



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

### PHILIPPINES STUDY TRIP: CATHOLIC EDUCATION AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

#### **DATES:**

29 September – 7 October 2018  
(ACU Offshore Trimester 3, 2018)

#### **OVERVIEW:**

The study trip is on Catholicism, Catholic education and social justice. It is aimed at increasing the participants' knowledge and understanding of the character and role of education, particularly in Catholic schools in a developing Asian country, as it is influenced by social inequalities and the socio-religious culture of the society. The social justice and Filipino (folk) Catholicism dimension of the study-trip will provide an experience of religion as the "sigh of the oppressed" and theology "from the heart of the people."

#### **ACTIVITIES:<sup>1</sup>**

The study trip will be held in the capital city of Manila and the regional area of Pangasinan, with site visits to the regional area of Tarlac and Pampanga. It will provide students with an experience of urban and rural poverty, Tuloy sa Don Bosco Streetchildren School-Village, contrast situation of Catholic schools (an elite Catholic school in Manila and a struggling Catholic school in a poor rural area), and colonial legacies as well as (folk) Catholicism in the Philippines, as expressed in key shrines and churches, including a church half-buried by volcanic ash and a church on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Other activities include a tour of key historical sites in Manila, Mass in a chapel inside a mall, and visit to a public primary school in a poor rural area, where participants will join in a feeding program for the school's malnourished children and have a deeper sense of village life by joining teachers and schoolchildren as they walk home. The school visits will include interaction with administration, teachers, professional staff for the school's social action arm and campus ministry, and students and, wherever possible, class observation.

**TOUR LEADERS:** Dr. Gemma Tulud Cruz and Dr. Edmund Chia

#### **ACU COURSE CREDITS:**

This is a unit worth 10cp or 20cp toward the Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies, Master of Theological Studies, and Master of Professional Studies in Theology at ACU. It can be credited, as well, as 10cp or 20cp toward the Master of Religious Education subject to approval from the Course Coordinator. Depending on the elective option, and subject to approval from the Course Coordinator, it can also be credited as 10cp or 20cp towards other courses at ACU e.g. MEDLEA, MEDLN, MED, MEDN, MEDLCL, PCRLED, and GCEDLN.

#### **AUDIT AND CROSS-INSTITUTIONAL ENROLMENT:**

Limited slots are available for audit participation for those who are not enrolled in any course at ACU or somewhere else.<sup>2</sup> Limited slots are also available for cross-institutional enrolment. Applicants interested in cross-institutional enrolment should check with their home institution.

**TOUR COST:** AUD 2,400 (Hotel Accommodation, Twin Share)<sup>3</sup>

#### **APPLICATION, PAYMENT, AND ENROLMENT:**

Limited slots available. Please email the Tour Leader: **Gemma.Cruz@acu.edu.au** to obtain an application form or register your interest. An application form will be emailed to you once you confirm your interest. Formal **applications are due by 10 December 2017**. Email notifications will be sent to successful applicants 2-3 days after the signed and complete application packet is received. Successful applicants will be required with a **\$1,000 deposit by 17 December 2017** when participants are expected to have enrolled in applicable unit codes. The balance of **\$1,400** will have to be paid **on or before 17 January 2018**.

<sup>1</sup> Visit

[http://www.acu.edu.au/about\\_acu/faculties\\_institutes\\_and\\_centres/theology\\_and\\_philosophy/study\\_tours/asia/philippines\\_catholic\\_education\\_and\\_social\\_justice\\_study\\_tour](http://www.acu.edu.au/about_acu/faculties_institutes_and_centres/theology_and_philosophy/study_tours/asia/philippines_catholic_education_and_social_justice_study_tour) to have a sense of the study-trip and students' experience and reflections on it.

<sup>2</sup> Audit fee is \$900.

<sup>3</sup> Cost does not include airfare, travel insurance, most lunches, and tuition fee. Single supplement available with additional cost.

