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Newsletter of the  
Catholic Filipino Academy  
[www.catholicfilipinoacademy.com](http://www.catholicfilipinoacademy.com)

# Graduation



# 2010



Not yet college-bound, but just the same, parents were just as excited, as happy and as emotional watching their toga-clad students march towards the stage to receive their diplomas and awards. The 4<sup>th</sup> Graduation and Moving Up Day marks the culmination of 2009-2010 school year of the Catholic Filipino Academy. Held at the multi-purpose hall of the Santuario de Antonio in Makati, the event was attended by close to 500 people celebrating the year that was full of wonderful memories. Fr. Steve Tynan celebrated the Holy Mass which was followed by the giving of the diplomas and awards. CFA Founder Bo Sanchez gave out all the diplomas and inspired everyone with a short talk.



## Graduation Message of Founder Bo Sanchez

Who was your teacher? Was she a good teacher?

My mother is Pilar. She will be 85 years old. I was born 43 years ago. I have 5 older sisters. I was never homeschooled. During my time when I was young, there was no such thing as homeschool. But my mother did something very similar to homeschool. Sometimes I ask myself the question: why am I like this –a happy person, a person with so much peace in my heart, a successful person? Many reasons why but one big reason is that my mother who had a full-time job while taking care of my 5 sisters, gave up her job when I was born. I was the only one of the 6 children who had a mother who was a full-time housewife. She had all her time for me –that is why I am who I am now.

I'd like to say you are very blessed because your mommy or daddy is staying at home –maybe she/he has a business, that's fine, but she/he is staying at home to teach you.

*Mom, thank you so much for loving me all my life. I know it wasn't easy but thank you for giving up your job when I was born. Thank you that you spent a lot of time with me and I love you , mom.*

I love going out on dates with my mom. Will you promise me that you will do the same when you grow up?

A few weeks ago, we had a caring group meeting. We were about 7 couples together, sharing. And then the leader of that meeting said: *For tonight, let us share about our marriage. (...continued on next page.)*





### Graduation Message (continued)...

And so all the couples decided to talk about the fights and the *tampuhans*. When it was my turn, it was difficult for me to share because I felt embarrassed to tell the small group that my wife and I had not had a real fight for the past 11 years. We do fight everyday but they last only 5 seconds each. Like she would tell me, *I got hurt when you say that*. My response, *I'm sorry, am sorry*. *What did I say that hurt you?* And then the fight is resolved in 5 to 10 seconds. Even if there is one thing that I find irritating about my wife, or one thing that I complain about my wife, I would stop and think and say *what right have I to complain?* She is such a loving woman. She homeschools our kids. She give her life to our children. How can I complain? And so I just tell her, *Sweetheart, I didn't like it when you did this one thing but you know what, I love you so much*. How could I get angry to such a woman who dedicated her life to our children? She is an incredible woman and a great mother. *Sweetheart I wanna say I love you. Thank you for teaching our children the way you do. I know it's not easy, but thank you so much*.

*Bene and Francis, thank you so much for being wonderful boys who are learning and are growing up so well. And I love you.*

Children, I want you to say this to your Maom and Dad:

*Mommy(Daddy), thank you so much for teaching me everyday. I know it's difficult sometimes, but thank you. I love you. I know that because of you, I will grow up loving God. And when you grow old, I will take care of you. We will have dates together.*



## 4th Quarter Progress Report

Katya Ingrid Allesandra de Vera, Grade 1 (Malaysia)  
Summary of major achievements in the 4th Quarter



### IT WAS OVER but we have only just started.

We are more than happy that Katya has officially completed her Grade 1 program. It was not smooth all throughout the learning experience but she has learned a lot and understood our lessons-- and for us this matters more than anything else. In our hearts, we knew we have labored to provide her with the best education possible.

In this last progress report, we would like to look back at how we started. We would focus on the areas of most significant improvement and which we think gave her the proper ammunition so she can pursue to be the best person that she can become. Learning how to read on her own is, for us, Katya's greatest achievement. This enabled her to do a lot of things like doing her quizzes, assignments and leisure reading all on her own. Before, we used to read her books and go through each line with her. Now, we go through concepts with her and we allow her to do the practice tests by herself. This gave us better indicator on how well she was catching up with our lessons.

Reading on her own has also expanded Katya's playing field. She no longer depends on us to learn new children stories but would rather exercise her right to choose her books. Whenever we go to a local bookstore, which is a usual weekend routine, I can see her excitement going from one shelf to another and read books that she specially likes. Also, she is now singing along with Kayla, her eldest sister and teacher, as they watch MTV shows while the lyrics are shown on screen. Amazing, isn't it?

Being able to read and achieving better comprehension have made so many wonderful things to Katya and in this report, we can go on and on listing down interesting stories brought by this. But to sum this all up, Katya is reading now and we are happy that she is making this a habit.

Katya's mathematical skills and appreciation are not at all scary. Coming from a family that is more inclined towards creative writing, mass communications and

doing art works, she is not at all bad with numbers. Perhaps, the difference in the approach made this possible. The homeschool program basically provided her with a platform that we advance depending on her phasing. We did not rush her to 'digest more than what she can chew' because there were no other classmates that would need the same attention. She gained confidence in Addition and Subtraction with the help of the old and tested counting sticks and Kayla's Kumon methods.

With Science, she has mastered the art of experimenting. It always amazes us that she is always up to prove something and she does so with whatever available materials at home. I remember how she did her kite and kept trying to build a model until such time that she was able to do one that can fly better and higher. She reported at how successful she was in her experiment accompanied with some explanations about gravity and direction of the wind as factors that determine speed and how high a kite can go.

Learning to behave for us is an achievement in itself. Katya is able to act appropriately in different circumstances and we knew this was not purely because of our constant reminders for her to be a good girl. This was also brought about by life's values that were taught as part of her school curriculum. CLE, Sibika and Filipino are value-added subjects that rolled Katya into a better kiddo. The experience to see different countries and actually mingle with people that have skin different from hers made her aware of the differences and similarities that exist. In fact, these do not 'surprise' her at all. We are proud of our Katya that she does not utter bad words to others, ridicule the less fortunate and that she is street smart. On top of all these, we can sleep well with the thought that Katya believes with no doubt that there is someone up there that looks after all of us and is always accessible by simply making the sign of the cross.

Whoever said that homeschooled children are often shy, easily intimidated and are secluded from life's real shockers? Definitely, not our Katya! Every time I hear her thoughts and arguments, I personally pride in silence because I know she has developed the strength and uprightness that not many children her age would have done so this early. She has found her voice and we are happy that we knew that no matter where we are or where we will be, our Katya is ready to move along academically, spiritually and emotionally.

On behalf of Katya's team (Dude and Kayla), Mommy is submitting this last progress report to CFA with our thumbs up sign. Job well done, Katya!



# CFA Vietnam Outing

CFA Family in Vietnam recently had a day out and wishes to share all these photos to us. Enjoy!

