Chapter Fifteen

Serving the Servants of the Poor

The history of the Vincentians in the Philippines will not be complete without a chapter on their ministry of the Daughters of Charity, the "servants of the poor." The founding document of the Congregation of the Mission in the Philippines — the Royal Order of Queen Isabel II of Spain, dated October 18, 1852 — declared explicitly that the Vincentians were to be established in the country, not only to teach and administer the Conciliar Seminaries, but also to provide spiritual direction to the Daughters of Charity. In November 1847, the Provincial of the Vincentian Fathers and Director of the Daughters of Charity in Spain, assured the Ministers of Justice and of Foreign Affairs that the Sisters were ready to go to the Philippines to serve the poor and the sick. However, it was stipulated that the Sisters should be accompanied by their Spiritual Directors, the Vincentian Fathers. This would explain the terms of Queen Isabel's Royal Cedula.

During more than a hundred years, one of the most important ministries of the Vincentians has been to serve the Daughters of Charity and the poor people attended by them in schools, asylums and hospitals. The Vincentians were ex officio their confessors, chaplains, or retreat masters. In all their works in the vineyard of the Lord, in the Philippines, the Vincentian Fathers and the Daughters of Charity have collaborated very closely. Unlike other congregations and orders of religious Sisters, the Daughters of Charity counted always on the services of the Vincentian Fathers, not only by virtue of family relationship, but even by force of their respective Constitutions. It was the expressed will of their common Founder, St. Vincent de Paul, who from the very foundation of the Daughters of Charity assigned their spiritual direction to the Congregation of the Mission. In turn, the Vincentian Fathers in many ways have been helped and assisted in their apostolic works by the Daughters of Charity whenever they were called upon to cooperate with each other.

In this chapter, a bird's-eye view will be given the various fields of apostolate undertaken by the Daughters of Charity in the course of one hundred years spent in the service of the poor here in the Philippines.
Another book — one longer than this — would be needed to survey in detail all the missions sent from Spain, and all the native vocations obtained from the Philippines, as well as the manifold apostolates, and the different houses established within the span of one century. We hope that some day they themselves would undertake such work.

The pioneer Sisters, together with two Vincentian Fathers and two Brothers-Coadjutor, embarked on the Spanish frigate “Concepcion” on April 5, 1862, and reach Manila on July 22 of the same year. Fifteen Sisters headed by Sr. Tiburcia Ayanz were welcomed by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities and the principals of the city. A triumphal arch at the harbor bore the words, “A las Hijas de la Caridad”. At the pro-cathedral Chapel of the Santa Isabel College, the City Government and the Cathedral Chapter greeted them, and a solemn Te Deum was sung.

The Hospital Militar of Manila

The important newspaper of those days, El Católico Filipino in its issue of August 23, 1862, reported: “The other day (August 21), the Daughters of Charity transferred to the Hospital Militar where good quarters were prepared for them. The suffering poor who go to that Hospital are lucky. From this day onwards, the assistance they receive will be of the most ardent Christian charity, supported by a zealous understanding and a forward-looking administration.” The Hospital Militar, originally located close to the Convent of Santa Clara (Poor Clares) overlooking the Pasig River, was a two-storey house, in a health-giving environment close to the sea. Shortly before the arrival of the Sisters, improvements in the rooms and facilities of the hospital were made.

The earthquake of 1863 forced the Sisters to transfer their patients to improvised shelters in La Luneta and Arroceros, with some patients accommodated in the Convent of San Agustin. Three years later, a new Hospital Militar was built on Arroceros Street, and in 1867 was again in operation. Unfortunately, the new hospital was reduced to ruins only after two years by a violent typhoon. A stronger hospital was built in the same place six years later. On June 18, 1880 a strong earthquake shook Manila and destroyed the new hospital. It was then that the Government constructed a one-storey hospital in the same place, and this remained standing during the American regime. In that hospital, 20 Sisters attended some 300 patients. Sor Casimira served as Superior many times. The hospital had two Chaplains, one Spanish and another Filipino.
This was the second house of the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines. As early as 1859 the Municipal School for boys was already in existence. The Government wanted a similar school for girls, one was opened under the Daughters of Charity in 1864 at one end of Arzobis­pado Street. The earthquake of 1880 forced the Sisters to abandon the place, transferring to a lot close to Santa Isabel College in the Walled City. In 1883 it was again transferred to another building in Cabildo Street, and finally in 1892 a new and large building was constructed on Victoria Street. The new building was capable of housing 400 students. During the 36 years that the school was administered by the Daughters of Charity, more than 8,000 girls were educated in its halls, many of them becoming teachers.

After the Americans took over, they wanted the Daughters of Charity to continue administering the school on the condition that there was to be no teaching of religion. The Sisters refused to accept the condition, the teaching of religion being their principal mission. They gave up the school in 1899.

Two very important colleges with the same name have been run by the Daughters of Charity for more than a century, one in Manila and another in Naga City. The Santa Isabel of Manila traces its three­hundred year history back to the Hermandad de la Santa Misericordia. Besides helping the sick in San Juan de Dios Hospital (formerly Hospit­al de la Misericordia), this pious Confraternity founded in 1594 in Manila, also undertook the support of orphaned daughters of Spanish soldiers in the Colegio de Santa Potenciana.

The Colegio de Santa Isabel was founded on October 4, 1632, to educate the orphans of Spanish officers but later on, other girls from destitute families were also admitted. In 1866 the Colegio de Santa Potenciana and the Colegio de Santa Isabel were merged under the name of Santa Isabel. The Daughters of Charity should have taken charge of this College upon their arrival since Royal Cédula of Queen Isabel II in 1852 explicitly mentioned such as one of the purposes for their coming over to the Philippines. But it was not until September 18, 1864, when Sr. Tiburcia Ayanz and four other Sisters took over the administration of the school. However, the Sisters remained under the Board of Trustees consisting of Manila’s royal officials. The Governor General was President of the Board, and the Father Prior of the Augustinians was Vice-President. Another priest handled the regula­
tions of the school while the Sisters supervised all the courses.

Having seen the need for better education for girls, Governor Moriones in 1879 ordered paying students to be admitted. When the Royal Decree of 1864 laid down the plan of studies for elementary instruction, Santa Isabel, immediately put it into effect. Later Santa Isabel was to become a “Superior Normal College” offering a four-year course leading to the title of “Maestra Superior”. Santa Isabel rose in popularity and was considered to be on the same level as other colleges in Europe, having more students than any other women’s college in Europe or America.

Hospicio de San Jose

This is the oldest social welfare institution in the Philippines. It was founded by donations coming from Don Francisco Gomez Enriquez, and his wife Doña Barbara Verzosa in 1782. It has stood on three different sites. Originally set up in 1785 in Pandacan, it was transferred to Meisic, Binondo. Later it moved to San Miguel, near the Isla de la Convalecencia which belonged to San Juan de Dios Hospital. In subsequent years, the Brothers or the Board of San Juan de Dios ceded various parcels of the island in the Pasig River to the Hospicio (1835, 1840, 1877, 1895). The Daughters of Charity took over the administration of the asylum for the aged, the insane or feebleminded, and orphan children, on June 1, 1865. At that time, Hospicio was still located at the downgrade of Ayala Bridge in San Miguel in front of the Isla de la Convalecencia. When the buildings of the Hospicio were damaged badly by the earthquake of 1863, the Administrative Board began construction of a permanent building in the Isla de la Convalecencia and it was finished in 1873.

Dignity of labor was instilled in the inmates, St. Joseph being the patron saint of the institution. The Sisters engaged the men in hat-weaving and “bayong”-making, while the women were taught the fine arts of embroidery in the “obrador” (workroom). Shoemaking, tailoring, woodworking, cloth weaving, blacksmith, etc., were also part of training in the Hospicio, so that everybody mentally and physically capable were given an opportunity to earn a livelihood.

