A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

The **mission in the Philippines** was envisioned by the late **Madre Benigna Meda** on the occasion of the Congregation's **250th foundation anniversary.**

The inspiration was from **Fr. Edoardo Meda** from the Oblates of St. Joseph, the brother of **Madre Benigna and Mother Chiara** who was a missionary in the Philippines.

Before the mission started

Fr. Edoardo Meda

died leaving her sisters a wonderful inspiration to realize.

April 27, 1983

Sr. Chiara Meda, the first Italian missionary **arrived in the Philippines.** She initially stayed at the Sisters of the Holy Family in Greenhills and with the Camilian Sisters as well. Sr. Chiara was a bubbly, intelligent, energetic and highly-spirited person.

She sought help from the **Oblates of St. Joseph** having a brother in that congregation. It was **Fr. Guido Coletti, osj** who helped her secure a house in **La Vista Subd.,** Quezon City.

She also linked up herself to the **Congregation of the Mission** and met **Fr. Frank Vargas** who happened to be a seminary formator, then the Provincial Superior during that time.

Few months after, Mother Chiara was joined by two Peruvian sisters, **Sr. Magloria Alvarado** and **Sr. Mercedes Calderon**. The former was appointed as the formator of the aspirants and postulants while the latter studied Early Childhood Education at Maryknoll College now Miriam College and after sometime taught at GBLS.

In 1984

Sr. Loida and Sr. Eva entered as the first aspirants of the community.

In 1985

they were followed by another two ladies, Sr. Nela Morado and Sr. Nenita Gomugda.

In 1985

The sisters realized that they could render a better and efficacious service to the people especially the least, they decided **to leave La Vista** and be at the **heart of Brgy. Pansol** where a house was bought from Mr. Benedicto Gonzales.

The sisters engaged themselves in the various **socio-pastoral activities of the parish**. Fr. Patricio Lim, the parish priest requested the sisters to **help in giving out holy communion during masses and distribute communion to the aged and the sick** who were left at home in the neighboring areas.

Handa ka na ba
para kay
Baby Jesus?

They also committed themselves to the **catechesis of children**, **praying the Rosary** in the neighboring families as well as organizing **recollections** among the helpers in La Vista.

OTHER SENIOR SISTERS
who went to Italy for their initial formation

In 1986

A small preschool named **Giovanni Battista Leonardi** was constructed just adjacent to the main house.

G.B. LEONARD SCHOOL
HAPPY TEACHERS DAY

In 1990

The novitiate house was built in Tagaytay City designated as **Mater Dei Novitiate.**

In 1991

The first **2 novices** together with their formator, **Sr. Magloria Alvarado** with **Sr. Nenita Gomugda** moved in.

In 1993

Postulants from India were also taken in for their novitiate formation but this time **with Sr. Graziella** as the novice formator together with the two Filipina novices, **Sr. Ma. Luisa and Sr. Ofelia with 5 other Indian sisters.**

