

ANGELICUS



STRENGTHENED BY FORMATION. Angelicum Iloilo deepens its identity as a non-graded Dominican school through a week long training at UST Angelicum College. | Photo courtesy of UST AC

Angelicum School Iloilo deepens non-graded approach with weeklong UST AC immersion

John Michael Belgira

TO FURTHER strengthen the implementation of the Angelicum system’s pioneering non-graded framework of education, faculty members recently participated in a week-long intensive training hosted by the University of Santo Tomas Angelicum College (UST AC) in Quezon City.

The training, held at the mother school of the Angelicum system, served as a comprehensive platform for academic immersion, classroom observation, and leadership development. Attendees, including Ms. Jenevy Abolucion, Mr. Orlando Gamilla Jr., and Ms. Ma. Gracia d’Rose Gallinero, engaged in activities designed to deepen understanding and refine execution of the learner-centered, non-graded philosophy unique to the institution.

“This training was not just about enhancing knowledge and skills. It was about renewing our commitment to uphold the values and vision that make the Angelicum model distinct,” said Ms. Abolucion.

Throughout the program, participants had the chance to observe live classes across different YS Levels and subject areas, allowing them to witness effective non-graded teaching strategies in action. These observations sparked critical self-reflection and inspired fresh approaches to learner development.

Leadership sessions with UST AC’s academic coordinators and department heads offered a closer look into how the non-graded system is supported at an institutional level. Discussions emphasized the importance of clear communication, collaborative planning, and

policy consistency in maintaining a meaningful and future-ready education for all learners.

“I realized how crucial it is for us to align—not just in practice but in purpose. What we saw and learned at USTAC showed us what is possible when everyone is united in their commitment to authentic, learner-centered education,” added Ms. Abolucion.

As the Angelicum School Iloilo team returns home, they carry with them not only new insights, but also a renewed drive to continually improve the non-graded system and its impact on 21st-century learners.

Enrollees in Angelicum Iloilo up by 27%

Gabrielle Emerald Cabrejas

DATA OBTAINED by Angelicus from the registrar’s office revealed a 27 percent increase in the number of student population duly enrolled in Angelicum School Iloilo this Academic Year 2024-2025.

The uptick in enrollment this school year almost doubled the other year’s expected increase.

“It has been noted that since 2022 enrollment is increasing on an average of 27 percent. It shows that the programs, activities, and innovations that Angelicum School introduced since 2020 are recognized by parents and learners as worthwhile,” said Acting School Principal, Fr. Paul Lovell Javier, O.P.

Despite this, Father Javier said this is not a time for complacency, further pointing out

the areas the school can improve in to ensure the delivery of quality educational services to its stakeholders. The increase in the enrollment does not mean that we can be complacent already.

“There are still more areas that we must work on like internationalization and linkages, curriculum, sports development, and human resource welfare. This is our commitment: to work harder to provide the education that our learners deserve,” he added.

Notably, enrollment trends have consistently risen for three consecutive years already with the Angelicum School administration setting its eyes focused on sustaining the increase in the years to come.

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EMPOWERED ANGELICAN PRESS. Angelicus successfully concluded its first Journalism Experiential Learning Program (ELP) on January 6-8, 2025. Seven budding journalists visit to Colegio de San Juan de Letran, Manila Bulletin, University of Santo Tomas (UST), UST Communications Bureau, and GMA Network. | Photo courtesy of Letran Manila

Angelicus launches inaugural Journalism Immersion Program; visits top media institutions

Gabrielle Emerald Cabrejas

SEVEN members of Angelicus, the official student publication of Angelicum School Iloilo, accompanied by their adviser, Mr. Orlando Gamilla Jr., participated in a three-day Experiential Learning Program (ELP) for campus journalists from January 6 to 8, 2025. The initiative provided first hand exposure to the dynamic world of journalism, featuring visits to prestigious organizations and institutions in Manila.

On the first day of the immersion, the young journos learned about photojournalism at the Colegio de San Juan de Letran with the Colegios media section head, Davy Chioa, and explored the newspaper making industry at Manila Bulletin, the nation's largest English newspaper in terms of circulation.

Furthermore, UST-Angelicum College (UST AC) welcomed them through an interactive sharing of journalistic experiences with their mother school's fellow young journos and student publications counterpart, then capped off the first day at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) to see the sights of the campus.

The second day's itinerary was a visit to the UST Communications Bureau, the unit in charge of the university's online and broadcast arms. It also manages the UST TigerTV and Tiger Radio. They were welcomed by the bureau's director, Philippe Hernandez, and assistant director, Earl Pantoja.

On the last day of the ELP, the delegates had the opportunity to engage with the members of The

Varsitarian, the 97-year old official student publication of UST, during the meet up with the publication.

Furthermore, the Angelican journos paid a visit to GMA Network's News and Public Affairs Division in Quezon City where one of the network's producers catered their questions on the state of real-world journalism alongside touring them around one of the largest television and state-of-the-art studios in the Philippines.

With the success of this year's Journalism Experiential Program, Angelicus plans to make this an annual practice as it gives opportunities to young journos to gain enriching perspectives and experiences in the field of journalism. [A](#)

CEAP, COCOPEA, Rex Education join forces for Matatag Phase 2 Implementation

Irene Mae Sambas

IN A GROUNDBREAKING partnership, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP), Coordinating Council of Private Educational Associations (COCOPEA), and Rex Education raised a cascade run to set in motion the MATATAG Curriculum across all regions. With the theme, "Capacitating the Private Education Sector for the Effective Implementation of the MATATAG Curriculum," this initiative seeks to reinforce the knowledge and capabilities required for all the private education institutions in order to adopt the new curriculum effectively.

A unified vision of the said initiative is to equip teachers and educational institutions with the necessary skills and information to effectively implement the MATATAG Curriculum, ensuring that it meets the needs of the Filipino learners.

The 2-day program includes a plenary session to provide a comprehensive insight into the MATATAG Curriculum.

Aside from the plenary sessions, educators, teaching professionals and specialists proceed in breakout rooms to explore several critical aspects of the MATATAG Curriculum, including the learning area shaping paper, the instructional design framework, the assessment of 21st-century skills, collaborative expertise, and understanding learning progression.

The seminar was hosted by Angelicum School Iloilo and will last from March 27 until March 28, 2025. [A](#)

Angelicus chief editor finalist in Iloilo City's "Huwaran na Anak"

Ashira Josiane Benguan

IRENE MAE Sambas, the editor-in-chief of Angelicus, the official student publication of Angelicum School Iloilo, was honored as one of the finalists in the search for "Huwaran nga Anak 2024," an initiative led by the Iloilo City Task Force for Street Children (ICTFSC) in partnership with the City Social Welfare Development Office (CSWDO).

Sambas, also a Senior High School learner and academic scholar of Angelicum, earned a place in the Top 5 and received the "Best in Portfolio" award for her impressive accomplishments.

