



AniMission

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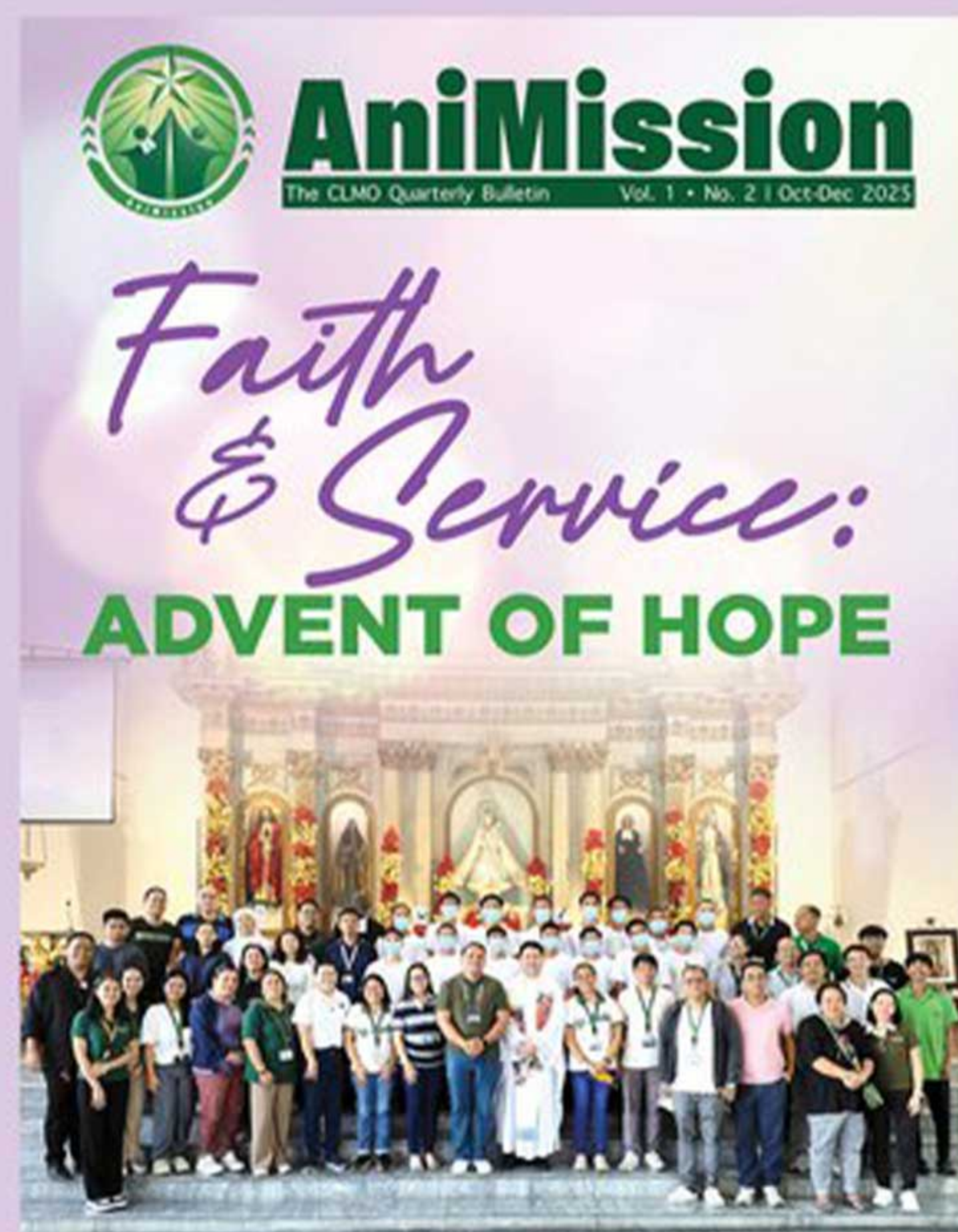
Faith & Service: **ADVENT OF HOPE**



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INDIVISA MANENT

BECAUSE HOPE WALKED WITH US

JOSE RITCHE C. BONGCARON
Chief Lasallian Mission Officer

As we look back on the Seasons of Advent and Christmas, we are reminded that hope has a name and a face. This reminder is deeply personal, yet its impact is profoundly communal. That Hope was revealed to us in Jesus Christ, Emmanuel - *God-with-us* - the One we awaited and celebrated, and the reason these sacred seasons continue to matter.