T H E P H I L I P P I N E - I N D I A N D E L E G A T I O N

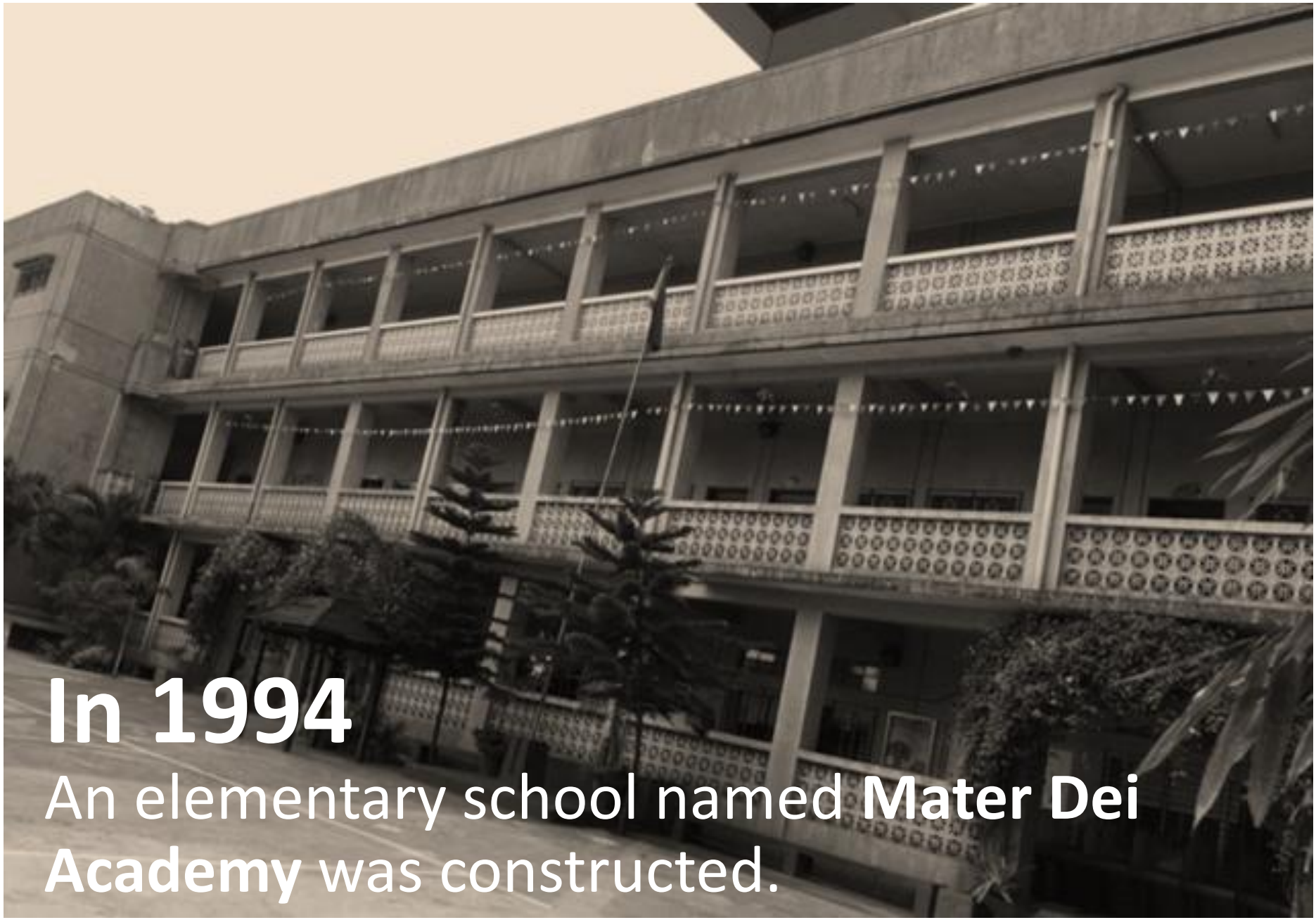
UNDER ONE FORMATION PROGRAM 1993-1995

May 22,1994

Sr. Delia & Sr. Marife

June 4, 1995

Sr. Sally, Sr. Nellie, Sr. Bridget



In 1994

An elementary school named **Mater Dei Academy** was constructed.

P.E.

In June 1995

Mater Dei Academy formally opened offering **Preschool and Grade 1** with **Sr. Nela Morado** as the principal.

May 28, 1996

Sr. Vangie & Sr. Ruth

May 18, 1997

Sr. Jean, Sr. May, Sr. Sol

In 1998

a community was opened in **Banga, Aklan** as **proposed by Sr. Nenita** having been encouraged by a good friend, Fr.Felipe.

May 31, 1998

Sr. Rina & Sr. Norma

In 1999

A **junior high school building** was constructed which was occupied by the first batch of grade school graduates of 2000 as **first year high school.**

AM a
Mariar

In 2000

The mission in the Philippines took the name of **St. Francis de Sales Delegation** with **Sr. Renata Strola** as the new delegate superior.

May 30, 2000

Sr. Rachelle & Sr. Maricon

May 13, 2001

Sr. Cynthia & Sr. Rubylyn

In 2002

The parish priest of **Floridablanca, Pampanga** invited the congregation to assist them in their various pastoral works. At the forefront of this mission were: Sr. Anabelle Pring and Sr. Ellen Arellano.

In 2002

The school **Giovanni Battista** started to offer **Elementary Education** after having been focused on preschool education for the longest time with **Sr. Juliet Mallari** at the helm.

In 2003

The second phase of the high school building of Mater Dei Academy was finally completed.

May 26, 2002

Sr. Analyn

May 31, 2003

Sr. Elsa

In 2005

A **gymnasium** was constructed at **Mater Dei Academy** to ensure a well-ordered and systematic realization of its various programs and activities.

