

## Weaving our Good Shepherd Story

One of the important suggestions that came up from various communities was the writing of the community's history. The members of the Research and Documentation Committee, in collaboration with the Spirituality Committee, therefore suggest the following guidelines as each community writes and submits the history:



1. When was the community founded? Who asked for the foundation? What were they considered to answer?
2. Who were the foundresses? Can you recall some personal vignettes about them? Who were the sisters assigned there through the years? Who were the coordinators?
3. What were the early years like for the community, the ministry?
4. How did the ministry develop through the years? Were there shifts, adaptations, changes? What factors brought these about?
5. What were the significant events and who were the significant people? Why are they considered significant?
6. Describe the impact of the ministry on the people. What were the big problems encountered and surmounted, the victories?
7. Do you have human interest stories, experiences, letters, documents, that will give the narrative, life and authenticity?
8. What were the striking divine interventions in the history of the foundation?
9. How did the sisters experience and communicate the charism, of compassion and reconciliation in that particular setting?
10. What title would you give the community and ministry stories?

## Good Shepherd Centennial 1912 – 2012

*Weaving Compassion Embracing Challenges Forging Hope*



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Philippines  
[www.goodshepherdsisters.org.ph](http://www.goodshepherdsisters.org.ph)



## 2012 Centennial of Good Shepherd presence in the Philippines launched

A Eucharistic Celebration to launch the three-year preparations for the centennial of Good Shepherd Sisters' presence in the Philippines, was held on October 3 at the Good Shepherd Chapel in Quezon City.

The Mass was participated in by representatives of various Good Shepherd communities in the country, lay affiliates and friends.

During the introduction, Sr. Mary James Wilson RGS traced the beginning of the foundation of the community in the Philippines reminding those gathered that the first Good Shepherd missionaries who came to the country were the Irish sisters missioned in Rangoon.

Sr. Cecilia Torres, province leader, also announced the

names of the members of the Centennial Committee that will collaborate with various working groups regarding province and community level activities for the centennial.

In his homily, Fr. Antonio de Castro SJ, emphasized that the celebrations "is just the beginning of a three-year period of telling stories, describing in brief narrative form what you, the Good Shepherd sisters, have been doing ever since your first group of sisters arrived almost 100 years ago."

Representatives of various communities and ministries also gave their initial contributions to "Pondong Euphrasia", a project that aims to generate funds for 100 SME scholars by 2012.

# Centennial Committee and Working Committees Announced

**By Sr. Cecilia Torres RGS**  
Province Leader



A year ago, the Province Leadership Team appointed members of the "think tank" a group of sisters who would brainstorm on the possible activities that we could

hold to celebrate the 100 years of Good Shepherd presence in the Philippines. We thank the Think Tank for the list of activities that we can hold in both the province and community levels.

The Think Tank asked the different communities in the Philippine province to give suggestions about the programs that we can do to celebrate the centennial. These suggestions were collated and along with the other projects that the think tank came up with, were presented to the Province Leadership Team

A Centennial Committee is also appointed by the Province Team. A group of Consultants will also help the Centennial Committee. The Centennial Committee will collaborate with sisters in the Working Committees: Research and Documentation; Souvenir/Calendars; Spirituality; Logistics, and Awards

We count on the participation of each Good Shepherd Sister and the collaboration of our lay affiliates, staff, students, alumnae/alumni, benefactors and friends as we move towards our centennial that focuses on the theme: Weaving Compassion, Embracing Challenges, Forging Hope.