Advent taught us how to wait with trust and attentiveness, forming our faith to recognize the gentle ways God enters our lives. Christmas, in turn, affirmed that this faith could not remain merely interior. **God came close - near the poor, the forgotten, the young who search for meaning, and communities longing for dignity and hope - calling faith to be expressed through loving service.**

For us as Lasallians, faith and service are *indivisa manent* - they remain inseparable. Faith deepens when it moves us to act, and service becomes truly transformative when it is rooted in faith. Each time we choose to listen rather than rush, to accompany rather than judge, and to serve without seeking recognition, hope takes flesh once again in our midst.

Faith lived in service, and service rooted in faith - together, they become hope made visible. ***Hope, indeed, walked with us—a divine guarantee along our human pilgrimage.***

As we move forward, may what Advent prepared and Christmas revealed continue to shape us. The God we awaited has already come - and continues to walk with us - inviting us to live a faith that serves, and a service that gives hope.

Hope is not something we merely wish for.
Hope is *Someone we encountered.*
Hope is *Someone we are called to share.*
Hope is *Someone we pray will live in our hearts, forever.*

As we continue our pilgrimage, rooted in faith and oriented toward Jesus through loving service, we pray:

Lord, may the Hope who walked with us continue to dwell among us—forming our faith, inspiring our service, and making us instruments of Your love for those who are at the peripheries.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts—forever.

from GRATITUDE to GIVING

DLSBPD RESIDENTS
SHARE BLESSINGS
THROUGH OUTREACH
ACTIVITY

ROSARIO N. PAREJA

Gratitude took on a meaningful and heartfelt expression as the residents of De La Salle Bahay Pag-Asa Dasmariñas (DLSBPD) carried out a simple yet impactful outreach activity on December 16 and 18, 2025. Guided by the values of gratitude, compassion, and service, the residents prepared and shared simple merienda and lunch for their Ate and Kuya partners—both inside and outside the university.



The outreach was made possible through the proceeds of the Christmas Caroling activity conducted by the residents earlier in December. Through this collective effort, the residents experienced firsthand the values of hard work, teamwork, and generosity, transforming the fruits of their own labor into a meaningful act of giving.

Throughout the year, the residents have continually felt the blessings of support and care extended by generous individuals and partner institutions. This outreach activity became a living lesson that gratitude is not only expressed through words, but more deeply through concrete actions. For the residents, it was a powerful reminder that they are not only recipients of blessings, but are also called to be sharers and givers of blessings to others.

More than a simple act of sharing food, the activity served as a formative experience that strengthened the residents' sense of purpose, humility, and social responsibility. It affirmed that giving back—no matter how simple—is a sincere way of thanking God for His abundant blessings and of living out the Lasallian value of service.

Through initiatives like this, the residents of De La Salle Bahay Pag-Asa Dasmariñas continue to grow not only in healing and personal transformation, but also in gratitude and generosity—values that will guide them as they move forward toward reintegration and a hopeful future.



EDUCATING HEARTS THROUGH SERVICE

THE LASALLIAN COMMITMENT BEYOND SCHOOL WALLS

JONNA MAY M. BERCI

The Lasallian Mission Office of the Basic Education Division continues to bring the Lasallian mission to life through service-learning and community outreach that deeply touch both the communities served and the students themselves.





