DIAMOND JUBILEE OF H.M. KING Bhumibol Adulyadej

JUNE 9, 2006

Assumption University joined in the nation-wide celebrations of the King's Diamond Jubilee by participating in special activities organised for schools and institutions under the banner of the Catholic Education Council of Thailand on June 9, 2006. The programs included 1. rendition of the King's compositions by musical groups, 2. Eucharistic celebration by Bishop Lawrence Thienclai Samanchit of the Diocese of Chanthaburi attended by a large gathering of people from the Catholic community, 3. musical performance by students of the Business Music Department, Faculty of Arts, 4. exhibitions highlighting the various royal development projects 5. a blood donation campaign by the Faculty of Nursing Science.

Assumption University also plans to mobilize numerous other activities to honor the King during the years 2006-2007 including celebration of the 80th anniversary of H.M. the King's birthday, grant of special scholarships, donations to royal projects, sporting events, blood donations, alms giving to monks, academic exhibitions, seminars, royal song contests, article writing contests, poetry contest, sports competitions, and cultural exchanges.
DIAMOND JUBILEE OF H.M. KING Bhumibol Adulyadej

Rev. Bro. Bancha Saenghiran emphasized that these activities by Assumption University are intended to demonstrate our loyalty and gratitude to the King for the innumerable things accomplished for the country and its people over the long years of his reign. He recalled the instance of the bounty of King Rama IV in graciously providing financial assistance to Assumption College and other occasions when royal favours were granted to Assumption University for organising certain ceremonies and exhibitions. He said that the most important thing to remember is that everyone should perform good deeds and render services for the benefit and welfare of the Thai nation according to the many lofty examples as shown by the great King.

WORDS OF WISDOM

Excerpts from His Majesty’s speech delivered from the Ananta Samakhom Throne Hall on June 9, 2006.

1. We should be compassionate to each other in our thoughts, speech and actions in order to achieve progress.
2. We must come to the aid of each other and work for the mutual well-being of ourselves, others and the nation as a whole.
3. Everyone should think and act with honesty while staying true to the rules and respecting equality.
4. As everyone strives to ensure their thoughts and views conform to righteousness and remain steadfast to reason, their minds and conduct must be in tandem with virtuous resolve.

A full view of the Eucharistic Ceremony held at the John Paul II Sports Centre, Bang Na as part of the celebrations on the 60th Anniversary of the accession to the throne by H.M. King Bhumibol Adulyadej on June 9, 2006.

To Your subjects most revered King,
Your life of sacrifice and dedication has spoken:
in our celebratory voices, there is a rapturous ring
of the joys in our hearts. Your virtue has awoken.
Along the avenues of righteousness you have led us
your actions breeding hope and sustenance, dispelling woes.
Your voice so rich with wisdom, has taught us
how well with perseverance, self-sufficiency goes.
Sixty years of Your ascent to the Throne has brought us blessing:
nurturing us, revealing to us to that rarefied glory
shining in history, sparkling in the orient’s dressings
of the completeness of the virtue in Your life’s story.
To You and You alone do our grateful hearts pay homage
“Blessings be upon Your Majesty” the Greatest King in our age.

(Dedicated to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej
on the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee of His Accession
to the Throne. June 9, 2006, by Mr. Glen V. Chatelier,
Assumption University of Thailand)
ORIENTATION FOR SEMESTER 1/2006

The Student Affairs Department and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs jointly organised the orientation ceremonies for semester 1/2006 on May 18 and 19. As the student intake this year was substantial the ceremony held at John Paul II Sports Centre of Bang Na campus was split into two days to achieve better organization and effectiveness. There was a video presentation of life at Assumption University, welcome speech by President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, advice on university studies, time management and introduction to administrators, deans and chairpersons conducted by Vice President, Academic Affairs, Dr. Visith Srivichairatana.
ACTIVITIES ON AND OFF CAMPUSES.
A.U. GRADUATES QUALIFY AS SUB LIEUTENANTS IN ROTC.