Back in 1835 the idea of putting up a home for the abandoned children (“niños expósitos”) was introduced by a Board member, Don Pascual Cia. Unfortunately exact dates are not available when the foundlings were first admitted or when the famous revolving cradle at the entrance of the institution was installed. The Home for foundlings was established by the year 1904, through the initiative of Manila Archbishop Harty. Two years later, in 1906, a Correctional or Boy’s
Training School for young delinquents between 10 to 15 years of age was inaugurated with help from the Municipal Government. The idea came from the same Archbishop and at once won the support of the Government. When the number of boys increased to more than 200 by the year 1910, the Archbishop bought a lot with a big house some 20 kilometers from Manila, and the Correctional was set up in the new site. The American Government in the Philippines looked with favor on the great social welfare work of the Hospicio, and provided economic support not only for the delinquent boys but also for more than half of the poor people sheltered in the asylum.

By 1912, there were around 800 persons in the Hospicio: 150 girls, 75 boys, 60 old men and women, 25 abandoned babies; 300 insane of both sexes, and 250 juvenile delinquents. By 1917 the Hospicio was taking care of 750 persons. The American Government withdrew the juvenile delinquents, leaving the Hospicio with around 424 poor inmates. The figures remained constant for the most part of the American regime, and even during the post-war period. In 1975-1976 there were 532 inmates in the Hospicio.

The most active and flourishing Catholic Action organization, the Legion of Mary, established in the Philippines by Fr. Manuel Antonio Gracia, C.M. formed its first Unit in the Hospicio de San Jose in 1940. Twenty years later, the Legion of Mary had 51,400 active members and 169,000 auxiliary members spread all over the Philippines.

Colegio de Santa Rosa

The origins of the college dates back to the arrival in Manila of the pious lady known as Madre Paula de la Sma. Trinidad, a Tertiary of the Order of St. Dominic, in 1750. She gathered a group of poor girls in a rented house, instructing them in religion and in virtue. In time some of the girls along with other ladies of Manila, joined Madre Paula in her holy apostolate of Christian education, and the house came to be known as the “Beaterio de Santa Rosa” in honor of the famous Dominican Tertiary of Peru, St. Rose of Lima, first virginal flower of South America.

The girls trained by Mother Paula were authentic Christians in the practice of virtue. Our Lord designed to show how well pleased He was with this school by a miracle wrought during the forty hours of looting and sacking by the occupying British forces of General Draper in October 1762. The serious historian Fr. Joaquin Fonseca, O.P., in his Historia de los PP. Dominicos en las Islas Filipinas, Japon, China y Formosa (vol. 4, bk. 9, ch. VIII, p. 631) narrates: “Many of the girls who looked for shelter in the Beaterio de Sta. Rosa were in imminent danger of being raped by the soldiery. But Mother Paula in a letter
assured the Fr. General of the Order, that none of the boarding girls and colegialas was violated. When a soldier raised his sword to kill one who courageously resisted, the sword was suddenly twisted and contracted into sinuous curves, as it were, by an invisible hand, rendering it useless to hurt the girl. The soldier, frightened by the strange event, threw the sword down and ran away.” Fr. Fonseca himself had seen the twisted sword which was preserved in the Beaterio de Santa Rosa as a “trophy” from the Almighty, as a reminder of the victory of virginity over the bestiality of the enemy. Another serious historian, D. Jose Montero y Vidal (Historia General de Filipinas, vol. 11, ch. 1, p. 32) narrates the same wonderful event. Fr. Jesus Cavanna, C.M., himself saw this miraculously twisted sword in the Colegio de Sta. Rosa, in Intramuros.

When Mother Paula died in the peace of the Lord, she left the establishment under the administration of a Board of Directors, under the Patronage of the King of Spain and the supervision of the Archbishop of Manila. The school was run by a pious lady, acting as Superior of two or three others who taught the three R's to the girls, and most especially the exercises of piety and manual labor.

On January 19, 1866, the last Superior of the institution died in the peace of the Lord. On the same day, the President of the Board of Directors, Don Emilio Trivino, Regent of the Real Audiencia of Manila, asked the Superiors of the Congregation to send some Daughters of the Charity to take over the administration of the Beaterio de Sta. Rosa. In the afternoon of that same day, three Sisters came, to the great satisfaction of the Board and of the girls in the school, according to the testimony of one of the former pious ladies in charge of the school, Doña Maria Duay.

The earthquake of 1880 destroyed the Colegio de Sta. Rosa located then at the end of Solana Street, in front of the convent of Santo Domingo and in the angle of Plaza Benavides, in front of the old University of Santo Tomas. A new building was at once built under the supervision of Sr. Josefa Nuñez who may well be considered as the second founder of the institution.

When the Sisters took over the Beaterio, they decided to transform it into a College, without abandoning, however, the original aims of the foundation. From 1870 to 1880 there were around 100-150 girls. After the new building was finished, the number increased to 200-250 and even 300, and not all of them were paying students. There were some 30-40 poor or orphan girls that were admitted free of charge. During its 70 years of existence, the Santa Rosa College gave education to some 8,672 girls from all over the islands, and about 1,120 have been free students.
The Japanese attack of Manila on December 27, 1941, brought a total destruction to the College in Intramuros. In June 1946, the Sisters bought the former Ciro's Club at 142 Sosiego Street, Santa Mesa, for the College. In October, the Board of Directors proposed the return of the school to Intramuros but on terms that the Sisters could not accept. The name of “Santa Rosa” was taken away from the College, and from that time on the College of the Sisters was to be known as “Immaculate Heart of Mary College.”

Colegio de Santa Isabel, Naga City

Bishop Francisco Gainza, O.P. of Nueva Caceres, a very good friend of the Vincentian Fathers and the Daughters of Charity, had dreamed of founding a Normal School in Naga. He used the Cathedral Convent for the School. Six Daughters of Charity arrived in Naga on April 10, 1868, and on April 12 the school was inaugurated. On July 19, after the celebration of the feast of St. Vincent, the cornerstone was solemnly placed for the new building for the College. Four years later, on September 18, 1872, the new College was inaugurated as a Normal School with the right of conferring titles on prospective teachers. However, the official title of Normal School for Teachers was obtained by Santa Isabel College of Naga only in 1875. The school offered a 3-year normal course. The first eleven graduate teachers received their title in 1877. The first 38 students came from the five provinces of the Diocese of Caceres: Camarines Norte, Sorsogon, Tayabas, Albay, and Camarines Sur. Every town in the diocese was required to send some students paid for by the municipality.

The average yearly enrolment was around 50-70 students. From 1875 to 1898, 350 teachers graduated from this Normal School. Santa Isabel of Naga also maintained a private College for girls similar to those in Manila, with about 120-150 boarding students and 80-100 externs every year. Boarding students paid P2, and some of them, none at all. There was also a Municipal School (Elementary grades) for poor girls supported by the government of Naga City, with an enrolment of 100, and sometimes 150 or 170. During the first 41 years, graduates of the College of Naga numbered around 4,000, and the Municipal School graduated more than 1,500 girls.

Under the American regime, the Primary course was recognized by the Bureau of Education on January 15, 1913; the Intermediate, on March 30, 1916; the Secondary General Course on February 12, 1924. The High School Home Economics Course was recognized on April 2, 1932; the Kindergarten on May 16, 1937, the Normal School, in 1940;
and the Music Teacher's Course in Pianoforte, in 1939. By 1961-1962 the total enrolment of Santa Isabel of Naga was 3,199, of whom 460 received their education for free.

The Concordia College

The founder of Concordia College was the pious lady Doña Margarita Roxas de Ayala. She was the most prominent among the Manila citizens who prepared the enthusiastic welcome for the Daughters of Charity on July 22, 1862. From that day this good lady did not cease to shower all kinds of favors on “her dear Sisters,” as she called them. This charitable lady owned a beautiful country villa in Santa Ana, near Manila, on a lot of some three and a half hectares called “La Concordia”. She invited the Sisters to establish on the site a College for orphan girls and paying boarding students, as well as a free primary school for poor girls.

Quietly but with great joy the citizenry greeted the opening of the new school on May 3, 1868. It was the first school owned by the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines, since the others were only administered by them under the direction of a Board of Directors or of a Diocese. The school started with 60 girls, more than the villa could accommodate. New constructions were undertaken with help from Doña Margarita Roxas de Ayala, and in 1870, the College was solemnly inaugurated under the title of Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción. The ceremonies were presided over by the Archbishop of Manila, Most Rev. Gregorio Melitón Martín, the Captain General of the Philippines, the Civil Governor and the mayor of the city of Manila.

