We know how education can transform oneself, a community, and a country for the better. As they say, it is the great equalizer.

The Regent Scholarship Program of the Anargyroi: FMS Foundation, Inc. is a need–based scholarship program that aims to provide deserving young men and women from low-income family to gain access to quality medical education. Funded by generous alumni from the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, the RSP applies a holistic financial assistance approach to ensure the successful program completion of each scholar. In 2020, our Regent’s Scholarship priority has given a total of eighteen students a start on their dreams in becoming doctors of our future. We pray that there would be more opportunities like this be given to other young people as what we give them goes beyond scholarships, we give them hope.

The RSP is a testimony of our unity, a proof of our collective strength and a legacy of the victory of the Thomasian medical community promising a brighter future for the next generation of Thomasian physicians.
There are several scholarships in the University (Scholarships in bold are for Faculty of Medicine and Surgery students):

- **The Santo Tomas Scholarship Program**, given to students with excellent academic performance. Valedictorian (Top 1), 100% of Total fees (initial benefit). Learning materials Allowance, for the First Term of the First Year of admission only. Salutatorian (Top 2), 50% defrayal of Total Fees (initial benefit).

- **The Saint Martin de Porres Scholarship**, for Senior High School/College Level/Leap Med, to deserving students in need of financial assistance. The approval of this scholarship program is subject to the availability of funds and slots per Faculty/College/Institute/School. Usually this scholarship amounts to 50% of the fees.

- **The Santo Domingo Scholarship Program**, for Senior High School & College Level, to students who excel in the arts, music, ad sports. 100% defrayal of Tuition fees.

- **The San Lorenzo Ruiz Scholarship**, given to students in need of financial assistance and who are willing to render services for twenty (20-30) hours per week in different university service departments. They enjoy 100% defrayal of Total Fees subsidy for the Valedictorians (Top1): plus, a monthly allowance of approximately One thousand (1,000) pesos.

- There are other scholarships granted by particular individuals or institutions.

- **Santo Tomas Scholarship Program** (For LEAP Med). Highest rank 1 and 2, 100% defrayal of Tuition fees, plus, learning materials allowance for the first term of the first year of admission only.

For the renewal of the scholarship the scholar must maintain an average grade of at least 88.50% with no falling grades in both academic and non-academic courses.

- **Santo Tomas Scholarship Program**. For Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. The application requirements and procedures are intended for incoming Faculty of Medicine and Surgery Freshmen applicants who are Magna Cum Laude, or Summa Cum Laude graduates of UST who wish to apply for it. The scholarship is renewable every academic year.. Benefits: Magna Cum Laude, 50% defrayed of Tuition fees.. Summa cum Laude, 100% defrayal of Tuition Fees (around 80 scholars for the four years of Medicine).

- **Saint Dominic Scholarship**. Supported by USTMAAA and other local benefactors. To Medical Students in need of financial assistance, starting on the second year of Medicine. Depending on their academic performance and on their financial needs. There are two kinds of aid: 40,000 pesos or 80,000. Since this scholarship depends on the availability of funds there is not a fixed number of recipients (approximately 40 students every year).
REGENT SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT OF THE FAULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY: THE AFI’S FLAGSHIP.

REV. FR. ANGEL A. APARICIO, O.P.

A reflection on the philosophy of the so-called Regent’s scholarship for necessitated medical students, or why the Regent of the Faculty of Medicine believes that these should not be required to pay back, a persuasion that goes back to the very beginning of the conception of the scholarship, through all the negotiations to establish it, until the present.

Why a Regent’s scholarship then?

In a previous reflection I have already explained how the Regent’s scholarship originated. It happened in one of the USTMAAA reunions, in Long Beach, California, in 2015. Along with the Rector of the University and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, I was invited to participate in this annual reunion. My role was merely ceremonial. Unfortunately, neither the Rector, nor the Dean, nor their substitutes, the Vice Rector and the Assistant Dean were able to attend the meeting. The Regent was left alone to represent the FMS Administration. I was caught by surprise and unprepared. My intention was simply to accompany the authorities of the University and to acquaint myself with our alumni. But all of a sudden, I was immersed in discussions, messages, sharing of ideas and activities. It was during celebration of the closing Eucharist, as I was thinking of what to say besides the homily on that Sunday Gospel this idea dawned on me like a flash. Since our alumni have demonstrated a proverbial generosity to their Alma Mater, it would be opportune to appeal to their generosity by suggesting to them to support five (5) full scholars per year so that by the time the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery celebrates its Sesquicentennial in 2021, we would have twenty (20) scholars to make this auspicious event not only celebratory but memorable.