The latest group of Assumption University graduates who qualified as Sub Lieutenants in the Reserve Officer Training Corps of the Royal Thai Army gathered for a photo session with President Emeritus Dr. P. Martin Komoimas and President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran at Bang Na campus on June 17, 2006. The University is proud of their achievement and wishes them successful professional careers.

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT COURSE # VIII

President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran awarding the Executive Certificate in Supply Chain Management to a student who has successfully completed the course at Bang Na campus on June 23, 2006.

President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran in a commemorative photo with instructors and students of Executive Certificate in Supply Chain Management Course # VIII held during June 3-23, 2006 at Bang Na campus.

SPECIAL ORIENTATION SESSION

President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran giving a talk to M.A.(APS) students from St. Gabriel's College who visited Hua Mak campus on July 16 for an orientation tour with their professors Dr. Gabriele Strohschen and Ms. Melissa Koenig.

President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran in a commemorative photo with students of St. Gabriel's College taken in Room A 52 on July 16, 2006 during their orientation tour with their professors seconded from DePaul University, U.S.A.
INNOVATION, CREATIVITY AND ENTERPRISE (ICE) CENTER LAUNCHED ON JULY 20, 2006.

Assumption University has established a center for business consultants to be known as the “Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise (ICE) Center” to help small and medium enterprises achieve international standards.

The Graduate School of Business, Assumption University, with the cooperation of the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotion, opened the ICE Center through which it gives consultancy services to Small and Medium Enterprises to compete at international levels. This will be followed by the creation of an Emergenetics Center with the assistance of the NWS Co., Ltd., which represents Emergenetics® Asia. NWS Co., Ltd. is responsible for analytical exercises and improving work experiences and human resources in the region.

Assumption University and the Office of Small and Medium Enterprises Promotions have mutually agreed to cooperate on establishing a business incubator unit, which is called ICE Center. The purposes of the incubator units are:

1. carry on the business for SME entrepreneurs and exporters.
2. develop and create new entrepreneurs and facilitate them to enter into export markets.
3. introduce technology management support to export businesses.
4. conduct product research and improve products for export markets.

The ICE Center has been successfully developed with the help of SME Bank and under the supervision of Office of Graduate Studies, Assumption University.

continued on page 10
Peter Faber (1506-1546), both of whom we celebrate this year on the 500th anniversary of their birth.

Thus, Saint Ignatius, on the threshold of modernity, had a clear idea of the unity of that which subsequent thinking sought, sometimes radically, to divide: the unity of the light of faith and that of reason, of piety and of learning. In fact, the Society of Jesus, throughout its history and in all the continents, proceeded, with this understanding, to carry out an immense university apostolate. In the decrees of the last General Congregation of the Society of Jesus, which took place in 1995, in that section which deals with "Jesuits and University Life", we read that "They [...] seek to accompany in faith the men and women moulded by the potent cultural impact inherent in the university as an institution."

Faith and knowledge: this is a challenge for every Catholic university. May it face this challenge with the fervour of Saint Ignatius!

A Catholic university that does not live of the faith of the Catholic Church - that faith which is nourished by the words of Christ and by an intimate relationship with Christ, and which is manifested in action in realising the will of Christ - would be a nonsense, an hypocrisy.

In the first reading of today’s Mass (Jer 13, 1-11), the prophet Jeremiah says that the people which refuses to listen to the words of the Lord, which follows therefore other gods to serve them and adore them, will become like a rotted loincloth "which is good for nothing". Certainly, this simile is entirely valid, too, for any Catholic university for which the word of God is not a vital point of reference.

Knowledge accompanied by love

The figure of Saint Ignatius is connected here in the East, where your General Assembly is being held, with the figure of his great friend whom I have already mentioned, Francis Xavier. In fact, Saint Francis Xavier is known as the great apostle of Asia. I am always impressed when, on his feast day, each year on 3rd December, we read in the Liturgy of the Hours a passage from his letter he wrote from India to Saint Ignatius, in which we find these significant words: "Again and again I have thought of going round the univer-

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1 Decrees of the 34th General Congregation - 1995, Rome, 1996, decree 17, 1.
sities of Europe, especially Paris, and everywhere crying out like a madman, riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity: What a tragedy; how many souls are being shut out of heaven and falling into hell, thanks to you!"