## STUDY-TRIP ITINERARY<sup>4</sup>

### 29 September (Saturday) – arrive in Manila

- Arrive in Manila: All students will be picked up from the airport
- Dinner and welcome at hotel

### 30 September (Sunday):

- Opening Liturgy, Introductions, and Briefing
- Tour of Makati (central business district of Metro Manila): cruise through historic Ayala Avenue, Makati's gated communities and Evangelista Street for a sense of the life of the country's elites and the juxtaposition of wealth and poverty in one place.
- Mass/Eucharist at Greenbelt Chapel - a thriving church in the middle of upscale malls
- Visit to Our Lady of Hope Chapel – a chapel in a department store – to have a sense of how commerce and religion mix among the country's elite.
- LUNCH
- Old Manila: drive around Intramuros, passing by the office of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) and Manila Cathedral to visit San Agustin Church and Museum, the oldest church in the Philippines which is also on the UNESCO World Heritage list, for a sense of the religious history, particularly colonial history and legacies, of the Philippines and how Catholic Christianity plays a vital role in the life of the country.
- Visit to North Cemetery for a sense of creative survival among the poor and a different form of urban poverty. The North Cemetery is home to about 10,000 people who live among the dead. It was featured in the October 31, 2017 episode of the SBS show Dateline.
- Quiapo - visit to the Minor Basilica of Black Nazarene, a central site of Filipino Catholicism, for an experience of Filipino popular piety, particularly the idea of religion as the "sigh of the oppressed," and the relationship between commerce and religion in a poor urban context. Participants will have a sense of devotional piety by witnessing and/or joining devotees/pilgrims in lining up to touch the feet of the allegedly miraculous icon.
- Dinner at Barbara's in Intramuros – with a cultural performance of Philippine dances at 7:15pm

### 1 October (Monday)

- Group De-briefing and Reflection
- Visit to Assumption College or Saint Scholastica's College. Assumption and Saint Scholastica are prestigious and exclusive Catholic schools for girls and young women offering kindergarten, primary, secondary, and undergraduate education, that is run by Catholic nuns. It is where former Philippine president Corazon Aquino (Saint Scholastica) and former Philippine president Gloria Macapagal Arroyo (Assumption College) as well as daughters of the political and business elite in the Philippines study basic education. Activities during the visit include class observation and conversation with administration, the staff of the social involvement or social action arm of the school, Religious Education teachers, Campus Ministry staff, and student leaders for a sense of "school life" and the social justice component of Catholic education in an affluent school in an urban context.
- LUNCH
- Visit to Tuloy sa Don Bosco, a school for streetchildren for a sense of the issue plaguing young Filipinos driven to the streets by poverty, family problems, etc and how a multisectoral effort led by the Salesians have made a difference in many former street children's lives. Tuloy sa Don Bosco is a 4.5-hectare former garbage dumpsite in Alabang given to the Tuloy sa Don Bosco Foundation by the Department of Social Welfare and Development in 2001 and turned by the Catholic religious congregation Society of Don Bosco (or Salesians) into "a dream place for poor children" — a sprawling, modern compound complete with 10 residential structures, a school building, technical vocational skills workshops, multi-purpose complex, culinary center, chapel, and football field. At present, more than 800 kids avail of the non-formal academic and vocational schooling at Tuloy, while 240 youngsters rescued from the streets call it their home.
- 6:30pm – 7:30pm: Dinner at Hotel
- Reading/study/writing time and consultation with LIC

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<sup>4</sup> Itinerary may be subject to change due to circumstances beyond the organiser's control.

