



# Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines

24 June 2009

**Dear Fellow Workers in the Ministry of Catholic Education,**

*“Caritas Christi urget nos...” (2 Cor. 5.14a)*

It is with gladness that I write you today as we start another school year amidst several issues and problems besetting schools and our country.

May I start this letter by inviting you to offer special prayers for members of the clergy especially those involved in school ministry? **His Holiness Benedict XVI has proclaimed a Year for Priests on the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the “dies natalis” of John Mary Vianney, the patron of parish priests worldwide.**

At the national level, it is inspiring and direction-setting that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) has declared June 2009 – June 2010 as the **Year of Prayer and Work for Peace Building and Lay Participation in Social Change**. This thematic year begins and ends with the **Feasts of the Two Hearts, the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary** on June 19-20, 2009 – June 19-20, 2010.

As your CEAP President, and in fulfilment of our mandate to advance and promote the teaching function of the Catholic Church, I urge you to print in full the Pastoral Exhortation dated 19 April 2009 and integrate its contents in your curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular programs and activities. The tasks at hand as enumerated in the Pastoral Exhortation are clear and need urgent attention.

The directions of our association as formulated during the November 2008 Strategic Planning Workshop are attached (Attachment A). I expect that these strategic directions will serve as the anchors for the planning activities you will undertake in your respective regional assemblies before the 2009 CEAP National Convention on 16 – 18 September 2009.

I have also attached my update report for the period 12 June 2009 (First Quarter Board Meeting) to the present (Attachment B). The Second Quarter Board Meeting was held last 28 May 2009 but I deem it wise to include all events that have rapidly developed since the last Board Meeting.

As can be gleaned from the update report, there is much work that has to be done. But I am still happy and thankful that CEAP has maintained an influential and credible presence in the educational landscape and even in the very life of our beloved country.



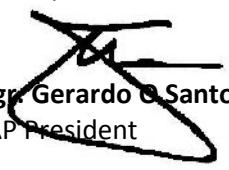
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I am also happy to inform you that the **CBCP has declared December 8 or the Feast of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception as a regular school day, though non-academic, for the Catholic Schools in the country.** This was our proposal endorsed by the Episcopal Commission on Catechesis and Catholic Education (ECCCE).

In closing, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to the members of the National Board, Regional Councils and all friends of CEAP who have continuously supported us and have done much work especially at the regional level. I will not tire in saying that **CEAP is only as good as its regions.**

Let us consecrate our schools and CEAP to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary! Thank you my dear brothers and sisters for your usual support and immediate attention.

Sincerely,

  
**Msgr. Gerardo C. Santos, Ed.D.**  
CEAP President