Through various subjects, including Christian Values (CHV), students engaged in service-learning at Burol Elementary School and Salitran Elementary School, where they taught elementary learners about the Gospel through storytelling, songs, prayers, and interactive activities. One student shared that standing in front of young pupils and teaching about God's love made her realize that faith is meant to be shared, not kept in the classroom. Another reflected that the smiles and eager responses of the children affirmed that even simple lessons can become powerful expressions of hope and encouragement. These experiences allowed students to live out the Lasallian core values of faith, service, and communion in a very personal and transformative way.

Community outreach initiatives further strengthened this spirit of accompaniment. During Senior Citizens Month, visits to Bahay Kalingap in Tagaytay City, Cavite, and BJMP GMA became moments of meaningful encounter. A student recounted listening to an elderly resident's life story and realizing how presence and attention can be as valuable as material help. Another volunteer shared that offering a simple song and prayer to senior citizens at BJMP GMA reminded her of the importance of honoring every stage of life with dignity and respect. During Pasinaya, which marked the launching of BANWA houses, outreach activities at Bahay Tuluyan, Bahay Pag-asa, BJMP Silang, Bahay Alima, and Mango House became symbols of new beginnings. One student reflected that witnessing the joy of beneficiaries during the house launch inspired him to see service as a commitment to walk with others in their journey toward healing and renewal. Through these personal encounters, the Lasallian community continues to form learners whose hearts are moved by compassion and whose lives are shaped by a genuine desire to serve God and neighbor.

Advent of Hope

ULFO'S FORMATION, ACCOMPANIMENT, AND OUTREACH INITIATIVES

RAFAEL IBARRA, III

Advent is a season of waiting with purpose—a sacred time when faith invites the community not only to prepare for the coming of Christ but to live out hope through reflection, service, and accompaniment. For the Lasallian community, this Advent of Hope was meaningfully lived through the initiatives of the University Lasallian Family Office (ULFO), whose mission centers on deepening faith, nurturing vocation, and forming hearts through retreats, recollections, and lifelong formation.

At the heart of ULFO's work were its retreat and recollection programs for Lasallian students, which continued to offer sacred spaces for deeper discernment and personal encounter with God. These formative experiences helped students reflect on their life journeys, strengthen their spiritual foundations, and embrace their role as agents of hope within and beyond the University.

Complementing student formation was KALAKBAY, ULFO's adult formation program for Lasallian partners. True to its name, KALAKBAY embodied the spirit of accompaniment, journeying with faculty, staff, and administrators as co-missionaries in the Lasallian mission. Through faith-sharing sessions and reflective gatherings, the program reaffirmed that formation is a lifelong journey—one that calls Lasallian partners to integrate faith, service, and communion in professional and personal life. In fostering shared reflection and communal faith, KALAKBAY strengthened the sense of belonging and shared mission within the University.

This reflective spirit was further embodied through the initiatives of the SINAG Society of Leaders (SISOL), as they conducted an outreach program at Bahay-Tuluyan in the City of Dasmariñas, Cavite, on December 3, 2025.





Ms. Rucel Marie T. Larawan, a Lasallian Formator from ULFO, facilitated a session focused on the spiritual and emotional dimensions of mental health through prayer, music, and drawing-based art therapy. The children participated in group and individual drawing activities that helped them express gratitude, hopes, and their longing for family. Through sharing and reflection, they realized that they are not alone, that God sends people to accompany them, and that they, too, can be sources of hope for others. This outreach embodied the Lasallian call to compassionate presence, especially among vulnerable children, and ULFO remains committed to supporting SISOL's future initiatives as they continue to live out their mission.

In the same spirit of service, the Visual & Performing Arts Production Unit (VPAPU) momentarily stepped away from the stage to attend to the soul. On December 18, 2025, VPAPU held its annual spiritual activity, "Star of Wonder: A Day to Reflect, Renew, and Rejoice," at the MLH Building. The gathering became a sacred space where creativity met contemplation. Guest speaker Mr. Domingo Alarcon Jr., also a Lasallian Formator from ULFO, encouraged participants to look inward, using the Star of Wonder as a metaphor for clarity and hope amid the demands of artistic vocation. More than a

talk, the activity strengthened communal bonds, reminding the unit that their greatest production is the community they build through faith and fellowship.

