

Our Lady of Victories Catholic School

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January 12, 2012

Dear Friends & Benefactors,

At the beginning of this new year, I would like to offer you an update on the life and progress of Our Lady of Victories School, as well as stress yet again the importance that our school (the only traditional Catholic school in south-east Asia) has for the future of the Faith in the Philippines.

The beginning of a new year is, for many, a time to reflect on the year just past and to make resolutions and set goals for the year to come. However, it is the lot of man's fallen human nature that he easily loses sight of his goal due to the myriad number of obstacles and distractions that lie between him and his end. Even the mere passage of time is sometimes enough to render a man forgetful of the purpose with which he started out. In some matters in life, such changes in plans that result may be merely practical, as when a person decides that something he originally planned on getting will be too expensive, too time consuming, not as useful as he first thought, or the like.

However, in the noblest goals in man's life, changing from one's original goal is usually a result of discouragement, weakness, or not taking time to properly reflect on his actions. Such a person is like a traveler who does not prepare well his trip nor checks his map, and so, too late, finds himself exhausted and far off course.

Education, the work of forming the mind, is clearly one of the noblest works in this life. It is a good education that will allow children to reflect on their own purpose, to form noble goals of their own, and to give them the ability to pursue them effectively. This is our continual labour at Our Lady of Victories School: giving the children the knowledge and means to become outstanding Catholic citizens. Thereby, they will serve God and save their souls. "Because you have been faithful in little things, I will place you over great things."

The children are recently returned from their Christmas Break and are now finishing their 3rd Quarter Exams and we will begin the final quarter of the first complete school year on our new property. Due to leaks and water damage, we have had to make repairs on the roof and replace a large part of the floors. Ongoing work involves shelves, tables, cabinets, and the like. We have already made several bookshelves to be used in our budding library. And we will be grateful to any who can help us fill those shelves with good books.

Our most pressing project is the renovation of the 3rd floor of the school into a dormitory. Money constraints obliged us to postpone this project, and make use of another room as a temporary measure. However, this room is at full capacity and would not allow us to receive any new boarding students; therefore we must complete the dormitory renovation before next school year.

For this project, the roof must be altered, the building extended, and, of course, a whole system of plumbing installed. I am very thankful to all who support us and I keep you all in my daily prayers.

Yours in the Holy Family,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr Robert MacPherson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr Robert MacPherson, Rector