composed of a series of movements, that the students need to follow to freshen and wake up their spirits so they may have the desire to study. As the audiovisual (AV) presentation for the warm-up exercise routine is presented, the students are expected to prepare and carry out the exercises demonstrated, as some may require wide-ranging movements to perform. After completing the following exercises, the students are expected to be well-disposed to the discussion, given that it is the purpose of the said warm-up exercise routine.

Part of the warm-up exercise routine is the breathing exercise. It aims to stimulate the mind and body, before undergoing the movement exercises. Following the breathing exercises are the stretching and dynamic exercises. It aims to promote blood flow throughout the body, improving the cognitive and physical capabilities of an individual.

It is important to engage in physical activity, even in tough times like the pandemic, since it's important to be physically fit and active.

Hope for Immunization as Vaccines Granted Emergency Use

Zachari Magas

The Pfizer BioNTech has successfully given the first-ever vaccination program against the Covid-19 virus in the world to an elderly woman from the United Kingdom last December 8, 2020, according to BBC UK.

The American Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna for emergency use last December 2020, followed by the public immunization of American Vice President, Kamala Harris with the use of the Moderna vaccine last December 29, 2020.



Source: <http://thebiz.bentley.edu/understanding-different-types-college-applications/>

Thousands of people took to social media to express their relief and hope for the pandemic to end as news about vaccinations continues to surface all over the internet. The first batch of Pfizer vaccines is expected to arrive in the Philippines by the first quarter of 2021, according to CNN Philippines.

The Department of Health (DOH) has conducted simulation exercises and showcases in preparation for the arrival of 117,000 doses of Pfizer vaccines which are to be stored in the newly acquired and inspected cold storage facilities across different cities in Metro Manila, neighboring cities, as well as Cebu and Mindanao as stated by the press release of the DOH last February 9th.

COVID-19 Implications for College Applications

Lex Sala

In response to the pandemic, numerous universities have adjusted their processes for admittance to their respective schools with most universities having decided to dispense of their former methods in favor of the online admissions making use of forms and document submissions in place of the usual test or interview. Additionally, most universities have developed the use of past and current academic records to determine whether or not they will accept a student according to the course they choose.



Source: <https://www.carolinaparent.com/so-my-teen-is-done-with-college-apps-now-what/>

Notable institutions have opted for this such as the University of Santo Tomas; they developed the UST Admission Rating (USTAR) which uses a score derived from an applicant's collective grades. The University of the Philippines and De La Salle University also modified their processes to exclusively use submitted forms in conjunction with their application website.

FEU developed the Student Placement for Admission to College Education (SPACE) for future Tamaraws. Mapúa chose to maintain its entrance tests while giving an option to take them in a physical or virtual space through the Mapúa Program Placement Assessment (MPASS) accessible in their application website. Ateneo opted to keep the required personal essay as part of the application.

These adjustments for normalcy can only serve to benefit institutions and those in pursuit of the academe alike perhaps not just during a situation of quarantine, but as a preferable alternative that ensures convenience and efficiency in contrast to usual proceedings.

Halalan 2022: Why should you vote?

Anton Manguba

Img Source-<https://insidemanila.ph/article/509/we-need-to-talk-about-the-importance-of-voting>

2022 is a significant year for all Filipinos. In this year, we will be having our Presidential Election which only happens every 6 years. Aside from the president and vice president, we will also be having the elections for the legislative branch.

It will only be a year before we conduct the elections. While many have been registered to vote, the Commission on Elections has reported that it has not reached the target of 4 million new voters. As of March 2021, about 2.4 million voter applications have been submitted.

Suffrage is a right given to every qualified Filipino. It is also a duty as a citizen of the country. We are obligated to responsibly use our votes for the betterment of our society. Whoever we elect as our country leaders, they will be the ones responsible for our development and progress, or possibly the country's downfall.

It is not true that your one vote will not matter because all votes matter - your voice as a citizen of the country matters. To further explain this logic, one peso would not be one peso if it was not for that one centavo. As of now, an estimated 58 million of the 108.1 million Filipinos are registered voters for the upcoming elections.

During the last presidential elections in 2016, the voter turnout was at 81%, higher than the 2010 presidential elections with only around 74% voter turnout. This is a good indication that more eligible voters vote during the election period. If we could make it to higher percentage or make it a hundred percent, it would be better.

During the 2019 mid-term elections, a tribal leader in Bontoc, Bong Cawed, made news for wearing their traditional attire in the voting precinct. By wearing their native clothing, he wanted to promote that everyone, despite their culture and upbringing, they can and should vote. If you qualify to vote, there should be no excuses not to. Being a Filipino entails the duty of choosing our leaders.

However, just voting is not enough. The name of the candidates you shade on the ballot should be deserving and is running for a good cause. Research and assess the people that are running for an elective post; study their track record and past projects instead of dwelling on their campaign "promises". Everything you need to know is all on the internet. Be critical in assessing a politician's propaganda, as some might be misleading and full of fallacies. Let us not be swayed by their false advocacies and be critical enough.



