Reckoning this year to be crucial in the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the University, reelected Rector and President Rev. Fr. Ramonclaro G. Mendez, O.P. began his third term with an announcement of far reaching “organizational, administrative, and program adjustments” during an administrators’ meeting at the Fra Angelico Building, June 1.

The announcement came a day after the Office of the Rector and President released Executive Order No. 1, s. 2007 which articulated the said adjustments, including the merging of several colleges.

The EO whereas clause reasoned, “Present socio-economic conditions urge us to define and implement a plan that would develop an educational model responsive to the demands of reconstruction and renewal.”

The order calls for the merging of the College of Engineering, College of Architecture and Fine Arts, and the Computer Science Department of the College of Arts and Sciences to form the Aquinas University Polytechnic Institute (AQPI).

The move is “a response to the need for developing enabling technologies that will equip our students with professional and life skills, improve their potentials for employment and career development, and empower communities and sectors inside and outside the University through the creation of AQPI.”

I take this opportunity to welcome everyone back.

I am happy to see your smile again. I feel jovial listening to your laughter. I like looking at you walking the corridor or listening intently to your professor inside your classroom. I appreciate the sight of you poring over a book in the library.

You came at a time when we are introducing changes in our AQ. This we are doing to help you cope better with the challenges of an equally changing world as well as place AQ in a position of strength as it pursues its vision, mission, and goals.

I look forward to a very productive academic year 2007-2008.

Rev. Fr. Ramonclaro G. Mendez, O.P.
Rector and President
Fr. Mon begins... from page 1

an active engagement and interaction with technology and indigenous knowhow," Fr. Mon said.

Aside from the establishment of the AQPI, the College of Education has now been fused with the College of Arts and Sciences to form the College of Arts, Sciences and Education (CASE).

"With the Computer Science Department as part of the Polytechnic Institute, the University will have greater latitude to focus on development efforts in the Liberal Arts and Science programs," according to the Executive Order.

The College of Business Administration has also been streamlined to work under the Graduate School. With this new setup, the BA under-graduate programs will be strengthened by the graduate programs in business and management. The undergraduate programs will also provide a wide base for graduate-level projects and participation due to the high number of graduate enrollees in the University’s management and business programs.

The College of Nursing has been expanded to become the College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS). General Education faculty will now be part of the CNHS earlier serving the College of Nursing from CAS, to enable them to develop instructional programs and materials in competency building for CNHS. Prior to the expansion, most faculty members of General Education subjects were based in the College of Arts and Sciences.

New deans, administrators

With the reorganization, the Father Rector also announced the administrative appointees for the academic year. (See Designations and Placements, page 7).

Some 33 administrators have now been given assignments.

The number of administrators decreased from 45 in the previous years. Out of the 33 administrators, three are new appointees, eight have been re-designated, and 16 have been retained. Six other retained administrators have been given additional designations.

Some former AQ administrators were transferred to posts at the Aquinas University Hospital.

Offices dissolved, realigned

With the merging of several colleges, some auxiliary offices have been dissolved and several others have been realigned.

The Center for Campus Infrastructure and Development has been...
dissolved. The OIC for Administration now takes responsibility over the University’s infrastructure projects.

Also abolished was the Office of Testing Measurement and Standards. Its test and measurement function has been reverted to the Student Development Services.

The Department of Physical Education Sports and Fitness has been realigned and is now the Wellness, Sports and Fitness Center.

The Campus Ministry has been replaced by the Aquinas University Center for Creative Ministry.

The Theology subjects will be developed into non-graded, non-academic program.

The Executive Order took effect June 4, 2007. (For the complete list of adjustments, see page 4).

Reinstallation set
Meanwhile, final preparations are underway for the investiture ceremonies set on July 9.