"Riveting the attention of those with more learning than charity [...] how many souls are being shut out of heaven [...] thanks to you." I, too, am profoundly convinced that, within the dynamic of the Church's action, if knowledge is not united to love it can cause much spiritual damage. Experience confirms this.

Therefore, my hope for all Catholic universities, and my prayer to the Lord, is that their solid deepening of knowledge, and the handing on of that knowledge to young people, be accompanied by an authentic love; a fervent love of Christ, a love without compromise for the Church, and a generous love of neighbour. Then, and only then, will our universities build a shining future, promoting the glory of God and the good of humanity. In fact, Saint Maximilian Kolbe used to repeat "only love creates", and Martin Luther King said the same. Indeed, "only love creates!"

In his Encyclical Deus caritas est (25th December 2005), Pope Benedict XVI notes that "Love of neighbour, grounded in the love of God, is first and foremost a responsibility for each individual member of the faithful, but it is also a responsibility for the entire ecclesial community at every level" (n. 20, beginning), and, therefore, also at the level of the Catholic university.

Our participation at each Mass - when Christ is made really present among us in the greatest act of His love, in His sacrifice on the Cross - reminds us of our duty of authentic love.

At the end of our journey, as Christ Himself taught us, we shall be judged by love (cf. Mt 25, 31-46). "Only love creates!"

**Love of the Church**

I have spoken of the love of God, of the Church and of our neighbour. I should like now to focus a bit on our love of the Church. Saint Ignatius, in fact, stood out precisely because of his great love of the Church, for his passionate and profoundly lived "sentire cum Ecclesia" (thinking with the Church). It is in this context that his fidelity and absolute obedience to the Successor of Peter must be interpreted - an obedience which became the object of the fourth vow of the Jesuits and led to an enormous apostolic dynamism. When I studied at the Gregorian University, Professor Wilhelm Bertram, S.J. - Professor of the Philosophy of Law and of General Norms - who had absorbed well the true spirit of Saint Ignatius, often used to repeat the words of Saint Augustine: "Quantum quisque amat Ecclesiam Christi, tantum habet Spiritum Sanctum" (the more that someone loves the Church of Christ, the more he has the Holy Spirit). How can one not love the Church? She is, in fact, the Mystical Body of Christ. "Christ is not complete without the Church, nor is the Church complete without Christ. The whole and complete Christ is head and body."

This love of the Church is extremely important for the work and fruitfulness of every institute of Catholic higher studies. If we are not properly rooted in the dynamism of the Church, we cannot bear fruit. In fact, the Church is an organic body, which is living and operative. A member that is cut off from the body is irrelevant. Saint Paul compared the Church to the human body (Rom. 12, 4-8). As in the human body, there are many members with different functions, so also in the Church each one has his or her own specific function; but we are all dependent on each other, we must co-operate, in a spirit of service, respecting the specific mission of each person. Everyone must harmonise his or her own mission with that of the others, to be truly immersed in the "sentire cum Ecclesia".

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1 Blessed ISAAC, Discourse 11: cf. Liturgy of the Hours, vol. IV, Second Reading of Friday of the 23rd Week of Ordinary Time (towards the end).
THE 22ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF IFCU HOSTED AT BANG NA
July 31-August 4, 2006

230 delegates from 45 countries were given red carpet treatment right from the time they got off their flights. The Commission on Higher Education, the Thai Bureau of Immigration and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with Assumption University and arranged hospitality for the guests arriving from Catholic Universities from all corners of the globe.

