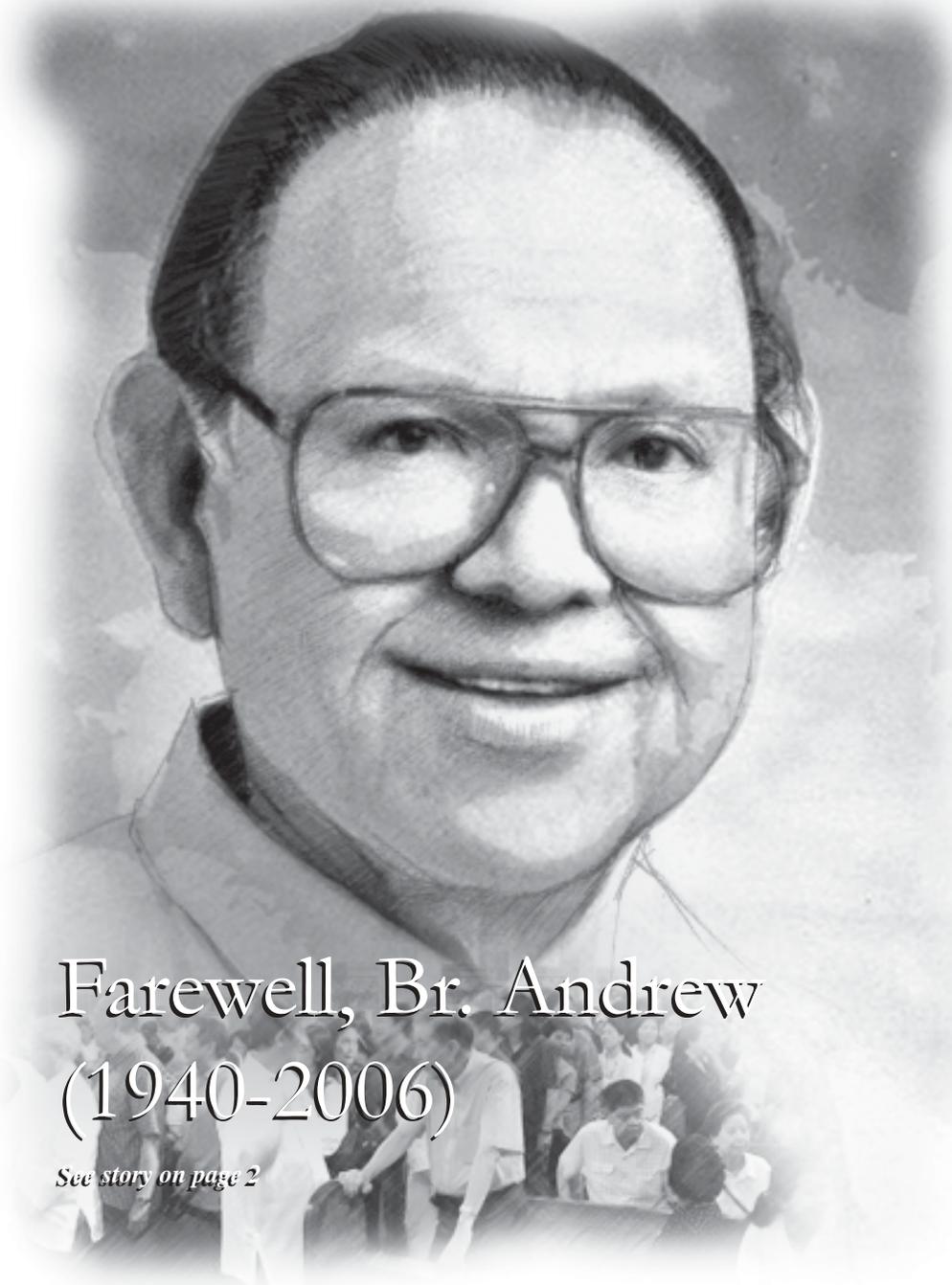




THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY-MANILA

2401 (tweñ'tē fôr'ō, wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University-Manila, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is now the new name of the official newsletter of DLSU-Manila, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

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Farewell, Br. Andrew



De La Salle University-Manila's President Emeritus and Chief Builder Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC passed away on January 29, 5:42 p.m. at the De La Salle-Health Sciences Campus University Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite. He died of complications from diabetes. He was 65 years old.

The wake that was held from January 30 to February 1 at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament was filled with an outpouring of grief from the Lasallian community. Administrators, faculty, students, staff, and alumni, as well as friends from various sectors paid their final respects to Br. Andrew.