Over 200 guests are expected to attend the ceremonies at the AQ Dome. Among the dignitaries who will attend are Rev. Fr. Querio T. Pedregosa, Jr., O.P., Assistant to the Master for the Asia-Pacific Region of the Dominican Province of the Philippines; Rev. Fr. Hilario Q. Singian, Jr., O.P., Provincial Socius, Dominican Province of the Philippines; Rev. Fr. Ernesto M. Arceo, O.P., Rector Magnificus, University of Santo Tomas; Prof. Tamerlane R. Lana, O.P., Rector, Letran College-Manila, and Atty. Loida Nicolas-Lewis, US-based Bikolana tycoon and philanthropist.

The ceremonies will have the theme “The Rise of the Phoenix.”

This is the third investiture for Fr. Mon, who was first elected Seventh Rector and President of the University in 1999, and reinstalled in 2003.

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2003-2004
AQ opens BS in Chemistry, BS/AB in Psychology and AB Performance and Cultural Studies.

The University redefines its high school program into the Aquinas University Integrated High School with two tracks—one for science and one for arts—making possible in the future the opening of a pre-school and elementary school within the integrated system.

Programming for the graduate level is redefined with the setting up of the Aquinas University Professional Schools as a separate administrative unit that will focus on the Graduate School and the College of Law and pursue special and short-term programs for professional education.

Aquinas University gets a foothold at the eastern shores of the region, establishing linkages in communities of Tabaco, Tinoy, Caramoan and Rapu-Rapu for its coastal management program. It establishes linkage with Shidong Baogong Agham at Tekniko-hiyat (SIBAT) for a mini-hydro electric plant and rice plant as part of its anti-mining advocacy.

The Office of Accreditation and Testing and Measurement is established to develop the necessary tools and services needed to achieve the AQ goals and deliver the AQ thrusts.

Fr. Mon helps Ateneo de Naga University establish its College of Nursing by sending them Dr. Maria Clara M. Rubino as “dean-on-loan.”

2004-2005
Aquinas University enters into a collaborative partnership with the Office of the Governor of Albay for the Albay Architectural Heritage Project.

The Pay for Performance System was instituted as a concrete translation of the recognition of the human resources as the best assets of the institution.

AQ begins construction of the Fra Angelico Building to house the College of Architecture and Fine Arts and the College of Engineering. The Science and Technology Library was merged with the Main Library to give more room to Engineering students.

The Management Information System (MIS) and the Information Technology Center (ITC) are integrated to form the MIS-ITC. The AQ website, www.aquinasuniversity.edu, goes online.

2005-2006

The Legal Resource Center and the Center for Continuing Education complement the services of the Professional Schools.

The University installs the Faculty Development Program which has seen an increase in the number of AQ scholars enrolled in graduate studies.

Fr. Mon starts researches and formulates concepts on how AQ can introduce a program on community college. AQ hosts “Education Beyond Margins.”

Fr. Mon sets up the AQ Relief and Rehabilitation Center a few days after typhoon Reming devastates Albay to help communities affected by the calamity. Volunteers, mostly AQ students, help in the relief operations of the University.

To answer the challenges posed by the recent disasters, Fr. Mon introduces TaSaTu, CARE, ORAGON, and Sirangan.

In January 2007, he announces the implementation of Sirangan, which is intended to promote wellness among students, personnel, communities, partners, and other stakeholders.

2007-2008
Fr. Mon is reelected for the third time, May 11, making him one of the longest serving Rector and President of the University.

The Office of the Rector and President releases Executive Order No. 1, May 31, announcing “organizational, administrative and program adjustments.”

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The process of reinventing ourselves as an organization requires assessment, organizational awareness, and corporate willingness to explore possibilities.

Reinventing BACS
August 18, 2006

We are moving in cadence because we listen to the same beat…”

Thank You for that Wonderful Day,
November 15, 2006

“...reinventing ourselves as an organization requires assessment, organizational awareness, and corporate willingness to explore possibilities.”

Reinventing BACS
August 18, 2006

The Gold that Will Kill Us,
undated

“Greed will turn our community into a commodity and rob us of self-respect... greed can injure and corrupt the soul.”

