

THE DOMINICAN Torch

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Newsletter from
the
School Administration



Photo: Janice Doyle

BLESSING OF PHASE II

On August 8, on the Feast Day of St Dominic, the long-awaited day of the blessing of Phase II of the school's construction arrived. The new buildings will house the new gym and cafeteria, additional office space, the new chapel and a new convent for the Dominican Sisters.

Amongst the distinguished guests who helped to make this a truly auspicious occasion were the General Prioress of the Religious Missionaries of St. Dominic, Sr. Ma. Asunción González., O.P. who came all the way from Rome to be with the DIS family. His Excellency, Most Rev. Fr. John Hung, SVD, Archbishop of Taipei graced the school with his presence and lead the blessing. He was assisted by Fr. Arturo Morales, CMF of the Wulai, sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima. The other priests who helped with the blessing of the buildings, were Fr Guiseppe Silvestrini, Attaché of the Apostolic Nunciature, Fr. Andrew Wojcik, OP; Fr. Philip Pan, OP; Fr. Liju Kuriath, CMF; Fr. Angelic Kitsula, OP; Fr. Franco Lancanaria, CS, and Fr. Joshy Chirayilparampil, CMF.

The construction of these fine new buildings is just the latest chapter in the story of the school which has contributed considerably to the spiritual life and academic achievements of so many students. It is a story that goes back sixty years to a day when permission from the Mother General was obtained to start a school that provided tuition for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1 and 2 in a small house in Chang-An Tung Road that was rented for this purpose.



MOTHER GENERAL'S SPEECH

The speech delivered by the General Prioress of the Religious Missionaries of St. Dominic, Sr. Ma. Asunción González, O.P. during the blessing ceremony.



Sr. Ma. Asunción González., O.P. (left) accompanied by , Sr Teresa Tu and Sr Teresita Su while participating in the blessing of the buildings

“His Excellency Most Rev. Fr. John Hung, Attaché of the Apostolic Nunciature, FR. Giuseppe Silvestrini, Provincial Prioress, SR. Cecilia Hsu, O.P., His Excellency Mr. William Tapia, Ambassador of Nicaragua, His Excellency Mr. Marcial Bobadilla, Ambassador of Paraguay, members of the Clergy and Religious Sisters, faculty, staff; students and their families, friends:

I am especially honored today, as we all witness the Blessing of the new Facilities of the Dominican International School. At the same time, we share in the joy of the DIS community at their accreditation with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. As I am sure you already know that among other things, this accreditation means that graduates of our schools will have a leg up if they choose to further their studies abroad.

Of course, the idea of preparing our students for further studies abroad is part and parcel of the character of DIS. Decades ago, when this school began, it taught children of American service members. That was the time when there was still an American military base here. Gradually, children of other nationalities, and more notably, Taiwanese children, attended this school as well. They all do so with the view of continuing with their studies, both locally and internationally, and the Dominican International School is happy to help them achieve their goals.

Helping our children achieve their goal is a team effort. I am certain that the process of accreditation, in addition to setting goals and organizing systems, is also a vehicle by which team-building is done. Only a cohesive team can achieve what you have done. Under the stable and level-headed

guidance of your esteemed principal, Sr. Zenaida Ancheta, the work and effort of the entire DIS Family and all the stakeholders had all contributed to what we have today. More than anything, more than new and beautiful buildings, more than the acquisition of modern technology in aid of the education process, more than all these, I am most proud of the *human component of this school*. Your unity in the face of diversity, your ability to build consensus despite differences in opinion is what it means to be a community. Students, pay attention. The DIS community is here to assist you, not only academically, but holistically. If you allow us, we will point you towards a direction where you can one day be engaged, responsible and productive members of society. We look forward to your success, we pray that your failures be small and far between, we strive to educate you enough to enable you rise again and move forward. My dear students, your future is in your hands, the DIS community and your families are here just to assist. I advise you to take your academic endeavors seriously, then balance it out with some fun time. Seek the truth always, maintain a healthy curiosity about things in your orbit, work as independently as you can but know when, where and how to ask for help. Be kind to one another. So, congratulations everyone. *Auguri*, as they say in Rome. And as they say here, *gongxi, gongxi*. Have a good day everybody. God bless you all!”

- Sr. Ma. Asunción González., O.P.



