

The Psalms 112 to 117 and again 135, begin with the word "Allelujah", "Hallel" in Hebrew. They are songs of joy and thanksgiving that recount in detail the great deeds of God toward his chosen people at various points of their history. They were sung at various solemnities and especially at the paschal meal. I think they are most fitting biblical texts to set the tone of our celebration this afternoon:

*Alleluia! O give thanks to the Lord for He is good, for His love endures for ever. Give thanks to the God of gods, for his love endures for ever. Give thanks to the Lord of Lords, for His love endures forever. To the God of heaven give thanks, for his love endures forever.*

We, too are joyfully assembled to give thanks to God as we recount his blessing in the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Religious Sisters of Mercy (RSM here in Mambajao, for we believe, as our fathers of old, that it is the Lord "*who carried us on eagle wings and brought us here to himself*" ( Ex 19:4).

For sure the Religious Sisters of Mercy had a very good time here in the island. They enjoyed the precious moments talking with the people, the students, the parents, the teachers... the camaraderie with fellow religious and the clergy etc. The Sisters prayed and worked as it is the life of the religious..ora et labora, for the Church's mission. We gave thanks to the Almighty for all his blessings and extended our most sincere gratefulness to the local church here in the Archdiocese, the teachers, parents, alumni, and the whole FCC community who put extra effort for the celebration of this Golden Jubilee and the FCC Alumni Reunion.

The theme we chose,... 50 years of Mercy Flame Cast in the island...kindling means that ...fifty years have passed, the RSM Sisters in Fatima College and in the island cast the mercy flame .. they planted the seed... land has bore fruit...having produced alumni who became priests, religious and active church leaders. Many of the alumni are successful in their respective professions either as teachers, politicians, military officers, medical doctors, dentists, lawyers, educators, engineers, entrepreneurs, nurses, architects, accountants, etc. FCC produced many professionals who contributed in nation building and economic development of the province and in the country. Most of them are already proud grandparents with graying hair but are physically and mentally healthy. Kindling...the last word in the theme means... that the Sisters still have high spirits and have best wishes for Fatima College and the island. Wherever the Sisters are, they still do their very best in all their undertakings. The Sisters are always resplendent and grateful to the people in the island!

Ready or not, however, someday the stay of the Sisters in this island/world will all come to an end. There will be no more sunrises, no sunsets, any minutes, hours or days to count. All the teachings of the Sisters, whether treasured or forgotten, will be passed on to others. Hence it is a challenge and a call to the young people to listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit within you to generously respond to God's call to the religious life.

Convent of Mercy St. Maries of the Isle  
Sharman Crawford Street  
Cork City Ireland

We, the Sisters of Mercy in Cork, Ireland who have been privileged and blessed to live, and to work with the people of that beautiful Island of Camiguin, send you, the Sisters of Mercy, Faculty, Parents, Students, Alumni and Friends of Fatima College, our sincerest congratulations and blessings on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the presence of the Sisters of Mercy in Fatima College.

We regret that we cannot be with you in person on the day, but we will be with you in spirit and we will be united in prayer as you celebrate.

Mercy is from generation to generation (Luke 1). It was the strong conviction of our Venerable Foundress, Catherine McAuley, that Mercy was the way Christ related with all the people, and so it was the way of the Christian.

It is our belief that our time, this generation, is as much in need and is as much in search of a Mercy shaped education as any other time in history, even in the time of Catherine McAuley. In her generation, she opened her first school in Baggot Street in Dublin in 1827. In the intervening years Mercy Schools have flourished in all parts of the world, they have opened a wide door to growth in knowledge, faith, development, and to a new and better way of life for many people.

Innovation was characteristic of Catherine McAuley and she was a visionary from the start. That same quality and capacity has been the characteristic of the Sisters and Faculty of Fatima College in the last fifty years. The capacity to be creative, innovative, persistent, progressive, is in the Mercy gene. The challenge now is how to garner and free that capacity for a new time, for a new generation in the next fifty years.

We give thanks for the blessings of love and friendship, which we sisters received while serving in Fatima College and we praise God for all that has been accomplished over the last fifty years.

Education from a Mercy perspective is an exciting challenge and a very rewarding work. It is worth carrying the torch which has been handed on. Those who take it up will "*shine like stars for all eternity*".

God bless you and a happy Golden Jubilee to all and Mabuhay, Cómhgáirdeas.

Sr. Canisius Murphy, Sr. Emmanuel Browne, Sr. Virgilius Downing,  
Sr. Cyril Griffin, Sr. Margaret Mary Ryan, Sr. Celestine Forrest,  
Sr. Rita Twomey.

From the email address \* [fatimacollegeofcamiguin@yahoo.com](mailto:fatimacollegeofcamiguin@yahoo.com)

#### Message

It's indeed a great blessing to celebrate in thanksgiving to God for the presence of the RSM Sisters and FCC in Camiguin because of its missionary fruitfulness's and success in leading young people to GOD and I am one of the many who can witness to it.

I thank you for acknowledging me as an FCCian and for the invitation. It is a humbling experience to my part. Though I studied at FCC for four semesters only but the Christian Catholic formation I got enhanced and deepen my desire to answer God's special calling to the religious and priestly life. That is why I am proud to be an FCCian by heart. However, the scheduled celebration is in conflict with mine here in an going studies at the Pontifical University (UST). I'll be there in CDO on October for a short break and if time allows, I can visit FCC and your community to say my thanksgiving mass. I will just text you a week ahead if I can visit my relatives in Mambajao during that two week vacation. I remain an FCCian by heart. Regards to Mr. & Mrs. Bangot, Mr. Gaspar, Mr. Oclarit and etc. God bless FCC and the RSM community. CONGRATULATIONS!

Fr. Saļvađor Torres, OCD