The selection process involved visitation and interviews as the first phase, followed by an interview and video presentation during the awarding ceremony.

In a statement, Sambas expressed her gratitude, saying, "Being one of the finalists for the search for 'Huwaran nga Anak 2024' is another milestone I have created not only for myself but also to the Angelicum community and my beloved District in this esteemed program."

She emphasized her dual role as a student journalist and a community advocate, highlighting her mission to amplify the voices of the youth and promote action toward addressing the plight of street children.

"Our titles are not merely ornaments before our names," Sambas added, reflecting the principles and integrity she strives to uphold.

The awarding ceremony took place Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024, at SM City Iloilo, celebrating children's contributions to community development in line with the Children's Month in November. [A](#)



EHEMPLO NG KAHUSAYAN.

Irene Mae Sambas, Editor-in-chief of Angelicus, bags the title as the 'Huwaran na Anak 2025 - Finalist' | Photo courtesy of Iloilo City Government

Cine Angelico debuts as Angelicum Iloilo's first-ever film festival

Julifa Santurdio

COMBINING language arts and film production into one, the Cine Angelico Short Film Festival is set to premiere as the highlight of the English Day on Nov. 15, 2024 – a first of its kind in Angelicum School Iloilo.

This inaugural film festival brings together the talents of four tribes—Caritas, Veritas, Justitia, and Fortitudo—in creating and showcasing their original short films.

The films will center on themes like friendship, family, teenage life, and school experiences, allowing students to explore these relatable topics through storytelling.

Trailers and posters will be posted on the Facebook page of Angelicum School Iloilo today, Nov. 13, 2024, at 6 p.m.

A major part of the excitement will be the awarding ceremony, where top films and performances will be recognized with categories such as Best Picture, Best Trailer, Best Cinematography, and Best Sound Scoring. Special awards will also be given for standout achievements in acting, directing, and audience engagement through social media. The winners will contribute points to their respective tribes, vying for honor as overall champion for the English Day celebration. Additional activities, including storytelling sessions, spelling bees, and literary quiz competitions, will round out the celebration, fostering both enjoyment and skill-building in the English language. 🌐

Lizares-Gamboa Mansion opening of lights set on December 5

Anne Josephine Españó



A CHRISTMAS tradition that dates back to the 90s, Angelicum School Iloilo is gearing up for “Sigaboom”, the annual opening of lights of the famous Ilonggo Important Cultural Property, the Lizares-Gamboa Mansion, on Dec. 5, 2024.

The campus is now adorned with Christmas parols made by the Iloilo City Jail inmates, decorations, and lights as seen along McArthur Drive, Tabuc Suba in the district of Jaro, Iloilo City.

With the theme, “Sparkle of Endless Dreams” the lights on ceremony will feature Paskong Pinoy-inspired performances by the learners, faculty and staff of the school. Food kiosks and other booths will also be available to add excitement to this event.

“This event will celebrate individual dreams and foster a sense of togetherness and inspiration, reminding one another that with unwavering commitment, our dreams can sparkle the way to a brighter future for all. At Christmas, we celebrate hope, love, and the spirit of giving, all sparkled by the light of endless dreams,” the Sigaboom 2024 steering committee said in a statement.

Sigaboom, a portmanteau of the Hiligaynon word “siga” which means to light up and the English interjection “boom” to refer to something happening suddenly, is a time-honored tradition in Iloilo City as it remains one of the sought-after Christmas events in the metro. 🌐

Angelicus seals six wins in DSPC '25; two staff to advance in the regionals

John Michael Belgira



POWER OF YOUR PEN. 13 delegates from Angelicus, official student publication of Angelicum School Iloilo, participated in the Divisions School Press Conference (DSPC) on February 8, 2025, as they used their pens as their swords in a battle ground of Journalism with over 60 participating schools. | Photo by Angelicus

DEMONSTRATING its competence to compete with other student publications in the Division of Iloilo City, Angelicus, the official student publication of Angelicum School Iloilo has once again proven its worth by producing six placers and two regional qualifiers in the Iloilo City Division Schools Press Conference (DSPC).

Here are the victors from Angelicus:

ANNE JOSEPHINE ESPANO
Champion
News Writing (English)
Secondary Level – Regional Qualifier
RONA PATRICIA CENAL
Second Placer
Copyreading and Headline Writing (English)
Elementary Level – Regional Qualifier
ASHIRA JOSIANE BENGUAN
Seventh Placer
Photojournalism (Filipino)
Secondary Level
NADINE GRACE BUGNA
Seventh Placer
Column Writing (English)
Elementary Level
HEART ANGELO SOGUECO
Seventh Placer
Sports Writing (English)
Elementary Level
JOHN MICHAEL NINO BELGIRA
Ninth Placer
Science and Technology Writing (English)
Secondary Level

The event which took place on Feb. 8, 2025, at SPED Integrated School for Exceptional Children gathered over 60 schools from both private and public educational institutions with more than 700 participating campus journalists from the Schools Division of Iloilo City. 🌐



UNITED IN CULTURE. In the spirit of mutual cooperation and shared values, four Senior High School (SHS) learners from Angelicum School Iloilo, together with Fr. Paul Lovell Javier, OP, school principal, joined along the 34 students and top administrators from UST Angelicum College (UST AC) for the one week immersion program in Seoul, South Korea. | Photo courtesy of UST AC

Angelicum Iloilo joins UST AC Seoultech's 3rd winter immersion; visits Korean historical sites

by Anne Josephine España

BROADENING horizons internationally, four Senior High School 12 (SHS-12) learners of Angelicum School Iloilo (ASIL), joined the third winter immersion program by the University of Santo Tomas - Angelicum College (UST-AC) and Seoul National University for Science and Technology (Seoultech) on Jan. 18 to 25, 2024 in Seoul, South Korea.

Thirty four delegates from both UST-AC and ASIL immersed themselves in the rich culture of Korea by not just visiting historical sites, but also taking Hangeul classes at Seoultech University.

The learners started their first day with an opening ceremony at Seoultech where they got to introduce themselves and meet the officials, namely Kim Tae Hee and Julie Hwang, provost and team manager of the office of international affairs. They also got to meet their team leaders, Son, Ji-won, Clara, and Soo-bean, and were briefed about the 7-day immersion program.

Furthermore, they started their first day of hangeul classes, which encapsulated their morning schedule for five days, with Ms. Park, tried Budae Jjigae for lunch, and ended the day

with an exhilarating trip at Lotte World, one of the largest theme parks in South Korea, with their tour guide, Mrs. Lee.

Hangeul classes continued on the morning of the second day, and in the afternoon, they explored the National Museum of Korea and watched a 1-hour show filled with interpretative urban dances and artworks of the “painters”, Korea’s number one loved show of the tourists.

