Does Catholic mission and identity have enduring outcomes on their graduates?
An empirical study of the hallmarks of Catholic higher education

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Context & Purpose of the Research

- effects of Catholic mission & identity
- limited scholarly studies on Catholic higher education
- culture of corruption vis-à-vis Catholic education?
- research purpose: assess Catholic education outcomes through alumni’s perception
Research Questions

1. What are the lasting outcomes of Catholic mission & identity as perceived by its alumni?

2. If Catholic education is a prime source of intellectual, moral & spiritual formation of the nation’s leaders, why is there pervasive corruption in the Philippines? How do graduates of Catholic education confront this culture of corruption??

3. What are the implications of this study for the scholarship, policy & practice of Catholic education?
Research Methodology

Empirical investigation: mixed method

Purposive Sampling of 200 alumni (100 female & 100 male) from 35 Catholic colleges/universities

Research instrument: Hallmarks of Catholic Higher Education Inventory (HCHEI)

Quantitative & Qualitative data analysis
Profile of the 200 respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religion: 95% Catholics; 5% non-Catholics &amp; non-Christians</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8 - 20 years of study in Catholic institutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduated from Catholic higher education between 1971-2012 (entered college between 1965 – 2005)</td>
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<td>Ages 21 – 59 years old, born between 1950s – 1990s</td>
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<tr>
<td>96% science degrees &amp; 4% humanities degrees</td>
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<tr>
<td>65.5% employed/self-employed; 17% government employees; 7% educators; 4% in grad school; 6.5% unemployed/new graduates</td>
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Theoretical framework & research variables

- Blessed John Paul II *Ex corde ecclesiae* or *On Catholic University* (1990)
- Pope Benedict XVI
- Byrk (1993) and Nichols (2009)
Paradigm of the study

hallmarks of Catholic education based on identity & mission

- influence
- transmission of Catholic culture & tradition
- common good vis-à-vis corruption
- outcomes & engagement
- alumni
Findings of the Study: RQ1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Four Hallmarks of Catholic HEI</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Interp</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional competence</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith development &amp; religious formation</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social &amp; civic responsibility</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moral &amp; character formation</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>agree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total mean</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>agree (positive influence)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Negative responses

34.5% agreed...
‘morality is relative’

31% strongly agreed...
‘courses did not address corruption’

15% undecided...
‘spiritual activities in school influence their church attendance today’

11.5% undecided...
‘teamwork or solve problems collaboratively’
Positive results of Catholic education

Faith & spiritual formation
✓ ‘informed faith’
✓ ‘practicing Catholic & responsible parent’
✓ ‘serve in the parish’

Moral formation
✓ ‘wisdom & courage’
✓ ‘guide in teaching children’
✓ ‘values of honesty, integrity...’
Social responsibility
✓ ‘social awareness & compassion to the poor’
✓ ‘decide for the common good’
✓ ‘social justice & help improve the world’

Holistic education
✓ ‘well-rounded’
✓ ‘professional success’
✓ ‘value-added benefits’

54% unanimous on the benefits of Catholic education
Weak spots of Catholic education

- threat of secularism: ‘outdated ethical principles’... ‘closed-minded’

- commercialization: ‘costly education’... ‘frequent donations’

- defective setting: ‘strict regulations & rebellion’... ‘overprotection’... ‘adjustment difficulties’

- drawbacks to personal integration ‘others took advantage’... ‘inflexible’... ‘unrealistic’
Rating the hallmarks of Catholic education

- moral & character formation: 44%
- faith & religious formation: 36%
- professional competence: 14%
- social & civic responsibility: 6%

Percentage of respondents
RQ 2
Corruption vis-à-vis Catholic education

- Philippines is 141st corrupt where 180th is most corrupt nation (Transparency Intl., 2009)

- 4.0 perception of corruption: public officials, civil servants, political parties

‘Corruption as cancer of the nation’
(Rosales, 2008)
Why corruption despite Catholic education?

- bureaucracy not Catholic education: ‘human free will’… ‘Catholic education help us monitor corruption’

- Problem of institutionalized corruption: ‘culture & bureaucracy’

- Human development issues: ‘poverty & bribery’… ‘political dynasty’
What alumni can do to confront corruption?
- start change in oneself: ‘be good examples’
- moral formation: ‘honesty’... ‘be law-abiding citizens’
- action & advocacy against corruption: ‘take part in anti-corruption programs’... ‘vote wisely’... ‘be involved in community projects to help the poor’
- religious & values education: ‘reinforce values’... ‘educate public leaders to be God-fearing’
Need to renew the tasks & mission of Catholic education: ‘topic on corruption not discussed in class’... ‘politics & corruption in the Church & Catholic institutes’

‘A Catholic institute must have the courage to speak uncomfortable truths which do no please public opinion, but which are necessary to safeguard the authentic good of society’ (JPII *Ex corde ecclesiae*, 1990).
RQ 3
Inquiry on the scholarship, policy and practice of Catholic education

- research on the role, mission & identity of Catholic educational institutes
- influence of research on policy & practice
- shared responsibility in transmitting the legacy of Catholic education
“Set against personal struggles, moral confusion & fragmentation of knowledge, the noble goals of scholarship & education, founded on the unity of truth in service of the person & the community, becomes an especially powerful instrument of hope”
(Pope Benedict XVI, 2008)
Concluding thoughts

✓ Catholic educators & alumni are part of a noble tradition

✓ inspiration

✓ celebrate in writing, further research & discussion the enduring consequences of Catholic education
Year of Faith & the New Evangelization

✓ Catholic identity & mission as compass in our research, actions & prayers

✓ “commitment to the new evangelization so we may together rediscover the joy of believing and the enthusiasm for communicating the faith”

(Pope Benedict XVI Porta Fidei, 2011)
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