Anargyroi : FMS Foundation, Inc. Launch in Vancouver

Antonio R. Penilla, M.D.

Anargyroi: Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Foundation, Inc. (AFI) and its Development Office (DO) were successfully launched last July 3, 2017, during the 25th Annual UST Medical Alumni Association of America (USTMAAA) Convention held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., PhD, FMS Regent Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P., and FMS Dean Asst. Prof. Ma. Lourdes D. Maglino, M.D., served as the hosts.

The Foundation is an independent organization that manages donations and exclusively supports the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery to sustain and aid the initiatives influencing administration, faculty members, students, support staff, and patients. Its Board of Trustees is composed of representatives from UST FMS Administration, UST Hospital, Alumni Association, and the Blink Group. The Foundation works hand-in-hand with the Development Office, which serves as its implementing arm.

Befitting its purpose, the Regent’s Scholarship Project was unveiled during the Anargyroi’s inauguration as its first project. Commencing in the Academic Year 2017-2018, and every year thereafter, 5 Full Scholars will be chosen to study in the FMS. In addition to the candidate’s academic achievement, they must come from the more financially challenged families as well as from less represented regions in the FMS. One candidate from Luzon, 2 from the Visayas, and 2 from Mindanao will be chosen. They will be provided scholarships for tuition and miscellaneous fees, books, and board and lodging.

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MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

With the immense enthusiasm to support the lofty ideals of maintaining a premiere medical school, the Anargyro: FMS Foundation, Inc. with its implementing arm, the Development Office was the offspring of progressive minds and passionate hearts.

The story of the Anargyro: FMS Foundation Inc. was not one which rested on a bed of roses. Just like any novel idea, its nobility and feasibility were not easily apparent. It took two years of argument, back and forth discussions, wise negotiations sometimes even reaching points of exasperation. This was how the reality was won. But just like valiant soldiers tasked to execute a plan, we united our efforts and galvanized our ranks to eventually give birth to this contribution which hopefully will be in perpetuity and very much appreciated.

This came at an auspicious time when the need to secure equity in medical excellence is more than just a bragging right. It has become a sine qua non for every institution called to hone learned men. This will serve as the conduit for all men and women, groups and institutions, advocates and champions to help our beloved Alma Mater continue its task to educate and enlighten competent, committed and compassionate Thomasian physicians.

Several pivotal projects have been laid as we journey through the sesquicentennial anniversary of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. Let us all be one in our ardent desire to propel our medical institution to a status unquestionably higher than where it is and undeniably better than what it is.

Ma. Lourdes Domingo-Maglinao, MD, MHPEd
Dean, UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery
President, Anargyro: FMS Foundation, Inc.

MESSAGE OF THE RECTOR

The alumni of the University of Santo Tomas have provided continuous and generous support to the projects and programs of the University, particularly our dear alumni from the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. As Thomasian medical practitioners they are not only known throughout the world as experts in their respective fields, but are also recognized as authentic exemplars of Catholic values and virtues. That is why it no longer comes as a surprise that an independent organization like Anargyro: FMS Foundation, Inc. was formed which actually stems from the desire of these distinguished individuals to continuously encourage genuine patronage and collaboration among its members to fulfill its mandate to promote its notable development activities that are in line with scholarship, community outreach, student and faculty development, research, and the modernization of facilities.

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Anargyro: FMS Foundation, Inc. for the launch of maiden issue of its newsletter, an important initiative that aims to feature significant reports, up-to-date news, and other relevant information to constantly update its donors, the alumni of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, the Thomasian community and the general public of its noteworthy endeavors as well as provide various opportunities for a vibrant exchange among them. Dynamic communication is a key component for an organization to work. It is important that every member is updated on the projects and programs of the organization in order to see where it is headed, what its future plans are, and how activities and events are conceptualized and conducted. The Anargyro newsletter does all this and we hope that you genuinely anticipate every issue. Once again, congratulations!