“My experience during our second day in Korea was amazing, to say the least. The day started off with Korean classes. However, the highlights of the day started in the afternoon. First, we went to Korea’s national museum. There, I learned about the country’s tradition and saw a variety of items from both the past and the present. Afterwards, our bus took us to a theatre where we watched a show performed by The Painters, who were incredibly skilled artists. Overall, it was a really fun day, and I enjoyed it,” said Mona Sedonio, one of the ASIL delegates.

On the third day of the immersion program, the learners learned about Korean verbs during their class and tried jajangmyeon for lunch, a Korean Chinese noodle dish topped with the famous black bean sauce.

They also navigated the tradition and culture in Korea, wherein they explored the famous Gyeongbokgung Palace, the most prestigious palace of the Joseon dynasty, wearing the traditional hanbok (girls), and the baji and jeogori (boys), making their experiences closer to the old Korea. Additionally, they had dinner at Gwangjang Market for authentic Korean street foods and traditional goods.

“Wearing a hanbok in Korea felt like living in a K-drama! I skipped the winter overlay—a true tiis ganda moment—to show off its beauty. At Gwangjang Market, I enjoyed hotteok, marshmallow ice cream, and a kind local even gave me a keychain. It was magical



ROOTED IN HERITAGE. Angelicans visit Namsangol Hanok Village in Seoul as part of the L.I.T.E. with SeoulTech program, gaining a firsthand glimpse into Korea’s rich cultural traditions. | Photo courtesy of Kyla Pasaporte

and unforgettable,” said Kyla Pasaporte, reflecting on her one-of-a-kind experience.

The fourth day of the immersion program was not jam packed in comparison to the other days as it started with learning about Korean adjectives, numbers, foods, and places, and in the afternoon, they experienced snow sledding and other activities in the mini amusement park at Seoultech.

Capping off their fourth day, the ASIL learners, accompanied by Fr. Lovell Javier, O.P, their school principal, had a train ride to Coex mall where they got to see the vibrant and famous Starfield Library.

“My favorite part of our tasks was the snow sledding. It happened on our 4th day in Korea. As usual, we always start with Korean classes every day in the morning. In the afternoon, we were scheduled to do snow sledding. It was a fun experience since there were other rides and activities. Sliding on a slope covered with snow, just the thought of it scares me. However, after we tried it, it felt like I had accomplished something out of fear. It was fun at the same time memorable which makes it a



wonderful experience to encounter,” said Frances Condez, talking about her experience on the fourth day.

On Jan. 24, 2025, the last full day in Korea, the learners were all emotional as they exchanged messages to the Korean team leaders and bid farewell to the Seoultech officials, Ms. Park and Ms. Lee – the people very close to them throughout the duration of the trip.

All 34 Angelicans expressed their heartfelt gratitude during the farewell ceremony and proudly received their official diplomas from Seoultech University, marking the successful completion of the winter immersion program.

“Congratulations, our dear SHS Immersion delegates on the successful completion of the Program. This is not only a milestone of your determination but also an opportunity for you to appreciate the beauty of another culture. We hope that through these cultural activities, and through exposure to different fields in STEM, Humanities, and Business, you have grown with increased confidence and competence in your future field,” Dr. Maria Urduja Galang, UST-AC SHS principal, highlighted in her closing remarks.

They concluded the day with a trip to Hongdae, a bustling shopping district filled with hundreds of cafes and restaurants, clothing boutiques, and accessory shops. Additionally, they were given ample free time to explore Seoul on their last night.

“The Seoultech Winter Immersion 2025 is a testament to collaboration and internationalization. We thank UST Angelicum College, our mother campus, for including Angelicum School Iloilo to this immersion program. This is our commitment to provide the education that our learners deserve,” said Javier.

This year was the third batch of UST-AC’s Winter Immersion Program with Seoultech, and the first batch of ASIL to join their mother campus in helping students achieve quality, relevant, and responsive learning experiences through multicultural, industry, and international exposure in South Korea. 🌐



BRIDGING CULTURAL FUTURES. ASIL strengthens global ties as Fr. Paul Lovell Javier, O.P. signs a three-year MOA with Japan-based With The World (WTW) Co., Ltd. Joining him were WTW’s Director for Int’l Education Shodai Fujiwa, along with Miki Washio and Ayako Yamamoto. | Photo courtesy of ASIL

Angelicum Iloilo expands networks overseas, inks MOA with Japan-based With the World Inc.

Irene Mae Sambas

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to offer opportunities for learning beyond the four walls of the classroom, Fr. Paul Lovell Javier, O.P. signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with With The World (WTW) Co., Ltd., a Japan-based educational enterprise focused on international exchange and collaboration programs for cross-cultural understanding.

The MOA signing took place on Feb. 20, 2025 at the headquarters of WTW in Kobe City, Japan, formalizing the partnership between Angelicum and WTW. Present in the

MOA signing was Shodai Fujiwa, director for international education, alongside WTW staff Miki Washio and Ayako Yamamoto.

The MOA which is valid for three years will provide opportunities for the learners in Angelicum to interact not only with Japanese students but with foreign students from across 70 countries. During his high-level engagements in Japan, Javier also met with the officials of Seifunankai High School in Takaishi, Osaka, Japan. 🌐

Fortitudo, Justitia pageant bets crowned Mr. and Ms. Angelicum 2025

Anne Josephine España

EMBODYING grace, talent, and wit, Manraj Maan from Tribe Fortitudo and Gabrielle Emerald Cabrejas from Tribe Justitia stood out among six other candidates during the Mr. and Ms. Angelicum on Feb. 14, 2025, at the Angelicum Gymnasium.

Maan also received best in interview award while Cabrejas bagged three minor awards, namely: best in retro outfit, best in sports outfit, and best in interview.

During the interview, Maan emphasized the importance of open programs to ensure inclusivity among students, “As a student ambassador and as a proud Angelican, I will promote inclusivity is through an open program. Through this open forum program, many students can feel, be heard, and valued. And in that way, they will not be left out,” said Maan.

Moreover, Cabrejas mentioned embodying the four core values of Angelicum as a student ambassador “As a student and potential ambassador of the school

to uplift everybody’s spirits and to remind my fellow Angelicans of the four core values that this institution has taught us. To live life as a God-fearing person and to live it with love, charity, justice, fortitude, and the truth that will free us all.” said Cabrejas.