Our country right now is lacking good leaders that prioritize service to its people; response to different crisis is mediocre, executive officials are incautiously appointed, and a culture of lawlessness and violence is being endorsed. If we truly want a better country, a better Philippines, we must do our work. During the elections, let our unified voices be heard. Let us not vote a certain political party, a trendy celebrity-politician, or a famous political family/dynasty, but instead evaluate each

candidate and choose what is best for our country.

Last day to register as a voter will be on September 30, 2022. You may apply in your nearest Local Comelec Office found in every district, town or city. To qualify as a voter you must fulfill all requirements by the Comelec: 1) At least eighteen (18) years of age on or before May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections; 2) A resident of the Philippines for at least one (1) year and in the place wherein he/she proposes to vote, for at least six (6) months immediately preceding the May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections; and 3) not otherwise disqualified by law. In case you have not yet reached the age of 18 during the deadline of applications, you can still register as long as you provide a valid identification document to prove you are of legal age during the elections itself. You may visit the website of the Commission on Elections for more information: <https://comelec.gov.ph/>. Remember to vote wisely.

Outlook: 2021 better than 2020?

Juan Ignacio



Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/mikekappel/2020/10/29/planning-for-2021-a-lesson-from-2020/?sh=4766f18730bd>

2020 has been a year of sickness and uncertainty. The year began with the unprecedented virus, the COVID-19 pandemic which caused countries around the world to implement lockdowns and quarantines to avoid transmission of the virus. However, the number of COVID-19 cases around the world is increasing despite following health protocols. It was without a doubt that the year 2020 has left huge scars on us. But the question is, can 2021 be better than 2020?

When the pandemic began, we were left with a roadless journey. As of this writing, worldwide infections reached 111 million, with 2.5 million deaths, and a daily average of 15,000 deaths. Locally, we have more than 555,000 thousand with 11,000 deaths. We don't know where to continue because of the impact and limitations brought to us. The economy is slowing down – unemployment is increasing, closed businesses are doubling, inflation is rising, and so on. Apart from this, we were also heartbroken that we lost many of our loved ones that died in this struggling time. The pandemic resulted in millions of deaths and many people feel the same as we did when we lost someone. Besides, many of us are not able to move and travel freely and stay in our homes for many months hoping to stay healthy and safe. Consequently, many of us are not able to hang out with our friends, go to the cinemas with our family, and meet our classmates and teachers face-to-face. In that roadless journey, we thought about what will happen to our education, families, friends, future jobs, and other important things that we often think of. We became uncertain of our life and we are still adjusting to the 'new normal.' Also, students have been introduced to the new context of online learning; with a difficult start, students complained about their experiences in online classes such as overloaded assignments, lack of equipment, and difficulty in adapting to it compared to traditional classes. We were hopeless and we yearned for the normal things to come back in our lives. The ending is undefined, far away from our reach – the virus is mutating.

2020 was a challenging time. The pandemic claimed lives and livelihoods. People bought goods in bulk; they were 'panic buying' because they were afraid of starving to death during the pandemic. In addition, the pandemic caused the supply chain distribution to follow restrictions that many places are not able to access goods that can sustain their needs. The marginalized sector is facing grave threats since they do not have enough financial capabilities to survive during the pandemic. Ever since the government took efforts to supply them with financial assistance and donated essentials that they will need. As a result, the government loaned large amounts of money to help us recover from this pandemic, but it increased our debt as a country.

Consequently, the challenges of the pandemic were intensified by natural disasters, and political issues that affect our lives such as the destruction in Cagayan Valley caused by Typhoons Rolly and Ulysses left people stranded on the rooftops of their flooded homes, crying for help from the government to save them; the ABS-CBN ceases to operate and non-renewal of its franchise; the pardon of Joseph Pemberton; the Anti-Terror Bill; the call for academic breaks; the murder of George Floyd; the divided America; and the Nuezca killings. Netizens over social media posted and tweeted their opinions, rants, and perspectives that were sad, hopeless, angry, laughing; it was a mix of feelings.

We have now entered the year 2021. Could 2021 be an allegory of what happened in 2020? Would it still be the same just because 2021 is pronounced as "2020 – 1?" This year is another chance for us to change for the better. Likewise, this is the time to reevaluate and move forward to a new beginning. But the challenges of 2020 to address the pandemic continues for we carry the results of 2020 as we enter 2021.

The early days of 2021 show the government's unclear policy in acquiring the COVID-19 vaccine. This causes agitations and confusion to people in this struggling time. The Philippine Government's decision to request a brand of vaccine that is less effective compared to Pfizer and AstraZeneca. Ironically, the two named vaccines are chosen by most local governments to be used. As a result, the people are angered as to why our government would purchase a vaccine with such a higher price compared to other brands, only for the presidential spokesperson to say that we don't have a choice!

We cannot let these events define 2021 as others did to 2020, we need to treat this year as a year to hope for the better. The year 2021 is not a new number to depend on, the "new year" should start with us, the change should start with ourselves. We should have fully adapted at this time in our life; 2020 gave us experiences to know what is to be fully human and fully alive – stories of kindness, generosity, acts of selfless giving, and dying to oneself among the many values. But 2021 is now our time to use those life experiences to move forward; we must act to persuade people to be better than before. We carry with us the life lessons – what we need to learn, unlearn, and relearn. Remember, the words of Rafiki to Simba – "Yes, the past can hurt. But the way I see it, you can either run from it or learn from it."

