

BENILDEAN IDENTITY STUDY 2021

*Benildeans are Lasallians who do ordinary things extraordinarily well.
They manifest it through the Benildean Expressions of Lasallian Core Values (BenEx):
God-centeredness, Excellence with Integrity, Creativity and Innovation,
Inclusion, and Social Responsibility.*

The two-phase study was conceptualized in November 2020 as part of the Mission Continuity Plan of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. It sought to reexamine the collective Benildean identity by investigating the community's perceptions and insights on the relevance and manifestation of the 2013 BenEx: (a) God-centered, (b) with integrity, (c) creative and innovative, (d) socially responsible, (e) appreciative of individual worth, (f) professionally excellent, and (g) one with the plight of the poor. The seven Benildean Expressions were reconsidered in the light of the changing global and local educational landscape brought about by Covid-19 and its impact on Benildean culture and identity.

In the exploratory phase, an online survey was conducted from February 3 to 27 with 814 respondents who are Board members, administrators, parents, students ID 116 to 120, full time and part-time faculty, non-teaching associates, alumni, and community partners. Fourteen focus group discussions (FGDs) were organized from February 10 to June 1 to deepen the insights from the survey responses of randomly selected representatives of the Benildean sectors. The validation phase happened from September 8 to 24 using *Ginabayang Talakayan* and consensus workshops for six multi-sectoral groups to gather additional relevant data and capture the experiences of Benildeans. Dissemination of the results per phase happened in August and October.

Thematic analysis of qualitative data was implemented using the NVIVO 12 software that resulted in the identification of relevant themes reflecting the collective sentiments in terms of the relevance of the 2013 BenEx. Benildeans tend to see themselves as heavily associated with the Lasallian identity, having the same spiritual core and sanctity for the love of God. They ironically view their identity as also equally distinctive in terms of spiritual identity, social comparison, and having a unique social category. Benildeans still recognize the relevance of the current BenEx; however, weak manifestations were observed, and emerging values reflected their general challenges and typical experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic. Convergences of some values came out, and the need to reassess the relevance of the 2013 BenEx vis-a-vis emerging values surfaced in the analysis. The key findings of the exploratory phase of the study lay a compelling case to revisit the existing core values and capture the present realities of Benildeans. The validation phase focused on confirming the convergences of values and emergence of newer values from the first phase, and formulating initial conceptual definitions based on the salient themes and manifestations of the values within and among the Benildean sectors. The results of the second phase were presented to the Academic and Operations Councils, and Benilde Leadership Team, which eventually led to the identification of the 2021 BenEx: (a)

God-Centeredness, (b) Excellence With Integrity, (c) Creativity and Innovation, (d) Inclusion, and (e) Social Responsibility.

A number of follow-up enquiries categorized as Lasallian Studies under CSB's Research Agenda will be carried out following the Board of Trustees' approval of the 2021 Benildean Expressions of Lasallian Core Values. An insight gathered from the study is the enhanced communication of the revisited Benildean identity to ensure that it will be lived out by the members of the community. Curriculum integration, implementation of value formation programs, and ongoing development and assessment of Benildean Graduate Outcomes are in order. Assessment tools and instruments such as the Benildean Self-Efficacy Inventory will be developed to gauge the level of behavioral manifestations of the 2021 BenEx.

If you need more information or if you have any feedback/suggestion, please send an email to neil.parinas@benilde.edu.ph or roxanne.ibalobor@benilde.edu.ph.