

A commitment to quality Catholic secondary education

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Vision-Mission

The SLU Laboratory High School is envisioned as a competent, missionary and transformative educational institution committed to the formation of creative and active Christians who give witness to the Gospel values through the development of their God-given talents, skills and attitudes in the service of the school, church and society.

The Pioneer Belgian Missionaries

The arrival of a group of nine pioneer Belgian priests in Baguio in November 1907 paved the way for laying out of the foundation for Catholic education in the montañosa.

(Insert photo "Original 9 Belgian Fathers")



Fr. Seraphin Devesse, who was one of those assigned in Baguio, built the first Catholic church known as St. Patrick's Church (now the Baguio Cathedral) somewhere along

upper Session Road in 1908. He became the first parish priest of St Patrick Church from 1911 till 1913.

Later in 1911, the St. Patrick Church was transferred to a location which is now the



Fr. Seraphin Devesse

present Cathedral Hill. Using the sacristy behind the church, Fr. Devesse opened the first Catholic primary mission school initially for ten boys. It was a one-room wooden school.

(Insert photo "Fr. Devesse")

Fr. Devesse also established another church (later called St. Vincent Church) and another school later called Saint Louis School-Campo Filipino along Naguilian Road in 1912.

In 1913, Fr. Florimond Carlu succeeded Fr. Devesse as the pastor of Baguio, and took over the administration of the two small churches and two mission schools.

In the same year, the Missionary Canonesses of Saint Augustine (now known as the ICM Sisters) who assisted Fr. Carlu in his previous mission in Tagudin, Ilocos Sur arrived in Baguio to help manage the two mission schools.



In 1915, the mission schools were opened as Saint Louis Schools in honor of Saint Aloysius of Gonzaga, the patron saint of young people and students. *(Insert "Fr. Carlu")*

The successful administration and expansion of Saint Louis Schools in Baguio City and Mountain Province was a manifestation of the close collaboration between the CICM Fathers and the ICM Sisters. With the direction of Fr. Carlu, the schools were managed well by the ICM Sisters with their brand of hands-on management that became the driving force in the growth of Saint Louis Schools.

By 1915, the elementary school was completed and the Saint Louis Trade School was established to provide vocational courses such as silversmithing, carpentry, among others.

Boys' High School early beginnings

The hope of the people of Baguio to give their children quality Catholic education began to be fulfilled with the opening of the Saint Louis High School to first year students in 1921. The sophomore year opened in 1925, and by 1928, a full four-year secondary course was offered. In 1929, the seven pioneer high school students graduated.

The CICM Fathers envisioned the prospect of accommodating more students. When enrolment increased in the succeeding years, it became necessary to construct new buildings outside Saint Louis-Campo Filipino.

So a new building (now known as Saint Louis Center) was constructed in 1938 on Cathedral Hill to accommodate the elementary school and high school for boys also under the management of the Sisters of Missionary Canonesses of Saint Augustine. Saint Louis-Campo Filipino was reserved for primary school and high school for girls. In 1935, it changed its name to Holy Family College, but after World War II, it reverted to its old name.

Due to the outbreak of WW II in 1941, Saint Louis School was temporarily closed. It defied the odds by resuming classes in 1942 until it was really impossible to continue. Classes were suspended until 1945.

The school building was destroyed by the carpet bombing of Baguio City by the U.S war planes when they liberated Baguio City from the Japanese forces. During the Liberation Period, Saint Louis School remained closed because it was used as a temporary hospital and refugee center. By 1946, the school started to re-admit students, who at that time were only 198, using tents as temporary classrooms.

Like other educational institutions serving Baguio residents then, Saint Louis School had to rise from the ruins of war all over again and slowly pick up the pace. This reconstruction opened new realities of institutional direction and expansion for the CICM and Saint Louis School

When Saint Louis College (SLC) was opened in 1952, the boys' high school and SLC were put under the management of the CICM Fathers after decades of being managed by the ICM Sisters. The Saint Louis Center, Saint Louis Campo Filipino and the Saint Louis Girls' High School were placed under the care of the ICM Sisters. The separation of responsibilities between the CICM Fathers and the ICM Sisters was announced in 1952 just before Saint Louis School was renamed as Saint Louis College. *(Insert photo "SLC")*



The growing population in Baguio and the migration of people from the neighboring provinces led to the establishment of SLC. Msgr. William Brasseur's request from the Apostolic Nuncio for the much-needed property and funds for the construction of a college building was granted. *(Insert Diego Silang bldg")*



The construction of the SLC building started in 1952 and was completed in 1955. The

buildings for the vocational-technical department and the boys' high school were later added in 1957. It became the Saint Louis College main campus.