This House of La Concordia was to become the Central House of the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines and the official residence of the provincial Vice-Visitatrix. In the years 1878-1883, construction of the building continued, and on May 30, 1883, the College was solemnly inaugurated. Students during the years of the Spanish regime numbered between 200 and 300 per year, of whom 30 or 40 received free education, in accordance with the general practice of the Daughters of Charity to grant in their schools free matriculation to 10% the total number of paying students. The College also supported a primary school for the poor girls of the neighborhood, offering, not only free instruction but also free daily meals to some 50 to 70 indigent girls, who in later years numbered 120. In 1894, La Concordia became a Normal School conferring degrees of “Maestra” to 250 graduates.

La Concordia gained added fame when it figured in the life of Dr. Jose Rizal. Rizal was a frequent visitor in the College, for two of his
sisters, Saturnina and Olympia, were boarding students. Also, a student in the College was a girl who became the first love of the young Rizal, Segunda Katigbak.

During the American regime, the Concordia College adapted itself to the new circumstances by including English in its course of studies but not at the expense of the Spanish. The Bureau of Education was so satisfied with the curriculum of La Concordia that it authorized the school to confer the same titles other Primary and Intermediate public schools were giving. La Concordia was also authorized to grant the title of Bachelor of Arts. From 1868 to 1912, La Concordia educated 9,233 boarding students, 1,392 students free of any charge, and 1,896 externs.

_Hospital de San Juan de Dios, Manila_¹⁰

This hospital, one of the oldest in the Orient, was founded by the Franciscan lay Brother Fray Juan Clemente who arrived with the first Franciscans in the Philippines on June 24, 1578. This humble Brother strove to study the medicinal value of our tropical plants to be able to help sick poor people who wandered in the streets or were dying in their shacks. Soon, his expertise in the art of healing spread far and wide. Many patients were brought to the “porteria” (entrance hall) of the Franciscan convent in Intramuros. In the same year 1578, the good Brother decided to build a shelter for poor patients who crowded the visitors’ parlor. With alms from Manila citizens and labor of some convalescent patients, he levelled a nearby marshy ground and put up a bamboo-and-nipa house with two wards of 300 square meters each. On this site, the famous San Juan de Dios Hospital stood for three and a half centuries. When it began, the hospital housed about 200 patients.

In 1581 a fire razed the building, but soon after another was built in its place. In 1590, a certain secular priest, Fr. Juan Fernández de León came to the Philippines. Falling seriously ill, he became a patient in San Juan de Dios. He was cured, but became an invalid. Fr. Fernández decided to build a sturdier and longer-lasting structure for the hospital. He went around soliciting alms, and he was able to raise a new building in 1593. In those times, the Franciscan hospital founded by Brother Juan Clemente was called the “Hospital de Naturales” (Hospital for natives) to distinguish it from the Hospital Real in Manila for Spanish soldiers. The Hospital de Naturales was also called the “Hospitalito de Santa Ana”.

In 1594, Fr. Juan Fernández de León established in Manila the charitable association _La Santa Hermandad de la Misericordia_ to help and support, among other works, the Hospital de Naturales. Four years later, after 20 years of service in the Hospital de Naturales, Brother Juan
Clemente died happy to see his works bear fruit under the patronage of the said “Confraternity of Mercy.”

In 1603 another fire consumed the third hospital built by Fr. Fernández. The Franciscans then decided to build a hospital exclusively for lepers outside the Walled City. They gave the lot of the burned Hospital for Natives to the Confraternity of La Misericordia. This time, the third hospital built in the original site of the Hospital for Natives, was called the Hospital de La Misericordia. Another earthquake pulled down the hospital in 1655. The Confraternity, unable to continue its support, handed over the hospital to the Brothers of the Order of San Juan de Dios. In the course of time, people began to call the former Hospital de la Misericordia, Hospital de San Juan de Dios.

After the earthquake of 1863 destroyed the hospital and its beautiful stone church, Brothers of San Juan de Dios ran into difficulties. Due to unsatisfactory administration of the hospital, they were compelled to turn it over to the Archbishop of Manila who appointed a Board of Administrators for the Hospital. The Board decided in 1868 to entrust the establishment to the Daughters of Charity recently arrived to the Philippines, precisely to take over this and other hospitals.

A Decree by the Governor General dated April 14, 1868, ordered that the Hospital be administered by the Sisters. The Sisters, however did not take possession of the hospital until the beginning of 1869. As the Hospital was in financial trouble, Da. Margarita Roxas took care of supporting the Sisters. At the turn of the century, the turbulent times and lack of funds made the Administrative Board consider closing the Hospital, at least temporarily. But the Vincentian Provincial Fr. Oriols, C.M., as Director of the Daughters of Charity, told the Board that the Sisters were ready to continue their service at the Hospital without remuneration, and that the Congregation was willing to defray the cost of maintaining ten beds. In view of this offer, the Board decided not to close the Hospital in spite of the sacrifices it would entail. A call for help was made to the public, and in one day members of the Board collected P7,000, and thus the Hospital survived.

During the Spanish period, the Hospital was dedicated mostly to the care of indigent patients, although some rooms were reserved for paying patients. With the advent of the American regime, the hospital began to admit paying patients. To meet the new demands and to keep abreast with the times, the Board of Inspectors and the Executive Board under Dr. Benito Valdez passed a resolution in 1913 to open a School of Nursing under the management of the Hospital Board. In 1922, Sor Taciana Trináñez, D.C., was appointed Principal and Directress of the San Juan de Dios College of Nursing, and in the succeeding years, the college was to gain reputation as the best training school for nurses. The
appointment of the famous surgeon Dr. Gregorio Singian in 1919 as Hospital Director added renown to the institution.

During the war of liberation, the Hospital in Intramuros was destroyed. A new building constructed in Pasay (Roxas Boulevard) was inaugurated on December 12, 1952. Like the legendary phoenix bird rising in youthful freshness from its own ashes, San Juan de Dios Hospital has survived earthquakes, fires, storms and war, more vigorous than ever in rendering charitable service.

San Jose College, Jaro, Iloilo

The Vincentians arrived in Jaro in 1869. Two years later, Bishop Fray Mariano Cuarterno, O.P., began the construction of the new Diocesan Seminary. On July 9, 1871, the Seminary Rector, Fr. Ildefonso Moral, C.M., signed a contract with Don Jose Olmo and Don Ricardo Mascunana, neighbors in Iloilo City, for the establishment of a school of girls in Jaro to be run by the Daughters of Charity. The first group of Sisters arrived on May 1, 1872, to take care of a school in a residential house which was to become the oldest girls’ school in Western Visayas.

After five years, the Sisters had to close the school due to lack of funds and other difficulties. Bishop Cuartero did not let the Sisters leave his Diocese, and instead asked them to administer the Escuela Municipal of Jaro. He rented a house at the corner of Santa Isabel and Lopez streets, then built a one-story schoolhouse for 200 pupils. At the beginning all were externs, but beginning 1881, boarding students began to be admitted. The sisters undertook the expansion of the building by adding a dormitory and a Chapel. These were blessed in 1884 by the new Bishop of Jaro, Most Rev. Leandro Arrue, O.R.S.A., the day following the installation.

Meanwhile Fr. Domingo Viera, C.M., and Sr. Juana Goitia, D.C. began to plan the construction of another school building owned by the Daughters of Charity. On March 10, 1896, feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the College, the new College was inaugurated. The yearly enrollment was 100-150 interns and around 60 half-interns and externs, among them a certain number of free students. In 1926, the school was granted permission to issue High School diplomas. After World War II, Government recognition was given, first to General Secondary courses on February 26, 1946; then, to the course for Bachelor of Science in Education, on July 1, 1947; to the two-year Commerce course, in July 1948 and to the Bachelor of Science in Home Economics and Bachelor of Arts on July 1, 1948. From 1945 to 1974, 1,300 High School graduates and 2,207 College graduates were turned out by San Jose.
THE OLD HOSPITAL DE SAN JOSE founded by Fr. De La Canal in Cebú in 1879 under the management of the "Hermanitas de la Madre de Dios" founded also by him, and united or fused with the Daughters of Charity in 1895.