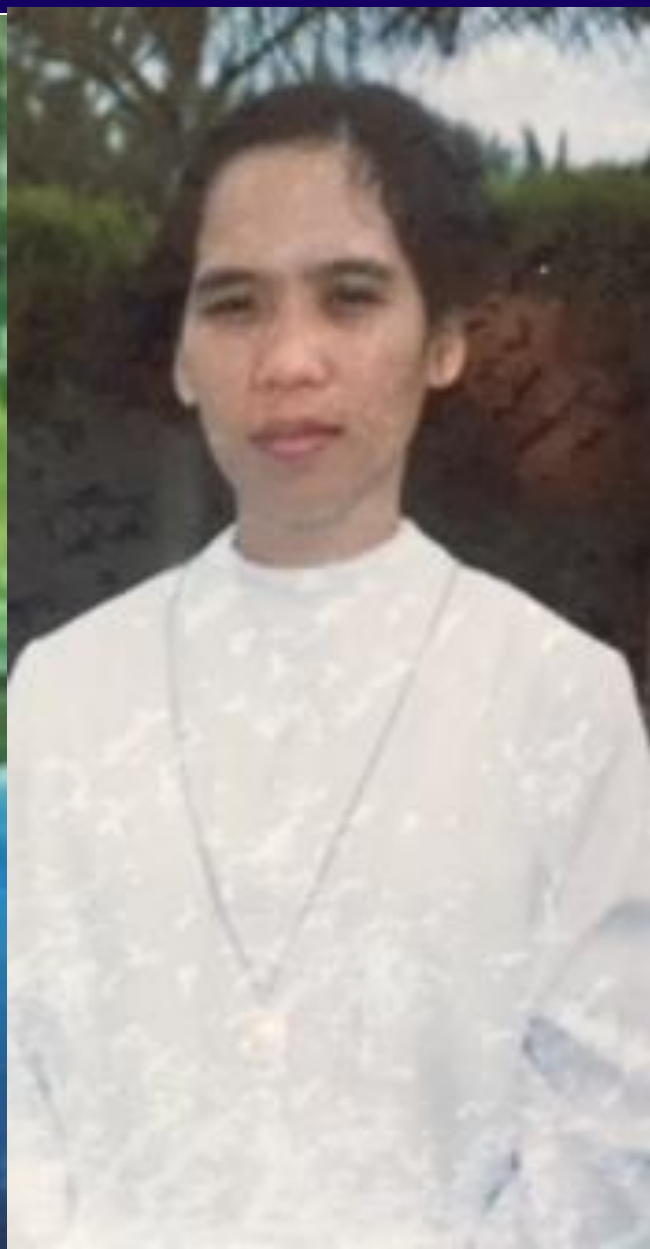
In 2005

The novitiate was transferred from **Tagaytay to PansoL** as Tagaytay was no longer conducive for formation; as the number of grade level increases so are the activities and actions taking place.