It was around this time that the CICM Philippine Province and the Vicariate planned for the further expansion of Saint Louis College. Thus, land was purchased along Bonifacio street to establish another campus (now known as the SLU main campus). With well-grounded vision and full support by the succeeding Provincial Superiors, the SLU Bonifacio campus was erected.

The construction of the SLU-Boys' High School building (now Diego Silang building) started in 1960. It was operationalized in 1961 and eventually inaugurated on October 12, 1963. The top floor of the building housed the residence of the CICM priests and the CICM Minor Seminary.

With the influx of students to the tertiary level, the boys' high school department was transferred back in 1968 to its former site at the original building on Cathedral Hill near the Baguio Cathedral (the building was later named after St. Aloysius de Gonzaga in 1986). On the other hand, the college department transferred to the boys' high building at the Bonifacio campus which was later named as Diego Silang building.

With the influx of more high school and college students wanting to have quality Catholic education, plans for expansion have to be realized. In May 2001, the plan for the full transfer of the high school department to its new campus at C.M. Recto Street along Navy Base was operationalized.



(Insert "LHS façade")

In addition to the former Saint Theresa's school building which was purchased earlier, SLU again purchased an adjacent lot fronting that building and erected a new seven-storey annex building.

Since its establishment in 1921, the SLU-LHS has been always a school for boys. But effective, however, with the first yearstudents for SY 2003-2004, it evolved from being an exclusive school to one which is a co-educational institution for both boys and girls. It

was a novel dimension in the history of the high school and this transformation ushered a new direction and a new identity for the Laboratory High School.

Also the boys' high school was formally introduced as SLU-Laboratory High School because student teachers under SLU's College of Education actually practiced their teaching knowledge and skills on the students of the SLU-LHS.

Teamwork and shared vision of three CICM personalities

The reconstruction of Saint Louis School after WW II, the eventual establishment of Saint Louis College in 1952, and the elevation of SLC as Saint Louis University in



Vicar Apostolic William Brasseur

1963, were born out of the close collaboration and common vision and actions of the superiors of the CICM Philippine province. They were Montañosa Vicariate Bishop William Brasseur, and Father Provincials Fr. Rafael Desmedt and Fr. Karel Pieters who showed solidarity of actions, continuity of programs, and creativity in decisions.

(Insert "Bishop Brasseur)

Vicar Apostolic William Brasseur contributed immensely to the reconstruction and rapid development of SLU. With his competence and influence, he personally worked for the huge task of reconstructing Saint Louis School facilities destroyed by the carpet bombing in 1945. He was the proponent and builder of Saint Louis as an important school of college education even while he was the CICM Provincial Superior from 1945 to 1948. He was consecrated bishop of the Mountain Provinces in 1948. Later, he worked hard for the granting of university status to SLC.

From 1948 to 1953, Fr. Rafael Desmedt was the Provincial Superior who led the reconstruction of CICM parishes and schools. At that time, the CICM province was still recovering from the aftermath of WWII.

Fr. Karel Pieters was the Provincial Superior from 1957 to 1967. As the chaplain and principal of the Saint Louis-Boys' High School from 1946 to 1950, he knew the fragility

of the idealism of the boys and their susceptibility to the dangers of society. Thus, he saw the need to prioritize their utmost spiritual guidance and integral human formation.

Holistic transformation of adolescents

Values inspire because they are sources of hope to ensure the success of SLU-LHS students as they help spread God's Word. They are carefully transformed into individuals worthy of respect and admiration, and armed with the attributes of Christ.

SLU-LHS espouses the belief that education is the prime catalyst in enhancing the potential of every Louisian by developing them to be competent, creative, socially involved, and altruistic individuals.

Altruism or the feelings and behavior that show an unselfish desire to help other people, is indeed the foundation of Christian Spirit which is one of SLU's four core values. It involves a selfless initiative in the exercise of one's faith. Being a Catholic institution, students of the SLU-LHS are given the responsibility in organizing class and First Friday holy masses, other religious celebrations, and charity work.

