



FOREWORD

Why publish and read an academic paper on the liberal arts in this time of pandemic? Will it address and give solution to the ordeal that currently hurdles us? While the covid-19 pandemic's concern is primarily on medical and health care, however, we see how its debilitating effects encroaches the various aspects of our lives: economic, political, social, economic, psychological, religious, cultural, among others. While finding a permanent cure and efficient vaccine are still the top concerns, however, we are also faced with other equally challenging concerns like mental health, loss of jobs and livelihood, weaknesses of online learning, psychological and spiritual care for those were infected with covid-19 as well as with loved ones left behind, to name a few.

While the papers in this issue do not directly tackle the pandemic, however, the themes that they bring forward to like caring leadership, listening to the voice of the disenfranchised, attention to the family, growth in faith and spiritual life are transposable to our present situation. In a way, reading these papers does not only satisfy us intellectually but gives helpful signposts how to navigate the tempestuous stream of covid-19 pandemic.

“A leadership that is rooted on Care,” this is Rica delos Reyes-Ancheta's main thesis as she explored leadership from the Benedictine lens. In her paper entitled, “Benedictine Leadership: Carving Caring Spaces,” she presents a kind leadership shaped by the Benedictine Spirituality that centers on care or charity, that carve out spaces for communion. She outlines three important lessons 1. Benedictine leadership is about the ability to deeply care that is fostering caring over efficiency, compassion over demand for justice, and mercy over judgment; 2. Rooted in Jesus as the Good shepherd, the Benedictine leadership shows care through hospitality especially to the sick. Hospitality is opening space for all even strangers or delinquents, spaces of care wherein compassion, kindness, generosity, hospitality, and acceptance thrive. 3. Part of the caring leadership is stewardship. It is an accountability fostered through active listening, especially to the weakest and most vulnerable in Benedictine communities.

The concerns of masses are most of the time not heard and dismissed as nuisance and noises. This is what Kyle Philip M. Ravena's paper entitled, “20th Century Western Visayan Millenarian Representations: The Case of “Emperor” Flor Intrencherado in the Local Press, 1925-1929,” attempts to prove. According to him, the Iloilo-based local newspaper, the Makinaugalingon, extensively covered the movement in their press release articles, however, they were pictured in a language of ridicule, dismissing the movement and identifying its leader as a lunatic and insane despite the locality of the press. This, in turn, marginalized the movement, its goals, and objectives, as well as the leader, “Emperor” Flor Intrencherado. On the contrary, the members of the group saw themselves as participating and believing in the prophetic words of Intrencherado, the promise of radical social change, the eventual end of colonial control, and the establishment of a just and righteous independent government. In a way, it becomes a disadvantage for the nation in failing to listen to the grass movements for it is hindered from experiencing through freedom that springs from the people.





What does it mean to interiorize spiritual realities? This and other related questions were explored by Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm. in his paper, “A Phenomenological Investigation of Interiorization in the Spiritual Life.” As reflected in the title, he used the method of phenomenology in investigating interiorization in spirituality. The project is carried out through the investigation of the 98 appearances of interiorization in *Dictionnaire de Spiritualite* and 33 appearances of interiorization and related words in Kees Waajman’s *Spirituality: Forms, Foundations, and Methods*. The description of these appearances were placed side by side/on top of each other nothing the difference but more importantly, surfacing the invariable. Further, they were explored through the paradigms of spirituality namely, poles of reality, praxes in spiritual life; movements, moments and transformation. He phenomenologically describes interiorization as a process/movement within the reciprocity of Divine-Human dialogical relationship, a movement that is essentially transformative. Interiorization is a transformative mystical dialogue.

The paper of Noel Asiones entitled, “Implementing a Natural Family Planning Program: The Case of the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro,” presented findings that the program primarily adhered to the essential elements of implementation fidelity, such as content, frequency, duration, and coverage prescribed by its designers. He offered recommendations to address some issues that have influenced the degree of fidelity in which the program was implemented. 1. the need to secure adequate and sustained human and financial resources; 2. the need to strengthen its partnership with government and non-government organizations that have provided them with much-needed assistance. 3. the need to provide extensive training, materials, and support to its service providers to preserve their morale and interest. The research was commissioned and supported by the Metropolitan Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro.

The harmony between the liturgy and popular piety deepens that faith experience of the devotees. Ericka Mae Bayani Cunanan shows this as she explores together Sabuaga Festival and the Liturgy according to Sacrosanctum Concilium and the Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy. In “Popular Religiosity among Filipinos Cunanan, True Harmony Between Liturgy and Popular Piety: Expressing the Thomasian Faith in Sabuaga Festival, she articulates, 1. the dimensions of the Sabuaga Festival that make it an expression of popular piety; 2. the principles offered by DPPL for the true and fruitful harmonization of liturgy and popular piety; 3. the pastoral action plan, entitled: “An Authentic Pastoral Action of the Liturgy: Towards Building upon the Riches of the Sabuaga as a Popular Piety,” which provides suitable catechesis for the harmonization of Liturgy and Popular Piety in the Sabuaga Festival. She ends with the summary that “the Christological and Mariological dimensions are embodied in the Sabuaga as the festival encourages participants to creatively portray the Paschal Mysteries.”

In *Beyond the Classics*, Luisito V. Dela Cruz examines some of the prevalent epistemological foundations in understanding Philippine local political dynamics. By comprehensively discussing a number of canonical materials, the study offers a synthesis of the most predominant theoretical frameworks applied in analyzing the field of local politics and local governance. The paper subsequently identified some of the gaps and nuances not covered by existing materials and paradigms in light of contemporary Philippine political, social, economic, and cultural conditions. The work eventually identified perspectives and gradations yet to be explored ensuing recommendations for a more grounded trajectory that scholars in the field can consider as possible new areas of research.





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Sheldon Tabile, O.Carm.
Associate Editor