The ASILO DE SAN VICENTE DE PAUL planned by Fr. De La Canal and established by Fr. Juliá in 1890 for poor orphan girls of the victims from the cholera epidemic of 1882, and other indigent girls. The Daughters of Charity directed it since 1896.
The Escuela de San Vicente de Paul (Municipal Primary School) opened by the Hermanitas de la Madre de Dios on May 31, 1880 in Cebu City, and annexed to the Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion founded on that same date.
SANTA ROSA COLLEGE in Calle Solana corner Plaza Benavides, in front of the old University of Santo Tomas and Santo Domingo Church in Intramuros before the war (1941).
Chapel of SANTA ROSA COLLEGE, in Intramuros Manila, before the war of 1941
CHAPEL OF LA CONCORDIA COLLEGE (Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepcion) founded by Doña Margarita Roxas de Ayala on May 3, 1868 under the Daughters of Charity, in Paco, Manila.
HOSPICIO DE SAN JOSE at the *Isla de la Convalecencia* in the Pasig river, at the downgrade of Ayala bridge: the oldest social welfare institution in the Philippines, founded in 1782 by donations of the pious couple Don Francisco Gómez Enriquez and Doña Bárbara Verzosa. The Daughters of Charity took over its administration as an asylum for the aged, the insane or feeble-minded, and orphan children on June 1, 1865. A Home for foundlings with the famous revolving cradle at the entrance, was established in 1904.
FRONT VIEW OF THE OLD COLEGIO DE SANTA ISABEL OF MANILA, IN INTRAMUROS (WALLED CITY). It was founded in 1634, and entrusted to the Daughters of Charity in 1864.
Front view of the old Colegio de Santa Rosa in Solana Street, Intramuros besides the Santo Domingo Convent and Church, and the University of Sto. Tomas
HIS EMINENCE FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN CELEBRATED MASS AND DISTRIBUTED COMMUNION AT THE CHAPEL OF HOSPICIO DE SAN JOSE, MANILA ON MAY 31, 1948.
POOR GIRLS EDUCATED IN THE OLD COLEGIO DE SANTA ISABEL, OF MANILA
LUNCH FOR THE POOR ON ST. VINCENT'S FEAST, July 19, 1934, offered by the Vincentian double Family at Sta. Isabel College, Naga City.
ASILO-COLEGIO DE SAN VICENTE DE PAUL, LOOBAN, founded by Sor Asunción Ventura, D.C. on July 26, 1885 on a lot at Isaac Peral and Looban streets, in Paco, Manila. Inner court (Patio interior).
THE OLD HOSPITAL DE SAN JUAN DE DIOS entrusted to the Daughters of Charity by the Governor General's Decree of April 14, 1868. It was destroyed by the war of 1945.
SAGRADO CORAZON DE JESUS, Iloilo City opened by the Daughters of Charity on September 14, 1917
Doña MARGARITA ROXAS DE AYALA
President of the Ladies branch of the “Conferencias” (Society of St. Vincent de Paul), foundress of the COLEGIO DE LA CONCORDIA, Manila

Sor JOSEFA NUÑEZ, H.d.C.
(1839-1901)
Colegio de Santa Rosa, Manila

Sor FRANCISCA SALES MONTOYA,
H.d.C. (1823-1885)
Colegio de Santa Isabel, Naga
Sor JOSEFA MARIA RIVAS, H.d.C. (1833-1907)
Hospicio de San José

Sor GASPARA MELCHOR, H.d.C. (1834-1912)
Colegio de Santa Isabel, Manila

Sor CASIMIRA MARQUINEZ, H.d.C. (1830-1915)
Hospital Militar of Manila Colegio de Sta. Isabel, Manila
His Holiness Pope JOHN XXIII (1958-1963) who on February 10, 1960 proclaimed and declared in perpetuity, St. LOUISE DE MARILLAC, widow, heavenly Patroness before God of all Christian social workers, with all the honors and liturgical privileges corresponding to patrons of associations.
In the beginning there was only one Army Hospital, the Hospital Real in Manila, which was taken over by the Daughters of Charity barely a month after their arrival in the Philippines. But this Hospital was getting overcrowded, and the Naval authorities decided to put a Hospital in Cavite. Work began towards the end of 1875, and the Daughters of Charity were asked to administer it. The Sisters took over the hospital in July 1876.

Normally, the Hospital would accommodate 200 patients, but in times of pestilence, and especially of war, the number of patients reached 400. It had been under the Sisters for 22 years when the Spanish regime ended.

On May 1, 1898, the Battle of Manila Bay between the fleet of Commodore Dewey and Admiral Montojo brought many wounded soldiers to the Hospital. The Sisters were sent by the Spanish authorities to ask the American Admiral who came to Cavite to allow the patients to be transferred to Manila. The Admiral granted the request and the Sisters with their patients were transferred to La Concordia College. Later, they were to move to the Augustinian Convent of Guadalupe (Makati), some 4 kilometers from Manila. To avoid the dangers posed by the outbreak of the revolution, they were transferred to Santa Isabel College in the Walled City until August 13 when Spanish sovereignty came to an end in the Philippines.

The Brothers of the Hospitaller Order of San Juan de Dios established this Hospital in Cavite in the beginning of the 16th century. The Chapel of this Hospital was built in 1628. The Hospital was supported by death-bed donations from charitable rich persons. Early in the 19th century, defective administration of resources brought the Hospital to a very critical situation. The earthquake of 1863 badly damaged the Hospital. Only one Brother, a native of Cavite, remained in it to take care of the sick. When earthquake of 1880 left the Hospital in ruins, the Government was ready to demolish it.

Archbishop Payo of Manila asked the Spanish government to leave the establishment under his administration. Having made the necessary repairs which ate up P10,000, Archbishop Payo called on the Daughters of Charity to take charge of the Hospital, and the Sisters took possession in 1885.

As the patients were few, the Superiors thought it convenient that the Sisters should open a School annexed to the Hospital so as to render
some service to the girls of the town. This plan, approved by the Administrative Board, was presented to the ecclesiastical authority and to Governor General Weyler, who also approved it. On June 2, 1890, the School under the Patronage of the Holy Family was solemnly inaugurated. But the generous citizens of Cavite were not satisfied with a simple school. They wished to have a College like those directed by the Sisters in Manila. And so the modest elementary school soon became the College of the Holy Family in Cavite. Even a Normal School was included, and a good number of girls came forth from that College with the title of "Maestras."

During the eight years of its existence there was an average of 100 to 150 extern students, plus some interns and half-interns according to the capacity of the house. The revolution of 1898 put an end to this beautiful work, and the Sisters were forced to leave Cavite. The people of Cavite missed greatly the educational work of the Sisters. As soon as the first Apostolic Delegate, Chapelle, came to the Philippines, a commission consisting of the principals of the town went to request him for the return of the Sisters and the reopening of their School, there being remaining funds for works of beneficence related to the former Hospital of Cavite. The Apostolic Delegate welcomed their petition, and ordered that in 1902 the School of the Holy Family should be reopened.

The Sisters were in Cavite, until July, 1911, when in obedience to the desire of the Archbishop of Manila they left the town. In Cavite there was at that time another school run by the Augustinian Recollect Sisters of the Beaterio of San Sebastian, who were already supported with funds from the former Hospital administered by the Manila Chancery. It was deemed that one school was enough for the population of Cavite which had been reduced to some 1,000 families when the American arsenal was transferred to Olongapo. During this second period (1902-1911) there was an average of 100 to 150 girls from the families of poor workers in the arsenal. These girls helped greatly the cause of religion and Catholic worship with their assiduous attendance at the Parish church, especially during the months of May for the Flowers of Mary.

