



## FOREWORD

Man's search for meaning is a paradox. His consciousness of the world will always be inchoate, wanting, and rudimentary. It is always in the process of making itself fluid, fashioning, and evolving. As soon as a unity of thoughts is apparently reached, profundity is established, and 'truth' is discovered that man realizes obscurities and absurdities, bringing him back, as it were, to oblivion. However paradoxical, while man's search for meaning rests firmly with the tentativeness of his understanding of reality, it also fuels his unending exploration of the unknown; perspectives considered, epistemic foundations questioned, and dialogues made possible. Such is when knowledge production commences and inquiry finds its solace. Such is also when *Scientia* finds its essence.

Resolute to the aims of contributing, no matter how minuscule, to the unending task of defining and redefining human consciousness that this issue of SCIENTIA, the International Journal of the College of Arts and Sciences of San Beda University on the Liberal Arts, has been made possible. Despite the still-pervading challenges of the pandemic, the anonymity of the 'new normal', and the practical demands of publications, the journal consolidates five (5) scholarly articles that cast their nets to the vast ocean of attributing meanings to human experiences.

Joe B. Santarita establishes a lucid theoretical rendering of what seems to be a banal topic, i.e., food. The article *Beyond Food: Theorizing the Trinitas of Foods in Southeast Asia* attributes a deeper sense of understanding of heritage dishes in Southeast Asian countries. A careful scrutiny of the evolution and development of foods in the region was employed, utilizing the author's own theoretical framework of *Trinitas* of ethnicity, environment, and experiences. The use of this framework has achieved its goal of introducing the readers not just to the cuisines of the region but to the very subjectivities and contexts that led to their development, let alone the historicity of the cultures to which they belong.

In *Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao* and Confucian Moral Education, Mark Joseph T. Calano juxtaposes the EsP (*Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao*) curriculum, part of the Department of Education's K12 program, to the basic tenets and fundamental principles of Confucian moral education. Through a careful analysis of the course outcomes and content areas of the EsP curriculum, the author argues that highlighting the Filipino concept of *Pagpapakatao* as organically oriental is not just desirable but necessary.

While the narrative of neocolonial dependency has been a prevalent lens in historical studies in the Philippines, Tyronne Jann Nepomuceno reexamines the posturing, which is characterized as 'neorealist', of President Diosdado Macapagal towards the country's relationship with the United States of America during his presidency in a different light. Nepomuceno, in the article *A Cold War Narrative of Dependency: Revisiting Philippine Collaboration with America and Diosdado Macapagal's Neo-Realist Response*, contends that despite the dependency context in which Pres. Macapagal caught his presidency, he was still able to advance the national interests of the Philippines. Macapagal, as argued in the paper, "secured US financial and military assistance and defended national interest in a neorealist posture to the point of championing views more orthodox and even contrary to that of America."





A rereading of the Parable of the Good Samaritan from the Holy Scriptures has been appropriated by Vince Henry Salles in examining the contexts of human experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic. The article *Mapagmalasakit/Matapobre: Two Different Ways of Looking at the Poor in the Parable of the Good Samaritan in the Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic* compared the experience of the man abused in the said Parable to those who experienced hardships and pains during the pandemic. The different attitudes of the people towards the experiences of the suffering of others had also been likened to the different characters in the parable; hence *mapagmalasakit* and *matapobre*. In the end, the article calls for the faithful to remain steadfast in being the Good Samaritan, especially in crisis situations; actions and responses must always demonstrate *malasakit*.

Offering an understanding of the dynamics of exile and restoration in the Scriptures, Fr. Sheldon Tabile examines Divine-human relations in both Old Testament and New Testament. Drawing from the beginning of the Gospels, the paper manifests the continuity of the spiritual relation of the nuances of exile and restoration, from the early experiences of God's people found in the Old Testament to the most important events of the New Testament such as the Passover, the Last Supper, the Passion and Death of Jesus, Resurrection, and Ascension. Fr. Tabile also argued that these connections are to be found in the celebrations of the sacrament of Eucharist being a sacrament that restores man's relationship with God through the offering of the Greatest Sacrifice: Jesus Christ.

The featured articles in this issue of SCIENTIA indeed demonstrate the beauty of human consciousness. These do not only show man's capacity of attributing meanings from daily experiences, but they also exhibit man's capacity to redefine and revisit reified knowledge and subsequently provide new ways and perspectives of understanding them. This journal is a humble contribution of San Beda University to its continued pursuit of quality and excellence.

As a final note, the Editorial Board expresses its gratitude to the whole Benedictine Community of Mendiola, most especially to Rev. Fr. Aloysius Maranan, OSB, Rector-President, for his relentless support to the research program of the College of Arts and Sciences. Expressions of gratitude are also given to Prof. Christian Bryan Bustamante, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, for his firm resolve to promote excellence in the field of research and publication. The contributors and reviewers are also acknowledged for sharing their expertise and scholarly works that made this issue of SCIENTIA possible.

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