Walang Rape Kung Walang Rapist

John Agpawa



Source: <https://i.ytimg.com/vi/SeZotF3dyU/maxresdefault.jpg>

Nakalulungkot isipin na sa kasalukuyang panahon ay marami pa rin ang nagagawang gumawa at tumawa sa mga rape jokes. Noong taong 2020, mahigit-kumulang 18 kaso na may kaugnayan sa panghahalay ang naiulat araw-araw. Ang dahilan? Mga rapist.

Sa mga paaralan, tinuturo sa mga mag-aaral na ang bawat bunga ay may pinag-ugatan na sanhi. Kung mga kaso patungkol sa panghahalay na rin lang ang pag-uusapan, lahat ng 'yan ay may iisang ugat lamang — ang mga nanghahalay. Wala nang iba pang sanhi ang maaaring magbunga ng panghahalay; anumang naging suot, kasarian, edad, o estado ng mga nakaranas ng panghahalay, lahat sila ay mga biktima lamang. Kaya naman nararapat na itigil ang victim blaming o ang pag-iisip na “Nagahasa siya dahil sa suot niya.” o “Lasing naman siya kaya ayos lang yan.”, dahil walang sinumang na sa tamang pag-iisip ang ipipilit ang kanilang sarili sa isang tao na walang kalaban-laban sa kanila. Bakit pa natin poprotektahan ang mga nanghahalay at sisisihin ang mga biktima kung malinaw naman na sila ang mali? Kailan magkakaroon ng kalayaan ang mga mamamayan na magsuot ng anumang kanilang naisin nang hindi iniisip ang mga maaaring mangyari sa kanila dahil sa takot na sila ay mapagnasaan?

Sa susunod na muli tayong makarinig ng balita tungkol sa panghahalay, sana ay hindi na natin tanungin kung ano ang suot, kasarian, o kung lasing ba ang biktima. Alalahanin natin na walang pinipiling biktima ang mga rapist, at makakamit lamang ng mga naging biktima ang hustisya sa panahong malaya na nilang maisusuot ang mga damit na nais nilang isuot, malaya na silang makalalakad sa lansangan nang walang mga matang nakatitig sa kanila, at sa panahong wala nang gagawa o tatawa sa rape jokes.

Pagtaas ng Presyo ng mga Bilihin

Lorenzo Eserjose

Ika nga ng Selecta, “Saan aabot ang bente pesos mo?” Matanong kita, saan nga ba aabot ang Php 537 mo? Sa kasalukuyan, karamihan sa mga Pilipino ay kinakapos dahil sa pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihin. Isa sa mga dahilan ng pagtaas ay ang pagbaba ng panustos o supply. Bumaba ang panustos ng gulay dahil sa mga nagdaang bagyo tulad ng Rolly at Ulysses. Bukod diyan, ang pagbaba naman ng panustos ng mga karne ay dahil sa sakit na ASF o African Swine Fever.

Ayon sa isang artikulo mula sa Philstar, hiniling ng mga mamayanan sa Metro Manila na itaas ang kanilang mga sahod mula Php 537 hanggang Php 650 dahil kulang daw ang Php 537 para sa kanilang mga bilihin. Hindi na rin sasapat ang Php 537 upang ipangbayad sa singil ng tubig, kuryente at renta sa bahay, kasabay rin nito ang pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihin (Pilipino Star Ngayon, 2021). Ayon sa ABS-CBN news, nang dahil sa inflation, tumaas ang presyo ng mga produkto ng 4.2% noong Enero. Pahayag ni Nelia Balares, isang mamimili, na lahat na raw ng paraan ng pagtitipid ay ginawa niya upang mapagkasya ang mga bilihin, bagamat sa pagtaas ng presyo hindi talaga kakayanin dahil masyado na raw mahal (ABS-CBN NEWS, 2021). Nang dahil sa inflation, tumaas ang isang kilo ng baboy sa Php 400, at ang manok naman ay pumapalo na ng Php 190 – 200. Kung titignan ang mga presyo ngayon, ito ay malayo sa pinangako ni Pangulong Duterte na papababain ang presyo ng mga bilihin (MASIPAG National Office, 2021). Noong unang linggo ng Enero, tumaas na rin ang presyo ng mga gulay. Mula sa Php 20, 50 pesos na ang itinaas ng gulay tulad ng kamatis, sibuyas at bawang. Pinag-aaralan na ring itaas ang SRP ang mga bilihin dahil sa epekto ng dumaang bagyo at pagbawas ng panustos dahil sa African Swine Fever (ASF). Ayon kay Reildrin Morales, mahihirapan ang mga taga Luzon dahil kulang ang panustos ng karne at gulay, at dahil sa pamamakyaw ng mga ibang mamimili mula sa Visayas at Mindanao (Ambion, 2021).