The Gold that Will Kill Us,
undated
WHEREAS, our 2006-2016 Strategic Development Plan envisions Aquinas University of Legazpi to be a sanctuary of development which is dynamic, connecting, nurturing, and evangelizing, reflective of our Aquinian context and that of the borderless world through a committed, competent, and creative teaching and learning community;

WHEREAS, present socio-economic conditions urge us to define and implement a plan that would develop an education model responsive to the demands of reconstruction and renewal;

WHEREAS, our institution recognizes the necessity to move towards an educational system that will promote programs on knowledge production while at the same time enhancing skill-based programs;

WHEREAS, administrative and organizational adjustments are needed to capacitate our institution to efficiently and effectively achieve its resonant vision in a proactive way which would have strategic impact on our educational service and development efforts;

WHEREAS, the new mandate of my administration presents the right situation for introducing proactive changes and translate into effective operational terms our concept of the “Rise of the Phoenix,” our prospective goals, and our commitment for renewal in the interest of regional development;

WHEREFORE, as Rector and President of Aquinas University of Legazpi, I hereby promulgate the following organizational, administrative and program adjustments pursuant to my executive powers and prerogatives:

A. AQ Transformation for Organizational Efficiency

1. Polytechnic Institute. The College of Engineering, College of Architecture and Fine Arts, and the Computer Science Department of the College of Arts and Sciences shall be formed into a single administrative unit, the Aquinas University Polytechnic Institute. This movement shall be our response to the need for developing enabling technologies that will equip our students with professional and life skills, improve their potentials for employment and career development, and empower communities and sectors inside and outside the University through an active engagement and interaction with technology and indigenous know-how.
   a. A dean shall exercise direct supervision of academic programs of the formerly separate units.
   b. Academic chairs shall be designated for each Engineering, Architecture and Fine Arts, and Computer Sciences.
   c. Teaching and research in the Polytechnic Institute shall be configured such that students develop field competencies and potentials for invention and innovation, with strong academic support and supplemental short-term courses, many of which can be offered to non-regular students.
   d. The school shall develop a voc-tech component program (in partnership with TESDA) as part of its academic services.
   e. The institute shall provide technical assistance where needed in community extension projects and elsewhere in University programs, specifically in the development of strategies for disaster preparedness and management and risk mitigation.
   f. The institute undertake curriculum revision for strategic adjustments that will include a reconfiguration of subject offerings and programs, and the suspension or closure of non-viable programs;

2. College of Arts, Sciences and Education. The College of Education, and the College of Arts and Sciences shall form one administrative unit called the College of Arts, Sciences and Education. With Computer Science as part of the Polytechnic Institute, the University will have greater latitude to focus on development efforts in the Liberal Arts and Science programs. In the fusion, the Education programs will gain their needed boost in manpower while lending their own expertise in the improvement of instructional programs of Academic Affairs.
   a. The college shall be directly under the charge of Academic Affairs; the head of the division, to be designated as dean of the college, shall exercise direct supervision of academic programs of the formerly separate units.
   b. Coordination of General Education shall be a primary concern of the fused formation through a Director of Programs who will work with the academic chairs in facilitating faculty access to instructional support, and in ensuring that disciplinal interactions continue to happen in the new set up, where General Education faculty shall be based in the colleges they serve (described in the next section). He/she shall also assist the Officer-in-Charge for Academics in the administration of the academic programs of the college.
   c. Academic chairs shall be appointed for the following: Languages and Communication (covering English, Filipino, Bikol, Humanities, and Communication), Social Sciences (covering Philosophy, Political Science, Economics, History, and allied offerings), Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and Education (Elementary, Secondary and PE).
   d. Significant adjustments in educational services of this fused formation shall include:
      i. Offering of generic AB and BS (common/GE) subjects only for the first year students, effective this first semester of school year 2007-2008;
      ii. Curriculum revision for strategic adjustments that will include a reconfiguration of subject offerings and programs, and the suspension or closure of non-viable programs;
      iii. Facilitation of competency-based instructional strategies and materials production;
      iv. Working for the Education program to attain Center of Excellence status once again.

