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Editor's Preface

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Editor's Preface

A 100th anniversary is a significant landmark in the history of an institution, since it offers proof of survival, which in a social context, if not a philosophical one, is often an indication of value. A 100th anniversary, therefore, calls for Olympian pageantry, trumpet flourishes and a well-deserved note of triumphalism. A 125th anniversary, although it is numerically and cumulatively more impressive, is often less ostentatious. It calls more for reflection than for congratulation.

This year the Ateneo de Manila celebrates its 125th anniversary, dating from 10 December 1859, when at the request of the City of Manila, endorsed by Governor Norzagaray, the Jesuits took over the *Escuela Municipal* in Intramuros. The *Escuela* was a primary school originally intended for the sons of Spaniards, but it was opened by Jesuits to native Filipinos as well. There were only 33 students at the Escuela on 10 December 1859 but the numbers quickly rose to 76 by December 19, 120 by the 2nd of January and over 200 by August 1860. In 1865 the Jesuits received Government approval to add a five-year program leading to the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and the school was renamed Ateneo Municipal de Manila. Courses in music and art were also taught and technical courses were later added leading to certificates in Agriculture, Surveying and Business. Among the graduates in those early decades was Jose Rizal, A.B. 1877.

The Intramuros fire of 1932 completely destroyed the Ateneo buildings and forced the school to move to a new location on Padre Faura in Ermita. During the battle for the Liberation of Manila, the Padre Faura buildings were completely destroyed. The school reopened in 1945 in temporary buildings and eventually transferred to its present campus in Loyola Heights in

1952. On its 100th anniversary in 1959, the Ateneo de Manila obtained its University charter.

In commemoration of the Ateneo de Manila's 125th anniversary, *Philippine Studies* offers this Special Issue on Education and Justice in the Philippines for reflection, not only by those who celebrate the Ateneo's anniversary, but by all those concerned with the future of the Philippines.

Fr. Arcilla's article on the history of the Ateneo is commemorative, but it also offers food for thought. For the problems of the past are often the problems of the future as well. Fr. O'Donnell has an excellent analysis of the *Ratio Studiorum*, the Jesuit code of education, which may well offer solutions to problems confronting Philippine education in 1984. Fr. Healy's address on a similar Georgetown University anniversary is a provocative definition of the role of a Catholic university in the modern world. It offers a challenge to Catholic universities in the Philippines as well. The bulk of this issue is devoted to a Symposium on Education, Truth and Justice in Philippine Society. Fr. Bonoan situates the theme of Justice in Education in Philippine history. Fr. Gorospe and Fr. McNamara, Fr. Ledesma and Dr. Rosario-Braid discuss the relationship of Justice and Science, Economics and Communications. Two review articles and an impressive array of book reviews provide additional material for reflection as the Ateneo de Manila moves deeper into its second century with a renewed vision and a determination to "make things happen."

We may borrow a statement, I think, that novelist John Gardner made originally about art, and apply it, with equal relevance and meaning to the challenges of education in the Philippines. Education "... clarifies life, establishes models of human action, casts nets toward the future, carefully judges our right and wrong directions, celebrates and mourns. It does not rant. It does not sneer or giggle in the face of death, it invents prayers. It designs visions worth trying to make fact" (*Dialogue* 12 [1979]:35-36).

There is much for reflection as the Ateneo de Manila celebrates its 125th anniversary. The triumphs of the past in the Philippines, especially, are of less importance than the challenges of the future as we come to the end of 1984.

Joseph A. Galdon, S.J.