ADDRESS BY

**SR. MA ZENAIDA ANCHETA, O.P
SCHOOL PRINCIPAL**

delivered at the blessing of the new Phase II School Buildings

In the front: Sr Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P (Principal), Sr. Teresa Su, O.P., Sr Socorro Teofilo, O.P. (Vice-Principal) and Sr. Ma. Asunción González., O.P. the General Prioress of the Religious Missionaries of St. Dominic, who also came from Rome to honor the school with her presence.

“A pleasant morning and warm welcome to everyone! To the Religious Clergy Men & Women of the different Orders, His Excellency the Archbishop of Taipei, to our Superior General, Sr. Asuncion Gonzalez, Sr. Teresa Tu and Sr. Teresita Su, who came from Rome just to be here with us, to our sisters in the Province of San Vicente Ferrer, headed by our Prior Provincial, Sr. Cecilia Hsu, to our former parents, faculty, staff, alumni, government dignitaries and all of our guests, welcome.

Thank you for making yourselves available today... in spite of your hectic schedules, and maybe you even had to cancel your important plans and appointments. Others traveled long distances just to be here with us to celebrate another milestone in DIS’s History. This is the long awaited moment for all of us. It is with great joy and pride that we are at the opening of Phase II, the blessings of our new facilities, and a day to celebrate together as we commemorate the Feast of our Father St. Dominic our Founder, our Intercessor.

To flash back...to all the Dominican Missionary Sisters, the former Leaders, the Founders, the builders and the sowers who had been a part of the Dominican Family, I salute you all for the effort and dedication rendered and for all the blessings that have been shared! We continued to be grateful for what we have benefited from your collective experiences and collaborative efforts of the past.

So, wherever you are, the living and the dead, our humble gratitude and prayers are offered to you. It will be a continuous legacy for you and I thank the Lord for the DIS that has reached 60 years of existence, as it remains strong and constant at present, and I believe that it will continue to be so in the future. I have no doubt that memories from the past will

be cherished and treasured from one generation to the next.

In line with this, I would like to acknowledge the various heads and bosses (Constructors, Architect, Engineers, Electrician, and the Landscaper) and their teams for the completion of the Phase II project. The results of your hard work speak for themselves... the beautiful school structure design (building). Thank you too, to your workers who are skillfully doing their best with passion, even working under the heat of the sun. You are being admired and not overlooked or bypassed.

We should not forget to mention the beautiful statues of our Young & Adult Dominic and Our Lady of the Rosary, the masterpieces of Mr. and Mrs. Huang, the owners of Sacred Heart Sculpture Company. This project was realized with the generosity of our parents, benefactors and friends, through the efforts and leadership of our VIP officers.

Together, let us give thanks and praise to God for many blessings & successes in this school year. To name some: for granting DIS, 6 years of full Accreditation by Western Association of School and Colleges until 2023, the blessings and completion of the Phase II project, the Family Reunion/Homecoming for October and DIS’s 60th “Diamond Year” Anniversary on December 8. See you again on all these occasions.

Finally, I want to say once more on behalf of the DIS Family and all the DIS stakeholders, Welcome. It’s a pleasure to see so many of you here. Thank you and God bless!”

- Sr Ma. Zenaida Ancheta, O.P.

Blessing of Phase II of the DIS Construction



His Excellency, Most Rev. Fr. John Hung, SVD, Archbishop of Taipei performing the first blessing of the Phase II of the DIS construction.



Fr. John Hung, SVD, Archbishop of Taipei and Fr. Arturo Morales with Natalia Garcia during the para-liturgy.



From left to right: Sr. Evelyn Quidoles, O.P., Gian Crisostomo as the young St. Dominic, Sr Socorro Teofilo, O.P., and Joshua Ramos

His Excellency, Most Rev. Fr. John Hung, SVD, Archbishop of Taipei blessed the entire DIS Family, guests, the statues of young and the old St. Dominic and the very special statue of Our Lady of the Rosary. He also blessed the main gate and entrance lobby. Fr. Andrew Wojcik, O.P. and Fr. Franco Lacanaria, CS blessed the gymnasium building. Fr. Liju Kuriath, CFM, Fr Guiseppe Silvestrini, Attaché of the Apostolic Nunciature and Fr. Joshy Chirayilparampil, CMF, blessed the Sisters' new convent building and the chapel. The Dominican Sisters, students, teachers, staff, proud parents and all the other stakeholders of the school braved the heat wave in Taipei, to celebrate this important milestone in the school's history.