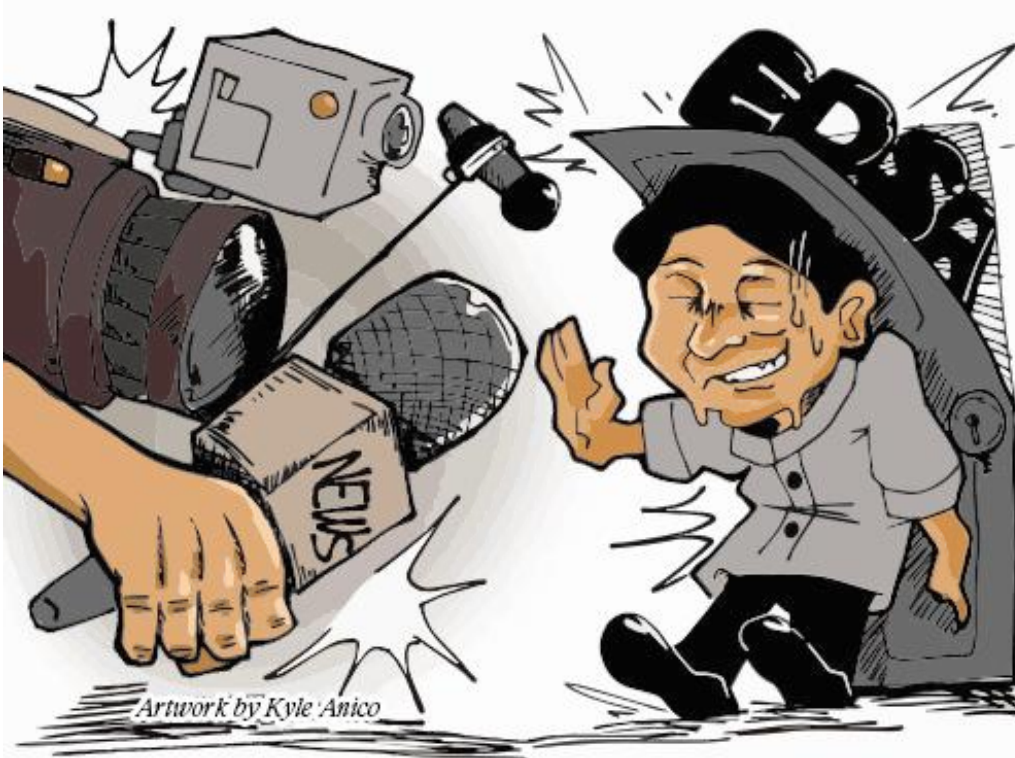
Following them as first runners-up were Denzyl Benn Gomez of Tribe Justitia and Kyla Pasaporte of Tribe Caritas. The second runners up were Jeal Valentin Nabo of tribe Veritas and Maria Franchesca Atienza of Tribe Fortitudo while contestants coming home as third runners up were Rone Alavaro of Tribe Caritas and Kim Garcia of Tribe Veritas. 🌐



MAAN

CABREJAS

Rewriting holidays, not history



There is no cure towards a generational purloin tendency.

The decision to erase EDSA People Power from the roster of national holidays contrived in the current administration of President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. on Feb. 25, 2025 and was declared as a "special working day." After the Filipinos were robbed of their human rights, his reigning son will undoubtedly renounce the revolt of the people - it is embedded in their lineage.

Bongbong never fails to gain public distrust and disdain. It is obvious that the president does not consistently value the essence of the EDSA Revolutions as hostility towards the topic remains, even most of the time, being dismissive of the events that were the very reason that ousted their family from the Philippines 39 years ago.

For decades, February 25 was a symbol for the Filipinos' resolve against the dictatorship and repression. It was the moment they showed bravery and courage; everything to be honored.

Since Marcos Jr. took office in 2022, his administration stealthily worked around the commemoration of EDSA. Unlike the other administrations before, the lack of acknowledgement and offhanded approach was evident from the current administration. The most they can do is through the recognition of the date and half-hearted statements of "moving forward" which is a negligence to the revolution's significance.

The irony of a Marcos presidency handling the anniversary of EDSA shall not merely be an uncomfortable contradiction - it must urge us to a call of reflection.

Feb. 25 haunts Bongbong Marcos Jr. more than ever. May the bold step he took keeps crawling at him in his slumber. May their ears bleed from the cries of outright denial of the oppressed.

EDSA is a reminder that the ingrained issues in the Philippines are not resolved nor guarantee a long-lasting reform.

Until this day, Filipinos will remember. And that is how it shall always be. This unapologetic approach to dismiss the historical truth will have to drive the nation to resist the

attempt of rewriting history and to stand firm in upholding the memories of those who fought for the liberty and democratic rights of the country.

May this become a reminder that we once and continuously overthrow tyrannies that tried to challenge our democracy.

The fight for transparency, good governance and human rights did not end in 1986 - it must persist until today.

Filipinos shall continue to ignite the flame of EDSA. We shall not allow that it will only remain shrouded in the pages of history and slowly dim its light. We shall not allow all the atrocious attempts of historical revisionism, we shall not let them trample on our collective action.

This is the power of collective dissent. The voices of a united nation of fighters.

EDSA is still alive. We are the EDSA of our time. 🇵🇭



ANGELICUS

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THE CATALYST
YOUth Decide

Ashira Josiane Benguan

Good governance is what the country has long yearned for yet never attained

"You are nothing but a mere child, you know nothing about politics, you are too young—this talk is for adults only."

I never grasp the way these kind of people think, what makes the youth's voices any less significant than theirs?

The youth is capable of being aware of their surroundings, of their country and of their future. Therefore, their political choices are not only a reflection of their ideals but also a mirror of the society that sculpts them.

Good governance is what the country has long yearned for yet never attained. Why you may ask? The so-called adults who think they are any better than the young ones shut those who voice out what the country truly needs.

That won't let the youth refrain from being the voice of those who will be affected by these leaders once seated. Their burning desire for change and refusal to remain passive in the face of corruption and inequality.

With vision in their eyes and courage in their hearts, the youth are not just the

hope of tomorrow—they're the power of today.

The choices of the youth in politics are consequential. While they bring various perspectives to the democratic process, these must be guided by critical thought and genuine understanding of the issues.

The future of Philippine politics depends on how well the youth can navigate the intersection of passion and reason—and whether they can truly become the leaders of change they aspire to be.

Bumoto ng matalino, bumoto nang matalino. 🇵🇭

RIGHT ON THE SPOT

No one is above the law

Manraj Maan



Tensions rise day-by-day as the Duterte case progresses. The International Criminal Court (ICC) shocked the nation, when they revealed on March 11, the arrest of former President Rodrigo Duterte, under the suspicion of crimes against humanity. This is an important matter to discuss, as our country's reputation and stability is on the line. We must get to the bottom of this issue by understanding the context behind the arrest, and the dark reputation he developed during his time as president.

Laying waste to all who spoke and did drugs, he carried out his war on drugs for as long as he was president. This unnecessary war led to thousands of

deaths. According to the Human Rights Watch (HRW), over 12,000 Filipino deaths, most of which, were in the lower class. It also created a breeding ground of corrupt police officers, causing so many more unjustified killings, due to Duterte handing them the "License to Kill". Lives were not just lost, but whole families have been broken forever, leading to numerous protests and societal outrage against him.