## **Centennial Committee**

### **Members:**

Sr. Juliet Abrigo RGS  
Sr. Aida Casambre RGS  
Sr. Celeste Engutan CGS  
Sr. Bernadette Guzman RGS  
Sr. Regina Kuizon RGS

### **Consultants**

Sr. Marion Chipeco RGS  
Sr. Teresita Fiel RGS  
Sr. Socorro Galvez CGS  
Sr. Fe Mendoza RGS  
Sr. Regina Pil RGS  
Sr. Mary James Wilson RGS

### **Working Committees**

#### **Research and Documentation**

Sr. Fe Mendoza RGS  
Sr. Gemma Dinglasan RGS  
Sr. Rosemary Bacaltos RGS  
Sr. Tarcila Abaño RGS  
Sr. Añanita Borbon RGS  
Sr. Anallyn Esguerra RGS  
Sr. Regina Kuizon RGS

#### **Souvenirs/Calendars**

Sr. Marion Chipeco RGS  
Sr. Loreen Granada RGS  
Sr. Ailyn Binco RGS  
Sr. Jeva Sumbillo RGS  
Sr. Catalina Santos RGS  
Sr. Aida Casambre RGS

#### **Text and Music Committee**

Sr. Pia del Rosario RGS  
Sr. Aimee Olaguer RGS  
Sr. Madeleine Nicolas RGS  
Sr. Marieta Velez RGS  
Sr. Ludy Panaligan RGS  
Sr. Lorenza Sangalang RGS  
Sr. Evelyn Coronel RGS  
Sr. Therese Veloso CGS

*(Continued on page 3)*

## 2011 Embracing Challenges

### **April 24, 2011**

Feast of St. Mary Euphrasia  
Community Activities

### **October 4, 2011**

Launching of Video- Documentary

Honor Deceased Sisters  
Pilgrimage of Crook and Staff to the  
Different Communities

### **November 2011**

Centennial Lectures and Cluster  
Sharing : Metro Manila, Vis-Min,  
Theme: Embracing Challenges

## 2012 Forging Hope

**Pondo Euphrasia**  
Raise Php 40 M

### **September 2012**

Lecture and Cluster Sharing,  
Theme: Forging Hope

### **October 4-11, 2012**

Launching of Centennial Coffee  
Table Book  
Honor Mission Partners  
Centennial Celebrations

### **October 4, 2013**

Closing Mass

## Centennial Activities

Communities that have activities related to the 2012 Centennial are requested to send these to the Centennial Committee email address, [goodshepherdcentennial@gmail.com](mailto:goodshepherdcentennial@gmail.com) for posting on our Philippine Province website. Please visit: [www.goodshepherdsisters.org.ph](http://www.goodshepherdsisters.org.ph)

### Coffee Table Book Order Forms

will be distributed to communities and friends. These should be filled up and sent back to the Research /Documentation Committee.



*Gratitude  
is the memory  
of the heart.*  
SME

## PONDO EUPHRASIA

### Gratitude

Thank You Letters are being sent to the Donors who contributed to Pondo Euphrasia.

### Solicitation Letters

Good Shepherd Sisters may get their Solicitation Letters for Pondo Euphrasia through the Logistics Committee or the Local Leaders.

# Glimpse



*Let's take a look at what happened last year, where we are now and the possible steps we will take during the next two years.*

## TIMELINE 2009

### October 3, 2009

Soft –Launching of the 2012 Centennial  
Good Shepherd Chapel  
Quezon City

### November 9-10, 2009

Meeting of Working Committees  
Rosary Hall, Good Shepherd  
Community, Quezon City

### December 9, 2009

Meeting of Centennial Committee

### On or before December 16, 2009

Submission of Community  
History to the Research/  
Documentation Committee

### December 18-19, 2009

Meeting of Research/  
Documentation Committee

## 2010 Weaving Compassion

### January 20, 2010

Meeting of Centennial Committee

### February 2010

Spirituality Committee starts  
preparing Recollection Matters in  
relation to the Centennial

### February 3-5, 2010

Centennial Launching  
St. Bridget College  
Batangas City

### February 12, 2010

Meeting of Spirituality Committee  
Rosary Hall, QC.