The Asilo-Colegio de San Vicente de Paul (Looban) Manila

This establishment was founded by Sor Asuncion Ventura, D.C., a humble Sister from a wealthy family in Bacolor, Pampanga. After her consecration to serve the poor in the Company of the Daughters of Charity, she wanted to give all of her inheritance to the poor. With the
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approval of her Superiors, she bought a large lot on Isaac Peral and Looban streets extending all the way to the Paco Market. The six-hectare property was donated to the Community, and a House for the Christian education of poor girls was built on the site. The House was inaugurated on July 26, 1885, when the octave of the feast of St. Vincent de Paul was celebrated.

Soon the House was filled with 46 girls, of whom 37 were educated in the College, with nine serving as housemaids. In the following years, little by little the building was enlarged to accommodate 150 girls. During the Spanish regime, an average of 50-60 poor girls received free education. In our century the girls gathered in this asylum of virtue and learning at times numbered 100. In later years, some boarders paying a modest fee were received into this Asylum-College. The “obraðor” (embroidery room) of the Asilo de Looban became famous for its exquisite products.

As in other Houses of the Daughters of Charity, there was annexed to the Asilo a Primary school for poor children from the neighbourhood. In the beginning the girls in the school were about 100-150, mostly from families of the barrio named Tanque, close to Looban. When the poor of Tanque became fewer, the school had only 60-80 children.

The American government in the Philippines recognized the beneficence of the Asilo de Looban and granted it some privileges. The Catholic Governor General Smith allotted a subsidy of ₱120 monthly for the Asilo, and his successor Governor Forbes increased it to ₱300. The neighboring Compañía General de Tabacos de Filipinas invited the Sisters of Looban to take charge of a school opened in the factory for the children of its laborers.

On February 10, 1945, the Looban building was razed to the ground during the liberation of Manila. In 1951, a new wing was added to the Asilo and in 1974 a two-storey annex was inaugurated.

The Colegio de la Inmaculada Concepción, Cebú

This College owes its foundation to the famous Fr. Fernando De La Canal, C.M. of the San Carlos Seminary of Cebú. This zealous missionary, founded on September 8, 1878, a diocesan Congregation that was to be known as “Hermanitas de la Madre de Dios” (Little Sisters of the Mother of God) who were to take care of the recently established St. Joseph Hospital and Charity House. The congregation was gladly approved by Bishops Madridejos and Alcócer of Cebú. Later on, Fr. La Canal and the Seminary Rector, Fr. Pedro Juliá, C.M., entrusted to the
Little Sisters their plan of building an Asylum for poor girls and orphans of the province of Cebú. The asylum was opened in 1890 under the patronage of St. Vincent de Paul. To give permanency to the new Congregation, Fr. La Canal wanted its incorporation with the Company of Daughters of Charity, so that the Little Sisters will continue to exist after his death. Fr. La Canal died in Manila on March 31, 1894. The Little Sisters of the Mother of God were finally incorporated with the Daughters of Charity on January 29, 1895. Fifteen years earlier, the Little Sisters started a College and a Public School of Primary Instruction on May 31, 1880, both recognized by the Government. The Public School was completely free for poor girls of the Province. The College was established in honor of the Immaculate Conception, to provide Christian education for young women, especially those who came from poor families. It admitted boarding students and externs.

At the time the Little Sisters were incorporated with the Daughters of Charity, the academic standards of the College of the Immaculate Conception were being eroded by the scarcity of personnel to administer it. Once the Daughters of Charity took over they reorganized the school, enlarged the buildings, and raised academic standards. The number of students was increased from 80 to 100, of whom 15 or 20 received free education.

The Bureau of Education in 1911 recognized all the Elementary and Secondary course. There were then 500 students, of whom 180 were boarders. Later on, a Normal School was opened and turned out the first Teachers for Public Schools in Cebú. The Sisters also opened other centers to fill the needs of the locality: the Asilo-Imprenta de San Jose, the Colegio del Niño Jesus (for boys), the Escuela Católica (a free school), and a dormitory for externs, working girls and aged women. During the Common-wealth period, College courses were opened: the Secretarial Course, the Junior Normal School, and the Music Teacher’s Course.

World War II destroyed the buildings of Immaculada with all the equipment and facilities accumulated through more than half a century of existence. A new site was found for the College on Gorordo Avenue, a 15,000-sq. meter lot easily accessible to all.

Escuela Católica de la Ermita, Manila

This Catholic parochial school was established in 1901 by the zealous Jesuit pastor of La Ermita (a suburb of Manila), Fr. Mariano Suárez, S.J. with the cooperation of the Ladies of the “Conferencia” (Society) of St. Vincent de Paul in Ermita, most especially, Doña Lucia Penabellla de Enríquez, President of the said “Conferencia”. From the
start the Vice-Visitatrix of the Daughters of Charity was asked to send
two Sisters to take charge of the School which was intended mainly for
the poor girls of that district. Every day two sisters from the Asilo of
Looban (Paco) went in the morning to the school in La Ermita, spent
the day and returned to Looban in the afternoon. The school was on the
ground floor of the parish rectory where some 100 to 150 girls, mostly
from poor families, attended classes, the cost of their schooling paid for
by the ladies of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The Capuchin Fathers took over the parish of La Ermita in 1903,
and the first parish priest, the active Fr. Mariano de Olot, O.F.M. Cap.,
decided at once to build a schoolhouse that would also serve as resi­
dence for the Sisters. Before the end of 1904, the house was finished and
four Sisters came to run the school. Increasing expenses for school
maintenance made it necessary to charge the girls who could afford to
pay ₱2 every month. However, those who were really poor continued to
receive free instruction in the school. This change took place in 1906. In
the same year, following the suggestion of the Archbishop of Manila, a
Primary School for boys was opened on the ground floor of the convent,
and a “dormitory” for girls attending public schools was opened in a big
house near the school. The dormitory closed down in 1911.

Colegio de la Milagrosa, Calbayog\textsuperscript{16}

When the Most Reverend Pablo Singson was elected first Bishop of
Calbayog (Samar) on April 12, 1910, and consecrated on June 12 of the
same year, one of his first projects was to establish a College for girls in
Calbayog. After building the diocesan Seminary, he built the Colegio de
la Milagrosa. Since he had two sisters in the Congregation of Daughters
of Charity, he invited the Sisters to take over the College, which they
did on May 21, 1911. In that year, the number of students was 150 girls,
of whom only 12 were boarding students. After several years of fruitful
labor, this school had to be closed because of certain inconveniences.

The Asilo de Santa Luisa de Marillac, Molo. Iloilo\textsuperscript{17}

On September 27, 1912, feast of St. Vincent de Paul, the new
Bishop Dennis Dougherty, of Jaro, Iloilo, manifested to Sr. Faustina
Pallas D.C. his idea of founding an Asylum for orphaned children. He
found a place in Molo to house the Daughters of Charity. The Bishop's
Secretary James MacCloskey promised to pay the ₱60 monthly rental
for the house. Don Ignacio Arroyo and Doña Maria de Arroyo donated
a lot for the Asylum and cash amount of ₱10,000 to begin construction
of the building. The cornerstone was laid on December 20, 1914, and
with alms collected by Bishop Dougherty the construction was completed on December 6, 1915. The Sisters moved in on the feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8, 1915, after living for 3 years in a small house.

By 1934, a new addition was made to the Asilo de Santa Luisa in the form of a Home for the Aged constructed on the other side of the street. This was the dream of Fr. Villazán, C.M.; and Doña Adela Vda. de Mapa and Doña Pilar Javellana. For a start 30 men and 30 women were admitted in the home of the Aged; the numbers were to increase later. From 1913 to 1936 there were 700 inmates, an average of 20-29 yearly. From 1937 to 1976, a total of 6,680 orphans, 1,334 old men, 2,302 old women, 342 by helpers, and 307 female mental patients were admitted.

Colegio del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, Iloilo City

The Daughters of Charity opened a Grade School in Iloilo City on September 14, 1917. At first, they stayed in two houses in downtown Iloilo, but these proved to be too small in no time, and they had to move to the present site of the Colegio del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. In 1920, the High School was opened. In 1941, the Sagrado College was offering Kindergarten, complete Elementary and Secondary Courses, including General, Home Economics and Commercial, as well as the 2-year Special Secondary Commercial Course. The College Department started in 1937.

