

FUNDAMENTALS

The Big Heart perfected by that Black Eye

By Virginia Cacho Almiron '72

She stands tall with head tilted,
She murmurs, she smiles,
She puts her arms around you;
This gentle woman, this gentle love.

She teaches you the fundamentals,
Weaves love with the perfect bed;
The rudiments of empathy and sympathy,
The mastery of patient milieu;
This gentle woman, this gentle love.

You leave her, you travel far,
She never leaves you, she stays-
She lingers in your finger tips,
You perfect those fundamentals;
Because of this gentle woman, this gentle love.

The world turns, and turns and turns us all old,
The fundamentals cement us to Nursing for life;
Then she tiptoes--- far away-- to death;
This gentle woman, this gentle love.

But wait-we have not said

Our fundamental goodbye and thank you...
She murmurs, she smiles,
Compassion, understanding, she has plenty,
A heart perfected by a black eye;
Children she had none,
But mothered us all-
This Gentle Woman, This Gentle Love.

A bouquet of love to the late Dean Fe E. Alcantara.

The Ultimate St. Luke's Nurse A LIFE FULFILLED



FE ELEJORDE ALCANTARA '52

April 6, 1927 – October 16, 2005

E.A.S. REMEMBERS CHING

By Dean Ester A. Santos '47

Ching, as she was fondly called by her friends, was loved by all who knew her. Nursing was her passion and she gave it her all.

Graduating from St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing in 1952, she first worked at the X-ray Department of Manila Doctors Hospital from 1952-1954. When Brokenshire Hospital in Davao City opened its school of nursing in 1954, she decided to go back to Davao where she spent her early years and helped the Brokenshire Hospital School of Nursing get started and up on its feet. She returned to Manila Doctors Hospital in 1956 and worked there until 1959 when she decided to study again and obtained a B.S.N. in 1961 from the University of the Philippines.

She decided on a career change. She joined her Alma Mater as a clinical instructor until 1964. She won a scholarship from the Women's Board of St. Luke's Hospital to pursue a Master's degree from Boston University. Her love for St. Luke's brought her back in 1966 and she never left it. She continued her work as a clinical instructor at St. Luke's Hospital School of Nursing which later became St. Luke's College of Nursing, an educational unit of Trinity College of Quezon City.

Though firm and strict as a teacher, she was always soft-spoken and understanding. She was a counselor to any student who approached her for her problems. She went out of her way to help others and would go beyond the call of duty when needed.

She rose to become the Dean of St. Luke's College of Nursing, Trinity College of Quezon City from 1985 when Dean Ester A. Santos retired and she served as Dean till 1995.

She continued to serve Trinity College, however, as Head of the Nursing Program in the Graduate School. After two years, she left the academe and decided to help the St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association by supervising its Alumni Center and Canteen for two more years.

Ching passed away peacefully in her sleep on October 16, 2005 while trying to recover from a major operation. She will long be remembered by her many students, colleagues, alumni and friends. Yes, Dean Fe E. Alcantara has gone on ahead to meet her Maker but she left a legacy of a life fulfilled, a life that positively affected those around her, and a life that made a difference.

MESSAGE

On behalf of the Diamond Jubilee Steering Committee we hope that as you go through the activities prepared in celebration of the two momentous occasions – 90 years of the existence of the School of Nursing and 75 years of the Alumni Association – you will realize more fully the significance of “belonging”. I would like to thank each and every one of the people who worked to make this celebration truly memorable.

As we enter the last twenty five years of our Centennial; we hope that more Alumni spirit necessary for our survival will flourish.

To the School of Nursing, now called St. Luke's College of Nursing, I feel proud to have been a part of this institution. It is our fondest hope that every student who passes through its portals hold steadfast to the ideals and aspirations that the school has stood for all these years!

Godspeed!

FE E. ALCANTARA
Overall Chairperson
Diamond Jubilee

(The above message was excerpted in its entirety from the 1997 Yearbook on the occasion of St. Luke's School of Nursing's 90 years of existence and St. Luke's Nurses Alumni Association's Diamond Jubilee celebration at the Cathedral Heights Compound, Quezon City, October 25-26, 1997).

This message is gripping even today...

Dean Fe E. Alcantara was interred in Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. She is survived by her sister Teresa A. Alcantara and her children Stella, Agnes, Alma, Jose and Raul Alcantara, Alma A. de la Paz and Stephanie A. Peralta; nephews Daniel A. de la Paz Jr., MD, Cornelio A. de la Paz, MD, niece Maria Lourdes P. Balce from her late sister Lydia A. de la Paz; niece Rita Mae and nephews Jose and Rusty Alviar from her late sister Virginia A. Alviar.¹

¹ *Daniel A. de la Paz Jr., MD, Personal Interview by Visitacion Salazar Plurad, June 2006*