Flying in from the Vatican, His Eminence Cardinal Zenon Grocholeweski, Prefect of the Congregation for Education, appealed to the audience at the Opening Ceremony to look carefully at the implications of the internal, external and anterior aspects of International Justice. H.E. Mr. Suwat Lipatapanlop, Deputy Prime Minister, the Royal Thai Government, reflected on the topic of the General Assembly, International Justice, by informing the delegates

continued from page 7, col. 3

This means taking our place in and loving not some dream-Church, or one that we imagine, but the Church as she is, just as Christ founded her. A Church built on Peter (cf. Mt 16, 18-19); a Church in which the task of teaching the truths of the faith has been assigned principally to the Successors of the Apostles, with the collaboration of the priests, although an important role in this mission is also attributed to the laity; a Church in which "the task of authentically interpreting the word of God, whether written or handed on, has been entrusted exclusively to the living teaching office of the Church, whose authority is exercised in the name of Jesus Christ", and therefore this interpretation cannot be overlooked in our academic institutions, etc. Indeed, we must love the Church as she is, even with her weaknesses. The Church is our home, in which we must feel united with tight bonds of communion and of authentic love.

Love the Church! Consider yourselves her children, and not principally her judges. The more you love the Church of Christ, the more fruitful will be your specific apostolate in academic activity, carried out with dedication and love, for the good of the Mystical Body and for the good of humanity.

Conclusion

The Catholic university - with a lively faith, with authentic love and with a sense of working within the mystery of the Church (within the Mystical Body of Christ) - receives the kingdom of heaven and inserts itself into its dynamism, of which today's Gospel spoke (Mt 13, 31-35): "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches. [...] The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

The Communion antiphon adds to these parables the words of Jesus: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!" (Lk 12, 49).

Let us pray to Christ, who is present in the Eucharist, to enlighten and help us to make our Catholic universities ever more instruments of this logic and of this beneficial action of the Lord, which is directed to renewing the face of the earth, to be "fountains of living water in the midst of a thirsting world".

* Cf. SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL, Dogmatic Constitution Lumen gentium, 25; Decree Presbyterorum ordinis, 4; Catechism of the Catholic Church, 888.
* Cf. Catechism of the Catholic Church, 904-907.
* SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL, Dogmatic Constitution Dei verbum, 10.

* BENEDICT XVI, Encycllical Deus caritas est (25th December 2005), 42 (end).
that His Majesty the King, who marks the Diamond Jubilee of His Accession to the throne, best encapsulates international justice through His benevolent rule based on the ten moral principles of government called Tossapit Rajatham.

The conferences covered, both intensively and extensively, the debates and responses to issues on International Justice. His Excellency Mr. Raymond Ranjeva, the former Vice President of the International Court of Justice, in his paper, "International Justice: Between Utopia and Political Realism" ranged his arguments from the seeming inadequacies of "local justice" systems to appeals for "new universal and international norms on the economic, commercial and social organization, based on research of the universal values and respect for democratization of international relations."

Professor Paul J. Weithman from the University of Notre Dame, USA, addressed the core concern of many of the university academics at the General Assembly when in his paper he suggested that catholic educators must respond to the current crises in the world by transmitting to students the theories of international justice and focus the students' awareness towards international inequalities which stem from unequal distribution of wealth and of education. Professor Weithman conclusively argued that education had the duty to make the link between the needs and the rights of every individual, particularly for the people from the poorest countries.

There were regional and linguistic group workshops in English, Spanish and French, and discussions integrated into the General Assembly in which the participants discussed administrative and moral agendas to be taken back to their respective institutions and national settings for further action.

Lodged at the state-of-the-art residential halls, the delegates were given exposures to Thailand's rich artistic and cultural background.

A visit to Wat Pho in Bangkok city gave the visitors a hands-on experience of the pacifist aspects of Thai culture arising from Lord Buddha's teaching of meditation as the way to higher realization of the self. At the Ratchada Grand Theatre the delegates were treated to a spectacular and breathtaking sound and light treatment of the Siam Niramit show: A Journey to the Enchanted Kingdom of Siam. The visit to Muang Boran at Samut Prakan province with expertly guided tours by Assumption University's faculty, exposed the delegates to varied and enticing Thai artifacts which, as a Dutch delegate said, will "remain forever embedded in our memories."

