

EDITORIAL

In this volume, we are happy to feature three articles from the field of philosophy and two from culture and history. The latter two articles complete the section on Boholano Studies. We have also added a book review which is thorough and long, not the usual length of a journal review article. The reason for accommodating this long review is that it deals with a book on St. Thomas Aquinas. Last July 18, 2023, the Universal Church, heeding the call of Pope Francis, has celebrated the 700-year Commemoration of the canonization of St. Thomas Aquinas. Hence, in this issue a portion is dedicated to the ‘Angelic Doctor’. We also want to inform the readers that a plenary indulgence is available beginning on July 18, 2023 through January 28, 2025 (the 800th anniversary of the birth of St. Thomas Aquinas).

We now have a preview of the articles included here, beginning right away with the section on Boholano Studies.

In an attempt to fill the lacunae in the historical scholarship during the Spanish and American colonial eras, David J. Kendall, an American scholar, provides us a peek into the history and activities of the Catholic Church in the Philippines, especially outside Manila. The lack of information about this period in Philippine history is for Kendall a lamentable state of affairs but with a simple solution: one only needs to go to the country’s Catholic parishes, cathedral churches, colleges and universities, convents and monasteries, museums and private collections, since this unknown history of the Church is sleeping there, especially in their archives. Kendall’s work titled, “Life in the Wartime Parish: Accounts from the Parish Archives of Tagbilaran and Corella Before the Japanese Occupation of Bohol” is indeed a remarkable study. Lumina is publishing it in two parts. The second one will appear in the next issue. From the abstract of this paper we can read: “What we discover is a surprisingly rich, and surprisingly human, story of life in parish communities during a time of terrible disruption and loss.”

The study titled, “The Boholano *Hugos* and Its Challenges in the Second Millenium,” is a product of many hands. It is a selective descriptive survey of *Hugos*, the Boholano version of the *Salubong* traditions in Bohol. Documented here are the different celebrations in Loboc, Dimiao, Panglao, and Tagbilaran City. The authors, namely, Lutgardo L. Labad, Ramon A. Boloron, Bonifacio A. Quirog, Rosalina R. Sarabosing, and Socorro Anne R. Zaluaga, have attempted to demonstrate the quality, character, spirit of Boholano arts and aesthetics of this intangible cultural heritage. Loboc highlights the sense of community among the faithful. Dimiao preserves the legacy of the Maguyons, as we shall see later in the paper. Panglao welcomes innovations, while Tagbilaran keeps its celebration significant to urban community. Undoubtedly, the Boholano faith has been enhanced and reinforced by the staging of *Hugos*, as the authors conclude. Through this celebration, the need for entertainment and pleasure has been addressed in an artistic manner. The value the Filipinos place on family has been highlighted and the culture of a people has been kept alive. *Hugos* is truly part of the Boholano religious history, but the challenge of preservation and revitalization of this treasured tradition is for the Boholanos to address in the years to come.

Let us proceed to the remaining three featured articles which are written by some promising Filipino philosophers. Mark Antony Borja Jalalum’s “*Re-Imagining* Imagination:

Revisiting Plato's *Eikasia* and Aristotle's *Phantasia*" navigates us through a "certain path" with a view to demonstrate that imagination assumes a vital role in the philosophy of Plato and Aristotle. The article informs us that imagination has played a positive role in philosophy and thinking. It even suggests that we can make this role explicit and further enhanced. Jalalum's approach in revisiting the relationship between imagination and thinking evident in the texts of these two ancient thinkers led him to re-imagining imagination. The article is perhaps a preface to a larger work on the topic. As the author puts it at the end of the paper, "Thus, the task that I have sought to execute here will, I hope, provide a form of preamble to the ambiguous relationship between imagination and reason that has figured in Plato's and Aristotle's texts and philosophy, and in classical thought, and which, to broader extent, has come to dominate the western metaphysical tradition until the advent of German Idealism and Immanuel Kant's controversial positing of the powers of the empirical and the transcendental *Einbildungskraft*." Jalalum's paper, therefore, introduces us to the area of the metaphysics of imagination.

Meng Zi (孟子) or Mencius as the Westerners would call him was responsible for the expansion and development of Kong Zi's (Confucius') ideas. Daryll Louis T. Camargo's paper, "An Altruistic Self-cultivation of the Seeds of Goodness," demonstrates Meng Zi's elaboration of Kong Zi's ethical system by giving weight to the natural goodness of human nature and the self-improvement of the innate qualities, which are called "seeds of goodness." There are seeds of goodness inherent in human nature and that they can be self-cultivated in order to achieve one's moral potential. Camargo further claims, following Meng Zi, that a virtuous life and a sense of moral responsibility for others can happen through the self-cultivation of these innate qualities. Thanks to Camargo for giving us a glimpse into the Oriental mind.

Francis B. Payo takes us to Aristotle's practical genius in the realm of politics. His article "Polis as the Locus of Human Flourishing in Aristotle's Politics (Bks. I-III)" ventures to correct the largely negative notion of politics or political life. The very goal of politics is the good life; hence, the discernment of what a good life is may direct politics to its proper end, that is, for human beings to flourish as human beings in the truest sense of being human. Payo recommends the need to a re-thinking of our understanding of political life. He further suggests that we re-educate ourselves of political values, which are necessary for a good communal life.

In today's troubled world, may you find solace in these articles. And may St. Thomas Aquinas, the 'Angelic Doctor', guide us in our journey towards the true, the good, and the beautiful.