FR. HERMINIO V. DAGOHYOY, O.P.
Rektor
Our flagship project, the Regent Scholarship, has received so much support from the Thomasian medical doctors and friends. We now have eight scholars who are enjoying full scholarship, inclusive of books, board and lodging. Our target number of scholars by 2021 is 20. Year 2021 is momentous for the Faculty as it celebrates its Sesquicentennial, making it the oldest and one of the best, if not the best, medical school in the Philippines.

By the year 2021, UST FMS also envisions itself to be the premier simulation center for the Doctor of Medicine Program in the Philippines. This simulation center aims to “strengthen the interface between basic medical education and actual clinical practice of the medical students through the use of simulation aides to replicate actual clinical scenarios.” We hope that this vision would also receive as much support from the Alumni.

Initially, the authorities of the University were not in favour of approving another foundation that might derive into a possible source of conflicts. Experience dictated prudence. Only after long dialogues and explanations, the University gave its “fiat.” Also, among the stakeholders, some were not convinced of the benefit of the whole idea, others were asking for tangible results. Only when some of the projects started bearing fruit that resistance started to give way to cooperation.

As we run into our fourth year negotiation, we pray and hope that by May 28, 2018, our beloved Faculty of Medicine & Surgery can proudly boast of a firmly established, supported, and sustainable foundation to help our Alma Mater to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

Happy New Year! May 2019 be a good year for everyone.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been very supportive of all the activities and projects of Anargyro: FMS Foundation, Inc. (AFI). In as much as this is a very young, independent foundation, wherein the sole beneficiary is the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, all help from its Alumni and friends is very much appreciated. All these generosity reminds me of the words of Melody Beattie, “Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”

In this inaugural newsletter, the Development Office, the implementing arm of the AFI, would like to update you of programs and activities which we have undertaken from March of 2017 to November of 2018, as envisioned by a group of alumni who have much gratitude to the University for the education they received from her.

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With your support and concern, the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery will continue to enjoy its stature as a Premier Medical School in the Philippines.

We are happy to finally be able to have a newsletter which will allow us to connect with you in a timely and dynamic manner. We encourage you to go to our website and fill out the Alumni Information Sheet as we try to build our database. Reconnect with your Alma Mater.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Anna Maria Gloria S. Ward
Executive Director
Development Office/AFI
The ANARGYROI: FMS FOUNDATION, INC.

The word “anargyroi” is a Greek word meaning “penniless ones.” In the 3rd century, the twin brothers, Cosmas and Damian, were revered with this name for their refusal to accept payments when they healed the sick. As saints, they are called the “Holy Unmercenaries.” By taking the name by which these saints were referred to, the Anargyroi FMS Foundation, Inc. seeks to honor Sts. Cosmas and Damian, the patron saints of the U.S.T. Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

MISSION

The Anargyroi: FMS Foundation, Inc. aims to provide vital impetus:

▪ To promote allegiance and systematically manage resources in perpetuity to accomplish the initiatives for excellence of the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery; and

▪ To engage in charitable undertakings in support of the delivery of distinct quality medical care at the U.S.T. Hospital.

VISION

The Anargyroi: FMS Foundation, Inc. envisions itself as a dynamic and highly reputable organization recognized for its ethical governance of resources.

CORE VALUES

♦ Transparency and Honesty
♦ Academic Excellence
♦ Loyalty and Allegiance
♦ Heritage and Sustainability
♦ Respect and Compassion.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION

How does Anargyroi Foundation, Inc./Development Office (AFI/DO) complement the USTFMS?

While USTFMS strategically plans its aspirations into achievable signature projects, AFI/DO seeks donors and funding sources. This is where the Thomsonian alumni can contribute making “Vision 2021 and Beyond” a reality. This is where the tagline “To Give...to Bridge” comes alive. The Thomsonian alumni can confidently GIVE and entrust their contribution to AFI because it is tasked to provide allocations to projects respecting donors’ wishes and preferences. Individual alumni can also BRIDGE the AFI to fellow alumni and philanthropists in the Philippines and abroad to further substantiate the resources and hasten completion of chosen projects. The DO assists in the implementation of the projects, providing transparency with periodic feedback to donors along with timely financial statements.

