With joy, I share with you the great excitement of celebrating CSI (USI) 72nd Grand Alumni Homecoming ... celebrating this festive occasion with joyful songs ... with clapping hands ... with grateful hearts.

Every alumni homecoming is traditionally a time of togetherness and sharing of stories and memories. I am certain that there is much excitement and eagerness about going back home to the place where your lives started. You set out to go to new places and you do great things... and yet you always come back to your school — your dear Alma Mater.... Colegio de Sta. Isabel, now known in the region, in the entire Philippines, and in the world as Universidad de Sta. Isabel. The Colegio has ascended to a height of being counted as among the select few universities in the country with Level II PAASCU Accreditation in the Basic Education now working for a Level III status, a Center of Excellence in Teacher Education and has maintained its Regional status as a top performing university in the field of nursing and in physical therapy and above all above the national passing rate in the fields of Social Work.

Remembering the times can bring up vivid emotions of laughter, tears, joys and fears. Hopefully, this reunion can bring forth many upbeat memorable experiences.

An institution of higher education is described by its current students and present circumstance but it is confirmed and heralded by its alumni and its past. Even though the years have passed, people moved far away and lives were changed forever, one thing has kept you all bonded: strong spirited Isabelinos and Isabelinas with immense regard for excellence and great zeal of love and service for the less privileged.

In one way or another, in small and big ways, you are one with us in this journey, nurturing and safeguarding USI’s reputation and prestige for a hundred and forty four years now. This year promises to be even more special as we, the Daughters of Charity celebrate our 150th years of presence and service in the Bikolandia, in the Philippines from 1862 to 2012.

As you leave behind your beloved school [again] after these festivities, may we not forget that as mission partners, our mission is remote from over; for we are in unending stages of creating an enduring legacy for the next Vincentian generations to benefit from. As a member school of St. Louise De Marillac Educational System, we are called to respond in faith, justice and love to the appeals of our neighbor and the call of the church in order to realize and make present the Kingdom of God in this world. Hence, let us all keep the spirit of this momentous event forever remain in our hearts and minds, that may it serve as a constant inspiration for all of us.

What God has authored and ordained to ignite and set ablaze happened in His appointed time!

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME BACK HOME!

SR. LOURDES L. ALBIS, DC