During the Liberation, Sagrado suffered severe losses but it was not entirely destroyed like other schools. In 1946, Sagrado was offering again all pre-war courses plus A.A., B.S.E., and B.S.H.E., and in 1948, the A.B. and B.S.C. courses were recognized by the Government. The Graduate School was opened almost immediately after Liberation. In 1961 the B.S. Nutrition course was recognized and, in 1968, the course leading to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work. One outstanding graduate of Sagrado was Sr. Filomena Zulueta, D.C., who became the first Filipino Visitatrix of the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines.

Asilo de la Milagrosa, Cebú

In June 1936, a group of Catholic women, members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, decided to open an institution that would help the poor and the aged, and orphaned and abandoned children.

To give it legal existence, the officers and incorporators registered the Asilo as provided by the Corporation Law. The first officers were Doña Carmen Rallo de Sotto, Doña Esperanza P. Vda. de Velez,
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Doña Mena F. de Escañ, Doña Felisa M. de Villamor; and members of the Board were Doña Felicisima N. Vda. de Jerez, Anunciación Vda. de Borromeo, Maria F. Vda de Rallos, Sor Concepción Almenara D.C., and Fr. José García, C.M.

Since the operation and nature of the work required personnel serving the inmates on a 24-hour routine, the Board of Directors agreed to avail of the services of the Daughters of Charity who willingly accepted the task in line with their mission. With their unbounded selfless endeavors, they greatly helped the Asilo grow from a small rented building with a handful of paralytic and blind inmates into a magnificent structure with a beautiful church. The new building was constructed out of donations from individuals in Cebú and Bohol. Manuel Roxas, who was then Secretary of Finance, gave ₱15,000 from the Charity Sweepstakes fund. Don Ramon Aboitiz and brothers handed in ₱30,000. The Velez family and the Escaños gave substantial amounts, followed by the Cuencos, Vaños and many others. The ₱100,000 new building was finished and occupied by the inmates on September 21, 1941.

The invading Japanese Forces converted the place into a garrison, and the wards of the Asylum were housed temporarily in abandoned homes. Ill-clad, malnourished, and sick, but attended by the good Sisters, the wards survived the gloomy and trying years.

Then came Liberation. The Asilo was burned to the ground, but it was among the first to receive aid. The personnel of the PCAU extended help to the inmates: food, clothing, medicines, all freely given. The good-hearted Col. Rattan gave the Asilo bamboo poles and nipa shingles, pledging that the inmates of the asylum will not sleep under the sun and rain, for he was ready to pitch tents for them upon notice.

With the help of Col. Rattan, the Board of Directors started at once the construction of a modest building made mostly of cheap lumber from the U.S. Army. Don Ramon Aboitiz, Doña Esperanza and Doña Mena, and others pooled their resources to make the building possible.

Elementary classes were opened. After the school was recognized by the Government, outside children were admitted. Out of War Damage payments, one annex after another was added. Later, the Sisters were to build a church beside the building.

Beneficencia de la Sagrada Familia and Holy Family Academy,
Bogó, Cebú

Located in Bogo, almost at the tip of Cebu Province, the Beneficencia was founded by Sor Dorotea Rubio, D.C., a native of that area. Sor Dorotea thought of putting up an institution to take care of poor
orphans and give Christian education to young women in her hometown. She convinced her sister Doña Raquel Rubio Vda. de Sanchez to donate a building. In 1936 Archbishop Gabriel Reyes of Cebú blessed the school which bore the name “Escuela de la Sagrada Familia” and offered Primary Grades. In 1937, a terrible storm damaged the school, but soon the House of the Sisters was repaired and an annex was constructed. In the following year, complete Elementary Grades were opened with government recognition. In 1940, the first two years of high school were opened. This time the name was changed to Beneficencia de la Sagrada Familia.

After the Liberation, the House was repaired and classes reopened. For the reopening of the High School, Most Rev. Julio Rosales, then Archbishop of Cebu donated laboratory equipment and books for the library in 1950-1951. The school was named Holy Family Academy, but the orphanage continued to be called Beneficencia de la Sagrada Familia. In 1954 the cornerstone of a new concrete building was laid. By 1962 the enrollment in the Holy Family Academy was 452 students, and the Beneficencia was taking care of 45 poor and orphans.

The Sacred Heart College, Lucena City

The humble founder of the Sacred Heart College was Doña Fausta Labrador, “Hermana Uta”, as she was lovingly called. Born on December 19, 1858, she studied and received solid Catholic training in Santa Rosa College in Manila. At 20, Fausta dreamed of opening a charity school to form the youth according to the ideals of the Catholic faith, to impart into their hearts the seeds of Christian virtues, thus preparing them to be better citizens of our country and, above all, worthy children of God. A certain Don Gregorio Merchán, before returning to Spain, offered his house for that purpose, and a Franciscan missionary, Fray Granja helped her push through with the project. Fausta Labrador, with her sisters Fe and Felisa, occupied the Merchán house and began teaching on April 27, 1884. This was the simple origin of the now famous Sacred Heart College of Lucena City.

During the American regime when English was required in the schools, Hermana Fausta in 1912 started the Primary and Intermediate Grades for both boys and girls. The Primary course was recognized by the Government in 1915, the Intermediate course in 1918, and the First and Second Year High School in 1929. Helping Hermana Fausta run the school were her two sisters and two skillful followers, Marcela and Edeltruda. Prominent persons and professionals of Lucena would later proudly say that they could not have been what they became without the help of these women. The school was then called the Sacred Heart Academy.
In recognition of her projects, Hermana Fausta was honored by Pope Pius XI with Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Medal.

Hermana Fausta was getting old. She decided to leave her school to the Daughters of Charity. The permission to bring a religious community to Lucena had to be sought from Bishop Alfredo Verzosa of Lipa. Many difficulties and bitter contradictions had to be overcome but through the help of Doña Margarita Rodriguez, the permission was granted at last.

Two Daughters of Charity arrived in Lucena on June 25, 1937. After many hardships and trials, the documents and important matters were turned over to the Sisters on August 14 of the same year. In 1939, after remodelling the old building to meet the standard requirements of the Bureau of Education, the school was offering the complete Primary, Intermediate and High School courses. In 1941, the Junior Normal Course (E.T.C.) was offered. With this the status of the school changed from an Academy to Jesus’ Sacred Heart College.

The Founder by this time was all but living in the chapel. On September 14, 1942, the saintly Founder died at the age of 84.

On June 11, 1944, a fire from a nearby moviehouse spread to the school building and levelled it. The Visitatrix Sor Carmen Reta came to Lucena to take away the eleven Sisters of the school. But the families of Dr. Cesar Reyes, Mr. Rosalio Custodio and Atty. Alfredo Bonus, with whom the Sisters had taken shelter, begged the Mother Visitatrix not to take away the Sisters. They would be more than willing to help the Sisters in the latter’s work. After some weeks, Don Agatón Rodriguez offered his house for the Sisters.

From 1944 to 1945, classes were held in the house of Atty. Mario Millar who generously offered the building. The following year, the school was transferred to Club X building. An old house, which was once a hospital belonging to Hermana Fausta, was reconstructed as home for the Sisters. The building was inaugurated on August 15, 1948, as the Hermana Fausta Hall erected through the efforts of the Alumni Association. It was blessed by Bishop Rufino Santos on December 19, 1950.

As enrollment was increasing, a bigger building at Ilaya was planned. The cornerstone of the new building was laid on February 3, 1957, at ceremonies officiated by Bishop Alfredo Obviar, Apostolic Administrator of Lucena. The building was inaugurated on March 15-16, 1958.

The Sacred Heart Alumni Association donated a memorial monument to Hermana Fausta Labrador on December 19, 1960, and her mortal remains now repose in a niche in the monument. A two-storey ten-room annex to the main building was blessed by Bishop Obviar on September 27, 1961.
The Colegio de la Milagrosa, Sorsogon, Sorsogon

The founder of this College was the Bishop of Caceres, Most. Rev. Francisco Reyes. For many years while he was parish priest of Sorsogon, he saw the necessity of establishing a Catholic School for the Christian education of the youth of the province. However he was not able to realize his desire until after he was appointed Bishop of Nueva Caceres, a diocese that included the six provinces of the Bicol region.