3. Operational Coordination of the College of Business Administration and Graduate School. The benefits of this set-up are immediate: the graduate programs in business and management will strengthen the BA undergraduate programs while the latter will provide a wide base for graduate-level projects and participation, considering that a great number of graduate enrollees are in the business and management programs.
   a. The graduate school dean will serve as the BA dean in a caretaker capacity assisted by a Faculty Secretary.
   b. Academic chairs shall be designated for Financial and Managerial Accounting, Management and Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Business and Finance, and Tourism.
   c. Significant adjustments in educational services of this unit shall include:
      i. Offering of generic BA and common/GE subjects only for the first year students, effective this first semester of school year 2007-2008;
      ii. Curriculum revision for strategic adjustments that will include a reconfiguration of subject offerings and programs and the suspension or closure of non-viable programs;
      iii. Facilitation of competency-based instructional strategies and materials production.
      iv. Development of a voc-tech component program (in partnership with TESDA) as part of its academic services; production and engagement with industry and trading communities as a major concern.
      v. Involvement in programs and projects of the AQ Foundation for competency enhancement and practicum.

4. College of Nursing and Health Sciences. The Nursing program shall be strengthened by the entry of General Education faculty who will develop instructional programs and materials directly in service of competency building in the college, e.g., in the areas of communication and thinking skills. The college shall develop other viable health science offerings that complement our present strength in Nursing and Midwifery, including TESDA-supported/recognized programs.
B. Interdisciplinary and Competency-Based Instruction, Research and Extension Services

1. “Interdisciplinarity” means the collaboration of various disciplines to attain student competencies in a given academic period. Teachers of various disciplines collaborate and coordinate to develop and implement a plan and framework that attains student competencies along the lines of instruction, research, extension, and production.

2. Interdisciplinarity in action can best be attained by placing teachers where they are teaching. This further means that colleges/departments shall have regular instructional design planning and assessment sessions to make the instructional program appropriate and sufficient for the students’ needs and progress.

3. Interdisciplinarity is the organizational framework to achieve the University’s thrust to integrate instruction, research, and extension services. It supports the development of a competency-based instruction where learning becomes possible not only within the classroom but more importantly in laboratory/clinical settings and in the communities.

4. All academic units as configured in this Executive Order shall endeavor to pursue interdisciplinary research engagements that can lead to stronger linkages with clients and partners in the communities, in industry and the professions.

C. Additional Instructions and Guidelines for Academic Affairs

1. Further adjustments in the Academic Affairs.
   a. The Council of Deans shall operate as a collegial body for the discussion of academic concerns, reporting and submitting resolutions and action plans direct to the Rector and President through the OIC for Academics.
   b. The Center for Community Extension Services shall be integrated as a component unit of the academic division, the better to implement the integration of instruction, research and extension services.
   c. Academic support for teaching and research primarily in the programs of CAS and Education but also extending to the Polytechnic Institute, BA, and Nursing should be strengthened in the division, with an Academic Support and Accreditation Officer to be appointed for the purpose. Academic support shall refer to supervision of assessment and grading, practicum coordination, instructional materials development, faculty development.
   d. A Research Coordinator should be designated to supervise institutional and student research.
   e. The Registrar shall serve within the division, taking charge of operational concerns with records, registration of students and allied concerns like the preparation and coordination of class schedules, admission and promotion, and graduation.
   f. The Chief Librarian and her staff shall remain within the division.