Why twenty scholars?

I calculated that with an approximate number of 20,000 alumni alive, if everyone donated 1,000 pesos we could collect 20 million, enough to support the 20 scholars. Very simple! Wishful thinking?

It was like a dream, it needed to be translated into reality. “It is easier to raise 20 million from 20 donors than from 20,000,” - was the comment of one former dean. There have been all kinds of reaction, suggestions, etc., and yes, very few have so far contributed the proverbial 1,000 pesos.

Still, we persisted in the original idea of a total and unconditional scholarship (fees, books, living allowance, etc.) without conditions. Thank God, the project was adopted by the Anargyro: FMS Foundation Inc, which was also starting its long and difficult path towards a solid foundation. This was the challenge and trial for the success of Anargyro.

Four years ago, when we started selecting candidates for the first group of scholars, the head of the Search committee was hesitant to proceed with the enrollment of the five selected candidates. The available fund could only cover the expenses of one academic school year.

What will happen if we will not be able to collect? There was no choice, though. We must start if we want to have these students graduate in 2021. Notwithstanding major obstacles, we decided to proceed with faith in our trustees and hope for the better. Truly so, at present we have 18 scholars whom we can support until they end their medical studies.
REGENT SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT OF THE FAULTY OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY: THE AFI’S FLAGSHIP.

REV. FR. ANGEL A. APARICIO, O.P.

All along these years, several generous people have come with bigger or smaller contributions which have permitted us to look with optimism to the success of this project. However, it is not only financial aid which is most needed and deeply appreciated. We welcome suggestions, corrections, inputs that can improve on our early plans. For the project to be sustainable beyond 2021, we all ought to cooperate by establishing a solid and sound program. The floor is open for suggestions. Only a substantial endowment of 200 million pesos will make it viable. Is this achievable? One of our most generous benefactors has pledged 50 million pesos. We pray and hope that the good example of Drs. Linda and Peter Fang will stimulate the generosity of our best alumni. Miracles happen, yes, and many other things. It depends on us.

Let me close this reflection on an historical note. It was never the purpose of the first Spanish Dominicans who came to the Philippines to establish a school of Medicine in the country. We, Dominicans, are officially referred to as The Order of Preachers, and that is who we are, preachers. Saint Dominic, from whom we get our popular name of Dominicans, was a preacher. So was the patron of our University, Saint Thomas Aquinas, and Blessed Angelico whose beautiful representations of the Christian mysteries still attract masses of people to the great museums of the world; and thousand others who through 800 years of existence of the Dominican Order have proclaimed the message of the gospel in thousand different forms. We preach by word of mouth, like the late Fr. Sony Ramirez, O.P., or in the classroom, as I myself, or with music, painting, etc. We are educators.

There are other religious congregations who manage hospitals like the Daughters of Charity or the Sons of San Juan de Dios. We leave the practice of Medicine to those who have the vocation, the talents, and the determination, and the administration of hospitals to those who have the charisma for it.

Why then, do we, Dominicans, have a school of Medicine and a Hospital here in the Philippines? The University Historian, Fr. Fidel Villarroel writes.

“When in 1645, the initial Colegio de Santo Tomas (founded in 1611) was raised to the status of “university” by Pope Innocent X (Bull In Supereminenti), this title, though very welcome, was short of fulfilling the expectations of the Dominicans who wanted a “Public University of General Studies.” But this title was only given to universities having some faculties, such as Law and Medicine. And so, in 1680, upon request of Santo Tomas University, a Papal Bull and a Royal decree were issued giving license to establish the two mentioned faculties. But unfortunately, for unknown reasons, the license was not carried to effect. “

It is not my purpose here to trace the steps taken in the creation of the Faculty of Medicine from the first attempts until it was finally established more than two centuries later in 1871, or to flaunt on the great achievements it has accomplished throughout the 150 years of existence. I am not a historian. My interest lies only on small details, those found in the foot notes.