He was President of DLSU-Manila from 1979 to 1991 and from 1994 to 1998. He likewise served as Secretary of the Department of Education, Culture, and Sports from 1998 to 2001. He was also an Academician of the Department of Science and Technology-National Academy of Science and Technology.

Under his leadership, DLSU underwent significant developments as an institution of higher learning, particularly in the areas of research and faculty and program development. He pursued his vision of making DLSU not only a center of teaching excellence, but also a research university. He sought research funding for

faculty and laid the groundwork for transforming the institution into a world-class university by fostering research and creative work.

He was responsible for the construction of many of the buildings of DLSU-Manila. He also instituted the trimestral system to attract and retain faculty by matching the salaries of the industry. He doubled the student population to keep pace with the growing population of the country and its need for a bigger base of well-trained engineers, computer scientists, entrepreneurs, scientists, writers, teachers, and researchers.

Br. Andrew also promoted graduate education, instituting new master's and doctoral programs and developing consortia arrangements to sustain them. He built up the University's endowments. In addition, he founded the College of Saint Benilde as a center for innovative learning. He acquired the

College of Medicine to meet the demand for trained doctors and DLSU-Dasmariñas to serve a sector of the rural population.

He was conferred the title of President Emeritus last September 28 in recognition of his invaluable contributions. Moreover, as a fitting gesture of appreciation of his initiatives as its prime builder, the University's General Education/College of Education/ and Asia Pacific Center for Teachers' Education (ACTED) has been named after him.

Meanwhile, the Mass of the Resurrection was held on Thursday, February 2. It was concelebrated by Blessed Sacrament Fathers, current and former chaplains of La Salle schools, some alumni and faculty of La Salle, and Fr. Bienvenido Nebres SJ, president of Ateneo de Manila University.

For the homily part, Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC, Brother Visitor of the Philippine District, delivered a homage to Br. Andrew as well as a thank-you message, particularly to those who took personal care of the man. After the Mass, words of thanks were also delivered by Adolfo Martin Gonzalez, nephew of Br. Andrew, in behalf of the Gonzalez family and relatives, Joey Panlilio of the Museo de La Salle in behalf of Br. Andrew's friends, and Br. Raymundo Suplido FSC in behalf of the Christian Brothers.

The DLSU Chorale and the DLSU Chamber Ensemble, two cultural arts groups which were strongly supported by Br. Andrew during his time, provided the music for the occasion.

His remains were brought to the Brothers' Mausoleum in Lipa, Batangas on February 3.

*Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC
(Macario Arnedo Gonzalez)
Tour of Ministry*

Date	Assignment:	Position Held
1960	LSC, Bacolod;	Teacher – English
1964	DLSC, Manila:	Grade School Teacher
1965	DLSC, Manila:	Teacher-College Department
1970	DLSU-Manila:	Academic Vice President
1978	DLSU-Manila:	Acting President
1979	DLSU-Manila:	President
1990	Sabbatical Leave	
1993	DLSU System:	System President
1998	DECS:	Secretary
2001	DLSU-Manila:	Vice President for Academics
2003	DLSU System:	Presidential Adviser
2005	DLSU-Manila:	President Emeritus

He will never be gone

By Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco
DLSU-Manila Executive Vice President

Once, Br. Andrew was asked to describe himself in just one word. Without any hesitation, he said – Genuine. Yes, Br. Andrew was genuine. He was true to himself at all times. He was often praised and each time, he showed discomfort, verbalizing it even by saying – “I haven’t died yet.” That was Br. Andrew, in this world, and I know even where he is now. In keeping with that, let me pay him tribute in a round about way. Many things have been said about Br. Andrew.

True, he had incredibly high standards and was a demanding taskmaster. He scoffed at mediocrity and sloppy output and was quick to tell the owner so, in no uncertain terms. But because he was such, most of us had to stretch to our limits and in the process, grew and became competent to a level we never imagined we were capable of reaching. And because we grew, the University achieved all that it has.

True, he was very human and never apologized for it. During University sponsored dinners, he ate to his heart’s content, regardless of the prohibitions and protests we made. He told many funny stories, with much wit though sometimes not exactly positive in content. Sometimes he was too critical, at other times, critical of the critical ones but always the mover and the shaker with an open mind, a big heart, refreshing, liberal and liberating.