Saan na nga ba aabot ang Php 537 na sahod kada araw kung ganito ang mga presyo ng mga bilihin? Talagang makikita natin na nahihirapan ang ating gobyerno gawan ng solusyon ang problemang ating hinaharap. Kung hindi magagawan ng ating gobyerno ng aksyon upang pababain ang presyo ng mga bilihin, sana ay taasan naman nila ang sahod ng ating mga mamamayang sumasahod ng minimum wage upang sila'y makaraos at matustusan ang kanilang mga pangangailangan. Kaya't mag-ipon at magbawas-bawas muna ng mga binibili sa online shopping, dahil tunay na mahirap kumita ng pera sa gitna ng pandemya.

Programming A Permutations/Combinations Calculator

Leon Guevarra

```

1 n = int(input('Total Number of Objects = '))
2 r = int(input('Times Taken = '))
3 m = n-r
4 def factorial(n):
5     if n == 0:
6         return 1
7     else:
8         return n * factorial(n-1)
9 def factorial(r):
10    if r == 0:
11        return 1
12    else:
13        return r * factorial(r-1)
14 def factorial(m):
15    if m == 0:
16        return 1
17    else:
18        return m * factorial(m-1)
19 nPr = input('Is it Permutations? = ')
20 if nPr == ("yes"):
21    print('nPr = ', factorial(n)/factorial(m))
22 else:
23    nCr = input('Is it Combinations = ')
24    if nCr == ("yes"):
25        print('nCr = ', factorial(n)/ (factorial(r)*factorial(m)))
26    else:
27        print('woah')
  
```

```

Console
Total Number of Objects = 4
Times Taken = 2
Is it Permutations? = no
Is it Combinations = yes
nCr = 6.0
Program finished
  
```

I was always fond of math and science, and recently I grew an admiration for computer programming. What I liked from them are the concepts of trial and error, that every time you make a mistake or fail, there is always a lesson to gain from that mistake or failure. The idea that this negative thing can provide a positive result is the very reason I adore problem solving. Computer programming is basically the same concept, where while constructing a program and running it, you would run into errors in your program that you would need to figure out how to fix.

One time during lunch break, I had a conversation with several classmates and friends and thought of possible combinations of three letters like b, r, and o, since I personally jokingly apply some concepts of math in unusual scenarios. So, the problem was that if the word "bro" has three letters and any letter can be uppercase or lowercase, how many possible combinations are there? (Or something along those lines). Eventually we arrived at the answer 8 with the solution (2C1) (2C1) (2C1) (Combinations are: BRO, BRo Bro, BrO, bro, bRO, brO, bRo). That was just all for fun, but soon I grew bored and thought of something to do other than my assignments, then I thought of trying to make a Permutations/Combinations calculator using Turtle Editor Python to make calculating nPr and nCr easier, and to further enhance my programming problem solving skills as well, since I aspire to pursue Computer Science. I started programming with my previous computer assignments from Mr. Cosico's class about using Python as references and a single source of reference from the internet about coding factorials. I soon finished the program in, I'd say less than 30 minutes, and

like everyone else proud of their work, I shared my program with several people so that they may even use it for class if they want to. I did not really expect to make the program at all. I thought it wouldn't be that simple, yet I was able to actually make it work.

In the end, I give my greatest appreciation to the people who are responsible, particularly the Claret School of Quezon City teachers, administrators and to my parents, who gave me the opportunity to learn and apply said learnings. I also give thanks to my classmates and friends, who I could always ask from, and even to myself for not giving up and, in a way, being innovative and/or creative. I truly hope that one day I would be able to continue to learn and apply them to real life situations, especially in observing, analyzing, and solving. I also hope that fellow students would acquire the same interest and motivation in learning as I have and pursue to achieve their goals. Amen namaste.

Our Bittersweet Experiences

Juancho Rifareal, Luis Teran, and Wayne Tinio

Those moments dragged us places until the bittersweet end. As the months of 2020 drew closer to its conclusion, members of the High School Robotics Contest Training Pool set out to compete in three competitions: the 19th Philippine Robotics Olympiad, World Robotics Olympiad Canada, and the Robot Virtual Games Panama. Within those moments come the trials each participant faced for the national and the world stage experiences. And although these preceded virtually, we homebound participants still pressed forward.

It was October when the preparations for the national competition peaked. The only thing you need to know is that we must run a virtual robot throughout the table, interacting with random pieces and placing them in their respective areas. But each night that the program fails multiple times to achieve what was coded into it virtually, the more the pressure mounts. Lags, slips, and inaccuracies - you name it. So, no matter the effort, if it doesn't work on the day, then that is it.

Either way, it was an energizing and worthwhile team effort for us, though planning and execution were limited in texts and emails. We are to accept the fate of whatever path the robot chooses to traverse in the field.

Well, fortunately for us three, we did pull through without a hitch. It was a sigh of relief for us amidst talks of representing virtually abroad.

As we progressed into the November and December international bounds, we face the prospect that ultimately questioned how we seek to challenge the fellow competitors. The same field mechanics changed according to guidelines, including none of the preparation time and only three days to code and to submit the results that went right.

We hoped to gain a commendable score, which we did, believing that although we may not be on the podium, given the leaderboard setup from both internationals, we are more than joyous about how we managed to set ourselves somehow in the international scene of Robotics. There were technical mishaps between each activity, similar to what arose before. However, we managed not to let these discourage us from partaking in these events.

Though we had to carry on individually, it is what got us closer together, knowing that it is best for us three to stay close in the leaderboard for the sake of camaraderie.

