



Message to the 2014 All Ateneo Convention

August 22, 2014

Dear Alumni,

Dias marhay na aldaw saindo gabos! A very pleasant day to all of you! We send you our warmest greetings from Naga city, An Maogmang Lugar, A Happy Place. Very soon we will meet once again in New York for the Biennial All Ateneo Alumni Convention. I hope to rekindle old acquaintances with the alumni of all the Ateneos and form new friendships with others who share our common bond of Jesuit education.

Allow me to give you a brief update on the Philippine educational situation especially for those of you living abroad. Most of you may or not be aware that the country is on the threshold of a widespread educational reform-K -12 Basic Education Program-spearheaded by the Philippine Government. The number of years spent in basic education after kindergarten will increase from the present 10 years to 12 years beginning 2016. Given this major educational reform, all public and private educational institutions in the Philippines will be severely tested in their capability to see this through.

All the Ateneos have been preparing for this major challenge and making the necessary adjustments to ensure a smooth transition. There will be no college students entering first and second year in the coming years of 2016 and 2017-the time when the formal implementation of Grades 11 and 12 will begin. As a consequence, the revenues at the tertiary level are expected to significantly decline. Moreover, our college faculty especially those engaged in the general education curriculum will need to be assisted in finding other opportunities for teaching either in our senior high schools or elsewhere, doing research, and engaging in re-tooling in their respective fields. University office staff will also need to find work opportunities within the university or elsewhere during the transition. It will be a most challenging time for all of us in the education ministry.

In fidelity to our Ignatian spirit of caring for our people, the Ateneos are already trying to find creative ways to address these challenges. We beg that you to continue your financial support especially for student scholarships and for your prayers so we can faithfully continue the mission of educating our children, the future of the Philippine nation.

Dios mabalos po! Maraming salamat po! Primum Regnum Dei!

Sincerely in our Lord,

Rev. Fr. Primitivo E. Viray Jr., SJ
President, Ateneo de Naga University