He communicated his wish in 1937 to the Sister Visitatrix of the Daughters of Charity, Sor Carmen Reta. At once four Sisters from the Colegio de Santa Isabel in Naga City were sent to open the school in Sorsogon. The new College was dependent from that of Santa Isabel of Naga for two years, from 1937 to 1939.

At first the Sisters moved into an old Spanish house by the sea in a quiet residential section of the town, and made it into a seven-room schoolhouse. During the first year of the school there were 21 pupils in Grade I and II. At the outbreak of the war, the school was offering a complete Elementary course. After the war the school was expanded under the direction of the parish priest, Fr. Francisco Yllana. In 1946, a complete General Secondary Course was opened jointly for boys and girls. Later, two separate high schools were maintained, but in 1975, the High School Department became exclusively for girls.

Fifty students were enrolled in the College Department when it began offering the degrees of E.T.C. and A.A. in 1948. In 1954 enrollment reached 100, and by 1958 it went over 1,000. In 1967 enrollment stood at 1,667.

The White Cross — Quezon Preventorium, San Juan del Monte

Originally known as “Cruz Blanca”, the White Cross is located in the outskirts of San Juan del Monte in the province of Rizal. A group of distinguished ladies, headed by Mrs. Ma. Victoria Lopez de Araneta, as President; Mrs. Mercedes Zobel McMicking, Treasurer, and Mrs. Sole-dad Ramos de Zulueta, Secretary, and members like Mr. Placido Mapa, Mr. Carl Hess, Mr. Benito Daynec, Mr. Teodoro Evangelista, and Mrs. Maribel Kahn de Castelvi, decided to be of help to the children of tubercular patients.

When it started in 1936, only twenty children were accommodated in the institution. On April 19, 1938 the Daughters of Charity were entrusted with the management of “Cruz Blanca” The number of children increased to 60 in the first year. The formal inauguration of the Institution was on September 10, 1938, President Manuel L. Quezon in attendance. The President signed a contract allocating proceeds from horse racing four Sundays a year to the White Cross, Inc. Subsequently,
the Board of Directors added the title “Quezon Preventorium” to the official name, “White Cross”.

Sr. Consuelo Muró, D.C., worked hard to build a concrete building. Archbishop Michael J. O’Doherty of Manila blessed the building on February 14, 1941. A few months later, the establishment was home to 150 children.

During the Japanese occupation, horse-racing was suspended. The Board of Directors had to reduce the number of wards as well as employees. On June 20, 1944, the Japanese Forces occupied the building. The Welfareville institution in Mandaluyong offered a temporary home for the White Cross wards and entire staff. So White Cross moved into the Welfareville. The Board authorized Sr. Consuelo to close the institution in view of the difficult situation. But as a true Daughter of Charity, she would not abandon her poor wards. She used all means to feed the hungry children. To secure foodstuff at lower prices, with two male helpers she would go on foot and, sometimes by carretela early in the morning to Divisoria in Manila, returning to Welfareville late in the afternoon without eating. Several times an air raid caught Sr. Consuelo in the streets and she had to take shelter among tall grasses and trees by the wayside.

On January 9, 1945, the people of White Cross found freedom once again when American soldiers freed them from the Japanese and from hunger. On February 2, 1946, the White Cross was restored to its original home in San Juan.

Today the White Cross stands on its 4-hectare site on Santolan Road. A new wing has been added to the two-storey building, and as a result, there are two additional wards, a Sisters’ quarters, a house-mothers’ quarters, a sewing room, classrooms, kitchen and a garage. In 1962, more than 200 children were living in White Cross.

The University of Santo Tomas Hospital, Manila

When the Japanese occupied Manila at the beginning of 1942, the San Juan de Dios Hospital remained open until May, 1942, when the Japanese Forces took over the building. Some Daughters of Charity in the Hospital continued giving nursing care to the sick and to wounded Japanese soldiers.

In August, 1942, the Military authorities decided to move the Tubercular patients of the Quezon Institute to San Juan de Dios, so that the said Quezon Institute might be occupied by Japanese soldiers. In turn the San Juan de Dios patients were transferred to the YMCA (Young Men Christian Association) where the Sisters continued taking care of them.

Before the war, the medical students of the University of Santo
Tomas had their clinical practice in San Juan de Dios Hospital. During the Japanese regime, however, they could not affiliate with San Juan de Dios, so with permission of the Japanese administration, U.S.T. reopened St. Paul’s Hospital in Intramuros which was run by Maryknoll Sisters.

In July, 1944, the Maryknoll Sisters (Americans) were confined in the concentration camp in Los Baños, Laguna. Rev. Fr. Eugenio Jordan, O.P., Rector of U.S.T., asked the Archbishop of Manila, Michael J. O'Doherty and the Superiors of the Daughters of Charity for Sisters who would take the place of the Maryknoll sisters. A group of Daughters of Charity, headed by Sor Vicenta Ayerbe, worked at St. Paul’s. When the hospital was bombarded and destroyed four months later, some of the Sisters evacuated to Malabón, but the majority remained in San Juan de Dios Hospital which was then already closed.

In 1945, from February to December, the Americans used U.S.T. for their 250th Field Hospital to be replaced later by the 120th General Hospital. When they left the University they sold their Hospital equipment to the University.

The College of Medicine was reopened in February, 1946. The Education Building was turned into a hospital. The Daughters of Charity were called to administer the University of Santo Tomas Hospital which was serving also as practice area for the Medical and Nursing students.

On December 26, 1945, Sor Vicenta Ayerbe with three Sisters arrived at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital. In January, 1946, they were joined by four other Sisters. In February, 1946, the Charity Section of the U.S.T. Hospital was inaugurated in the building that is now the U.S.T. High School. The Pay Section was opened in the Education Building on March 7, 1946. The Charity Section had a bed capacity of 160, complete with operating room, X-Ray, etc. The Pay Section had a bed capacity of 100, and always has been independent from the Charity Section, although both are under the same Administration.

The U.S.T. School of Nursing Education was opened in February, 1946. In 1957, the school was raised to the rank of college. Records show that U.S.T. Hospital has had a total of 201,162 admissions from its inauguration in 1946 up to the later part of November, 1961. Of these, 104,848 were admitted to the Charity Section and 96,314 to the Pay Section.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary College, Quezon City

"Santa Rosa College" of Intramuros was totally destroyed when the Japanese bombed Manila on December 27, 1941. During the Japa-
nese occupation, the Sisters opened a school in Pasay City where they taught catechism to the children of the neighbourhood, engaging in needlework to support themselves, and taking care of some American ladies left homeless and friendless by the war.

In 1945, Mrs. Warner, one of those American ladies who stayed with the Sisters in Pasay, offered her house on Mango Avenue, Santa Mesa for the Sisters to turn into a school. The Sisters opened a Primary School, which also offered a special course in handicraft and needlework. In 1945, the Santa Rosa College of Intramuros resumed operations in Santa Mesa.

In October of the same year, the Board of Directors of Santa Rosa College proposed to the Sisters their return to Intramuros. The Sisters could not accept the conditions for the transfer, so they had to relinquish the name of "Santa Rosa." That was how the revered "Colegio" of old got to be called. "Immaculate Heart of Mary College."

In 1952 with money from the War Damage payment given by the U.S. Government, the Superiors bought a lot situated in Aurora Boulevard (Santa Mesa Extension), Quezon City, about a stone's throw from the Manila boundary. On February 2, 1957, the newly-constructed building was blessed by the Director of the Daughters of Charity, Fr. Zacarias Subiñas, C.M. An additional wing housing the Chapel and the Auditorium was blessed by His Eminence Rufino J. Cardinal Santos, Archbishop of Manila on August 22, 1958. At a later date St. Joseph's Home, the practice house of the Home Economics Department was erected.