Going back, we fully admit that it never went as we expected - from the virtual settings to the mishaps, even the idea of going international. But we still did it, pleased that our usernames that stuck together became part of the respective leaderboards. These filled us back with the desire not only to participate but also to represent ourselves and our supporters. We wholeheartedly hope that those who dare follow in our footsteps experience better in their quests. And as for us three, we cheer them on as our successors while we do so in bittersweet farewell.

NEW VOICES OF CLARET

Joseph Ramos

Despite the challenges and worries brought by this new setup, this team was able to show off their strengths, skills, and confidence with the opportunity of becoming a student emcee for their batch. Tanglaw ng Claret presents to you the students who began their journey to success with a single step.



Ms. Samantha Ahorro

At first, Ms. Ahorro felt uncertain on whether the emcees would take the responsibility seriously or not, knowing that it was not a project that was graded, nor was it an official school club. However, she was solely mistaken and said that she is blessed with a team that takes their roles seriously.

“In life, it’s not just about academics. You have to bank on many skills you hone to achieve more. Hopefully, these experiences will make them more confident in not just emceeing events, but also having courage in taking on new skills they haven’t tried yet before.” She said as something she wants the student emcees to learn and achieve after training them.

Ms. Ahorro said that she was relieved and proud at the same time after seeing her emcees lead their first emcee events. She was worried because they might encounter a lot of difficulty in an online setting such as what we are in right now. But what made her feel relief the most is getting feedback from each of them experiencing the rush of emotions, the anxiety of trying not to make a mistake, and the excitement before the event starts, all of which she herself experienced when she began hosting part-time. She hopes that someday the emcees will be able to master getting a hold of their emotions while hosting and converting them to energy when they go to stage.

“Continue doing what you want to do because you love to do it. If that passion seeps through, people will see it, too. Don’t ever stop.” Ms. Ahorro said as a message to the student emcees.

Being in this team was both confusing and surprising for Ryan, and like the other emcees, he felt nervous because he had never hosted a show or a level assembly. He also had some negative thoughts about being a student emcee because he thought that his schedule would become busier because of the number of tasks from both academics and non-academics. “But through the help of my fellow emcees, I was able to go through it, and we accomplished the second level assembly where I was the emcee,” he also mentioned.

When asked about how he felt after the first level assembly he hosted, Ryan said that he felt relief knowing that everything they have prepared is now over and was a success. “I felt that I became a better person because before the event, I was having negative thoughts, but now I learned I shouldn’t have any negative thoughts because that mindset will lead me to my downfall,” he added.

Ryan’s hobbies include playing Call of Duty with his friends. He also enjoys using his phone, playing basketball, playing the ukulele, and doing some exercise and workout routines. He also mentioned that he dreams of becoming an engineer in the future.



Ryan Bahia

Senen believes that the opportunity, though it was virtual, truly helped him embrace speaking in front of lots of people. He is glad that all the preparation and time they have given really bonded everything together. Even if the level assembly was scripted, it still helped Senen feel natural even if it was his first time speaking and having a bit of a hard time.



Senen Balatbat

Like the other emcees, not being used to speaking in front of several people made Senen feel anxious, as if he was heading into an unknown territory for himself. “At first glance, of course it’s frightening to me as I’m an introvert person and having this much attention put unto me and to be given the opportunity to speak to lots of people is a new challenge for me,” he mentioned.

“Regardless of how much time and practice you must put into making the script or drawing, you need to be

in this mindset that truly motivates you to become unstoppable regardless of the circumstances. If it is the people that bring you down, the anxiety that just rumbles throughout the stage, you need to keep going regardless of what happens and let yourself be motivated to struggle because life is unfair, and the whole point of it is to keep going and if you get something the minute you want it, what’s the point of life then?” He said this as something he would love for the next emcees or people who want to try a challenge.

Despite being someone who is joyful and loquacious, Enver felt nervous because he was afraid that he might encounter some difficulties or trouble while the event was ongoing, but when his batchmates began to actively participate in the activities, he began to feel the confidence within him. Apart from that, Enver was overwhelmed and grateful when he was recommended to become a student emcee. He also mentioned that he enjoys conversing with a lot of people, especially at different events in school.

Having this opportunity to be trained and host events gave him the confidence and inner strength to speak in front of his batchmates. “An opportunity like this is something that I cannot refuse to do since this is what I’ve wanted since the very beginning. I want to prove to everyone that I am good at speaking and conveying ideas,” he added.

During his childhood, Enver has always dreamed of becoming an actor because he enjoys talking and showing himself in front of the camera. He believes that he will be happy, and he will enjoy doing this kind of work. To him, all the skills and knowledge he learned while serving as an emcee can help him in building the confidence and skills he needs to have in acting.



Sean Evangelista



Jose Meriño II

To be in this team was a fun experience for Joey despite not knowing how this would work because he was new to Claret and to the batch, and even if he felt quite scared at first, having to host student-led programs for his batchmates and teachers helped him communicate better and feel more comfortable when socializing with other people. He says that being a student emcee was a fun time and a good learning experience.

After being one of the first student emcees to lead the level assembly, it was really exhausting for him because it was also his first time talking to his batchmates. Despite that, the experience made him feel extremely happy because he was praised for his excellent performance.

