

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The recent appointment of Rev. Enrico C. Eusebio, Jr., S.J., as 10th President of Loyola School of Theology (LST) is an auspicious time to celebrate the achievements of LST and map out its plans and direction for the future.

In his inaugural address on August 28, 2019, the new President reported on the increasing number of students in LST and the initiative taken by the school to address the needs of its clientele. The First Semester of SY 2019 registered a total of 463 students enrolled in various programs; of these, 56 are laymen, 53 are laywomen, 38 are religious sisters, and the rest are seminarians studying for the priesthood and priests taking up doctoral studies. To encourage more lay people to study theology, LST has also established a Scholarship Fund for the Laity and Religious Sisters.

The school has also attracted many international students who now comprise 40% (187) of the total student population. This trend has given impetus for LST to offer programs and courses that cater to their needs and interests. The Asian Theological Program, for example, endeavours to theologize in the Asian context and from an Asian perspective without losing sight of the catholicity of the Christian faith. Interfaith dialogue, theology of inculturation, Asian religions, history of the Church in Asia, theological issues on migration and ecology, and theological reflections of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) are just some of the themes in the courses LST offers to those preparing for mission work in Asia.

LST is also blessed with its links to various institutions inside the Ateneo de Manila University campus such as the ADMU Graduate School, East Asian Pastoral Institute, Center for Family Ministries, Center for Ignatian Spirituality, Emmaus Center for Psycho-Spiritual Formation, and Jesuit Communications Philippines. Networking with them has made it possible for LST to offer interdisciplinary studies and courses geared toward various specializations. For instance, the school now offers DMin programs in Spirituality, Pastoral Counseling, and Religious Education.

As a theological institution preparing individuals for priestly and lay ministry in the Catholic Church, LST has also taken steps to align its programs and pedagogy with the new *Ratio Fundamentalis Institutionis Sacerdotalis (The Gift of Priestly Vocation)* issued by the Congregation of the Clergy on December 8, 2016; Pope Francis's apostolic constitution *Veritatis Gaudium* on Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties (January 29, 2018); and the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAP) of the Society of Jesus.

To commemorate the inauguration of the new LST President, this issue of *Landas* carries the full text of his address to the academic community, together with a number of scholarly essays.

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