D. Aquinian Culture and Student Services

1. The Religious Affairs Division shall be transformed into the Aquinian Culture and Student Services Division headed by a Vice-Rector for Culture. The division shall be the Commission on Culture metamorphosed into a major structural unit of the University and functioning as the primary information arm, for students, faculty and staff, and administrators as well. It shall also serve as convener of the Commission on Ethics and Advocacy.
2. The mandate of the division is to develop a core agenda and plan for Aquinian formation informed by continuing discussions on the peculiar Aquinian character, quality, image, and identity and guided by the Aquinian mission of a life of truth and love out of gratitude. A tentative list of specific aspects of formation shall be as follows:

a. Catholic and Dominican spirituality;
b. Citizenship and civic-consciousness;
c. Good governance, leadership and volunteerism;
d. Sports, wellness and fitness;
e. Culture and the arts;
f. Ethics.

3. The division shall be composed of the following operational units:

a. Theology, to be developed as a non-graduated, non-academic program;
b. Aquinian Center for Creative Ministry (formerly Campus Ministry);
c. Student Development Services and all units within it, plus Testing (currently with OTMS);
d. Community Service Training Program (CSTP);
e. Center for Culture and the Arts;
f. Wellness/Sports and Fitness Center (currently with DPESF).

E. Miscellaneous

1. The Administrative and the Finance Divisions, the High School (AQUI), and the Professional Schools shall remain as they are, except where the foregoing changes shall require adjustments in manpower complement or the transfer of a department.

2. Provisional nature of the structure. The system, structure and procedures provided herein are of provisional nature and subject to improvement, revision and alteration as executive discretion and prerogatives may require and as the Board of Trustees may provide in the future.

3. Repealing clause. All existing regulations inconsistent with the foregoing are hereby expressly repealed and revoked.

4. Effectivity. This Executive Order shall become effective on June 4, 2007. All units are hereby instructed to effect the changes promulgated herein within a month from the issuance of this Executive Order.
**Office of the Secretary-General**

**TO:** All administrators, heads of offices, academic and non-academic personnel  
**FROM:** The Secretary-General  
**SUBJECT:** Identification while in the campus  
**DATE:** June 5, 2007

This is a call for the strict observance of wearing our identification cards while inside and in the immediate vicinity of the different AQ campuses. The reasons for this are compelling and practical:

1. Identify ourselves to the AQ Community, especially the students and the security guards on duty;  
2. Promote role modeling, i.e., we ask students and visitors to wear IDs, therefore we must also wear ours;  
3. Contribute to the efficiency and effectiveness of safety and security measures observed in the campus; and  
4. As it is said, it is better to be safe than sorry.

The roving security guards and those at the gates will be instructed to strictly enforce the rule on wearing of IDs. The undersigned and the Safety and Security Officer will make regular rounds of the Rawis Campus to observe if the rule on the wearing of IDs by all constituents is observed. Those not in observance of the rule will be reminded at the first instance. Next instances will be dealt with administratively through the issuance of memoranda copies of which will be furnished the Human Resource Management Office the same to form part of its permanent records.

This strictly takes effect on June 14, 2007.

Administrators and heads of offices are requested to help in the widest dissemination of this notice.

Your kindest understanding and cooperation will be highly appreciated.

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**Fast Facts**

The MIS-ITC has begun the first phase of the AQ corporate email project. Some 350 AQ personnel now have their “AQmail.”

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**Issuances**

**TO:** All employees, students, regular suppliers of goods and providers of services (canteen)  
**THRU:** Deans of Colleges/Heads of Departments  
**NOTED:** Rafael Banzuela, Jr., Secretary-General  
**SUBJECT:** Availability of vehicle stickers for SY 2007-2008  
**DATE:** June 27, 2007

As specified in Memorandum No. 11 section 2002 dated July 11, 2002 issued by the Rector and President, “All vehicles of administrators, employees, and students that enter the campus must have stickers one week after the first day of availability.”

By virtue of such memorandum, we are informing everyone that effective June 29, 2007, Friday, this office shall be issuing vehicle stickers until July 15, 2007. The schedule of the issuance of vehicle stickers will be MWF 9:30-12:00 pm and 2:30-5:00 pm.