Like every high school student, Joey is a gamer, and is into battle games. He spent six years learning Tekken and now he is proud of himself for entering the competitive side. He also mentioned that he is up for a match with anyone who is not ranked.

Being known in his batch for his excellent leadership and speaking, Ronne was chosen to become one of the student emcees of his section. Knowing that there are many students in his batch who have talent when it comes to speaking or hosting an event, Ronne is very honored and thankful to receive this opportunity and to be able to represent his class. He was one of the first student emcees to host the grade 9 assembly and was the first one to be in charge of being the stage manager of his co-emcees.

“As a CBS officer, we are trained to be prepared for everything, including unexpected public speaking. That is why, when I found out that I had been recommended by my teachers, I eagerly welcomed the opportunity because I know that this would benefit me when it comes to speaking to a large group of people, even if we are in a new virtual setup. And, for me,

being an emcee entails more than just reading scripts; you must also be prepared to share your own insights and reflections on a particular topic,” he also mentioned. Prior to becoming a student emcee, Ronne has been a member of the Central Board of Students. He is also known for his hobbies like playing volleyball, watching horror movies, and photography.



Ronne Pelayo



Joseph Ramos

Even though it was not his first time, Joseph felt anxious knowing that level assemblies will be attended not only by his batchmates but also by their teachers and administrators. Although having that thought, he is honored and happy to be recommended with his co-officers, and to be able to learn new skills and interact more with some of his batchmates.

Being able to train with his batchmates was a powerful help in building his confidence; knowing that some of them are easy to be with made him feel relieved. He even said that he cannot imagine getting through all the stress and worries without the help of his co-officers, Ronne and Enver, Ms. Ahorro, and Ms. Quesada. “I felt happy because we were well praised, and what makes me happier is that the teachers were able to see our growth and improvements not just as student emcees but as individual persons,” he added.

Prior to becoming an emcee, Joseph was a former member of Claret Hataw. He enjoys reading literature, writing, watching series and films, and listening to music. One of his passions in life is to be given the chance to express feelings, ideas, and emotions with the power of his words through creative works such as stories, screenwriting, and blogs. He wants people to be inspired and motivated with the works he wants to share to the world. Apart from that, his childhood dream is to become a doctor, and to be in the field of biology and pediatrics.

Despite the pressure and worries, being in this team made Ouztien realize that it was not that bad at all and even felt honored for being able to represent his class. He mentioned that this opportunity enhanced his confidence and took away some of his stage fright. “Aside from the lessons and trainings we got to have every Thursday, what really helped me was the event itself. I was able to learn on the spot while hosting and/or managing the said event. The multiple errors that I and my colleagues made, fueled me to do better that made the whole experience thrilling, nerve-racking, fruitful, and fun,” he added.

Being one of the first student emcees to ever lead the Grade 9 assembly, Ouztien felt mistaken and successful at the same time. “I felt successful too for pulling it off despite the other load of tasks that gave us pressure and specially the expectations the audience made that

really put weights on our shoulders.” He mentioned, he also said that he was wrong for thinking that the whole emcee thing is not going to help him and would just add another task on his end. But even if it really did add another task, it was worth it for him.

Apart from being a student emcee and the class manager of his class, Ouztien says that he is really a determined student but naughty at times. Like every high school student in Claret, he enjoys playing basketball and dancing; he believes that he is neither good nor bad at both hobbies, but he tries his best to be good at it. “I know it’s a long shot but who knows. All I know is that I’m best in everything I do, and that fuels me.” He shared that one of the goals he wants to pursue is to become the valedictorian of his batch.



Ouztien Regaspi

Student Leaders for Academic Year 2020 – 2021

John Agpawa

Each year, a new set of academically excellent and responsible student leaders emerges from Claret School of Quezon City's high school organizations. As the head of organizations, they face not only the struggles of being a student, but also the responsibilities of representing and handling affairs of the organizations with the help of the moderators.



Miguel Lopez
President of Central Board of Students

Miguel Lopez's goal for the Central Board of Students is to hone student leaders who can adapt to situations, form new ideas, and guide other people to become leaders in the future. "As leaders of the student body, it's our duty to overcome any situation while maintaining the name of the organization and the school at all times," he stated. As a member of CBS since grade 7, Lopez said that he was clueless as to how systems and procedures work in the organization, but he was fortunate enough to have great peers and moderators who have guided him in understanding not only the procedure, but the essence of what it meant to be a student leader. Lopez chose to see the pandemic as a new opportunity to seek new platforms and ways in which the organization can still promote the value of service. According to him, the biggest challenge he is going to encounter as the president of CBS is communication, not only with the students, but with his fellow officers as well. Despite being able to communicate with them through virtual means, he said that there will always be a big difference when interacting with others physically because one can never be sure of who would be actively participating or not. As a student leader, Lopez said that he is willing to strive for his organization. Regardless of the pandemic, he chose to stick with his goal: establishing student leaders not only of the present, but also for the future. "I will maintain my mark on the school as a leader of the high school student council and ensure that my fellow officers would become greater leaders themselves."