Another pressing issue is the involvement of his daughter, Vice President Sara Duterte, and whether or not she will choose family over state. She has already garnered a bad reputation, ever since she announced her children's book, which many people labeled as a misuse

of funds. Another important matter she is involved in is in regards to her impeachment charges, which also contribute to her ignominy. Right now, it is safe to say that we cannot trust either of them, and we should not be surprised if Sara is secretly pulling strings in hopes of getting his father back in the Philippines.

His actions are punishable, straight out of our own constitution. According to the Republic Act No. 9851, the country aims to abide by international laws, not excluding crimes against humanity. Therefore, there is no point for him to resist, but why is he?

If there is truly nothing he did wrong, why is he avoiding the questions? 🇵🇭

This is an important matter to discuss, as our country's reputation and stability is on the line



SCATHING CONUNDRUM
The Cost of Gratitude

Julifa Santurdio

"Utang na loob" is something that cannot be easily repaid. At times it fuels guilt, invisible shackles, and expectation.

There was a time where I thought utang na loob was simple—a good thing. Something like an honorable badge; proud to be carried. And in many ways, I still am. But as years passed, and the older I got, the more I realized how heavy it can be when it's used as a chain instead of a gift.

We are all walking around with our own quiet stories, aren't we? I remember being a child and watching my parents come home tired. My mother spent her days bent over ledgers and numbers, a quiet strength behind a desk. She is a bookkeeper—precise, patient, and dependable. Even when the work was getting heavy, she never brought the weight home. Her voice was softer in the evenings, but there was a calm in it that made everything feel steady. My father, though not always expressive, was constant—the kind of man who showed love through presence, through doing rather than saying. Together, they worked. Not to survive but to build a life; A future. I saw it, even when they didn't speak of it. I watched. I remembered. I carry it with me.

So now, as an adult, when I make decisions about money, about time, about rest—I hear voices in my head. "Hindi kami nagpapagod para lang makita kang sumuko."

That is what "utang na loob" feels like. A memory stitched into your skin, a soft guilt that never really leaves.

But here is where it gets messy. What happens when you feel suffocated by the same people you are grateful to? What happens when your love for them starts to collide with your own needs, your dreams, your peace?

No one tells you how hard it is to balance both. I have seen friends hand over entire paychecks not because they can, but because they felt like they should. I have seen people stay in the same house, the same city, same job, the same version of themselves—not out of choice but out of debt.

We call it "love". We call it "respect". But sometimes, it's just guilt and fear in disguise. And I get it. Parents give so much to us. They give pieces of themselves so we can have a life. But no child should be born with the silent promise of repayment. That is not love. That is the expectation. And when this love turns into a ledger of chains, nobody really wins. 🇵🇭

CLASS 2025



*Where dreams are born in grace.
For the truth that sets us free to love.
Elevarse!*



Uniquely dreaming beyond from Iloilo to QC: *Angelicum Iloilo principal named rector, prexy of UST-Angelicum College*

✎ Anne Josephine España and Irene Mae Sambas

Day before his departure, Angelicum School Iloilo seized the championship for the Regional Basketball Chairman's Cup which was a parting gift perhaps. It was a farewell reminder of what he had established during his term. A few steps back from the past, over four years... reminiscing the beginning that unfolded... he was there - always.

Having been shaped by the Order of Preachers, Rev. Fr. John Stephen Polonan Besa, O.P., commonly known as Fr. JS continued the mission of preaching through education in a sparsely populated academy along the corner streets of Tabuc Suba, Jaro, and unbeknownst to him discovered an abode on the lofty gates and archaic design of Angelicum School Iloilo (ASIL). Undoubtedly, through his zeal for rectification, he brought transformative changes to the institution within the course of four years from 2020 to 2024. Considering that the start of Besa's journey as the principal of Angelicum was during the peak of the pandemic, it was no excuse for him not to revitalize the Angelicum System and redeem the school's reputation.

The Angelicum Iloilo Community is a testament to a prophecy that appeared to be the hope of the once was 'lost and forgotten.' The four Angelicum School core values: veritas, caritas, justitia, and fortitudo were not just fragments of Besa's ideology, these were the key foundation that paved the way for Angelicum to be back on its feet and reach for the pinnacle once more. Father Besa worked tirelessly to ensure the welfare of every Angelican was tended and protected. As a University of Santo Tomas he fostered a stronger connection and administrative work to improve the school's overall performance. Under his

leadership, he was able to partner with UST to renovate the classrooms in preparation for the comeback of face-to-face classes in 2022. More impressively, the school's faculty and staff underwent intensive training to enhance the curriculum and workforce inside the school. He again partnered with UST in renovating the library in 2023, transforming it into a state-of-the-art library where comfort and vibrance converge. In addition, the Angelicum Academic Scholarship Program (AASP) and the Angelicum Scholarship Program for Athletes (ASPA) were integrated to provide opportunities for everyone access to quality education and excel in different fields.

As a basketball player and basketball enthusiast himself, he ended the long hiatus of Angelicum's basketball varsity program by bringing it back to life and successfully bringing it to new heights within its first year alone. With his never-ending guidance, the players dedicate their every accomplished throw as a tribute to their proponents.

...he will not just meet expectations – he will exceed them and forge endless opportunities where every Angelican feels appreciated and genuinely loved...

Not only did Fr. Besa prioritizes the good relationship between the school and the home, but he, along with Fr. Paul Lovell Javier, O.P (School Treasurer) and Fr. Honorato Castigador, O.P (School Director) went beyond the expectations of the students by allowing them to immerse themselves in the Thomasian life through the UST experiential learning program and more notably, in the international context through the first International experiential learning program in South Korea wherein cultures unite. Rev. Fr. Besa served as a Principal, a close friend, and an avid supporter of all Angelicans and these were reflected in the prestigious accomplishments of the students in academics, leadership, journalism, and sports. He demonstrated competence and led the institution with unwavering grit and integrity as well as consistently upholding high ethical standards.

As the learners of Angelicum Iloilo bid their farewell to Father Besa with bittersweet feelings, may his new journey as the 13th Rector and President of UST Angelicum College in Quezon City be a reason to celebrate as his visions and exemplary leadership background in Angelicum School Iloilo are bound to meet higher expectations in UST Angelicum College, even expanding his opportunities to help Angelicum. Father Besa will certainly venture on a journey where his leadership and excellence will establish unprecedented yet exciting changes for the kindred academia.