The St. Anthony Academy, Gubat, Sorsogón

This school was opened in 1925 by Fr. Tomas Bernales and some parishioners under the name Catholic School of Gubat. After a couple of years it was offering the complete Secondary Course. However, lack of funds caused its decline and the school was altogether closed down in 1937 for non-compliance with government requirements.

Fifteen long years followed, with no Catholic school in the town. When in 1952 an energetic young priest took over the parish of Gubat, Sorsogón, his first efforts centered on the re-establishment of the Catholic School of Gubat. He was Fr. Manuel del Rosario who later became Bishop. He placed the school under the administration of the Daughters of Charity in 1952. It was named St. Anthony Academy, in honor of the Patron Saint of the parish.

The school year 1952-53 started with four Daughters of Charity and six lay teachers for 160 boys and girls. Since then the enrollment has steadily increased.
This school was founded by Fr. Damian Rávago in 1912. Only Primary and Intermediate Grades were offered at the beginning. The First and Second Year High School received government recognition in 1919. In 1940, full government recognition was granted for the complete General Secondary Course. Lay teachers administered this school until the school year 1945-1946 when the Benedictine Sisters from the destroyed St. Agnes Academy of Legazpi came to Tabaco. Another lay administration governed the school in 1946-1947. Then the R.V.M. Sisters (Religious of the Virgin Mary) ran the school from 1947 to 1954. The school year 1954-55 saw again a lay administration take over. The next year, 1955, the Daughters of Charity took over the Catholic Central School of Tabaco, Albay.

The pre-war years before 1942 were the Golden Age of this school. But the period from 1946 to 1955 marked its gradual decline due to competition from other secondary schools in the locality and the changes in administration. The arrival of the Daughters of Charity in 1955 gave new life and direction to the Catholic Central School of Tabaco, Albay.

Before 1956, there were only two hospitals in the entire province of Capiz. One of them was owned by Protestants, the other one a non-sectarian institution owned by lay people. Almost everybody, including the Catholics, preferred the former to the latter, because of its facilities.

Bishop Antonio Frondosa of Capiz decided there ought to be a hospital for Catholics. He encouraged the civic-minded and religious men of Roxas City to cooperate with him. Among them was Mr. Pio Bernas who voluntarily offered his services to put the project into reality.

Even before the Hospital was opened, the Daughters of Charity had been called upon to serve. They arrived on June 5, 1956, and four days later, the St. Anthony’s Hospital with a bed capacity of 40, was inaugurated. A monthly total of 250 admissions has been recorded, with an average of 300 patients coming for consultation, most of them receiving free medicine.

St. Anthony’s Hospital is a general hospital, but the majority of patients seeking admission are obstetrical cases. In 1958, it opened a School of Midwifery.

The Colegio de la Immaculada Concepción, Bulan, Sorsogón

The Immaculate Conception Academy of Bulan, Sorsogon, was founded in 1956 by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul for
the purpose of giving the girls of the town a Catholic education. The
semi-concrete building stands bounded by four streets in the heart of the
town. The school has five spacious classrooms, a Chapel and a dormi-
tory for Sisters and for interns. It has also an annex building for Home
Economics classes. A one-year secretarial course was added to its
offerings in 1959.

In the school year 1956-57, there were 120 students enrolled in the
First and Second Years; in 1957-58, 140; in 1958-59, 145; 1959-60, 187;
and 1960-61, 229. The enrollment of 1961-62 went up to 326 on account
of the opening of a Boys' Department, which was housed in the old
Chinese School Building. Though it is still under the management of the
Daughters of Charity, there is a Director assigned by the Bishop to
handle the discipline among the boys.

As in other Colleges of the Sisters, the spirit of piety and charity is
inculcated through the organization of the Luisitas (a youth branch of
the Ladies of Charity) and the Children of Mary Immaculate.

The Doctors' Hospital, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental

This work was initiated in 1950 by three famous specialists, Dr.
Leonardo Gallardo, gynecologist, Dr. Jose Abueg, cardiologist, and
Dr. Pablo Torre, surgeon. This last was later replaced by Dr. Albert
Tad-y, also a surgeon.

The old building was a rented house on Smith street in the heart of
the city. In view of the demands of an increasing population, the
founders thought of building a hospital owned by the corporation
outside the city. This was finished and given the name "Doctors' Hospital"
on September 28, 1958. Upon the initiative of the President,
Dr. Gallardo, the Daughters of Charity were called upon to work in the
Hospital.

Colegio de Santa Luisa de Marillac, Libon, Albay

This College took its origin from the Charity of Christ that urged
two blood sisters, both of them Filipinas and Daughters of Charity, to
offer their family inheritance for the benefit of the poor people of their
native town, Libon, in Albay. These Sisters, worthy Daughters of St.
Vincent and St. Louise, were Sor Cecilia and Sor Rafaela Maronilla.
Libon was a poor town with two schools, one Public with an Intermedi-
ate course, the other a non-sectarian private High School. The problem
of an integral Catholic education demanded a solution, and this was
made possible with a donation from the good Sisters Maronilla, made
precisely on the Tricentenary Year of the holy death of St. Vincent de
Paul and St. Louise de Marillac. In that year 1960 Pope John XXIII
proclaimed St. Louise, Patroness of social workers all over the world, in the same way that in 1885 Pope Leo XIII declared St. Vincent, Patron of all works of charity.

The new College of St. Louise was solemnly blessed by Bishop Flaviano Ariola of Legazpi on May 12, 1960. The number of students in the school year 1960-1961 was 48. The next schoolyear a new school-house was built, and the enrollment went up to 150.

Marian General Hospital, Isaac Peral, Manila

Moved by Christian charity, Dr. Fausto Mabanta and his wife, Dra. Lourdes Fernández Mabanta, founded a Hospital in the Marian Year 1954, which out of devotion to the Blessed Mother of God they named "Marian Hospital". It was inaugurated on September 8, 1954, feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin.

The Hospital started with 11 beds. In 1958 it increased its capacity to 60 beds, 30 of which were for non-paying patients. In 1962 it could accommodate 150 patients. Of these 34 were charity patients.

In 1957 the School of Midwifery was started; in 1959 and 1960, the Schools of Medical Secretarial Science (the first of its kind in the Philippines) and the School of Nursing respectively, were opened. In April 1960 a new Hospital building was constructed, to which a 5th floor was added in July, 1961. On November 3, 1961, the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul came to render service in this Hospital.

Serving the Servants of the Poor

We have not referred to the many other houses established by the Daughters of Charity after 1961 since that would bring us beyond the scope of this history covering only the first century of the Vincentian double family in the Philippines. However, it is important to note that the Vincentian Fathers exerted a great influence in the establishment and conduct of all houses set up and administered by the Daughters of Charity. They were the ones who formed, instructed and guided the Sisters, not only during their formative years but also afterwards. Whenever and wherever they could do it, the Vincentians had been Chaplains, Confessors, Retreat Masters, Spiritual Directors and sure guides of the Daughters of Charity, as well as of their wards in schools, asylums or hospitals.

For almost a hundred years, the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines had always a Vincentian Father as their Director, under the Superior General who remains always by their Constitution, the head of the whole Vincentian family. The Provincial Visitor of the Vincentian
Fathers had been since 1862 up to 1959 at the same time the Director of the Daughters of Charity in the Philippines. Since 1959, due to the bulk of work proper of these two posts, the Director of the Sisters has been another priest, different from the Vincentian Provincial, and designated by the Superior General.

The Philippine Hierarchy recognizes this close relation and affinity of services rendered by the Vincentians and the Daughters of Charity. The help is mutual because, thanks to the Daughters of Charity, native vocations for the Vincentians have increased.

Formed and directed by the Vincentians of the Philippines were the missionary Sisters that have been sent abroad to mission lands to help the poorest among the poor, the poor pagans still under the shadows of infidelity. The first mission station of the Philippine Daughters of Charity abroad was the “Lourdes’ Home” in Tien Mu, Taiwan. It was inaugurated on October 8, 1959, with Sr. Lourdes Gomez, D.C, heading the small band of missionary Sisters. Later on, other mission posts have been established. God bless the Sisters who bring the good news of salvation to the heathen.