

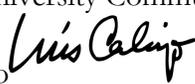


HOLY ANGEL  
UNIVERSITY

## MESSAGE

December 16, 2016

TO: The Holy Angel University Community

FROM: Luís Ma. R. Calingo   
University President

SUBJECT: President's Message to the University Community

As President of Holy Angel University, I join the entire academic community in praying for unity for our divided country. This unity must be achieved not by compromising our moral convictions but precisely by asserting their primacy over political and economic considerations, for our conscience is the only reliable guide that will lead us to the truth and the only constant basis for lasting peace.

As a university with a long tradition of producing graduates with a social conscience, we need to be true to our unique role in the evolution of a just and humane society in this part of the country. Our being a Catholic university governed by *Ex corde Ecclesiae*, the apostolic constitution of all Catholic colleges and universities worldwide, behooves us to teach the truth and to search for the truth wherever it leads us.

Thus, in the face of the recent political and social developments that have divided our nation in recent weeks—Marcos burial, extrajudicial killings, reinstatement of the death penalty, among others—we should never waver in our fidelity to the tenets of Catholic social teaching, the first of which is the sanctity of life and the dignity of the human person. We believe that every person is precious, that people are more important than things, that the true measure of every institution is whether it threatens or enhances the life and dignity of the human person, and that a fundamental moral test is how the most vulnerable members of society are faring.

While we respect each other's individual opinions on these issues, we stand firm on our institutional position consistent with our Catholic identity and mission. As members of the HAU community, I expect you to honor it.

Laus Deo Semper!