Somebody threw this question to me:
REGENT SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT
OF THE FAULTY OF MEDICINE AND
SURGERY: THE AFI’S FLAGSHIP.
REV. FR. ANGEL A. APARICIO, O.P.

What is the secret of the longevity of the Dominican Order (800 years), of the University of Santo Tomas (409), of the Faculty of Medicine and surgery (149)?

It is not easy to understand how UST has lasted for four hundred years, despite opposition and countless difficulties, such as invasion by the British, change of administration, wars, occupation of the land, not counting the internal struggles and conflicts. It is not easy to foresee what the future has in store for it, especially for its Faculty of Medicine and Surgery. One can only say that it is only by fidelity to the vision and values of its founders that these institutions were able to survive and that they will last.

It is not mere coincidence that it was the founder of the University, Fr. Miguel de Benavides who, back in 1589, set the foundation of a hospital that lasted for more than two hundred years, the San Gabriel Hospital in Binondo. We read in the first chronicle of the Dominicans about him and two of his companions:

“In the first place, when Fr. Miguel de Benavides, who later became archbishop of Manila and Fr. Juan Cobo, his companion, in charge of the ministry of the Chinese, transferred to a small nipa house, since they were near the Parian of the Chinese, and noticing that some of them were sick, in order to dispose them to receive the Holy Baptism, started to bring them to their house. And I heard Fr. Juan Cobo say: “now that the said Father, having in his room the sick, lay on the floor and placed the Chines on his bed. Seeing that many people came to them, the said Fathers tried to erect a small hospital. Fr. Leon, who died in Mariveles, and whose body was found intact after the disinterment eight months later after burial, donated some fifty pesos.”

Fr. Leon donated fifty pesos for the Hospital San Gabriel. I don’t know what the equivalent of 50 pesos of the 16th century would be in our time. It doesn’t matter. Fr. Miguel de Benavides bequeathed 3,000 pesos and his personal library for the foundation of what is now our University. The Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas, the Catholic University of the Philippines, believe it or not, is a conglomerate of little bricks and big sacrifices, all glued with the blood and tears of our predecessors, the Spanish Dominicans who administered it during its long existence and who joyfully have bequeathed it to their Filipino brothers to continue their mission in the education of the youth of this beautiful country.

If anybody questions why an unconditional scholarship for future doctors, there you have the answer. I am fully convinced that good seeds have potential for abundant harvest. And as our Lord Jesus said, “Man will not live on bread alone.” The devil who tempted him was right. One must be realistic: nothing is possible without money. The medical career is very expensive. It is not only good words, or good intentions, or beautiful dreams that count. Something substantial, material, money, is needed to achieve it. But Jesus was right too, the intangible deserves some consideration.

Let me thank all of you who believed in the goodness of this project: our benefactors who have supported it with your generous contributions; the BOT of Anargyroi Foundation; the members of the Regent’s Scholarship Committee. These extraordinary students, beneficiaries of the Regent’s Scholarship. Your faith and enthusiasm are the surest promise for a brighter future. May the good Lord bless you all!
"We believe that there is much wisdom to be gained by opening the doors of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery to a broader spectrum of society. Through the Regent's Scholarship Program, we aim to make quality medical education more accessible.