As always, a key to USTFMS success are the ALUMNI. The concept of the AFI/DO was the brainchild of progressive minds and passionate hearts of alumni.

AFI/DO is seeking donations from anyone willing to help. Please drop by the AFI/DO at the UST St. Martin de Porres Building, Ground Floor, Room 118, by phone -.406-1611 loc. 8566, by visiting www.anargyroifoundation.com or by email at anargyroifoundation@gmail.com.

Together, we can keep USTFMS ahead and on top.
Anargyroi: FMS Foundation, Inc. was formally launched in the Philippines last January 14, 2018 at the Civil Law Lobby of the Main Building. The event coincided with the Homecoming activities spearheaded by the UST Medical Alumni Association, thus it was well attended by the Thomasian alumni doctors.

The following messages have been given during the Launch by important personalities in the University that proves the support AFI receives internally:

“Anargyroi: FMS Foundation, Inc. is a shining example that accentuates the uniqueness and distinctiveness of the medical profession, that of genuine care, compassion, and selfless service. We couldn’t agree more with the statement that medicine is the most humane of the sciences, the most empiric of the arts, the most scientific of the humanities,” UST Vice-Rector Rev. Fr. Richard G. Ang O.P. said in his welcome remarks.

In her message, Dean Ma. Lourdes D. Maglinao, MD says that Anargyroi and its implementing arm, the Development Office, promise “a brighter future for the next generation of Thomasian physicians.”

UST Rector Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, O.P., commended the enthusiasm of the sponsors, “Because the root word of enthusiasm is entheos, which means ‘God is within’. ‘You are enthusiastic because you are fired up. You are imbued with the presence of God within you. You cannot be this expressive, willing, and enthusiastic without His Grace. So please continue to maintain your enthusiasm (for helping those in need).’”

They all were one in encouraging the alumni to support a worthy endeavor.

The event was made especially memorable as Class ’82 sponsored the food.

Anargyroi Foundation inaugurates its First Regent’s Scholars

UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery and its independent organization, the Anargyroi: FMS Foundation Inc., officially welcomed the first five recipients of the Regent’s Scholarship Program last August 30, 2017.

The five scholars, namely: Charles John S. Latorre, Cloie Ann P. Rabinetas, Patricia Joyce G. Si, Carmela Niña Tormo and Jochebeth Joi T. Trocino, signed a Memorandum of Acceptance which contains the expectations of UST FMS and the Foundation from them during and after the Scholarship Program. Present during the signing event are the Foundation’s Scholarship Committee Head, Dr. Patria P. Punsalan and Scholarship Committee Members, Dr. Willie N. Lagdameo and Dr. Corazon S. Gemil. Also present are Dr. Norberto V. Martinez (Trustee), Rev. Fr. Angel A. Aparicio, O.P. (UST FMS Regent), Dr. Dexter Clifton C. Pe (UST FMS Faculty Secretary) and Ms. Anna Maria Gloria S. Ward (DO Executive Director).
Philippines AFI Regent’s Scholars sign Memorandum of Acceptance for A.Y. 2018-2019

The UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery (FMS) and the Anargyro: FMS Foundation Inc. (AFI) gathered the 8 recipients of the Regent’s Scholarship Program at the UST FMS Dean’s Conference Room last July 16, 2018 for the signing of their Memorandum of Acceptance for A.Y. 2018-2019.