With him as the new Rector and President, he will not just meet expectations – he will exceed them and forge endless opportunities where every Angelican feels appreciated and genuinely loved just as how he made every Angelican in Angelicum School Iloilo feel. He is more than ready to dream beyond and forge another success path of this distinct brand of education in the country which is uniquely Angelicum. 🌟

BESA

PAGBANAG *Sigaboom 2024*



ILLUMINATING DREAMS THROUGH ANGELICUM'S GUIDING LIGHT

Kyla Mariel Pasaporte

In the heart of Angelicum School Iloilo stands a mansion, not merely a structure of bricks and mortar but a silent witness to countless dreams. Each December, it transforms, shedding its usual stoic demeanor to glow in the brilliance of lights—an ethereal beacon for the young hearts who roam its grounds. This year, as the mansion illuminated yet again, it carried with it the weight of dreams past, present, and yet to come.

For 13 years, Angelicum has been my second home. I couldn't help but reflect on how this institution shaped me. From a curious little girl mesmerized by the glowing mansion to a host entrusted with the honor of leading its lighting countdown, my journey has been intertwined with Angelicum's light—a metaphor for the aspirations it kindles in every Angelican.

When I was younger, I would eagerly wait for that magical moment when the mansion's lights would flicker to life. That brilliance filled me with wonder, a quiet but profound reminder that dreams, no matter how distant, could find their spark here. This year, as I counted down and watched the mansion come alive, I realized I was not just witnessing light, I was a part of it.

But even dreams change with time. As much as Angelicum is the root of my aspirations, I know the dream of staying here forever will fade as life moves forward. Standing before the glowing mansion, I couldn't help but get a bit emotional. This wasn't just a goodbye to a school tradition but a farewell to an era of boundless dreaming within Angelicum's embrace.

The lighting of the mansion this year was different. It was more than a tradition symbolizing closure. As the first sparks of light cascaded over their facade, it mirrored our journey: from the dull uncertainties of childhood to the brilliance of dreams pursued and realized. The mansion seemed alive, as though it carried our shared emotions, silently saying, "Keep dreaming., keep chasing."

For me and many others, Sigaboom was a bittersweet celebration. It marked the fulfillment of dreams we nurtured as Angelicans and the end of a chapter we wished could last forever.

So, for the last—or perhaps not the last—time, to Angelicum, thank you for teaching us to dream. As the lights of the mansion shine brighter each year, so too will the dreams of every Angelican who walks these halls. 🌟

Artwork by Sofia Cipriano



Ang assumes second term as Rector Magnificus of UST

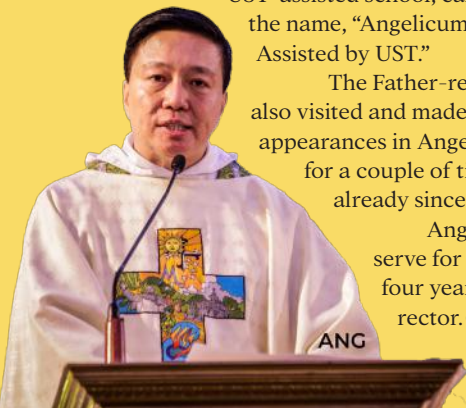
Ashira Josiane Benguan

FOLLOWING his re-election as the 97th rector of the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (UST), Very Rev. Fr. Richard Ang, O.P. formally assumed his second term through a solemn investiture and installation rites Monday, Sept. 9, 2024 at the Santisimo Rosario Parish Church.

Ang's first term as Rector Magnificus was instrumental in paving the way for a stronger collaboration between Angelicum School Iloilo and UST. It was in his first term that Angelicum became officially a UST-assisted school, carrying the name, "Angelicum Iloilo Assisted by UST."

The Father-rector also visited and made appearances in Angelicum for a couple of times already since 2022.

Ang will serve for another four years as rector. 🇵🇭



Chapel of Our Lady of Manaoag to rise in Angelicum Iloilo

Anne Josephine España

A CHAPEL dedicated to the Our Lady of Manaoag is set to be constructed in Angelicum School Iloilo with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled at 8 a.m., Monday, Oct. 7, 2024, coinciding with the feast of the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.

The chapel is a collaborative project of the Dominican Province of the Philippines, House of the Most Holy Rosary and Angelicum in Iloilo City.

The project aims to bring closer the devotees of Our Lady of Manaoag in the locality and to strengthen the Marian devotion in the Angelicum community.

Angelicum houses the official pilgrim image of the Our Lady of Manaoag since Sept. 7, 2022, when it arrived as a gift from the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag in Pangasinan. The enthronement rites and unveiling of the proposed chapel happened on Sept. 8, 2022.

Our Lady of Manaoag or Nuestra Señora del Santisimo Rosario de Manaoag, also known as Apo Baket among the locals, is a title given to the Blessed Virgin Mary which originated in the town of Manaoag in Pangasinan. The Filipino word "taoag" which means "to call" reflects the apparition that led to the canonical recognition of the said Marian image. 🇵🇭



FAITH IN ACTION. CEAP Youth Camp unites 1,766 young Catholic leaders at the Colegio de La Purisima Concepcion Gymnasium. | Photo courtesy of Kyla Pasaporte

CEAP camp fuels faith, leadership, among young Catholic leaders

Irene Mae Sambas

GUIDED by its mission to instill Catholic values among the youth, the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines (CEAP) organized the CEAP VI Youth Camp 2025 at the Colegio de la Purisima Concepción Gymnasium on March 14-15, 2025.

The two-day camp served as a forum for the young individuals to have a meaningful experience of faith, empowerment, and service with the theme, "Faithful Youth, Hopeful World!" Enthusiastic delegates from various schools represented the Dioceses of Aklan and San Jose de Antique, and Archdioceses of Capiz and Jaro.

More than just a gathering, the event opened with a Eucharistic celebration followed by a keynote address on youth empowerment, encouraging attendees to become proactive members of the community.

"This event is not just about celebrating youth, but also about empowering them to be active bearers of hope in their communities," said one of the camp organizers.

Throughout the day, interactive group sessions and team-building activities were held to foster camaraderie among youth. The evening capped with a lively cultural night, featuring musical performances.

On the last day of the event, the participants took part in a Coastal Clean-up Drive, an initiative to highlight their commitment towards environmental stewardship and social responsibility.

The camp concluded with delegates filled with renewed sense of purpose and profound devotion, serving as catalysts for change and beacons of hope in their schools and communities. 🇵🇭

Father Javier named new principal of Angelicum School Iloilo

Anne Josephine España

REV. FR. PAUL Lovell Javier, OP's appointment as the next principal of Angelicum School Iloilo was accepted by the Board of Trustees (BOT) in a board meeting dated Sept. 30, 2024 at UST-Angelicum College in Quezon City.

Effective immediately, Javier succeeds Rev. Fr. John Stephen Besa, OP following the latter's designation as the 13th rector and president of UST-Angelicum College on August 8, 2024.

Prior to his arrival in Iloilo City in 2020, he held several key positions in the Dominican Province of the Philippines and some Dominican educational institutions. He was the former Vice President for Administrative Affairs of Colegio de San Juan de Letran in Manila and Treasurer of the Dominican Province of the Philippines.