Five new scholars per year will be selected based on their outstanding Academic Performance, Christian Qualities, and Need for Financial Support. Priority will be given to candidates who live in areas with less access to quality medical education: one (1) scholar from Luzon, two (2) from Visayas, and two (2) from Mindanao. This program will cover the scholars' Tuition and Miscellaneous Fees, Board and Lodging, and Books."
FIRST SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Regent’s Scholarship Program MOA Signing 2017
Sitting from (L-R): Corazon Gemil MD, Willie Lagdameo MD, Carmela Tormo, Charles Latorre, Jochebeth Trocino, Cloie Rabinetas, Clifton Pe MD, Patria Punsalan MD
Standing (L-R) Rev. Fr. Angel Aparicio OP, Norberto Martinez MD, Prof. Annette Ward

Regent’s Scholarship Program 2018, Committee Members and Scholars
Standing from (L-R): Maureen Calleja, Cloie Rabinetas, Charles Latorre, Carmela Tormo, Patricia Si, Kimberly Lin, Joed Ivan Mata
Sitting from (L-R) Clifton Pe MD, Josefino Sanchez MD, Patria Punsalan MD, Angeles Alora MD, Prof. Annette Ward
THE SCHOLARS
Class 2024

BUENAVENTURA, Ela
Elaine Kate

CASTILLO, Kenneth Russel

MAULEON, Joseph

PICHAY, Aedrielyn

SIA, Nympha Elisa
THE SCHOLARS
Class 2023

BARCELLANO, Harvie M.
BONIFACIO, Remuel Brian
CASANOVA, Neil Kristoffer
LIWAG, Danvel
MENDOZA, Renz Dwine
THE SCHOLARS
Classes 2022 and 2021

Class of 2021

LATORRE, Charles John S.  RABINETAS, Cloie Anne P.  SI, Patricia Joyce G.

TORMO, Carmela Nina S.  TROCINO, Jochebeth Joi T.

Class of 2022

CALLEJA, Maureen Althea  LIN, Kimberly  MATA, Joed Ivan
RECOGNITION OF THE SCHOLARS’ CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE FACULTY

The Academics Committee of the UST Medicine Student Council’s major responsibility has been to provide support and assistance to the Academics Society of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery—they serve to represent the Faculty in various inter-university events, such as quiz bees, clinico-pathological conferences (CPC), and debate competitions. However, in 2018, as an embodiment of the Faculty’s mantra of #OneUSTMed, the Medicine Student Council initiated independent review sessions to help those students who are taking remedial examinations, in an effort to ensure that no student is left behind. These review sessions became a regular project headed by the Academics Committee, willing medical students and scholars from the higher batches were invited to facilitate the sessions to a small population of students interested in joining the review.

This academic year, as the majority of academic institutions all around the globe shifted to a virtual learning environment, several adjustments were made by both the students and the administration to guarantee that quality of education is still maintained. As the highest student-governing body of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, the UST Medicine Student Council recognized that there is a greater need to be more proactive in reaching out and providing support to the student body in order to make the transition and adaptation to the online curriculum smoother. With this goal in mind, the Academics Committee of the UST Medicine Student Council, together with the scholars of the Faculty, decided to conduct an online review session before the shifting examinations, focusing on important concepts that the students were having difficulty understanding, which included providing practice questions in between topics for further reinforcement. Due to the massive turnout and the positive feedback received from the participants of the first session, the UST-MSC shall continue to hold these review sessions with the hope of catering to and helping more students.

Mea Isabelle D. Miranda
Jason Anthony T. Supeña
Dexter Clifton C. Pe, MD
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<td>TORMO, CARMELA NIÑA SAMPAGA</td>
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Count per College: 18
Count per Scholarship: 18
BEYOND THE SCHOLARSHIP

PEER MENTORSHIP

Patricia Si

- Assisted in Biochemistry review for midyear remedial examinations
- Assisted in Physiology review for final examinations and remedial examinations
- Assisted in Pharmacology review for midyear remedial examinations
- Assisted in Renal Physiology review
- Assisted in Autonomic Nervous System Drugs review on Pharmacology
- Assisted in Respiratory Physiology review

Jochebeth Trocino

- Assisted in Biochemistry review for midyear remedial examinations

Kimberly Lin

- Assisted in Guidance Peer Mentor AY 2019-2020: Physiology, Histology, Anatomy
- Assisted in Guidance Peer Mentor AY 2020-2021: Medicine 1, Pathology, Obstetrics 1
BEYOND THE SCHOLARSHIP