May 31, 2005
Sr. Juliet

May 21, 2006
Sr. Jovelyn

May 31, 2007
Sr. Rosalina



In 2006

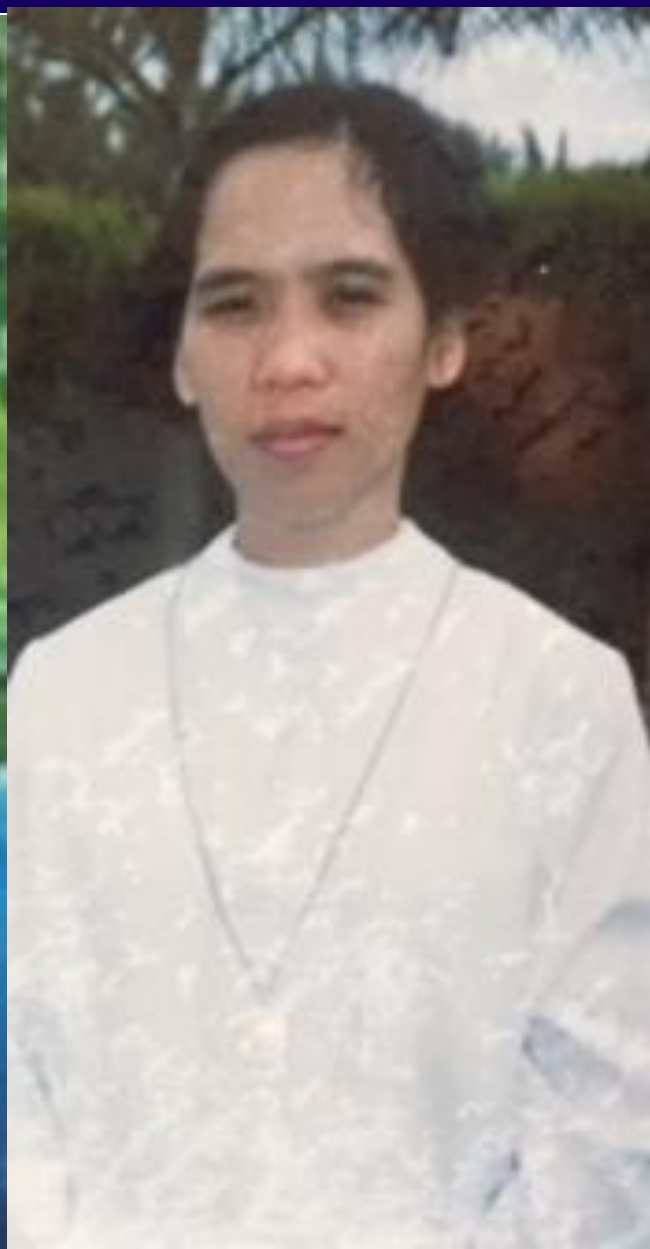
The **novitiate** was relocated back to Tagaytay City that was just **few blocks away from Mater Dei.**

2006-2014

May 31, 2005
Sr. Juliet

May 21, 2006
Sr. Jovelyn

May 31, 2007
Sr. Rosalina



In 2006

Through the invitation of Bishop Artemio Rillera, a **community** was established in **Baloan, La Union** spearheaded by Sr. Anabelle & Sr. Bridget. Sr. Juliet Mallari was appointed as **principal** of **San Nicolas Academy** while the other sisters were involved in the catechetical apostolate of the parish and other pastoral activities.

27 April 2007

On the occasion of the delegation's **25th founding anniversary** a new mission in **Indonesia** was opened with **Sr. Anabelle Pring** and **Sr. Ma Fe Mante** at the frontline.