Hope was further made visible through ULFO's outreach initiatives, particularly during #PaskoJuan 2025, the unit's Christmas celebration held on December 19, 2025, led in collaboration with LaYAG members. Beyond being a festive gathering, #PaskoJuan became an expression of solidarity and shared joy with partner communities and beneficiaries—specifically the *ates* and *kuyas* from the RCC, including maintenance staff and security guards. Through acts of generosity, presence, and genuine encounter, the outreach reflected the true spirit of Christmas—bringing light, dignity, and hope to others, especially those at the margins.

As Advent gives way to Christmas, ULFO's initiatives affirm a profound truth: hope is not merely awaited—it is formed, practiced, and shared. Through the Advent recollection, retreats and recollections, adult formation through KALAKBAY, creative spiritual engagements, and compassionate outreach programs, the Lasallian community continues to journey together in faith, carrying the light of hope beyond the season and into everyday life.



THE NIGHT COLLEGE SCHOLARS: *Chasing Dreams in the Quiet Hours*

MARIA ROSARIO U. SALIBAY

As the sun dips below the horizon of the DLSU-D campus, a unique transformation occurs. While the majority of the student body streams toward the gates, a different kind of students is just arriving.

They do not come defined by the uniforms they wore all day, but by the invisible weight of what they carry in their hearts. They arrive bearing the quiet exhaustion of an eight-hour shift and the heavy responsibility of families waiting for a breakthrough.

Navigating the Shadows: The Classroom on the Move

For the Night College students, the greatest challenge isn't found in a textbook; it is found in the battle for the spirit. It is the struggle against time poverty—the scarcity of hours to be a student, an employee, or a dedicated parent all at once.

This burden is felt deeply by the single mother of three, for whom every hour is a calculated sacrifice, and by those who have turned the open road into their lecture hall. One student, working as a Lalamove rider, recounts the breathless pace of his education. “During discussion, *lumalagare ako kahit gabi*,” he shares. “*Nasa lansangan ako, nasa byahe ako habang may klase. Determinado ako—kase wala akong alam pero gusto kong may matutunan.*” (During discussions, I’m hustling even at night. I’m on the streets, I’m in transit while having our class. I am determined—I may not know much, but I want to learn.)

His classmates recall, with a mix of humor and admiration, how he would often recite while weaving

through traffic on his motorcycle. One particular incident remains etched in their memory: during a synchronous class, his video and microphone accidentally opened, revealing the raw reality of his night. The class didn’t see a student at a desk; they saw the flickering streetlights, the blur of the road and the roar of the motorcycle engine. The sight and sound of his grit prompted a surprised and concerned professor to blurt out, “*Tumabi ka muna!*” (Pull over first!). It was a moment of levity that underscored a profound reality—the image of a man literally driving toward his future while the rest of the world was heading home.

Mission Accompaniment: Reclaiming Interrupted Dreams

In these dark hours, the Lasallian mission of accompaniment manifests in life-changing opportunities. One student began her journey as a housekeeper within the university. For four years, she moved through the hallways dedicated to the upkeep of the very rooms where she would eventually sit as a student. When the Night College opened a path for her in the BSIT program, she transitioned from cleaning the halls to cashiering and billing in a government hospital where she is now working as a regular employee.

Similarly, the program acts as a ladder for those on the factory floor. One student, who started as a simple factory worker, rose to become a Team Leader, and he now stands on the threshold of a new career in his company’s IT department.

The ultimate triumph belongs to those who refused to let their dreams expire. One student, once an Architecture major, saw her blueprints swept away by a “flood of problems” in her third year. Forced to stop, she is now on her 16th year of pursuing a college education—a third chance granted by the Night College.

Beside her is the student who waited 12 years for his moment. “I could not believe it when I saw the list of tentative graduating students,” he shares. “*Umiyak po talaga ako nu’n, hindi ako makapaniwala.*” (I really cried then; I couldn’t believe it.)