John Agpawa
Editor-in-Chief of Tanglaw ng Claret

John Agpawa's goal for Tanglaw ng Claret is for every member to live up the organization's motto, "Let the truth be told", not only through the articles and posts of the publication but as individuals as well. "As members of the official publication of Claret School of Quezon City's High School Unit, we should not be taking any sides nor biases; rather, we should be professionals and capture the whole picture and present it to the people," he said. As a member of Tanglaw ng Claret for 2 years, he experienced writing numerous articles, attending a writing workshop to another school, and being the Head of Operations for a literary portfolio before being the Editor-in-Chief. He said that he is grateful to the moderators and other members of the publication for all the experiences he got and he is ready to take on challenges. He stated that the biggest challenge Tanglaw ng Claret would be facing this time of pandemic is having less time to meet each other and collaborating and connecting with other members. "Being able to physically interact with other members is indeed different from communicating with them virtually. Being a part of an organization does not only mean submitting requirements and attending meetings; it also means being able to build a family within the organization, and the pandemic made it harder for us to establish that kind of connection with one another," he added. As a student leader, he said that he sacrifices his personal time in order to meet his goals for Tanglaw ng Claret. "Being a student leader in this time of pandemic is hard

because of all the pressure and uncertainties, therefore I should be able to properly compose myself and manage my time properly as a son, student, and a leader."



Aumel Domingo
Head of Claret Vocal Ensemble

Aumel Domingo's goal for his fellow Claret Vocal Ensemble's members is to create a venue for them to gain new friends and share their talents and skills amidst the pandemic. "I would also like to create activities that are not only educational, but also enjoyable for the members to destress and have fun," he added. According to him, the current restrictions do not allow them to practice and perform live, which is why CVE would like to utilize technology, not only to strengthen the bonds of the members, but also to nurture their talents in singing, and fulfill their goals this academic year. Domingo stated that due to the pandemic, they started using applications and platforms for the first time, such as MS Teams, to hold meetings or practices, and Soundtrap and Bandlab to record and mix their songs. Despite being unfamiliar with this kind of situation, he said that this experience may help them grow and use it as motivation to be resilient. According to him, the problems they are currently facing are mostly technical limitations, such as slow internet connection and limited resources to record their songs. "These problems can greatly affect the quality of our productions since we heavily rely on the speed of the internet to render the tracks well, and we have different kinds of materials to use such as microphones that can help in improving the quality of our voices," he said. He also added that they have different schedules and reduced club hours to hold meetings. As a student leader, Domingo is willing to be always present whenever his fellow members need him

as he tries his best in order to answer their queries and guide them to become not only a better singer, but as a better individual as well. He could do this by sharing his knowledge he acquired during his six years of being a member of Claret Vocal Ensemble. "Since this is my last year in Claret, I will make the most out of this situation and lend my heart and mind to help relate with my members so that we can get through this hard time together."



Daszell Bernal
President of Contest
Training Pool – Science

Daszell Bernal's goal for the Contest Training Pool in Science is to create a platform where all members will be able to enhance their skills in science-related subjects and use online learning as an advantage to thoroughly create and learn in their own pace. As a member of the organization for three years, he said that his experiences in CTP Science is like reading a book, "sometimes, you would be happy, and sometimes you would be sad." He added that his experiences have effectively strengthened his passion for science, and the mere thrill of bringing the name of the school with him in competitions has made him prove himself. He brought back a trophy for Claret School of Quezon City from the World Soil Day 2019. Bernal added that in this time of pandemic, he is looking for a final chapter for his journey in Claret as being part of CTP Science. He is hoping that the pandemic would not stop the fun in learning new information in science-related fields. For him, the biggest challenge that he would be facing as a student leader will be thinking and creating alternative activities in order for other members to learn and enjoy at the same time. "As a student leader, I am able to dedicate time to work. Likewise, I will try my best so that the members of my organization would always feel connected even with the use of online platforms."



Nathane Camacho
President of Contest Training
Pool – Mathematics

Nathane Camacho's goal for the Contest Training Pool in Mathematics is to provide assistance to the moderators and to all of his fellow members. According to him, all of his experiences in the organization can be summarized in one word: fun. "Being a member of CTP Math has been a very fun experience for me as the moderators have found numerous ways to integrate learning advanced and complex math concepts with fun activities like hosting quiz bees and games," he stated. Camacho added that the biggest challenge of being the head of his organization during this time of pandemic is the absence of physical interaction between the members of the organization. He added that since they do everything online, they were heavily dependent in using technology and the internet, which can malfunction from time to time. For him, the current platform they use is perfectly fine, but they could have done more in the organization, and the experience would have been more fun and memorable if physical interaction was possible. He also stated that he is willing to do anything to make their moderators' job easier and to make every member's experience in the organization more fun and smoother as possible. "The current pandemic has been troubling enough for all of us and as a student leader, it is my duty to help other members in any way I can for them to have a wonderful time in our meetings."



Reuven Gison
President of Contest Training
Pool – English

Reuven Gison's goal for the Contest Training Pool in English is to help in enhancing each member's understanding in English. Through his time as a member of the organization, he stated that "being in CTP English is fun and enjoyable" as he gets to relearn and improve creating essays, arguments, speeches, and the like. For him, the biggest challenge of being the president of CTP English in this time of pandemic is the lack of communication between each member, as it cannot be compared to being able to communicate face-to-face. "I am willing to participate in the meetings and events, and use my time wisely in order to focus in the organization."



