

COMMISSION ON EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE

*Underlying Principles**

Augustinian education as fostered by the Province of Sto. Niño de Cebu aims to promote the development of the total person, forming the individual according to principles that are based on the Gospel, made explicit by the Church, and inspired by the teachings of St. Augustine, in the light of values that are fully human, and therefore, Christian. Among these values, foremost is Charity - the love of God and neighbour which nourishes in the person the search for Wisdom and Truth, the desire for Dialogue and Friendship, and the commitment to Communion, Solidarity and Justice.

Persons educated in the Augustinian way freely responding to the demands of their new life in Christ with the intellectual and moral integrity expected of their state of maturity, are enabled to overcome individualism, and be competent in their field of specialization so as to work effectively for the good of the Church and society as a whole. It is thus that they become active participants in the building-up of the City of God, ever generous, dedicated and fully committed to their task.

Consequently, all Augustinian schools administered by the Province of Sto. Nino de Cebu are viewed as academic centers of faith and communion, where the administration and personnel, teachers and students, with the support of alumni, parents and friends, are bound together by the spirit of fraternity as they realize a common mission and goal "with one mind and heart on the way to God."

In this manner, the educational apostolate of the Province of Sto. Nino de Cebu, responding to the call of the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines and local Diocesan Synods, and obedient to the Constitutions of the Order of St. Augustine, commits itself to the task of re-evangelization so that all sectors in the academe become vibrant witnesses of Christ to others and to the society at large.

**Taken from the 2008-2012 Quadrennial Program*

Situational Analysis

The Augustinians have been engaged in the educational apostolate in our country since the 16th century. Their educational institutions have produced graduates who distinguished themselves by their leadership both in private and government sectors and in the Church.

During this time, however, due to greater demands for quality and global education, the Province of Sto. Nino de Cebu encounters more difficulties and challenges:

1. Perceived restiveness among employees in some of our schools
2. Stringent criteria for the retention of the accreditation and the recognized status

3. Rising cost of education and increasing operational expenditures resulting to lower enrolment and decreasing net income
4. Upcoming implementation of government mandated programs: K-12 Basic Education and Quality Assurance Programs such as New Typologies and OBE
5. Lack of qualified and competent friar-administrators and the need for more lay empowerment in our schools
6. Fewer friars into teaching ministry
7. Roller coaster accreditation levels of the different programs in some Augustinian schools; inconsistent drive or pursuit for higher accreditation levels
8. Losing of autonomous status of the University and absence of similar or related recognition in other Augustinian colleges and schools
9. Mushrooming of SUC's and steep competition both from public and private schools
10. Weak financial standings of some Augustinian schools; lack of long term financial planning and sound investment program to insure financial sustainability of our educational institutions
11. Decreasing interest in traditional programs or courses and the emergence of new and innovative courses attuned to the trend and needs of the times
12. Financial crisis experienced by many countries where students are relying for financial support

Moreover, there is a strong desire to cope with new trend and thrust in education.

There have been efforts to integrate the Vision-Mission of the schools that underline Augustinian values. Yet, there is still a need to exert more efforts to internalize the values of justice, charity, honesty, dialogue and friendship, unity, service, and most of all concern for the common good over personal interests.

Meanwhile, plan to open branches in other areas in the country are in motion in order to spread the presence of the Province. Modest linkages have been established with other institutions.

Action Plans

1. To let the STVI Director revise the institution's curriculum and endorse it to the Provincial Council and the Commission on Educational Apostolate for their approval

2. To formulate and promote common core values to foster a unified Augustinian identity in all our schools
3. Friar-Administrators should undergo an executive development program
4. To continue working for the accreditation of our schools by recognized accrediting agencies, both local and international
5. To study the possibility of improving San Jose Catholic School as an educational institution and its infrastructures, including the prospect of renting its ground spaces for commercial use
6. That each commission must set a specific program of action regarding the approved decrees, suggestions, recommendations, and must establish definite objectives and approaches on how to realize and monitor them

Proposals Referred to the Council

1. To organize training or re-orientation program and possibly mentoring programs for friars assigned in major areas of the Province (e.g., schools, formation)
2. To review the educational programs of our schools taking into account into industry needs and changes being implemented by the government
3. To foster active involvement of alumni associations in our schools
4. Continue with the special one-year Master's program on Educational Administration (linked to USJ-R Management Program)

School administrators to undergo intensive seminar and training on governance and leadership preferably before school opening