His journey is a masterclass in resilience—a story of how one can be truly self-reliant. Despite the years he spent supporting himself through the grind of working while studying, he carries no bitterness toward his circumstances or the world. Today, that same grit has carried him far beyond the classroom; he has successfully transitioned into a role at an international company, proving that the finish line of the Night College is often the starting line of a global career.

Another student recounts the ache of being away from her family in Iloilo for six long years just to study. Her journey reached a poignant climax last month. Her father had fallen gravely ill, but before his final moments, he was able to hear that his daughter had finished her studies. Her father has passed away, but he left this world with the peace of knowing his daughter had finally reached the finish line and fulfilled a promise.

This is where the “Mission” becomes more than just a word. When the university accompanies a student—through pauses, work-life struggles, and the heavy mantle of being a family provider—it doesn’t just produce a graduate; it changes the trajectory of an entire family tree. One’s success is a map left behind for siblings and children. A living proof that the most resilient dreams are those cultivated in the dark.

The “Why”: Chains, Choices, and Companionship

Why do they pursue this education despite the soul-crushing exhaustion? For these scholars, a degree is a key to break the chains of discrimination—to no longer be “just an undergraduate” in a competitive job market. They do it for self-fulfillment and to fulfill the dreams of families who sacrificed everything.

They do not do it alone. The “immeasurable” support of professors who understand their plight

provides the foundation, but it is the solidarity within the classroom that serves as the walls. Classmates, anchored by the dedication of their class president and student leaders, became each other’s lifeline. These leaders didn’t just manage schedules; they managed morale. They pushed the weary, reminded the discouraged of their worth, and ensured that no one was left behind in the dark.

In this shared struggle, they found more than just a classroom; they found a family. This circle of support even extended to their workplaces, where supportive workmates and colleagues stepped up to accommodate their academic needs, cheering them on as they balanced the demands of the office and the school. This collective encouragement proved that while the effort was theirs, the journey was a community triumph.

Epilogue: The Evolution of the Self

As the campus lights finally dim at 9:00 PM, the Night College scholars head out into the cool night air. Their bags are heavy, but their hearts are noticeably lighter.

On average, most of these students have spent 15 years waiting for this moment. To see their names on the list of graduating students is a remarkable achievement that defies simple description. The feeling of elation is a wordless, soaring joy that washes away every late-night delivery, every long shift, and every year spent in doubt.

“*Nakikita natin na kahit papa’no, bright na ang ating future,*” (We can see that somehow, our future is already bright.) one student reflects.

They walk toward the gates not as workers who have finished a shift, but as pioneers. At DLSU-D, the sun does not only rise in the morning—it rises for those with the courage to seek it in the middle of the night.



DLSU-D AND NCRAA OFFICIALS PAY COURTESY VISIT TO DASMARIÑAS CITY MAYOR AHEAD OF OPENING CEREMONY

GERARDO C. SERGIO III

In preparation for the opening ceremony of the National Capital and Regional Athletic Association (NCRAA) on March 3, 2026, officials and representatives of both the DLSU-D and NCRAA conducted a courtesy visit to the City Mayor of Dasmariñas at City Hall to formally present the upcoming event and strengthen collaboration with the local government.

During the visit, school and NCRAA officials shared key details regarding the opening ceremonies, which will be held at the Dasmariñas Arena and to be hosted by DLSU-D, highlighting the significance of the event in promoting sportsmanship, unity, and athletic excellence among participating institutions. The meeting also served as an avenue to discuss logistical coordination, venue readiness, and the city's vital role in ensuring the success of the event.

The City Mayor warmly welcomed the delegation and expressed full support for the NCRAA, emphasizing the city government's commitment to hosting major sporting events that inspire youth development and community pride.

The courtesy visit underscored the strong partnership between the NCRA, DLSU-D and the City Government of Dasmariñas, paving the way for a meaningful and well-organized opening ceremony. With the support of the local government, the NCRAA opening at the Dasmariñas Arena is expected to be a momentous celebration of collegiate sports, camaraderie, and excellence.

