



UCMPFI scholars attend faith-strengthening annual retreat

On August 1, 2026, UCMPFI held a full-day retreat for its current GEESE and TRACE Scholars. With the theme **“Healing Wounded Hearts,”** the retreat provided a safe space for scholars to reflect on their experiences, understand their emotions, and learn faith-based ways to cope with pain and build resilience.

Pastor Mel Cartera, a Certified Trauma Healing Program Master Facilitator, and Mrs. Victoria Esperanza “Perry” Cartera, former General Secretary of the Philippine Bible Society, led the sessions with the assistance of UCMPFI Trustee Ms. Lily Torrente.



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The sessions focused on understanding how emotional wounds, trauma, and unresolved feelings can affect a person's mind, body, relationships, and faith. Scholars were encouraged to acknowledge their emotions and losses rather than keep their struggles to themselves. They were also reminded that seeking help and expressing pain are not signs of weakness or a lack of faith.

Through discussions, activities, prayer, and personal reflection, the scholars explored topics such as suffering, grief, and the process of healing. They learned that grief does not follow a straight path and that emotions such as sadness, anger, and hopelessness can be part of the healing journey.



The scholars were encouraged to reflect on the burdens they carry and the importance of sharing them with trusted people. The retreat concluded with an exercise, *Bringing Our Pains to the Cross*, where scholars symbolically surrendered their pains, struggles, and burdens to God through prayer.

The retreat ended with a powerful reminder that **Jesus Christ is our greatest source of hope and healing**, especially in times of difficulty and uncertainty.



CENEP celebrates Buwan ng Wika

Buwan ng Wika, observed by schools nationwide every August, was celebrated in the four sites of the Foundation's Child Education and Nutrition Enhancement Program (CENEP). The celebrations brought together children, teachers, parents, and community members to give importance to the Filipino language and cultural heritage.

This year's theme, "*Wikang Filipino at AI: Kasangkapan sa Pananaliksik at Tulay sa Yaman ng Impormasyon*," highlighted the value of the Filipino language as a tool for learning and research, while emphasizing the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence.

The children actively participated in the celebrations through poems, Filipino songs, traditional Filipino clothing, and cultural activities. These included performances of familiar Filipino songs and traditional games that encouraged teamwork, participation, and appreciation of Filipino traditions. The children and teachers also came dressed in Filipino-inspired attire, adding color and excitement to the celebrations. Classrooms and activity areas were decorated with *banderitas* (small colored flags) and locally sourced recycled materials, creating a festive atmosphere.

The Buwan ng Wika celebrations gave the children an opportunity to learn more about their language and culture while having fun with their classmates, teachers, and families. The activities served as a reminder that **preserving Filipino language, traditions, and heritage begins with the younger generation**.



Cainta



Cenep celebrates Buwan ng Wika

Mandaluyong



Pakil



Cenep celebrates Buwan ng Wika

Marikina



Another TRACE scholar graduates!

Anjaneth Nazareno, a Teodoro Regala Assistance for Continuing Education (TRACE) scholar, successfully completed her Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree, *cum laude*, at Cavite State University. Anjaneth's journey was one of faith and determination. Despite the challenges she faced along the way, she continued to pursue her education and achieved her dream, with distinction. We celebrate Anjaneth's graduation and the hard work that brought her to this milestone. Her story reminds us that with perseverance and the support of others, challenges can become stepping stones toward achieving one's dreams.



This is her testimony.

My name is Anjaneth S. Nazareno, a 2026 graduate of Cavite State University – Main Campus with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Cum Laude.

I grew up in a broken family. My father left us when I was around five or six years old, and at a young age, I already learned what it meant to face difficulties.

At 11 years old, I started working because my family was struggling to provide even the basic needs of my younger brother. I worked whenever I could, especially during summers, while continuing my studies. As I grew older, I often wondered, "How will I be able to go to college?" My mother was the only one supporting our family, and I knew that college would be a challenge.

But God always had a plan.

When I was introduced to UCMFPI and became a candidate for the Foundation's scholarship, I remember thinking, "Finally, I will be able to go to college." I did not know then how far this opportunity would take me, but I chose to trust God.

For nine years, UCMFPI became a huge part of my journey. Because of the Foundation, my financial struggles became lighter. More than financial

assistance, UCMFPI gave me encouragement, faith, friendships, memories, and the reminder that I was never alone.

I am deeply grateful to UCMFPI and to all the sponsors who believed in and supported students like me. Your generosity gave me an opportunity to pursue an education and helped make a dream possible—one that I once wondered if I could ever achieve.

After nine years as a scholar, I can say that the support I received was more than a scholarship. It was hope, an opportunity, and one of the ways God showed me that He was always working in my life.

Today, I am standing here as a graduate, something I once wondered if I could ever achieve. I know I did not get here alone. I am here because of God's grace and because of the people who believed in me and supported me along the way.

This chapter may be ending, but I will carry everything I have learned, every memory I have made, and every blessing I have received into the next chapter of my life.

Thank you, UCMFPI, to all the sponsors, and to everyone who became part of my journey.

To God be all the glory!

Do visit our website www.ucmphifoundation.org to know more about the Foundation's activities and to participate in continuing to provide a better life to these children and young people. For your inquiries, please call (63 2) 8812-6062 or 8812-5609 or email us at ucmpfi@gmail.com.