## 2 October (Tuesday)

- 6am onwards: breakfast available at hotel
- A Sense of Urban Poverty and Its Faith-Based Transformation: Drive through the former Smokey Mountain, a well-known slum area which used to be Metro Manila's largest garbage dumpsite, on the way to an urban poor community in Caloocan City helped by Gawad Kalinga, an FBO (faith-based organization) affiliated with the Catholic Church. Gawad Kalinga's principles and practices in helping the poor e.g. "sweat equity" in building a house are good examples of how the poor are not passive recipients but active agents in the struggle to transform their living conditions.
- LUNCH
- Travel to Pangasinan – a province or regional area 6 hours north of Manila
- On the way to Pangasinan: Cruise through EDSA (Epifanio delos Santos Avenue) to see the EDSA Shrine, People Power Revolution Monument, and the 3.8km peace mural (the world's longest peace mural) along EDSA for a sense of the intersection of civil society, politics, and religion in the Philippines and the multisectoral quest for social justice among Filipinos. The EDSA 1 Revolution, which overthrew the corrupt dictator Ferdinand Marcos, is known worldwide for its peaceful and bloodless nature and the role of religion, particularly the Catholic Church, in the revolution. The EDSA Shrine is the church that was built to recognize Catholicism's critical role in EDSA 1. The EDSA Shrine became the gathering place in the revolution that ousted corrupt president Joseph Estrada.
- Dinner at hotel
- Reading/study/writing time and consultation with LIC

## 3 October (Wednesday)

- Group De-briefing and Reflection
- Visit to Saint Columban's College or Saint Columban's Institute in Lingayen, a struggling Catholic school, for a sense of the challenges of Catholic education in the Philippines, particularly in regional areas. Activities include conversation with administration, meeting and talking to teachers and students, campus tour, classroom visit, etc.
- LUNCH
- Visit to Malimpuec Primary School, a public/government school, for a sense of the challenges of rural/regional life and public education in the Philippines. Activities include conversation with the principal, meeting and talking to teachers and students, classroom visit, and participating in the feeding program for the school's malnourished or underweight students. Participants will have a deeper sense of rural or *barangay* (smallest village) life by walking through parts of the neighborhood around the school, as they walk with schoolchildren going home after school.
- Lingayen Capitol and Lingayen Beach Stroll
- Group De-briefing and Reflection at Lingayen Beach
- "Boodle Fight" Dinner at Capitol Hotel Restaurant - along Lingayen Beach
- Reading/study/writing time and consultation with LIC

## 4 October (Thursday)

- Manaoag - visit to the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, a central site of Filipino Catholicism in northern Philippines, for an experience of Filipino popular piety, particularly the idea of religion as the "sigh of the oppressed," and the relationship between commerce and religion in a regional context. Participants will have a sense of devotional piety by witnessing and/or joining devotees/pilgrims in lining up to touch the cloak of the allegedly miraculous Marian icon. Participants will also witness the blessing of vehicles which is conducted after every Mass until 11am. There is Mass every hour from 5am to 12noon
- Group attends Mass.
- LUNCH
- Conversation with Rev. Dr. Mel Braga, a priest in the diocese of Alaminos City, who holds a Ph.D from the Gregorian University in Rome and is the superintendent of Catholic schools in the diocese. He is also the director of Colegio De San Jose, a Catholic college owned by the diocese which offers primary, secondary, and undergraduate education.
- Group De-briefing and Reflection

- Dinner at Hotel
- Reading/study/writing time and consultation with LIC

#### **5 October (Friday)**

- Hotel check-out
- Head back to Metro Manila
- Stopover at two churches in two regional areas on the way back to Manila which have a unique feature or history: (1) Gerona, Tarlac for a visit to St. Josemaria Escriva Parish with its “drive through” Blessed Sacrament and (2) Bacolor Pampanga for a visit to the half-sunken San Guillermo Church – a church half-buried by lahar (volcanic ash) during the eruption of Mount Pinatubo – where Mass and other church rituals are still conducted.
- LUNCH
- Dinner at Singing Cooks and Waiters
- Reading/study/writing time and consultation with LIC

#### **6 October (Saturday):**

- 10am (Hotel Function Room): Conversation with Mrs. Socorro Villafania, MA – former teacher and high school principal, Assumption College; former dean of student affairs, Assumption College; former accreditor for Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU); currently retired and involved in volunteer work in training teachers
- 11:30am onwards – Personal Time (Mass, shopping, packing, etc)
- 6pm-7pm: Dinner at Hotel
- 7:30pm (Hotel Function Room): Final Group Debriefing, Reflection and Synthesis
- Reading/study/writing time and consultation with LIC

#### **7 October (Sunday): leave for Australia**

- Leave for Australia
- Students will be dropped off at the airport.