The organizing committee at Assumption University spared no efforts to exhibit the music and dances of Thailand to the international delegates. Dance and music performances by Assumption continued on page 10
University faculty and staff with selective participation from a couple of other Thai universities, enraptured the delegates. A Western classical music concert by the Department of Music Business in the ornate Hall of Fame held the audience spellbound on the penultimate night of the General Assembly.

Overall, the 22nd General Assembly of the International Federation of Catholic Universities provided a unique opportunity for academics from all parts of the world to visit Thailand and to sample the international tone and texture of Assumption University's programs and facilities. The next IFCU General Assembly will be in the Republic of Honduras.

Assumption University remains proud and grateful that the IFCU chose Thailand as the host country in this auspicious year when His Majesty has reached a new milestone by celebrating the Diamond Jubilee of His Accession to the Throne.

Contributed by Glen V Chatelier

**ICE Center's Objectives**

The Innovation, Creativity and Enterprise (ICE) Center, has set its objectives and procedures to operate businesses in line with Office of Small and Medium Enterprise Promotions (SMEs) policy. ICE has evolved a new set of objectives of the Business Incubator Unit which are:

1. To improve the skills and business potentiality through business training and seminars.
2. To serve as a consultancy center, analyze problems and give consultancy to SME entrepreneurs.
3. To create and to motivate the new generation of businessmen to do business in the real world.
4. To create the new high quality in producers, entrepreneurs, marketing specialists and sellers for the global market.
5. To increase the channel for SME goods in the global market.
6. To establish the center of the new generation businessmen and SME business owners through which they can improve their knowledge and approach the global business in the same way.

**ICE Center's Services**

1. Provide consultancy and organise activities, training or seminars which can provide knowledge and skills to new entrepreneurs.
2. Serve as the center of consultancy for new businessmen and people interested in this field.
3. Coordinate and connect between trainees to support businesses.
TRIP TO KOH KRET BY MBA STUDENTS.

It was a cool morning by Bangkok standards. Not even a cloud was visible, which is an oddity for the rainy season. The weather was such that our professor and one unnamed student would use their umbrellas for protecting their fair skin and not from rain. We gathered for a class trip to Kret Island with our objective being to study the unique characteristics of the small community. Our class discussion to prepare us for our trip had us focus on the cultural, social and technological disparities that would be readily visible when we make our way around the island.

"Koh Kret" is an island of just 4.12 sq. km. in the Chao-Phraya River within the boundary of Nonthaburi Province. The community of Kret is predominantly of "Mon" ethnicity. The island boasts centuries of tradition and unique culture, food, language and art. Traditionally, the main products of the island were unique pottery and distinctive foods. For that reason, the island has been populated by craftsmen and farmers.

Upon arriving at Kret, the first structure we encountered was the Peramai-Yikawat temple. Entering it brought different emotions to mind. One could not help but notice the unique architectural design which made us feel like outsiders, but at the same time, it was a Buddhist temple for any body from anywhere to pay their respects which was a common bond for us and the Kret people. Our expectations were for many more experiences to look forward to.

After exiting the temple, we walked along a walkway that goes around the island. We were greeted by some merchants who were selling souvenirs and refreshments. The thirsty drank and the memory-seekers bought souvenirs. Then we continued along the path trying to get through the market to our next cultural experience.

But it never came. The walkway around the island is a never ending market. All that is readily visible is vendors selling food, candles, toys, and decorations. The worst part about that is that most of the products are imported from Bangkok. The long and storied unique pottery had all but disappeared. In its place were ceramic sculptures of a naked woman or a little boy urinating. Littered lots of land surrounded the walkway.

The population of artists and farmers had been changed into salesmen. Kret has been changed by tourism and outside influences. The teenage generation was noticeably absent during our trip. We were told that many of them go into Bangkok to work or play. When they return home, they bring back urban lifestyle that does not have patience for the lifestyle of a pottery-maker or farmer. The other concern is tourism and what effect it has on the island. It should be good for outside money to come and be spent, but at what cost? The heart and soul of the island is of arts and foods. That has disappeared because the shift has been to sell to the tourists.