Some said he tended to be arrogant; yet when he made mistakes, he was not defensive; instead he openly admitted them and apologized. I remember our first and only strike on this campus in 1984. The lay administrators were blamed and lambasted hard for it. Br. Andrew called a general faculty meeting to say only this – “I am the accountable person here ... what

led to the strike was my decision ... if you must blame anyone, blame only me ... and if you think I ought to step down as President because of that decision, you are free to go to the Board and say so.”

There were those who called him an iceberg, claiming that he was cold. True, he never flaunted his friendship with some heads of state nor with those to who he felt closest. He was too decent and with much delicadeza to do otherwise. But when he was abroad, which was very often he found time and made the effort to call us long distance even at 2 a.m. where he was, not to dictate what he wanted, nor to tell us what to do, but just to ask how we were ... how we were holding up when there were problems.

Br. Andrew was a visionary and first dreamt of a multiversity in 1979, his first year as President. I distinctly remember the passion in his eyes and voice when he spoke about it. But not everyone agreed with him. Some thought he was an unrealistic dreamer, and much like the man from La Mancha endured pockets of isolation. But he was too determined to follow his dream. Because of that, we now have a DLSU System with eight units, assets totaling some four billion pesos, and catering to students with different needs, and from varied socio-economic levels, the type of schools St. La Salle established during his time.

Some claimed Br. Andrew was socially and intellectually elitist, and not faithful to the calling of a Lasallian Brother. What many did not know because he did it quietly and covertly is that he sent hundreds of students from poor families to school and supported them until they graduated. Those who

qualified for admission to DLSU studied here; those who did not, he sent to other schools. He established our DLSU Graduate School Summer Institute for Graduate Studies, where hundreds of teachers from provincial and parochial schools are given free tuition and instructional materials and even enjoy subsidized lodging and meals. He also established the Apalit Christian Community Health Center Foundation, Inc., a free hospital for his indigent kababayans. Aside from being President of the System, he took on other jobs, one of them the Presidency of the Manila Bulletin because, as he told us “I have too many children to support.” When he was offered the post DepEd Secretary, he said “I know this will be an uphill climb to the cross but I will accept the challenge for only one reason, it is an opportunity to serve the poor.” Just this afternoon, a friend of the University was in awe of Br. Andrew’s covert, so secretive ways of helping the poor, he decided right then, to donate a P10 million endowment fund provided the scholarships will all be

named after Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC.

It has most certainly been a distinct honor and privilege to have known and worked with him. Br. Andrew was Brother, friend, teacher, scholar, surrogate father, leader, and hero to all of us in the University and to many others. Br. Andrew lived a full, interesting, meaningful and fulfilling life. In the process many seeds were sown that bore even more fruits, which we now reap.

The other day, a reporter asked me what I consider to be Br. Andrew’s biggest achievement. He had so many, and I found it very difficult to answer the question. Instead, I said – Br. Andrew’s greatest contribution to the world was the gift of his person and to us whose minds he taught, whose hearts he touched, and whose lives he transformed, he will never be gone because he lives in us.

Br. Andrew is now on his way to get his full reward. May we all continue to live lives worthy of his love ...

Thank you.

A Tribute to Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC delivered on February 1 at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament



Greatness in selfless service

by Br. Edmundo Fernandez FSC
Brother Visitor, La Salle Provincialate

In order for us to understand today's gospel, we must set it in the context of the verses that precede it. The question of "who is Jesus?" is posed throughout the Gospel of Luke, but especially in chapters 7 to 9. Jesus checks with his disciples what the multitudes think of him: "Who do the crowds say I am?" and then he checks with Peter, "Who do you say I am?"

While the multitudes think that he is one of the ancient prophets sent to bring a message, Peter, representing the perception of the other disciples, sees Jesus as the Messiah. The disciples understand that Jesus' identity goes beyond that of the prophet-teacher. Jesus is not the messenger. He is the one true Messiah sent by God. Jesus is the message.

Here, we begin to imagine how the disciples must have felt. "Great power and authority will now be with us. Surely, God will vindicate the righteous and we can sit next to the Messiah, the anointed King. We will rule with him!" But immediately after Peter's confession, Jesus moves to reorient their flawed thinking about discipleship: "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny his very self, take up his cross each day, and follow in my steps. Whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will save it."

Today's Gospel reminds us that the call to discipleship involves service and witness, not the exercise of raw power. People are to be served, not to be ordered around; people are to be loved, not to be lorded over. Ministry, today's Gospel clearly states, is not a matter of power and privilege but of humility and service.