The competence of both students and teachers are always the top priority. Among the students, competence is shown when discipline is demanded from them and when compliance to rules, regulations and policies are strictly enforced. This is reinforced with the close partnership between the teachers and the parents in monitoring and evaluating their children's performance.

In LHS, students develop a reinforced view of education as a model on the appropriate ways of dealing with people in their daily lives as a student, a family member, and a responsible professional in the future.

Creativity is closely associated with competence since it is creativity that gives life to a person's competence. Various student clubs tap and develop their skills and talents through a detailed schedule of activities spread out throughout the school year such as academic, cultural and sports competitions.

Social involvement is the ultimate expression of Christian spirit, competence, and creativity. LHS students conduct community outreach activities in St. Joseph Village, their adopted barangay. They are involved as well in environmental awareness and poverty alleviation programs.

Louisians as compassionate Christians

SLU's role in the academic community transcends to the surrounding communities and provinces because of her social responsibility by involving herself in social issues and concerns.

The SLU-LHS is fully aligned to the University's institutional strategic objectives and core values. In particular, the core values of "Social Involvement" and "Christian Spirit" encourages the members of the Louisian family to contribute their time, effort and resources to people who are in need.

The LHS students are empowered because their self-esteem is enhanced, they have a bigger sense of community building, they have discovered their power to make a difference, and are adequately prepared when the call to lead comes.

CONCLUSION

Today as professionals in their own respective fields, graduates of the SLU-Laboratory High School wholeheartedly acknowledge the fact that they owe their college degrees and successes to their SLU-LHS education.

As the SLU-LHS graduates practice their current professions in various fields of specialization in government and private institutions both in the Philippines or overseas, or may have already retired from their professions, they relentlessly espouse the values and virtues that they imbibed when they were students.

The impeccable Christian teachings of the SLU-LHS educators transformed the once-adolescent students into responsible citizens of the society who recognize between the

truth and the deceptive coat of success, who aspire for service rather than power, and to have the resoluteness to cause changes without compromising their dignity and faith.

The SLU-LHS graduate is a model and inspiration for all, a person worthy of respect and admiration, always making a difference, and actively assuming the role in helping shape society and the world they live in.

The Saint Louis University-Laboratory High School has been blessed with dedicated and zealous Principals who have unselfishly helped in achieving the goals and objectives of the school as well as of the growth of the students, both intellectually and in numbers, including the professional development of the teachers.

Name of Principal	Inclusive years served
Dr. Marilyn L. Balmeo	2019–present Junior Hi
Dr. Romeo Javier	2017–present Senior Hi
Fr. Macwayne Maniwang	2017-2019 Junior Hi
Mr. Ronaldo Pontanosa	2012 to present
Dr. Joel Cabanilla	2010 - 2012
Dr. Francisco Agoot	2009 - 2010
Mrs. Ria Francis Robles	2004 - 2009
Atty. Rolando Dela Cruz	1998 - 2004
Dr. Edmundo Ceniza	1997 - 1998
Mr. Francisco Castillo	1994 - 1997
Ms. Lourdes Lucero	1991 - 1994
Dr. Ernesto Azarcon	1989 - 1991
Dr. Thelma Leal	1980 - 1989
Mrs. Caridad Trinidad	1977 - 1980
Mr. Liberato Mayo	1971 - 1977
Fr. Joseph Van Den Daelen	1970 - 1971
Fr. Hubert Dupont	1968 - 1970
Fr. Gaston Nollet	1966 - 1968
Fr. Louis Temmerman	1965 - 1966
Fr. Wilfred Deturck	1964 - 1965
Fr. James Termeer	1958 - 1960
Fr. Joseph Herpels	1957 - 1958
Fr. Albert Depre	1963 - 1964 and 1954 - 1957
Fr. Alfredo Spincemaille	1960 - 1963
Fr. Wilfred Deturck	1954 - 1960
Fr. John Van Bauwel	1952 - 1954
Fr. Jerome Dobbels	1950 - 1952
Fr. Karel Pieters	1946 - 1950

Reference credits: Saint Louis University Centennial Book (2011), CICM and SLU archives, and personal files.