Any stickers issued after the deadline will be charged five (5) percent surcharge per month and the Office of Safety and Security Services reserves the right to physically attach the car sticker to the vehicles for security purposes. Other details regarding the vehicle stickers may be read in the Guidelines on Vehicle Passes approved by the Rector and President on July 9, 2004. For further inquiries, please contact the Office of Safety and Security Services.

Moreover, it is emphasized that vehicles without plate numbers (front and back) will not be allowed to enter the campus unless authorized by the Rector and President or the Vice-Rectors.

Thank you very much.
OUTSTANDING MANUAL

“We had it first before them.”

When Commission on Higher Education Chair Carlito Puno urged participants to the National Summit on Campus Safety and Security to formulate a safety and security manual, AQ Security Officer Jesus Barizo promptly stood up and presented a copy of the University’s own. The surprised Puno ordered to have it photocopied and distributed to be used in the plenary. As it turned out, AQ is the only school with an existing security manual among the institutions attending the event.

“Even known universities in the country don’t have their own safety manuals,” Puno said, expressing kudos to the University.

Formulated in November 2003 and approved in 2005, the AQ Safety and Security Manual is composed of the best (safety and security) practices of the University from 1998 to 2003, according to Security Officer Jesus Barizo.

Barizo, together with HRMO Director Mike Navarro, Mr. Romulo Antivola and Rev. Fr. Joseph R. Raquid, O.P., attended the said summit in Baguio City in March this year.

‘DEFENSE OF THE CENTURY’

Here’s proof that in thesis writing, the number of years does not matter.


“It’s the story of my life,” he quipped. “It is actually my career in labor relations.” Dr. Pedro Bernaldez, his very patient mentor, did not give up on encouraging him. Dr. Bernaldez, in jest, called it “the defense of the century” and the “greatest accomplishment of my deanship.”

Years of hard work finally paid off. Mr. Navarro’s panel of examiners gave him a very good 96.25...Meritissimus!

CHED, TESDA approve AQ ladderized Nursing program

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the Technical Educational and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) have approved the implementation of the ladderized Nursing program of Aquinas University of Legazpi, according to AQ Registrar Leticia Roque.

Under the ladderized program, students enrolled will receive a certificate of competency in caregiving after their first year. After the second year, the students will be eligible to receive a certificate in Midwifery, said College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS) Assistant Dean Vicente Peralta.

“Should a student choose to stop after the first year for financial or other reasons, he or she will already have a certificate in caregiving,” he added.

“Our move is in accordance with Executive Order No. 358 which provide the legal basis for the Ladderized Education Program (LEP),” said Roque.

Under EO 358, TESDA and CHED are commissioned “to establish equivalency pathways and access ramps for a ladderized system allowing for easier transitions and progression between the Technical and Vocational Education and Training and higher education.”

The LEP intends to empower students especially the disadvantaged, to finish a college degree and graduate as more experienced, skilled, and qualified workers.

On June 26, TESDA awarded 20 certificates worth P100,000 to AQ’s CNHS. This will serve as financial assistance to poor but deserving students enrolled in CNHS.

“This is a one-time grant,” said Roque.

As of June 29, four sections out of eight in the CNHS’s first year level are under the ladderized program.

BA launches Entrep scholarship program

The College of Business Administration has begun implementation of the Provincial Government-funded Entrepreneurship Scholarship Program starting June this year.

The program is the outcome of a Memorandum of Agreement between AQ and the Provincial Government of Albay signed November 14, last year. Under the agreement, the Provincial Government shall appropriate P100,000 a year for four years to cover costs of tuition fees and other school needs of the scholars. AQ awards the scholarship to students who are residents of Albay.

Dr. Florabel O. Nieva said three slots have been awarded to students Margie C. Trilles, Dennis B. Ramirez and Dan Bryan L. Grilo as of May 30.
CUTTING THE BARRIER. Fr. Mon and other representatives from partner entities cut the ribbon signifying the transfer of schoolrooms to Libjo Elementary School in Tiwi, Albay, June 26.