An economics graduate at the University of Santo Tomas - Manila, he was professed into the Order of Preachers on May 15, 2004 and was ordained as a priest on November 7, 2012.

Recently, he completed his Master's in School Management with Highest Distinction at West Visayas State University (WVSU). 🇵🇭



Aquinas: Epitome of Intellectual Brilliance, Model of Unyielding Faith

An Editorial of Commendation and Praise – A Tribute to St. Thomas Aquinas

On this day, the Church, particularly those in the Dominican Order, celebrates the feast of a remarkable and truly exceptional individual: St. Thomas Aquinas. His fame and influence is undeniable: The oldest university in Asia – the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas – was named after him, among countless others. He holds numerous titles: patron saint of Catholic schools, scholars, and universities; one the greatest thinkers and theologians of his time; Doctor of the Church; prince and master of scholastic doctors; the Angelic doctor – to name a few.

His name is everywhere. The best seller in a Café in front of Angelicum School Iloilo is known as “Kape ni Tomas.” The entrance route leading to the Mansion drive is dubbed as “Paseo de Santo Tomas.” The main building is called “St. Thomas Hall.” One of the highest recognitions a graduating learner in Angelicum can receive is the “St. Thomas Aquinas General Excellence Award.” All these things – his life, works, achievements, and contributions – put him rightly on the pedestal in front of the Lizares-Gamboa Mansion.

Arguably, the revered saint's name is indeed everywhere, but it is also nowhere. The challenge lies in

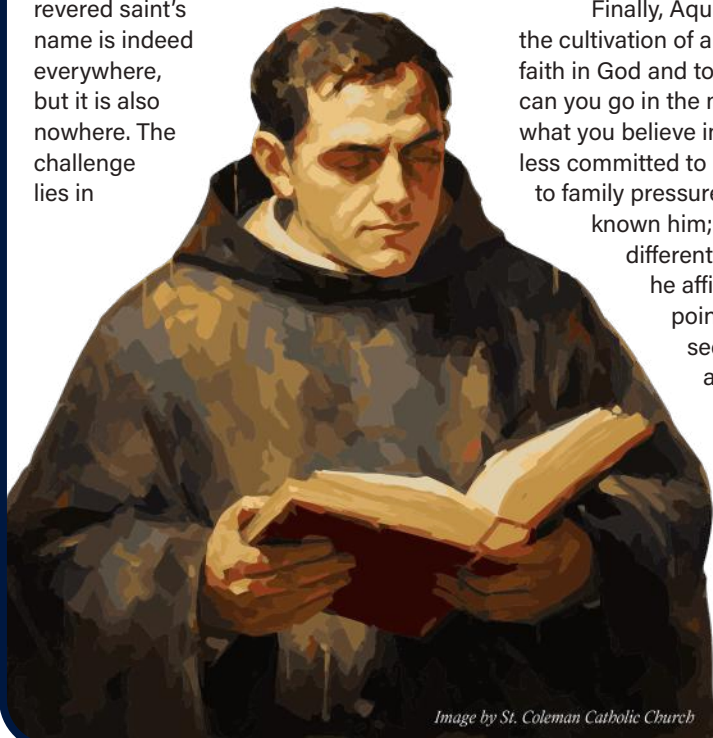


Image by St. Coleman Catholic Church

oversimplification—reciting his feast day or titles is not enough. More than that, Aquinas should be known not only for his titles but for the values and virtues he once espoused. To know him beyond his titles means knowing how to relate oneself with the values and excellences that can be drawn from his example.

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches us to love learning and to have that inquisitive and curious mind. He stands as an exemplar for those who try to live by the pillar of Dominican charism: study. He wants us to humbly recognize that we are all perpetual students of life. We should keep on learning. Every day, moment, and encounter is an opportunity to broaden our thinking and our understanding of the world around us.

Furthermore, one of the keys to understanding him is his teaching about the truth. For Thomas Aquinas, the end goal of all philosophical inquiries is the truth. But it does not stop there. The truth must be shared to enlighten others, because for him the Latin dictum “contemplare et contemplata aliis tradere,” should be our guiding principle. That is, to contemplate and to share with others the fruits of contemplation.

Finally, Aquinas is a role model in the cultivation of a strong and unyielding faith in God and to one's vocation. How far can you go in the name of standing up for what you believe in? Had Aquinas been less committed to his faith and yielded to family pressure, we could not have known him; we could have had a different patron saint. In his life, he affirmed for us a major point about our faith: to seek and love God above all else.

This is how we simplify and relate with Thomas Aquinas the right way – not through his titles but through his examples. 🙏

Requiescat in pace 



POPE FRANCIS
266th Supreme Pontiff
of the Universal Catholic Church

Dec. 17, 1936 - April 21, 2025

May the memory of Pope Francis bring comfort and strength to all who mourn. His unwavering faith and love for humanity will never be forgotten. As the 266th pontiff, he brought reform and simplicity to the Catholic Church, breaking tradition with humility. May he rest in God's eternal embrace, and may his spirit continue to guide us.




FR. ROGELIO ALARCON, OP
Education Reformist
and Founder of the Angelicum System

Oct. 26, 1937 - May 17, 2025

With great sorrow, we mourn the passing of our respected Rev. Fr. Rogelio B. Alarcon, O.P., a pioneering Dominican priest and visionary educator, who passed away peacefully on May 17, 2025, at the age of 87. He was the renowned founder of the Angelicum educational system and the first Prior Provincial of the Dominican Province of the Philippines. Fr. Rogelio Alarcon's profound impact on education and the Dominican community will continue to inspire generations to come. May he rest in eternal peace.

WHEN HEAT STRIKES THE NATION

 John Michael Niño Belgira

It's not just "mainit"—it's dangerous. The Philippines has recently endured a rising wave of extreme heat, with heat index values in some areas exceeding 45°C, placing them in the "danger" category, according to Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration. But what's really happening beneath the sunlight?


The heat index isn't just air temperature. It's a measure of what it feels like, considering humidity. A 37°C day can feel like 45°C when the humidity climbs. And with climate change accelerating, these highs aren't just occasional—they're becoming the norm.

Scientists warn that global warming is intensifying heatwaves, especially in tropical countries. According to a 2023 World Meteorological Organization report, Southeast Asia is experiencing earlier and longer dry spells due to shifting climate patterns and El Niño cycles. This isn't just about comfort—it's a health crisis. Heat exhaustion, dehydration, and even heat strokes are on the rise, particularly


in vulnerable groups like children, the elderly, and outdoor workers.

Schools across the Philippines have suspended face-to-face classes, not just as a precaution but out of necessity. Yet, while staying indoors helps, not all homes are equipped to deal with the heat. Air conditioning is a luxury, and electric fans only circulate the same hot air.