Macario Arnedo Gonzalez, better known as Br. Andrew, understood this well and lived his life in this manner. He saw his ministry as one of service. He did many great things, which I will no longer enumerate because they have been talked about in the eulogies these past three days. But these great things he did, he did as a form of service.

Much has been said about this intellectual giant's great achievements. But not many people know about his little acts of kindness and generosity. For instance, the ASCCOM-DLSU Friendship Hospital in Apalit, Pampanga had a special place in

his heart. Though this hospital was barely breaking even, he continued to financially support it. Most, if not all of his honoraria, went to this hospital. He saw it as a way of serving the men, women and children of Apalit, his hometown. In another instance, during one or two Christmases years back when he still had the girth of St. Nicholas, he donned a Santa Claus costume to give joy to the children of the employees of DLSU Medical Center in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Service was always paramount in Andrew's mind. He stayed on for almost three years in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports up until the last minutes before EDSA 2 erupted, not because he was blindly loyal to the President of that time. He stayed on because he saw it as his duty to serve the Filipino youth and improve the public school system. He was loudly criticized by many, even in the Lasallian Family, for holding on, not really understanding his motivations. When he came back to DLSU after his stint in DECS, he was willing to serve as Vice President for Academics and Research, and later as Presidential Adviser. Many would have considered this a demotion, but he only saw it as an opportunity to continue serving.

And in Andrew's service, he encountered suffering and persecution. Like St. Paul says in our first reading, "I wish to know Christ and the power flowing from his resurrection; likewise to know how to share in his sufferings by being formed into the pattern of his death. Thus, do I hope that I may arrive at resurrection from death." For his government service, Andrew was persecuted by politicians who did not understand what it really meant to be a genuine public servant. Like St. Paul, Andrew was able to grasp the Gospel virtue that suffering is an integral part of resurrection.

Andrew also suffered much because very few understood him. The *enfant terrible* who became an intellectual giant, shocked many with his pronouncements and statements that were sometimes reckless but often turned out to be true. He was an iconoclast who questioned structures that were not life giving and empowering. He was a visionary who forged ahead, not believing in tradition for its own sake. He was not afraid to break new ground, be a trailblazer, carve out new paths. He was like St. Paul, again in our first reading: "I give no thought to what lies behind but push on to what is ahead."

He was not afraid to speak his mind, make radical choices, make unpopular decisions or champion causes that few people understood. Andrew was a strong man who made his own destiny



with an understanding of God's will for him. The German Theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer says that "the characteristic of the strong man is that he can bring momentous issues to the fore and make a decision about them. The weak are always forced to decide between alternatives they have not chosen themselves."

And while he was a maverick, he was also a very good religious. He rarely missed a retreat of the Brothers. He would take the opportunity when Brothers would gather together to get to know the young ones, encourage them, and give them advice.

Yes, Andrew was a great man, but his real greatness was in his selfless service.

Following St. Paul's metaphor, Andrew has finally reached the end of the race. And his finish was not difficult because his entire attention was on the finish line, running towards the prize to which God called him: life on high in Christ Jesus.

I can imagine Andrew now enjoying all the good things in heaven: his favorite food, his favorite books, discussing ideas with the great minds, meeting his students, enjoying God's company, perhaps debating with him. As De La Salle says in his *Meditations for the Time of Retreat*: "Oh! what a joy a Brother of the Christian Schools will have when he sees a great number of his students in possession of eternal happiness, for which they are indebted to him by the grace of Jesus Christ! What a sharing of joy there will be between the teacher and his disciples! What a special union with one another there will be in the presence of God! It will be for them a great satisfaction, sharing together the blessings for which the call of God had given them hope, the wealth of the glorious heritage of God in the dwelling of the saints."

Goodbye, Andy. Thank you for generously sharing your life with us, for touching our hearts, for making the life of each person you have encountered a little better. Until we see each other again.

Pray for us, Andy.

***Message to the Community delivered during the
Mass of Resurrection for Br. Andrew Gonzalez FSC
February 2, Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament***

Physics graduate thesis receives DOST award

A research by College of Science alumna Mannelyn Dela Cruz (MS Physics '04) was named Most Outstanding MS Thesis in Remote Sensing during the 2005 Outstanding Thesis and Dissertation in Advanced Science & Technology Awards. The award ceremony was held last December 9 at the PHIVOLCS Auditorium in UP-Diliman.