There must be some course of action that will be able to have Kret enjoy tourism, but also maintain its tradition. If things continue to progress the way that they are currently then Kret pottery and culture will not be a tourist attraction, it will be a historical event.

Contributed by MBA Case Study Section 55 (May 2006) under supervision of Dr. Chittipa N.
WAI KRU CELEBRATION AT BANG NA

President Emeritus Dr. Komolmas, President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, VPs and lecturers from various faculties seated for a photo opportunity during Wai Kru ceremony held at Bang Na campus on June 22, 2006.

Student representatives bring up specially designed flower patterns to present to administrators and faculty members as part of the annual Wai Kru celebrations on June 22, 2006.

President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran, administrators and professors accepting bouquets from students as tokens of respect and obedience which is the essence of Wai Kru celebrations held at Bang Na campus.

President Emeritus Dr. P. Martin Komolmas, V.P. Dr. Srisakdi C., professors and lecturers being presented with flowers by students by way of expressing respect and obedience during Wai Kru celebrations.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS FROM “LOYOLA” WELcomed

Exchange students and teachers from Loyola College Maryland being welcomed by Dr. Samusa Nakasingh and staffers at Don Muang International Airport on July 7, 2006.

Exchange students and teachers from Loyola College, Maryland carting out their luggage from the airport on their way to the hostels at Hua Mak campus of A.U.
SUMMIT OF PRESIDENTS OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES AT BANGKOK. JULY 19-22, 2006

The summit was held at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Centre, Bangkok attended by thousands of participants from bureaus of education, universities and institutes from more than 70 countries. The event was hosted by the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education of the Royal Thai Government and many lectures and seminars were organised to enable the leaders to collaborate, share and discuss issues affecting developments in higher education. The theme of the conference was “Reflection on Diversity and Harmonisation” and the discussions covered the following key areas:

I. Role of higher education
II. Cross-border education
III. Twenty first-century learning needs
IV. Higher education governance
V. Harmonization and diversity
VI. Role of sport in promoting peace and understanding.

The summit was officially opened by the Minister of Education H.E. Chaturon Chaisang who spoke about the increasingly diverse but intrinsically interconnected challenges and opportunities faced in the field of higher education. Lord Christopher Patten, chancellor of Oxford University and Dr. Edward de Bono the famous rock star and renowned world poverty fighter addressed the delegates attending the conference.

President Emeritus Dr. P. Martin Komolmas, President Emeritus giving a talk on the origin, history and development of Assumption University to delegates attending the Summit of World University Presidents at Visit Srisamut, Bang Na on July 19, 2006.

President Emeritus Dr. P. Martin Komolmas conducting a tour of the Gymnasium at Bang Na campus for special visitors comprising delegates attending the Summit of World University Presidents held at Queen Sirikit Convention Centre, Bangkok.

President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran in a photo session in the King's Room of Bang Na on July 19, 2006 with the Deputy Minister of Education of Iran, the Iranian Ambassador H.E. Mohsen Pakaein who visited the campus for an inspection tour.

President Dr. Bancha Saenghiran explaining the construction and development details of Bang Na campus based on the miniature blueprint to Deputy Minister of Education of Iran, the Iranian Ambassador and a group of officials who came for an inspection tour on July 19.
EXCHANGE STUDENTS AT FOREIGN OFFICE

In response to a special request H.E. Dr. Kanthati Supamongkhol, the Foreign Minister of the Royal Thai Government received Loyola exchange students and faculty representatives at the Foreign Ministry, on June 28, 2006. In addressing the students the Foreign Minister outlined the importance of Thailand’s initiatives in multilateral diplomacy and trade relations. Encouraging the students to use nimble and creative thinking in their business studies, he encouraged them to think “out of the box.” There was an additional intervention for the students by the Economics Advisor, Ms. Sally Jutaba who placed in perspectives the Royal Thai Government’s programmes to stimulate domestic and regional economies.
paid the ultimate tribute by his colleagues as well as the national leaders during his birthday celebrations on December 27, 2005 and a few excerpts from accolades showered on him are reproduced for information of our readers.