Charles John S. Latorre, Cloie Ann P. Rabinetas, Patricia Joyce G. Si, Carmela Niña Tormo and Jochebeth Joi T. Trocino, signed their Memorandum of Acceptance for their 2nd year of Medical School while the newly-accepted scholars (Maureen Althea G. Calleja, Kimberly Angeline C. Lin, and Joed Ivan D.L. Mata), signed their first. The said Memorandum contains the expectations of UST FMS and AFI during and after the Scholarship Program.

Present during the signing event were the Foundation’s Scholarship Committee Head, Dr. Patria P. Punsalan and Scholarship Committee Members, Dr. Angeles T. Alora and Dr. Josefin0 I. Sanchez. Also present were Dr. Dexter Clifton C. Pe (UST FMS Faculty Secretary) and Ms. Anna Maria Gloria S. Ward (AFI DO Executive Director).

(L-R standing) Calleja, Rabinetas, Latorre, Tormo, Si, Lin, and Mata (L-R sitting) Dr. Pe, Dr. Sanchez, Dr. Punsalan, Dr. Alora, and Ms. Ward

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The Meet and Greet Reception was a product of careful planning with combined and coordinated efforts by the US-based members of the Blink Group and the UST-MAAA. The invitees were met and greeted by the UST luminaries. A brief program included remarks from Fr. Dagohoy and Fr. Aparicio. USTMAAA Foundation, Inc. Executive Director Stella Evangelista, M.D. also gave a brief talk, which was followed by the kick off of the fundraising campaign. Primo Andres, M.D., Executive Director of the USTMAAA and Antonio Penilla, M.D., spokesman for the Blink Group, co-emceed the program.

Even prior to the Reception, during the Board of Director’s Meeting, USTMAAA and Class 1969, pledged donations to Anargyro: During the Reception, the tone of the evening was set when Stephen Pamatmat, M.D., Financial Officer of the USTFMS venerable Tau Mu Sigma Phi Fraternity came forward and pledged $75,000.00. This was followed by more donations and pledges from different classes and individual US-based FMS alumni. This was carried over to the Gala Night the next day, where more donations and pledges were made.

More importantly, the event served the alumni as an opportunity to showcase their gratitude, love and allegiance to their Alma Mater, the UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. The Father Rector, Father Regent and the Dean witnessed the outpouring of support by the alumni. They were so very pleased with the response as evidenced in the post-event group picture showing their beaming smiles of approval and gratitude.

Not to be forgotten is the very important role played by the USTMAAA and its leadership in their full embrace and support of the concept of the Anargyro: Foundation and the Development Office, namely its leaders Jose and Stella Evangelista, M.D.s., Oni and Zita Yorro, M.D.s, Primo Andres, M.D., Gerald Quincy Flores, M.D. and Murillo Mangubat, M.D., Incoming President of UST-MAAA Foundation, Inc.

The US-based Blink Group members present for the occasion were Helouise Culanculan-Mapa, M.D. and Danilo A. Deaño, M.D., and Antonio R. Penilla, M.D. Other Blink members include Peter Fang, M.D., Linda Sy-Fang, M.D., Erwin G. Gonzalez, M.D., and Peter Figueroa, M.D., in the US and Cora Gemil. M.D. and Willie N. Lagdameo, M.D., in the Philippines.
OUTSTANDING THOMASIAN DOCTORS HONORED

John Hubert C. Pua, MD

Last September 28, 2018, 147 alumni doctors of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery were recognized for their achievements in the fields of education, research, government service, medical societies, medical industries and in public and private health service. Dubbed as “Thomasian Doctors’ Night of Recognition,” a brainchild of Dean Ma. Lourdes Maglinao paid tribute to Thomasian Medical Alumni as the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery approaches its sesquicentennial (150th) founding anniversary in 2021. The Dean conceptualized this as an annual activity to eventually recognize all alumni in the entire country in grateful anticipation of 2021. The first of its kind, the event was held at the Grand Ballroom of the Buenaventura G. Paredes, OP Building in the campus.