### March 6-7, 2010/ May 17-19, 2010

Meeting of Research and  
Documentation Committee

### May 24-27, 2010

Local Leaders' Meeting, Baguio  
Presentation of Centennial Program  
and Planning of Regional  
Celebrations

### July 31, Kapihan with Staff

### August-December

Recollection on the 5 Rs  
August: Reclaim the Feminist  
Principle  
September: Rest the Earth  
October: Release the Slaves  
November: Recall the Debt  
December: Return the Land

### November 2010:

Centennial Lecture,  
Theme: Weaving Compassion

### Spirituality

Sr. Mary James Wilson RGS  
Sr. Socorro Galvez CGS  
Sr. Patricia Perez RGS  
Sr. Teresita Figueroa RGS  
Sr. Teresita Fiel RGS  
Sr. Teresa Danganan RGS  
Sr. Rosario Battung RGS  
Sr. Emma Marzan RGS  
Sr. Celeste Engutan CGS  
Sr. Bernadette Guzman RGS

### Logistics

Sr. Regina Pil RGS  
Sr. Joan Salamanca RGS  
Sr. Pilar Verzosa RGS  
Sr. Lydia Eborra RGS  
Sr. Marieta Velez RGS  
Sr. Susan Montano RGS  
Sr. Ana de Guzman RGS  
Sr. Felice Maningo RGS  
Sr. Marites Mahinay RGS  
Sr. Juliet Abrigo RGS

### Awards

Sr. Flor Tio RGS  
Sr. Maryanne Terrenal RGS  
Sr. Catalina Santos RGS  
Sr. M. Goretti Bool CGS  
Sr. Aida Casambre RGS



*Weaving Compassion  
Embracing Challenges  
Forging Hope*

### Alumnae/Alumni/Benefactors/Friends

Sr. Marcelline Riosa RGS  
Sr. Victoria Joson RGS  
Sr. Lorenza Sangalang RGS  
Sr. Rose Ababao RGS  
Sr. Aida Violago RGS

### Thanks to the Think Tank

Sr. Fe Mendoza RGS  
Sr. Bernadette Guzman RGS  
Sr. Lydia Eborra RGS  
Sr. Juliet Abrigo RGS  
Sr. Celeste Engutan CGS



**Photo of the Committee Members for the 2012 Centennial during the November 2009 Meeting. Also in photo is Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, archbishop of Manila, an alumnus of St. Bridget College, Grade School Department.**

## Introduction

*By Sr. Mary James Wilson RGS*

Since 1910, the then archbishop of Manila, Msgr. Jeremy Harty, had been in communication with the Good Shepherd Mother House in Angers to request a foundation in his archdiocese.

Two years later, on October 4, 1912 the first two Good Shepherd Sisters set foot on Philippine soil, after a 20-day voyage from Rangoon on the boat SANG-CHOON. So what are we doing now, gathered here at the Good Shepherd Chapel almost a hundred years from that historic voyage on a Chinese boat?

Well...in today's jargon, we are celebrating a special mass for a "soft-launching" to begin the 3-year preparation of the actual centennial on October 4, 2012.

The 2 sisters, Mother Constance Phelan, superior of the Rangoon convent and Sr. Mary Liguori Bourke, destined for the new foundation, were sent to assess the situation. Since they did not know anyone in Manila they planned to request hospitality from the French sisters in Assumption Convent. Great was their surprise when they were met at the pier by the Mother Superior of the St. Paul de Chartres sisters with a carriage drawn by two horses. Everything had been arranged by the Bishop of Lipa

who was waiting for them at the Apostolic Delegation.

Lipa? But the request had come from the Archbishop of Manila two years earlier! Well, in God's calendar, almost anything can happen in two years. And things did happen.



**Sr. Mary James**

After Mother Domitilla LaRose, the Superior General, responded favorably to the ardent appeal of Msgr. Harty for a foundation in Manila, the affair was placed in the hands of Msgr. Ambrose Agius, the Apostolic Delegate. On his return to Manila, Msgr. Agius made a stop-over in Malta, his homeland, where he fell ill and died soon after. Thus the relevant documents never reached the persons concerned.