PEER MENTORSHIP

Joed Ivan Mata

- Assisted in Guidance Peer Mentor AY 2019-2020: Physiology, Histology, Neuroscience 1
- Assisted in Guidance Peer Mentor AY 2020-2021: Physiology Pharmacology Neuroscience 2
- Assisted in Physiology Review Session (sponsored by the Medicine Student Council)

Maureen Calleja

We were having our lunch break when the president of our section announced that UST Faculty of Medicine and Surgery will be offering full scholarships for five upcoming first years. I remember feeling excited and anxious at the same time, knowing that hundreds or even thousands of students that will be applying for a spot therein. With high hopes of being accepted, I readily accomplished and submitted the requirements. Weeks passed by and my hopes were getting smaller. Then, I received a message saying that an interview for me and my parents had been set on a certain day. And so, the day came. My heart was pounding hard because I know for fact that I am not good with interviews and it is difficult for me to control my tears, especially with anxiety overpowering my confidence. I stuttered on the first question and burst into tears on the next. I felt that I didn't do good on the interview, almost losing hope on getting accepted. One week later, we will be meeting with Dean Maglinao and Dr. Patria Punzalan. Lo and behold, I became one of the five students who had been granted with the Anargyro Scholarship. Matthew 7:7 comes to mind: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.

I came prepared on the first day of med school: I started reading prior to lecture and came in prepared for the quiz. Then, I started to miss readings one after the other. Reading assignments kept on piling up. Everyone faces challenges in their chosen profession. But in Medicine, it is difficult to take some time and just breath and relax. No matter what the occasion is – whether it be my birthday or a family gathering – I am always in a study mode, to the point that I even have to bring my notes to wherever I go.

Looking back, I really had a hard time adjusting, especially during the period where my father had been hospitalized due to pulmonary embolism. He was admitted in the ICU for a month and I had to travel back and forth from UST to Philippine Heart Center everyday so I can check on him. I was torn with the idea of pursuing medicine or to take a break and take care of my father because I was afraid that I might lose him at any moment. Hospital became my second home and I remember walking in the hallway just to look for a quiet corner to study. It was hard to focus. Nurses running and cries of family members filled the hallways. My grades seemed to keep getting lower and it disappointing me that my efforts do not seem to translate to my desired results. Nevertheless, I kept on striving and giving my best.

After two months, my father was discharged. We were really grateful to the doctors, nurses and other members of the healthcare team and deeply value how they took good care of him. And that is when I had my moment of epiphany: I aspire to make a similar impact on people in the future. I want to be a part of a team that gives sick patients another chance to live. I want and need to be here. Truly, it was a difficult experience, but it made me stronger and more motivated to pursue what I dreamed of becoming: a doctor.

Through personal experience as a student nurse and having a sick family member, I have experienced firsthand the power to heal the wounded and offer hope. We have different definitions of success but to know that I can help change a person’s life by my actions and learnings in medical school is already a success for me. This is the reason I want to become a doctor, and this would not be possible without the help of Anargyro Foundation.
I've always wanted to become a doctor ever since I was a child. Since then, I can say that I have already set my mind on pursuing medicine. I was told many times that to become a physician, one must endure years and years of rigorous study. By then, I knew that medicine is not an easy pursuit. Now that I am in my last year of medical school, I can say that there are a lot of things I didn’t know back then. I didn’t know yet how fulfilling it feels to help patients, even in the littlest of ways. I didn’t know yet that delighted feeling of being able to extend help to my fellow medical students. And most importantly, I didn’t know yet that medicine is not a mere profession but a calling.

Whenever we try to pursue something, may it be ambition or a career, we should expect nothing to come as planned. Years ago, certain circumstances made me think twice about the plan I laid out for me. I wouldn’t have expected to be in my dream medical school, let alone become a medical student. It is easy to lose a grip on our vision and just give up whenever uncertainties like these happen. I tried to accept the fact that I may have to look for other career options and that I may need to let go of that childhood dream. However, I stood on my ground and moved forward because I could not imagine myself doing something else other than practicing medicine. One thing I learned from this entire experience is the fact that as much as there are things beyond our control, there are also some things that only we are in control of. No matter how uncertain it may get, we must remember that we are in control of our own perspective. In the end, holding onto what I stood for was worth it.