During the program, the welcome remarks were given by Rev. Fr. Jesus Jay Miranda, OP, Secretary-General of the University of Santo Tomas. This was followed by a message from the Dean pointing out that history rebuilds itself in every Thomasian doctor as they bring glory to the University’s legacy in medical practice. Dr. Willie Lagdameo of Class 1967 then introduced the Anargyroi Foundation and the Regent’s Scholarship Fund Program, a project of Anargyroi Foundation. Awarding of the 147 alumni proceeded after, as they were each called by Assistant Dean Estrellita Ruiz and Faculty Secretary Dexter Clifton Pe. Honorees included several academe heads, department chairpersons, medical directors, medical society presidents, research luminaries and Department of Health unit heads and under-secretaries among others.

Exquisite intermission performances were provided by the UST Singers, the UST Conservatory of Music Quartet and our very own talented faculty members. As the program came to a close, Dr. Norberto Martinez of Class 1982 presented highlights of the plans for the upcoming sesqui-centennial celebration and our Regent, Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio, OP, gave the closing message. This event was made more intimate by the engaging hosts, Drs. Ma. Piedad Natividad and Patrick Gerard Moral.

Awardees as they receive their award from Fr. Miranda, Dean Maglinao and Fr. Aparicio.
Since I was young, I had always believed in the wonders of one’s perspective. The world as we know it, is seen through a pair of lenses colored by experiences, learnings and relationships. This is why, the definition through which people understand the things around them differs. Personally, I was raised in a family that allowed me to explore the limits of my world and my perspective of it. Although, we did not have it all, we did have a lot of help along the way from people who generously gave me and my family the opportunity to realize our dreams.

I was never planning to apply to UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery due to the circumstances we had. I resigned myself to the fact that UST-FMS was not where I should be. However, a miracle came in the form of a new scholarship program. I saw this as an opportunity to widen my understanding of the world in one of the best medical schools in the country, through the field that I love most — medicine.

Getting the scholarship grant and being an Anargyroi scholar does not translate to being superior to the rest of my batch mates. It meant that I am to embody the characteristics of a Thomasiian scholar. It meant upholding the highest standards of conduct and to lead by example. This is what Thomasiian education is all about—for its students to exemplify not just excellence, but leadership and service.

Despite being in the same 21.5-hectare land for the past four years during my undergrad, being inside the medicine building felt different. I felt like a David beside Goliaths. I had new set of professors, block mates with diverse backgrounds and degrees, and a much heavier workload. The reality of being an inch closer to my dream of being a doctor was overwhelming and intimidating at first. I know that there will always be expectations from others, but the one that bothered me was the thought of not living up to the expectations I’ve set for myself. In situations like these, I try my best to uphold the mindset that the most uncomfortable of situations/environment is what brings out the best in us, which is why I always put myself in situations that will push my limits and one that will help me grow and discover myself better.

In the course of transitioning into being a medical student this year, I was able to know more about myself. There were a lot of adjustments that I had to make, hobbies that I needed to give up, because my dreams will always be my top priority. Different courses required different approaches and I had to change my studying habits to adapt to the fast-paced learning environment. Being granted the scholarship gave me the self-confidence to excel. It gave me the motivation to keep striving to pursue academic excellence.

“A journey of a thousand miles, begins with a single step.”

My first year of med school may not be as smooth-sailing as I thought it would be, but it allowed me to appreciate my dream and what I do in a different perspective. Before I entered the Faculty, being a doctor was a childhood dream I wanted to pursue, but after a year in this institution, I realized that the world I wanted to be a part of is so much bigger. I grew a sense of love and appreciation for the craft, the science and the art of medicine. As I approach the next chapter, I could not be any more excited. I am excited to be challenged, to have more sleepless nights, to have loads of homework and quizzes and most especially, to learn from the best set of doctors/professors and further improve myself. I am ready to broaden my perspective of the world, my understanding of the human body and my definition of what a doctor truly is.

Patricia Joyce G. Si
AFI Scholar