So what's the tech solution? Innovations like cool roofs, green architecture, and solar-powered cooling systems are gaining interest. Some local government units are also experimenting with heat-mapping technology to detect high-risk areas.

The rising heat index is no longer just a summer inconvenience—it's a clear signal from our planet. As the Philippines continues to sweat under the pressure of climate change, we must invest in science, sustainable solutions, and stronger public awareness. Because when the heat strikes, we need more than shade—we need strategy. 

KANLAON'S WAKE-UP CALL

 John Michael Niño Belgira


It was just another quiet day—until Mount Kanlaon let out a plume of ash, disrupting skies and stirring fears. Located in Negros Island, Mount Kanlaon is one of the Philippines' most active volcanoes. In March 2025, it showed signs of restlessness, emitting a steam-rich plume that reached hundreds of meters into the air. This followed increased seismic activity recorded by Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, which immediately raised the alert level.

But volcanic eruptions aren't sudden surprises—they're natural warnings. According to PHIVOLCS, Kanlaon's recent behavior includes volcanic tremors, gas emissions, and crater inflation, all suggesting the movement of magma beneath the surface.

Why does this matter beyond Negros? Because the Philippines lies on the Pacific Ring of Fire, a zone notorious for its tectonic activity. What happens in Kanlaon could mirror

potential activity in other volcanoes like Mayon or Taal. And with over 20 active volcanoes in the country, staying updated with technology is crucial.

Modern tech has made a big difference. PHIVOLCS now uses satellite monitoring, GPS-based ground deformation tracking, and real-time seismographs to anticipate eruptions. Drones are also being tested to safely survey volcanic craters without risking human lives. Despite this, community preparedness remains a challenge. Evacuation plans exist, but communication lags, especially in remote barangays.

Mount Kanlaon's eruption is more than just smoke—it's a wake-up call. Nature has its language, and science is how we translate it. With smarter monitoring and better disaster education, we can transform fear into readiness. Because when volcanoes speak, we must be ready to listen—and act. 

Artwork by Kyle Anico



PUZZLING THE ANGELICAN MIND

ACROSS

2. A metaphor for the aspirations it kindles in every Angelican.
5. The official publication of Angelicum School Iloilo.
7. The title of a news story that summarizes its main point.
9. An article that expresses the opinion of the writer or publication.

DOWN

1. The name of the writer shown in an article.
2. The visual arrangement of content on a publication page.
3. A conversation used to gather facts or quotes for a story.
4. Angelicum School Iloilo's first film festival.
6. The opening sentence or paragraph of a news article.
8. A short explanation placed below a photo.



BACKLOGS *Jaissa Saban*



ICE CREAM *Kyle Christopher Anico*



PA LIBRE? *Sofia Darell Cipriano*



DID YOU KNOW

Angelicus is a Latin term that means "angelic" or "of the angels" to often describe something heavenly and divine in nature. It is derived from its patron saint—St. Thomas Aquinas—the Angelic Doctor of the church for his theological teachings.





SPORTS



OWLS SOAR TO VICTORY. Angelicum School Iloilo's Blue Owls clinched the Toyota National Chairman's Cup (Division 2) with a 68-54 win over Palawan on August 18, 2024, at The Warehouse, Molo, Iloilo City. | Photo courtesy of Chairman's Cup Basketball Program

Iloilo calls it a day for Palawan; grabs Toyota nat'l Chairman's cup championship title

Irene Mae Sambas

ILOILO CITY, Philippines — Iloilo, represented by the Blue Owls of Angelicum School Iloilo, erases Palawan's hopes of calling themselves champion of the Toyota Chairman's Cup Philippines Battle of the Champions (Division 2) by dominating the court, 68-54, on Aug. 18, 2024 at The Warehouse, Molo, Iloilo City.

Earning two to three pointer shots, Ray Allen Bañes and John Edgar Gange nip it in the bud for the Palaweño houseguests, maintaining Iloilo's momentum early in the game and sealing a comfortable lead after the first quarter, 14-5.

Iloilo was at the tip of agitation as Palawan tried to catch up during the second half, putting Iloilo in the danger zone, leading

with mere two points, 33-31.

In the final quarter, both rivaling teams seized the court leaving no remorse for one another to score.

Gange steals the ball from a two-point shot attempt of Palawan, while John Chabbie Mijares goes for the layup, giving Iloilo an advantage.

At this point, competitors are under pressure until Bañes

and Leo John Lapastora cease the long wait by scoring three-point shots respectively in the last three minutes of the game.

In the end, Iloilo went for the intense rebounds and shots, trouncing Palawan with a commanding 14-point lead.

Iloilo garnered a 4-1 score in the series of games against teams from Bracket A leading to the finale. 🏆

From small-town courts to big-time dreams

Chervil Oshane Sontillanosa

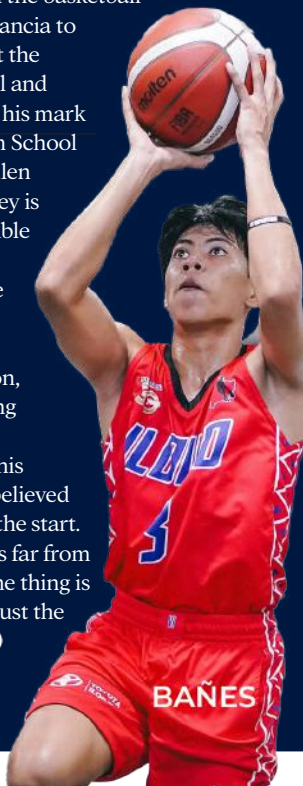
*R*aised in the quiet town of Estancia, Iloilo, where basketball was in his daily routine. As his father, and uncles were big on the game then, which he grew up watching with awe and admiration and inspired him to become a player in the journey of life and love of the game.

He began to play basketball during his elementary years under the flag of Estancia to represent their town and participated in the Cluster District Schools Athletic Meet (CDSA). Having never joined in basketball before; he practiced hard and helped his team rank third in this competition. His standout performance earned him a place on the regional team, which led to a training camp in Barotac, Iloilo where he honed his skills and gained a deeper understanding of the game.

Bañes' best turnaround of all came during his Senior High School in Angelicum School Iloilo. He developed into the player he is today with greater ability and unshakeable focus. During this time, his proudest achievement was winning the Toyota Chairman's Cup, which was indeed a testament to the hard work he had put into himself and growth.

He proudly gives credit to the person who played a big role in his journey—his coach. "I am where I am right now because of the hard work of Coach Dodoy," he says. "He believed in me, guided me, and pushed me to be better every single day."

From the basketball courts of Estancia to competing at the regional level and now making his mark at Angelicum School Iloilo, Ray Allen Bañes' journey is built on humble beginnings, the influence of his family, hard work, determination, and the strong support and guidance of his coach who believed in him from the start. His journey is far from over—but one thing is clear, this is just the beginning. 🏆



PASUNDAYAG

2025