"People familiar with the history of Assumption University will recall that the school started originally as Assumption Commercial College in 1969 with a rented, ramshackle building, 50 odd students and a couple of teachers. To transform such a modest venture and forge it into a vast university with 3 campuses, 20,000 students a roster of 1,500 faculty and staff with monumental buildings, assets and revenues running into billions was a tremendous achievement by any standard. And the man who planned and plodded this transmogrification was none other than Rev. Bro. Prathip Martin Komolmas, a staid, equanimous educator and entrepreneur who is the architect of the vast estates and the panoramic landscapes and hives of academic activities and who can rightfully claim all these as his handiwork and his brainchild.

One special aspect of benefit ensuing from educational services provided by Assumption University, which is often overlooked by the general public, is the fact that Thai students are now able to study for undergraduate and graduate courses in Bangkok itself without having to proceed to countries like USA, Europe or Australia thereby avoiding steep expenditures on air travel, board, lodging and other incidental items. In fact the advantages of savings and conveniences of pursuing studies in Thailand are now availed of even by students from regional countries like China, Bangladesh, Burma and Vietnam who flocked to Assumption University and a few other schools where we now have a fair proportion of international students. This reversal of destinations of study initiated by Bro. Martin implies a far-reaching and colossal attempt at stemming the outflow and stimulating inflow of precious foreign exchange which is in consonance with the long-term policy objectives of the state. It is certain that this salutary trend of establishing Thailand as an educational hub will continue to be encouraged and promoted."

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**XXI General Assembly of IFCU**

The Holy Father was pleased to learn of the 22nd General Assembly of the International Federation of Catholic Universities, which will take place at the Assumption University in Bangkok, from 31st July - 4th August 2006. He sends to the participants his good wishes for the occasion and prays that the Holy Spirit will guide them in their discussions on "International Justice". Invoking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and Sedes Sapientiae, the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing on all the participants.

*Archbishop Salvatore Pennacchio
Apostolic Nuncio
to the Kingdom of Thailand
(See page 8 for report)*
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
AWARDS HONORARY PH.D.
TO
DR. P. MARTIN KOMOLMAS

Rev. Bro. Dr. P. Martin Komolmas, President Emeritus was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Management during Commencement Exercises held on August 8, 2006 under resolution No.149/2549 dated July 18, 2006 of the Christian University Council. The translation of the citation printed in his honour reads as follows.

Translation of citation
"Rev. Bro. Dr. P. Martin Komolmas is an outstanding figure in the educational domain of Thailand and he has excelled in both the academic and management spheres through his innovative and creative approaches to complex problems and daunting challenges. He is propelled by a deep sense of mission and an acute vision in striving for realization of his goals and his objectives. He has worked consistently and single-mindedly to enhance the standards of higher education and the Thai society and the country as a whole including students of the international community had benefited greatly from these efforts.

To recognize and to honour his achievements and accomplishments the Christian University has conferred the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Management on Rev. Bro. Dr. P. Martin Komolmas under the University Council resolution No.149/2549 dated July 18, 2006."

In addition to the original Ph.D. in Organizational Development and Planning earned from the Southeast Asia Interdisciplinary Development Institute in 1985, Dr. Komolmas now has the following honorary degrees:

- Doctor of Letters, Honoris Causa, 1997; South Bank University, United Kingdom.
- Doctoris Honoris Causa, 1998; Universitatea Politehnica din Bucuresti.
- Doctor of Humane Letters, 2001: Loyola College of Maryland, U.S.A.
- Doctor of Educational Management, 2002: De La Salle University, Philippines.
- Doctor of Educational Management and Administration, 2005: Prince of Songkla University.

Dr. Komolmas has brought enormous prestige, fame and acclaim to Assumption University and it will be recalled that he was continued on page 15.