In the meantime, Bishop Joseph Petrelli of the Lipa Diocese, who also desired to have a Good Shepherd house in his vast diocese which at the time included the provinces of Batangas, Laguna, Cavite, Mindoro, Marinduque and Quezon, sent his brother, Abbe Gustave Petrelli, to the Mother House in Angers in November 1911 to plead person-

After Mother Domitilla LaRose, the Superior General, re-

## 2012 Centennial

### Year 1: 2010 Prayer Weaving Compassion

**Weaver God be with us as we weave compassion in the tapestry of our centennial year celebration.**

**Journey with us as we reveal the colors of compassion that bind us together as communities becoming "schools of mercy and havens of compassion" for others, especially to our poor brothers and sisters. You, who hold the design of our being, can make this happen.**

**Amen.**

### Logistics Committee

1. Raise Php 40 M for Pondo Euphrasia by 2012

Collection from souvenir sales  
Centennial dinner

2. Identify Centennial fund raising activities reflective of our Province thrust and theme

Concert  
Cultural presentation

3. Identify 100 persons or benefactors on a province-wide level who can contribute to our Centennial Fund

### Souvenirs Committee

Make people aware of the Centennial Celebration of the Good Shepherd Philippine Province

Souvenir items  
Key chains, ballpens etc  
2011 calendar  
2012 calendar  
CD of RGS Songs  
Commemorative Stamps

### Awards Committee

Recognize persons and families who have been Count de Neuville and Countess d'Andigne to the Good Shepherd Sisters.

Give certificate to Bridgetines who became Good Shepherd Sisters.

Name buildings or rooms after Sr. Assumption, Sr. Anne Fiel, Sr. Conseulo Ferrer, Sr, Veronica Mondonedo.

### Additional Publication

1. Catalogue of RGS Agencies in coordination with SMEIDFI

2. Directory of Good Shepherd Sisters in coordination with Province Secretariat

3. Biographical Sketches of Sisters living and dead (c/o Formation Team)

# How do we celebrate our Centennial?

On November 9-10, 2009, the Centennial Committee and the Working Committees met at the Rosary Hall for a general orientation on the proposed plan to celebrate our centennial.

The plan was culled from suggestions of Good Shepherd Sisters, apostolic and contemplative, in the different communities.

The committees discussed during the two-day meeting, in small groups and in plenary, the relevant activities during the celebrations and came up with the operational plans for the next three years.

The operational plans were presented to the Province Leadership Team.

Below is a summary of each Committee's plans:

## Research and Documentation

1. Produce a 15-20 minute documentary video presentation of the beginnings and continuing history of the Philippine Province
2. Publish a commemorative centennial coffee table book as a graphic presence of the Good Shepherd Philippine Province
3. 100 Stories of a Shepherd

## Spirituality Committee

1. Look back and give thanks for the goodness God has woven into our lives these 100 years.

2. Recognize the mercy of God at work in the difficulties we have gone through.

Regional Jubilee Celebration **2011**, Batangas—July 31, NCR— Sept 8, Cebu-Nov. 21; **2012**, Baguio-Jan. 16, Cavite-March 25; Bicol-May 2, Mindanao— July 31, Isabela- Sept. 29

Centennial Prayer:  
2010: Weaving Compassion;  
2011 Embracing Challenges;  
2012 Forging Hope

Centennial Song: Text and Music in CD - May 2011

Recollection Matters starting February 2010 until July 2010.

Circles of Conversations among Sisters, then Sisters and lay staff

3. Transform our communities and ministries into schools of mercy and justice and havens of compassion.

Centennial Lectures in Metro Manila and VisMin on the Theme.

Cluster sharing after series of lectures

Recollection on the 5Rs.

## Introduction

ally for a foundation in Batangas. He must have been such a good envoy that Mother Domitilla readily acquiesced and promised to send sisters the following autumn of 1912. Fr. Petrelli sent the good news immediately to Lipa and Bishop Petrelli, practical Italian that he was, enclosed a check for 3,000 francs for the sisters' trip together with his letter of thanks. He had also specified that the sisters coming to the



Philippines should know how to speak English. Thus the two sisters who arrived in 1912 were Irish sisters from our thriving St. Bridget's School in Rangoon, Burma.

