



[Message] Gratitude for Your Courage, Hope, and Solidarity

Office of the President <op@benilde.edu.ph>

Reply-To: op@benilde.edu.ph

Bcc: employeegroup@benilde.edu.ph

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Dear Lasallians:

I wish to thank all those who organized and participated in the Trillion Peso March on September 21.

Yesterday, we all witnessed something Manila hasn't seen in a while: a flood of Filipinos passionately demanding justice, accountability, and the end of impunity. EDSA and the People Power Monument were flooded with the voices of Filipinos, young and old, who could no longer remain silent in the face of massive corruption. The march was a collective cry of outrage against the betrayal of public trust, a stand against the staggering corruption tied to flood control projects that were meant to protect, not enrich. Each chant and each placard raised was a declaration that we deserve better, and that we will demand better.

And because we are an educational institution, it is our responsibility to teach our students transparency and accountability, honesty and integrity. Part of this responsibility is to show that we are clearly against corruption. The march on September 21 was a formative moment for all.

Corruption spares no one: from our agency personnel to our non teaching to our faculty, our administrators and, yes even our board members. Lahat tayo ay apektado. They have robbed every Filipino who works honestly to provide for their family. The words of the Roundtable for Inclusive Development speaks to us: *"We are a people united in outrage and hope. From here on, may September 21 be seen as both memory and reckoning. Let every peso stolen be named a betrayal. Let every flood be traced to its thieves."*

And as Atty. Chel Diokno also emphasized in his speech after the mass – *"ito ay napakagandang panimula, dahil gising na ang bayan at marami na ang galit kaya dapat tuloy-tuloy na ito hanggang malinis ang ating pamahalaan."* Those who steal from the people must be made accountable.

I am deeply grateful to all who came and marched, who made their presence felt. You stood not just for yourselves, but for the millions of Filipinos whose voices go unheard. My gratitude also goes to the staff, faculty, and students who worked to mobilize, organize and coordinate yesterday's event.

Maraming salamat sa inyong tapang, sa inyong paninindigan, at sa inyong pagmamahal para sa bayan.

BR. EDMUNDO FERNANDEZ FSC

President

La Salle Green Hills

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

De La Salle Lipa

Office of the President

De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde

950 P. Ocampo Street, Malate, Manila 1004

+63 230-5100 loc. 3103

<https://www.benilde.edu.ph/>

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