Arcee Benedicto
Head of Contest Training
Pool in Robotics

Arcee Benedicto's goal for the Contest Training Pool in Robotics is to use his knowledge as a STEM student to program robots and create robots in the virtual space, then utilize the said robots in competitions to promote Claret School of Quezon City. According to him, the transition from physically building robots to virtually building them has been very hard. However, their motivation and hard work paid off when six of them won the Philippine Robotics Olympiad in October 2020. Being the head of the organization, he has managed to continue the legacy of the team by winning the contest. Despite getting to the top 30 out of 50 other competitors from other countries in an international competition in November 2020, he said that the team had fun through the hardships they faced and the frustrations they had along the way. "Overall, our organization may have some hiccups at the start, but we try to be the best among the rest while keeping in mind the virtues that Saint Anthony Mary Claret taught us." For him, the biggest challenge he has faced as the head of his organization in this time of pandemic was the way he helped his fellow members in terms of building and programming. He stated that during face-to-face classes, he can personally edit and teach other members what variables or formulas they need to use in programming and how it works. However, due to the pandemic, he needs the members to send him their files in order for him to see

the problem. It is difficult to point out mistakes, especially when they are time pressured. For him, it is a hard task being the head of the organization, especially in this time of pandemic; however, the important thing for him is to have fun while doing it. "What I am willing to do for my organization is to manage my time wisely where I am able to help and support my fellow members while maintaining good grades."

MISSIONARIES GOING FORTH: Claretian Missionaries in the Philippine Province Celebrate 75 Years of Missionary Presence in the Philippines

Ms. Agnes Galapon



Source: <https://www.facebook.com/cmfpil75/photos/436052290585218>

Founded by St. Anthony Mary Claret in Vic, Spain, the Congregation of Missionaries, Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (Cordis Mariae Filius), popularly known as Claretian Missionaries, expanded in all the continents years after its foundation in 1849. In the Philippines, the first group of Claretians arrived on December 26, 1946. Composed of three missionaries—Fr. Raymond Catalan, CMF, Fr. Arcadio Hortelano Martin, CMF, and Fr. Thomas Mitchell, CMF—the first Claretian Mission started in Sta. Barbara Parish, Pangasinan.

This year, 2021, the Claretian Missionaries, Philippine Province (CMFPh) is celebrating its 75th Anniversary. Throughout the years, this community of missionary priests and brothers has remained true to its fundamental role of spreading the Good News of Salvation using all possible means and responding to what is most urgent, timely and effective.

Seventy-five years in the mission, the CMFPh has been immersed in the following advocacies:

- Quality and wholistic education for mission
- Urban and rural missions for Peace and Integrity of Creation
- Mainstreaming empowered Indigenous Peoples
- Innovative Communications of God's Word
- Vocation Promotion and Lay Collaboration for Mission
- Formation of Missionaries
- Human Resource and Infrastructure Development and
- Psycho-Spiritual Development.

With the many restrictions brought about by the pandemic, the initial plans of celebrating the 75th Jubilee had to be adjusted. Creating an online platform, the Facebook page, Be a Claretian Missionary, the Claretian Missionaries tried to reach a wider audience as possible through the 8:15 Habit. Different programs were introduced for the people to know more about the Congregation and its missions. The 8:15 Habit online programs include: Going Forth: The 75 Years Story, LOL (Lessons of Life), Ganito Yun, Salitahanan, Leaf of Faith, Faith and Reason, The VOV (Voices of Vocation) and Tatak Claretiano.

Some other significant activities were still lined up for this celebration despite the limitations. On January 9, 2021, the Launching of the 75th Anniversary Theme Song "Missionaries Going Forth" was held during the Tatak Claretiano Program. The following day, January 10, was the launching of the 75 75-second videos about the History of Claretians in the Philippines. The online platform used was the 75th Anniversary Facebook page 75 Years of Claretian Presence in the Philippines (1946-2021). The monthly Novena to St. Anthony Mary Claret sponsored by different communities, KILOMETRO O, was started last January 23; this will conclude on the Feast Day of St. Anthony Mary Claret. The song writing contest dubbed "SALIW CLARETIANO II", was also held which concluded with the Presentation and Awards Night on February 8, 2021.

A list of calendared activities for the whole year to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the CMF in the Philippines will culminate on November 20, 2021.

As the Claretian Missionaries continue to journey in their mission in the Philippine Province, 75 years and beyond, their lay partners and collaborators also celebrate with them during this momentous occasion.

Apart from this, the Philippines also celebrates 500 years of Christianity in the country. The theme for the celebration is "Gifted to Give" which is taken from the Gospel of Matthew. Pope Francis spoke about this on Easter Sunday through a video message. The Pope said that Filipinos should continue to share their faith and to remain witnesses to God's love. Meanwhile, various activities and projects have been done to celebrate this momentous occasion. Some activities included the Philippine Postal Corp. releasing commemorative stamps, and the UST Ecclesiastical Faculty publishing journals about the history and establishment of centers of evangelization.

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