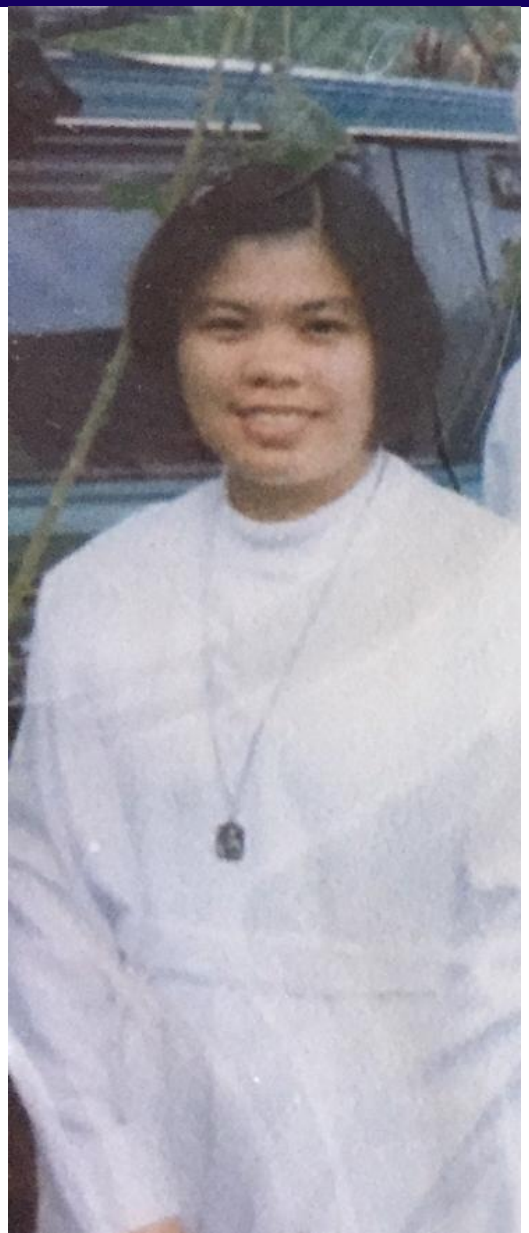
In 2008

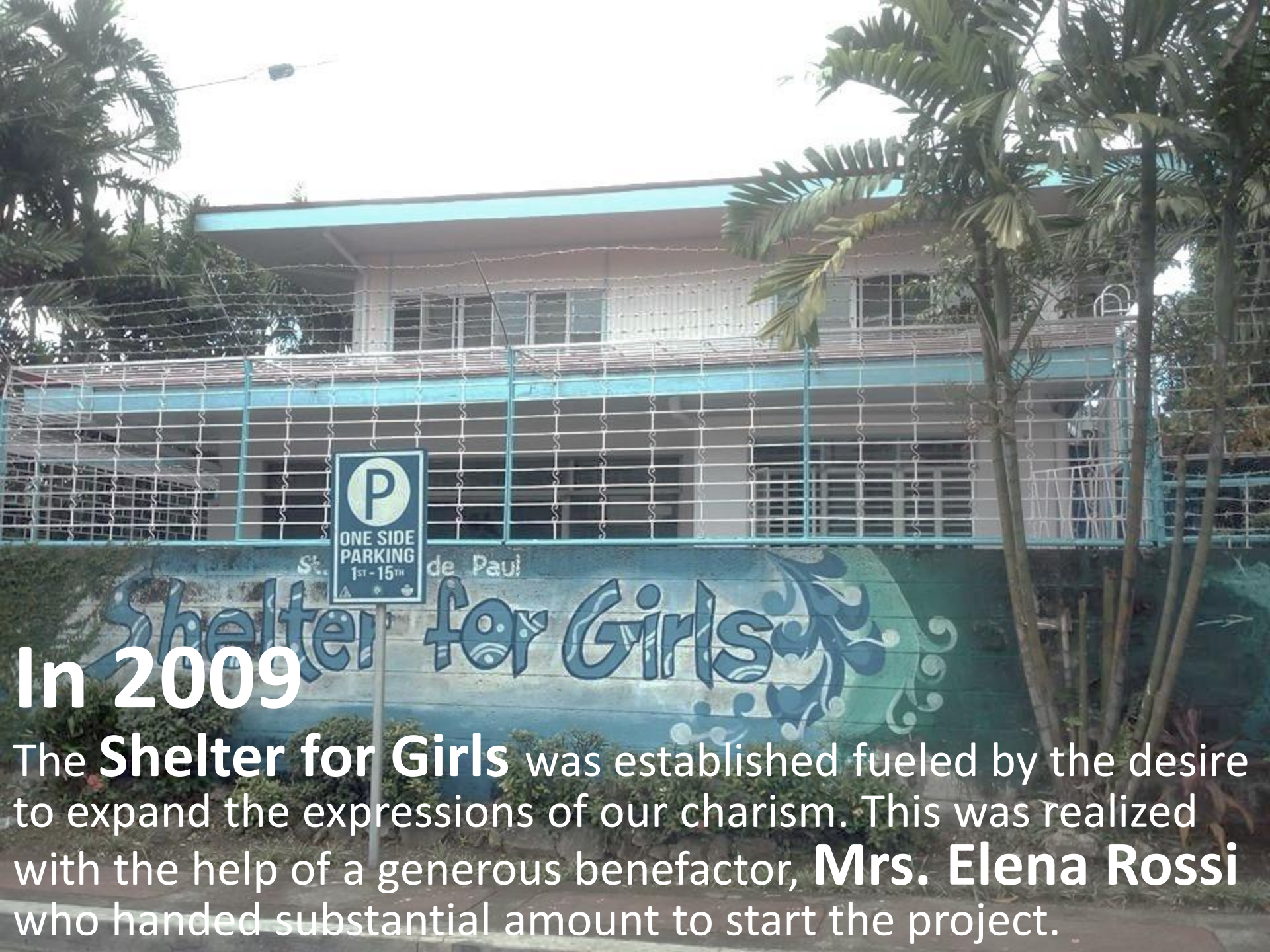
The **Novitiate House** was finally relocated to **Amadeo, Cavite** after several years of being transferred from one house to another.

May 30, 2008

Sr. Mylene & Sr. Rosemarie

Sr. BJ and Sr. Diane





In 2009

The **Shelter for Girls** was established fueled by the desire to expand the expressions of our charism. This was realized with the help of a generous benefactor, **Mrs. Elena Rossi** who handed substantial amount to start the project.