AQ pledges construction of facilities for three Tiwi schools

AQ Rector and President Ramonclaro G. Mendez, O.P. has pledged that the University will shoulder the construction of comfort rooms and kitchen in three public elementary schools in Tiwi, Albay, June 26, during the turnover ceremony of the Tiwi School Reconstruction Project (TSRP) at the Unocal Philippines Incorporated (UPI) conference room.

Fr. Mon and other AQ personnel attended the turnover ceremonies of classrooms in barangays Cale, and Libjo in Tiwi. Reconstruction work in Misibis Elementary School has been slightly delayed. The schools are the recipients of the TSRP which was implemented by the Aquinas University Foundation, Incorporated (AQFI).

The structures were built to last for about 35 years and withstand up to 300 kilometer per hour winds. It is also earthquake proof, said AQ-based Engr. Ian Agu.

The TSRP is a $100,000 rehabilitation project for the three public schools damaged by super-typhoon “Reming” in November last year. It was made possible through a grant from Chevron Corporation to Ayala Foundation-USA (AF-USA).

AF-USA tapped AQFI in March to be the project implementor of the said project. The grant, however, covered only the construction of seven school rooms in three sites. Pupils in the three schools until now do not have access to public toilets, kitchen and clean water.

Two school rooms each have now been constructed in Cale Elementary School and Libjo Elementary School while three school rooms are being completed in Misibis Elementary School.

“This is part of Fr. Mon’s commitment to the CARE program and his commitment to the school room reconstruction,” said Center for Community Extension Services (CCES) Coordinator Felix Ador.

Aside from being used as schoolrooms, the buildings can also be used as evacuation centers in times of strong typhoons, so there is really a need for facilities like toilets, kitchen and water, he added.

Ador also said that BioSand water filters have now been installed in the identified schools.

“This is a component of the school-room construction,” he said.

Polytechnic Institute engineers Ian Agu and Jeffrey Echaluce are now preparing the drawing and development materials for the project.

The project is set to be implemented by the Aquinas University Polytechnic Institute and the CCES, according to Ador.

“This may be turnover ceremony, but we are not turning our backs,” said Fr. Mon, “If they cannot enroll in Aquinas University due to poverty, Aquinas University will enroll in their hearts.”

GRAND WELCOME. Pupils at Libjo Elementary School in Tiwi, Albay wave little flags as they welcome AQ Rector and President Fr. Ramonclaro G. Mendez, O.P. (left) and Rev. Fr. Alfredo A. Fernandez, Jr. O.P. to the turnover ceremony in the said school, June 26. (Right) Unocal Philippines Incorporated (UPI) personnel stand adjacent the newly-constructed two-room building in Cale Elementary School in Barangay Cale, Tiwi, Albay. UPI is one of AQ’s partner organizations in the project.
AQ signs MoA with Intervida

Aquinas University of Legazpi has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with Spanish Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Intervida Philippines Foundation formalizing a partnership in building a community center in Legazpi City.

The MoA was signed by AQ Rector and President Rev. Fr. Ramonclaro G. Mendez, O.P. and Intervida Representative Maria Luisa Sierra Huedo during the soft blessing of the new building of the Aquinas University Hospital April 11.

Intervida Philippines Foundation is a private charitable and development foundation organized and existing under Spanish laws with license from the Philippines Securities and Exchange Commission to operate in the country. It is a secular and apolitical organization.

AQ has been actively engaged in promoting cultural awareness, enhancing artistic talents, and imparting livelihood skills through various social, cultural, and development programs through its extension services.

Under the agreement, AQ shall provide “free of rent” the site for the Legazpi Community Center. Intervida, in coordination with AQ, “shall develop, formulate and source funding for the different activities and programs to be implemented through the Legazpi Community Center for its beneficiaries."

Barangays San Roque and Baybay in Legazpi City have been named as initial beneficiaries of the agreement.

The agreement lasts for ten years "upon execution" but can be shortened to five years upon mutual agreement by both parties.