And this time, for me, it was the chance to study as a scholar in medical school, something I wouldn’t have been given the chance to if I just chose to let go of a dream.

The road to medicine may be a long winding one with no ultimate destination. But as doctors, we live for the journey and help people along the way.

Over three years have already passed since I first entered the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

Things have not been getting easier since then. Every day is a struggle. There are endless more things to learn and experience. In fact, it is understandable that it’s not difficult to lose motivation in medical school. However, whenever I feel like I’m not doing well enough, I try to look back and think about the very main reason I am here. Medical students may have entered medical school for various reasons, but we are here for one thing. We do this for our future patients. Despite having to make sacrifices, having to study for most hours, and having to lose sleep, we get to appreciate that all of our efforts, sweat, and tears will all be worth it once we get our turn to save lives ourselves.

Looking back, choosing to be where I am right now might just be an innocent decision I made when I was little, but I can say that it is one of the best ones I made. There may have been a lot of ups and downs along the way, but being here right where I want to be, in a medical school that has been so generous and supportive of me, makes the whole road to MD a lot easier to endure and love.
DEALING WITH THE CHALLENGES OF MED SCHOOL AND THE NEW NORMAL

DANVEL LIWAG, CLASS OF 2023

It was a Saturday morning, I took a sip of coffee, turned my laptop on, and logged in online to take my last major exam for the first quarter of this academic year. The exam has ended past 12 noon. Finally, I could get some good 8-hour sleep. But then I looked at my schedule and realized that I have 8 quizzes and practical tests, apart from case discussions and reading assignments, approaching next week. And I only have a day and a half before Monday hits again. I took a deep breath and uttered to myself “take some break first, refresh, then start again.”

To pause for a moment and take a short break is something that I learned in college and help carry me through the mental and physical demands of medical school. I used to think that I could get more work done if I stop taking rests. But it’s actually the opposite, at least for me. Spreading out my studies into multiple sessions with some naps in between, getting out for a short walk, or calling my mom are some of the things I do to relax and refresh my mind. Getting some breath of fresh air also reminds me of who am I and who I want to be – the very reason why I am on this journey – to be a Thomasian physician.

Learning to take a break every now and then has also help me to adapt to the new normal. In these unprecedented times, a considerable amount of stress and pressure is commonly encountered, and it brings a roller coaster of emotion for most of us. With the shift to online modality, we spend most of our time staring through our laptop screens, confined within the four walls of our room. Indeed, there is a lot to miss – the silence of the library, the smell of the med café, the scene of students skimming through their notes as you walk past the hallways of the Med building, and the stories and laughter that you share with your block mates after a long tiring day. The online environment is certainly a much different atmosphere. With this kind of modality, it is also easy to feel overwhelmed with all the requirements that must be accomplished online. I once found myself buried beneath a seemingly insurmountable mountain of coursework and a sheer volume of materials to read because I didn't manage my time wisely. Such a realization has taught me to prioritize tasks to avoid distractions and set goals. It is also worth mentioning that I wouldn’t be surviving this if not for my co-scholars – my ates and kuyas who I share the same struggle with and seek pieces of advice from.

It has been two years since I was blessed with the opportunity to attend medical school, a warm thanks to the Anargyroi Foundation Inc. The uncertainties I faced along this journey, the failures I’ve experienced, the pressure – I would take it all as a challenge to move forward and to strive further for my future patients. As the saying goes “we are tested not to show our weaknesses, but to discover our strengths.” I will cherish every experience, every learning opportunity to make myself a competent, compassionate, and committed physician.
Dr. Gilberto Gamez was born on February 27, 1922 in Lal-lo, Cagayan. He lost his lawyer father at the tender age of four and was raised by his mother and elder brother. He lived a very simple and frugal life. He graduated valedictorian in both elementary and high school at the Cagayan Valley Institute in Aparrri. In 1938, he was introduced to Father Eugenio Jordan, O.P., who was then the Rector Magnificus of the University of Santo Tomas. He served as “famulo”, Latin for servant, to the Dominican priests while taking up Liberal Arts in UST. He graduated summa cum laude with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1943 at the height of the Japanese occupation. He wanted to further take up law but the Japanese imperial army closed schools for law at the time. Fr. Angel de Blas, who was then Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in UST, advised the young Gilberto to take up Medicine instead.