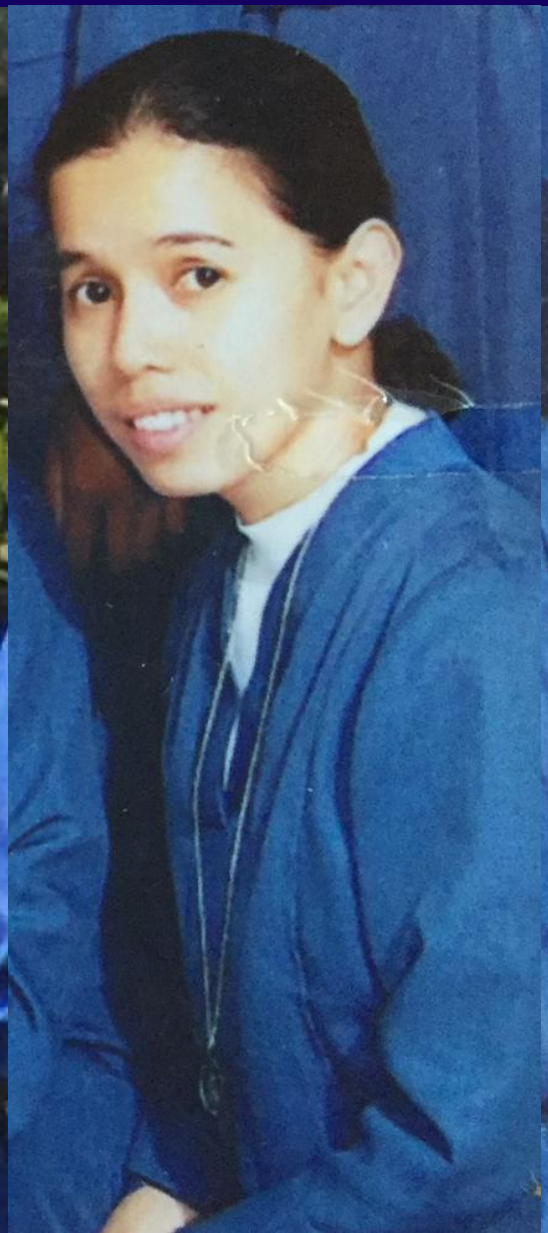
SUSHI NORI
McDonald's
Sunnie
CAFE

May 24, 2009

Sr. Ani & Sr. Retti

May 24, 2010

Sr. Precy & Sr. Yusti



May 29, 2011

Sr. Mary, Sr. Maybel, Sr. Sarina

July 8, 2012

Sr. Lesta

In 2015

Groundbreaking of the construction of the **senior high school** building of **Mater Dei Academy.**

In 2015

A community in **Mangaldan, Pangasinan** was established through the invitation of **Fr. Frank Vargas** who wanted to institute a parish in the small barrio of David. At the lead were Sr. Nela, Sr. Anabelle & Sr. Rachelle.

In 2015

Through the invitation of **Bishop Gabriel Reyes**, a community was created in Antipolo City specifically at ***Kanlungan ni Maria,*** a home for the elderly.

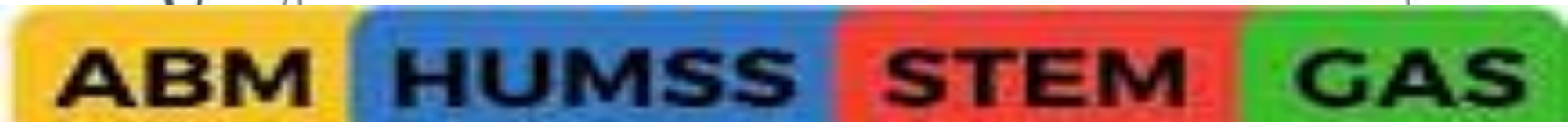
FRIENDS OF KANLUNGAN

June 11, 2015

Sr. Sheila & Sr. Mena

In 2016

Mater Dei Academy offered **Senior High School** as a response to the appeal of the parents of the graduating class of junior high school who wished to continue their basic education at Mater Dei. The school offers the **Academic Tracks** of **ABM, STEM, GAS** and **HUMSS.**



GIOVANNI BATTISTA LEONARDI SCHOOL

The Principals then and now…

1989

1995

2007

2012

2014

MATER DEI ACADEMY

1995-96 1996-2005 2005-07 2007-

1983-2000 2000-2011 2011-2014 2014-

THE DELEGATE SUPERIORS

THANK
YOU!