Carving the lamppost.
A mason provides finishing touches to a new lamppost in preparation for the Investiture Ceremonies, July 9.
Former AQ student tops mall design contest

A former College of Architecture and Fine Arts student, Andres de Dios, Jr. topped a mall design contest recently in Manila, according to a report by The Philippine Star.

The contest, My SM Design, is a competition for architecture students and designers to design their own SM Mall. It was launched by SM City Manila.

De Dios garnered the top prize for his design of a circular-shaped mall entitled “Refreshing,” which puts together a balance between nature and man-made structure. The second place went to a group of an architectural design where nature and man-made structure.

"It has lots of trees. I was thinking of an architectural design where people could stop at the same end," The Philippine Star quoted De Dios as saying.

As the winner of the competition, he received P20,000 worth of SM gift certificates.

The 34-year old de Dios is a native of Tabaco City, Albay. He began his studies at the Aquinas University of Legazpi College of Architecture and Fine Arts in 1989 where he took up Commercial Arts, later on shifting to Fine Arts.

He is now a handicraft product designer based in Parañaque City in Manila.

Prior to his feat, his sister Gina and brother Andre also won in separate international jewelry design competitions in the 1990’s and in 2001, respectively. They are both graduates of Aquinas University of Legazpi.

De Dios is saying.

The AQ Center for Creative Ministry announces the resumption of the Daily Mass and the Anticipated Mass at the AQ Chapel. The schedules are as follows:

Daily Mass 7:00 am, Mondays thru Saturdays

Anticipated Mass 5:00 pm, Saturdays

"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”—Psalm 90:12
AQ alumna named Revenue OIC

AQ alumna Lilian Betito Hefti was named Officer-in-Charge of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) June 20, replacing Commissioner Jose Maria Buñag to the top BIR post.

Her appointment comes after weeks of speculations that her predecessor has been offered an ambassadorial post by the government to Norway or the Netherlands. Buñag later said in media reports that he has turned down the offer by Malacañang and denied reports that he has resigned from his post.

In an interview with ABS-CBN News, Hefti said she did not apply for the position and if the President chooses her it will be based on her credentials and merit. She serves on an acting capacity.

The 51-year old Hefti started working for the BIR in 1978. She rose from the ranks to become Deputy Commissioner for Operations before her latest appointment. She graduated with academic distinction from the Aquinas University College of Business Administration in 1976 where she took up Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, subsequently placing fifth nationwide in the CPA board exams in the same year. She obtained her Law degree from San Beda College and placed third in the 1985 Bar exams.

In her almost 30 years with the BIR, she has worked as a revenue examiner, revenue enforcement officer, technical assistant, executive assistant, chief revenue officer, and director. She has also worked with the legal section of the Bureau.

Hefti is a native of Bacacay, Albay.

AQ High earns clean PAASCU reaccreditation

The Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) has granted a clean five-year Level II reaccreditation for the Aquinas University High School Department, according to Mrs. Rosalinda B. Barquez, Principal.

The confirmation message was received by the University May 18. The PAASCU body also expressed their congratulations to the school.

PAASCU is a service organization that accredits academic programs that meet commonly accepted standards of quality education.

This is the third time that the department has been reaccredited to Level II, the highest level of accreditation for private secondary schools in the country, since its predecessor, the Aquinas University Science Oriented High School (SOHS) applied for accreditation in the 1970’s. It is also one of the pioneer schools in the country to receive accreditation from PAASCU. “This is due to the cooperation and support of the faculty, students and parents,” said AQUI principal Rosalinda Barquez.

As a Level II accredited school, the High School is given full administrative deregulation and financial deregulation in terms of setting tuition and other school fees, among others.

Barquez also said that PAASCU has begun implementation of Level III accreditation for high schools around the country as of January this year. Prior to the change, Level II had been the highest level of accreditation given to PAASCU-accredited schools in the country.

“We’re hopeful that we will get a Level III accreditation next time,” Barquez added.