

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPSCA

The present crop of UPSCAns (University of the Phils Student Catholic Action) planned this celebration. They announced to as many internet egroups about the event, to be held on April 10, 2011 at the Solair Auditorium on Diliman campus. Our YahooGroups "Loop" of mid 50's to mid 60's were notified, and many responded. We are about 130 strong, and fairly active in keeping each other posted about general areas of interest. I didn't realize that there were so many such Upsca Loops. From the cc list, there were at least 15 other egroups. Not all Upscans have email, and a number of them started texting each other. Since I was in the province, I couldn't just appear for the event. It just so happened that a few days before, I had bought a plane ticket from Dumaguete to Manila in one of those periodic visits I make to my Ma, and only after did I realize that the celebration was within the time frame of my visit.



I was quite early for the 10 AM registration, and had some difficulty driving around looking for the place but eventually did park at the still empty parking lot, so I did some walking. When I came back, I saw an UPSCA sign posted, shown in left photo above. Right photo shows two of the other early registrants, Charito Quintos Guerzon and Carol Vera Llamanzares. Middle photo is in the foyer where lots of memorabilia was displayed.



The Solair Auditorium didn't get to be fully occupied, as shown in the photo above, but later, as the right photo shows, there were more people that came to occupy empty tables at left. As expected, these were groupings by vintage. We were given



nametags, with just nickname and year. Right photo shows 1952 Upscan Tony Pastor autographing the CDs of his piano concert which was giving away. On his right is Susan Villareal Sulit. Photo on left is the 1952 Upsca Choir's



formal picture, where Tony Pastor was tenor. I took a picture of this photo which Tony had brought, so as to complete more of my collection of Upsca Choirs. I have mine of 1959 and 1960, and have gotten hold of a few others. As more and more guests filtered in, we welcomed them with cheers. Above is Maurice Borromeo and Noel & Angge Soriano.





There's May (nee Miñosa) & Pepito Gatchalian, and 1952'er Oscar Evangelista. On right is Olive del Castillo Caoli. At first I didn't recognize her until she said was one of the CIL girls.



That's Oca Palabyab, a later-vintage Upscan with (again) Maurice Borromeo. Oca said he would be going to LA soon with his group of singers to perform for free.



And of course that is Ely Alampay, in a candid shot. Better half Sonia is in photo below, in brown



Photo on left shows Upscans spanning 27 years. I didn't get the name of the lady in pink but she entered Upsca in 1979 when it's ranks had been decimated by the Marcos era. She said there were only 20 members then. Quite a far cry from the hey day of the Delaney era with three thousand strong. That's me with the red tag. All others have been previously identified.



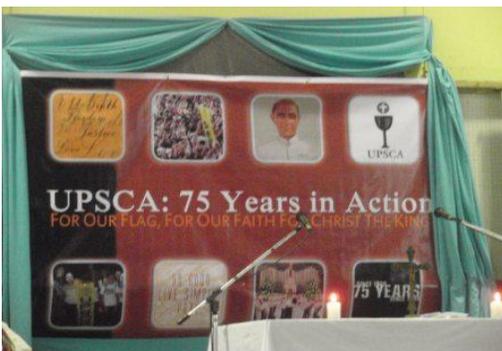
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More candid shots. That's Erlinda Roxas-Santos, a very active emailer. Another old timer was Recy Ferrer.



Photos above were of the mass, officiated by three priests, whose names I failed to get, save for Fr "Dwerps" - that was his nametag - shown on left photo. He officiated. The other two assisted, though him at the lectern gave the main homily. They all were chaplains after 1977, when the Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice became a parish church, for better or for worse for Upsca; there still is that debate.



incremented by so many years? And who will be there to see?

Our group from the 50's was the earliest called out, though it included two elderly nuns whose tags showed them from the 40's. Mind you, your year was when you entered Upsca. There were larger and livelier groups of the 70's, 80's and 90's

At the foyer was more paraphernalia for sale: commemorative T-shirts, mementos and books. Many of us got Oscar Evangelista's book on the history of the University of the Philippines, "Icons and Institutions".

After the mass, lunch was served, then there was a program. But after an hour or so, I slipped out just like some of the others.

I wonder if 25 years from now, there would be a similar photo as on the left, Danny Gil <ferngil@aol.com> 11-Apr-2011