He did, and concurrently taught in liberal arts. During this time, he was likewise a member of the editorial board of the Varsitarian. He later took his internship at the Santo Tomas University Hospital where he was voted as the most outstanding intern in his time. He completed his medical education at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery in 1949, graduating cum laude. During the term of Father Angel de Blas as Rector Magnificus, Dr. Gamez became one of the first residents in the Institute of Neuropsychiatry in 1950 while also training in Internal Medicine at UST. After completing his residency in Medicine at the UST Hospital, he underwent specialty training in Psychiatry at the Universidad Central de Madrid under Juan Lopez Ibor and later residency specialty training in Neurology at the Neurological Institute of New York under the tutelage of H. Houston Merritt and Sidney Carter.

In 1955, Dr. Gamez came back to the Philippines together with his wife Dr. Luz Alisangco-Gamez to set up both of their practices in Manila. In 1959, he went back to the United States to take the specialty board examinations conducted by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology. He holds the distinction of being the first nonAmerican to pass the said board certification examinations. In 1962, Dr. Gamez, together with Neurology colleagues in Asia, co-founded the Asian and Oceanian Association of Neurology.

In 1968, he petitioned the University of Santo Tomas to establish the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry, which Fr. Jesus Diaz, UST rector at the time, enthusiastically approved. Highly respected in Neurology and Psychiatry, Dr. Gamez was a founding member and first president of the Philippine Neurological Association and chaired both the Philippine Specialty Board of Neurology and the Philippine Board of Psychiatry. Dr. Gamez taught Neurology and Psychiatry at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the University of Santo Tomas for 36 years, during which time he was Chairman of the Department of Neurology and Psychiatry, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, and Member of the Board of Trustees of the University. When he retired from active teaching, UST honored him with the rank of Professor Emeritus in 1992, which he rightly deserved for his long, committed, dedicated and distinguished service to the advancement of medical education of the country in general, and his alma mater in particular. The academic community also voted Dr Gamez as one of the 400 outstanding alumni during USTs quadricentennial celebrations in 2011. Dr Gamez passed away in September 2, 2001.
Many bright young men and women with great potential to serve are deprived of the opportunity to obtain quality medical education that will make their dreams come to a successful fruition to better serve their family, the nation, and the church. The Anargyroi Regent’s Scholarship Project (RSP) is a model of intervention to this existing situation of inequity.

Through the RSP the generous alumni behind the Anargyroi Foundation who give their time, talent, and treasure are able to significantly participate in the process of an integrated human development, equity of access to quality medical education, and addressing the lack of doctors in the country.

To the Members of the Board of the Anargyroi Foundation, more power to you. May other Thomasian doctors follow your lead. You have created a pathway where they can walk together in a meaningful journey of sustaining the RSP, your beautiful gift to the University, the nation, and the church.

May your gift bear good fruits that will forever bear witness to God’s unending grace!
One of my students recently asked me in class why I have stayed long in the University of Santo Tomas as I mentioned that UST has been my only employer. As most young people today would not hesitate to change jobs for reasons known to them. The University has sent me to school. Gratitude is the reason.

They say “gratitude is the memory of the heart”. There is a wish to pay forward. My work at the Anargyro: FMS Foundation, Inc. allows me to help young people achieve their notable dream of becoming a doctor. The Regent Scholarship Program is the strongest program of AFI as it receives the most support from the Thomasian alumni doctors. Our first batch of five scholars is graduating come 2021. Hopefully, these young man and four women, in their practice of Medicine, would look back and remember. So would the rest of the scholars.

To the RSP scholars, I respect and salute you for your passion, patience, and perseverance as you work hard for the fulfillment of your dream.

I extend this respect and salute to our benefactors. On behalf of the Foundation, I thank you for your magnanimity and undying sense of faithfulness to the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.

2021 is the year we all look forward to as it would signify the start of another one hundred fifty years of giving, receiving, and sharing.

Mabuhay!