From their overnight stay at the SPC Sisters, they were accompanied to Batangas by Bishop Petrelli himself, taking the 7 am train on October 5 and arriving around midday. Their triumphant arrival from the station on two carriages to the ringing of the church bells and a band, is a story in itself. But we shall leave that tale to our sisters of St. Bridget's to tell themselves.

And what about poor Msgr. Harty who had been waiting for his shepherdesses since 1910? That again is another story that must be told another time as it took eleven more years before the Manila fold was opened in 1921.

For today, we simply want to recall and thank God for the safe arrival of the first Good Shepherd Sisters in the Philippines and to prepare for the anniversary of 100 years of shepherding in this Pearl of the Orient.



**Soft-launching of the Centennial at the Good Shepherd Chapel**



**Good Shepherd Sisters, friends and lay associates participated in the Mass held on October 3.**

## The Function of Story Telling

### Points from a Homily

By Fr. Tony de Castro SJ

What is it that we are celebrating this afternoon? It is rather simple: this celebration is just the beginning of a three-year period of telling stories, describing in brief narrative form what you, the Good Shepherd sisters, have been doing ever since your first group of sisters arrived almost 100 years ago.

During this three-year period, we hope to encourage one another then to tell stories, stories of the Good Shepherd sisters you have known, stories about how these sisters have collaborated in making the apostolic works of the Philippine Province what they are today, and to draw the appropriate lessons from them for the present and for the future. But why should we be sharing stories with each other? What is the significance of engaging in this narrative activity?

In his study of Paul Ricoeur's philosophy, Richard Kearney helpfully outlines four central tasks of "narrative."

1) First, he says, we tell stories in order "to realize our debt to the historical past," indeed to honor the memory of our dead, of those who have gone ahead of us...

2) Second, Kearney notes that



Fr. Tony de Castro SJ

we tell stories in order "to respect the rival claims of memory and forgetfulness." The stories we tell reflect decisions made about what is worth remembering and what is to be consigned to being forgotten.

3) Third, we tell stories in order "to cultivate a notion of self-identity." The stories we tell about ourselves nurture our sense of who we are, affirm and reaffirm it, inviting us to grow ever more profoundly into the persons we are called to be.

4) And fourth, we tell stories in order "to persuade and evaluate action." Implicit in this fourth task, I submit, is a profound engagement with the present and a proleptic concern for the future. What then are the stories we tell each other as Good Shepherd sisters and lay partners? What is the context of our story-telling today? I am sure the stories we tell each other are stories that honor the memory of our dead, that are crucial to our under-

standing of who we are, that enable us to negotiate the rival claims of what demands to be remembered and what needs to be forgotten, and that allow us to gauge in some way how far we have come in our apostolic works and institutions and how far we still need to go, given the shifting frontiers of our changing times. We are perhaps not conscious that these are in fact what we are doing when we engage in story-telling. But the celebration of an anniversary such as the one we have in the arrival of the first Good Shepherd sisters in these islands 100 years ago very often awakens us to the significance of a basic human need and activity.

Unfortunately, I misplaced Kearney's article when I was writing this paper and can no longer find it. In any case, for a helpful account of the voluminous and diverse works of Richard Kearney, some of which are dedicated to the philosophy of Paul Ricoeur, one may profitably consult his page on the Boston College website: <http://www2.bc.edu/~kearneyr/RKpublications.htm> (accessed at 9:00 p.m., 29 September 2009).



Sr. Evelyn Coronel, Flutist Rey Sison and Lay Affiliate Sony Sison.



Sisters from various communities



Offertory Procession. Individuals and communities donated some

*"During this three-year period, we hope to encourage one another then to tell stories, stories of the Good Shepherd sisters you have known, stories about how these sisters have collaborated in making the apostolic works of the Philippine Province what they are today, and to draw the appropriate lessons from them for the present and for the future."*