The competition is a nationwide biennial event organized by the Philippine Council for Advanced Science and Technology, Research and Development (PCASTRD) of the Department of Science & Technology (DOST).

De La Cruz is a member of the LIDAR (Laser Remote Sensing) Research Group of the DLSU Physics Department. Her winning MS thesis is titled "LUT-based Aerosol Size Distribution Determination from Wavelet De-Noised LIDAR data."

The research explored the application of the LIDAR technique in determining in real-time the size distribution of atmospheric aerosols. Aerosols, aside from limiting our visibility, can enter the human body and get deposited in the lungs, therefore causing a variety of diseases. In addition, her thesis showed that the wavelet technique is a very promising method in de-noising LIDAR data.

Outstanding MS thesis awards were also given to six (6) others for their work in the fields of Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, Genetics, Marine Science/Ecology and Physics. The awardees were selected from 43 entries. Each winner received a P 50,000 cash prize, plaque, and certificate from DOST Secretary Estrella Alabastro.

Physics Department Associate Professor Dr. Edgar Vallar served as De La Cruz's MS thesis adviser.



Dr. Edgar Vallar (left) and Mannelyn De La Cruz

February 9

Feast Day

Saint Brother Miguel Febres Cordero



Francisco Febres Cordero was born on November 7, 1854 into a family that had always been prominent in Ecuadorian politics. Crippled from birth, he had to overcome family opposition to realize his vocation to be a lay religious, the first native of Ecuador to be received into the Institute.

Brother Miguel was a gifted teacher and a diligent student. His research and publications in the field of literature and linguistics put him in touch with scholars all over the world and he was granted membership in the National Academies of Ecuador and Spain. Despite high academic honors, teaching remained his first priority, especially his classes in religion and for the young men he prepared for first communion.

His students admired his simplicity, his directness, his concern for them, and the intensity of his devotion to the Sacred Heart and the Virgin Mary. In 1907 he passed through New York on his way to Belgium, where he had been called to translate texts into Spanish for the use of the Brothers recently exiled from France.

His health, always delicate, did not easily adjust to the rigors of the European climate. Transferred to the junior novitiate at Premia del Mar in Spain during a revolutionary outbreak in 1909, he supervised a dramatic evacuation of his young charges to the safety of Barcelona across the bay. Shortly after they were able to return, he contracted pneumonia and he died at Premia, leaving behind a remarkable reputation as scholar, teacher, and saint. He was canonized on October 21, 1984.

(Excerpt from www.lasalle.org)



DLSU-M, CSB hold joint job expo

The Office of Career Services of De La Salle University-Manila and the Career Placement Office of DLS-College of Saint Benilde (CSB) held a five-day joint job exposition on January 30-February 3 at the ground floor of the Don Enrique Yuchengco Hall, Central Plaza, and Sports Plaza.

Launched in 1984, the job exposition is a semi-annual event that provides a venue for the Lasallian job hunters and prospective employers to get together.

Dubbed as the biggest job fair in the history of the University, the expo was participated by more than 120 companies belonging to the Top 1000 corporations in the Philippines from industry, government, and non-government organizations.

Accenture, Convergys Corporation, Pilipinas Shell, and Procter & Gamble Philippines were the Diamond sponsors of the event. Meanwhile the Gold sponsors were DELL, Deutsche Knowledge Services, DHL Express Phils Corp., Hewlett Packard, Kaisa Consulting, Maersk Filipinas, Inc., Nestle Philippines, Philam Group of Companies, and Teleperformance.

Special activities slated during the expo were company talks, professional development workshops, confluence cocktails, and a fashion show.

The Social Security System (SSS) also had a booth at the Expo to enable students to apply for an SSS number during the event.

MOA on salary increase signed

There will be a 6.46 percent across-the-board salary increase for all employees for School Year 2006-2007. The increase was set following the formal signing of a memorandum of agreement by the members of the De La Salle University-Manila Multisectoral Committee last February 1 at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

They also agreed on a 6.0 percent increase in tuition fees for next school year for upperclassmen and freshmen. The Committee agreed on the increase during their meeting last January 11.

Signing the agreement were the representatives of the different sectors. They were DLSU-Manila Executive Vice President Dr. Carmelita Quebengco for the administration; Student Council President Army Padilla for the students; Baylon Bañez for the DLSU Employees Association; Dr. Ricardo Puno for the Faculty Association; and Reginald Nery (signing for Yolanda Yao) for the DLSU Parents Council (Parents of University Students Organization). Yao chaired the Multisectoral Committee.

