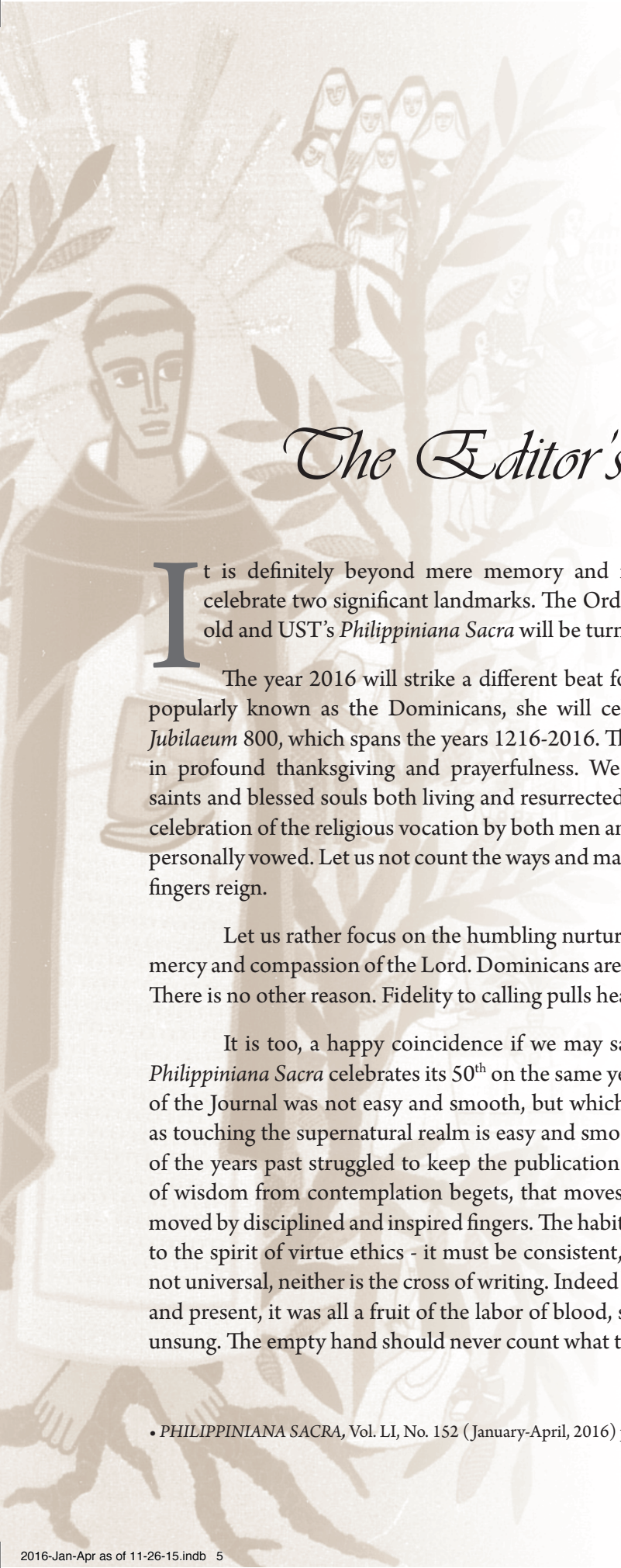


The background of the page features a faint, sepia-toned illustration. On the left, a Dominican friar is depicted from the chest up, wearing a habit and holding a book. To his right is a large, leafy tree. Several nuns in habits are shown climbing or standing within the branches of the tree. The overall style is reminiscent of a woodcut or a religious manuscript illustration.

The Editor's Note

It is definitely beyond mere memory and remembrance that impel us to celebrate two significant landmarks. The Order of Preachers will be 800 years old and UST's *Philippiniana Sacra* will be turning 50.

The year 2016 will strike a different beat for the Order of Preachers. More popularly known as the Dominicans, she will celebrate her 800th year. It is her *Jubilaeum* 800, which spans the years 1216-2016. Those 800 years will be celebrated in profound thanksgiving and prayerfulness. We need not count the countless saints and blessed souls both living and resurrected. We need not count the vibrant celebration of the religious vocation by both men and women, both consecrated and personally vowed. Let us not count the ways and marshal the numbers. We lose when fingers reign.

Let us rather focus on the humbling nurturance of grace and providence, of mercy and compassion of the Lord. Dominicans are still here because God wills it so. There is no other reason. Fidelity to calling pulls heaven to touch the earth.

It is too, a happy coincidence if we may say so, that the UST Journal, the *Philippiniana Sacra* celebrates its 50th on the same year. The half-century of existence of the Journal was not easy and smooth, but which growing process as natural and as touching the supernatural realm is easy and smooth? Many who were the editors of the years past struggled to keep the publication afloat, not so much for the lack of wisdom from contemplation begets, that moves the pen, but for the pen that is moved by disciplined and inspired fingers. The habit of writing is one skill that is akin to the spirit of virtue ethics - it must be consistent, joyful, and systemic. If virtue is not universal, neither is the cross of writing. Indeed for the editors of *Sacra* both past and present, it was all a fruit of the labor of blood, sweat and hidden tears of heroes unsung. The empty hand should never count what the generous hand had bestowed.

• *PHILIPPINIANA SACRA*, Vol. LI, No. 152 (January-April, 2016) pp. v-vi.

Perhaps *Sacra* at its stage, is not as wise as her mother – the Order of Preachers – but *Sacra* is no less desirous of imbibing from the streams that flow from the fount of wisdom, that springs with time and grace.

In partnership with the *Center for Religious Studies and Ethics* (CRSE) of the University of Santo Tomas, *Sacra* will dedicate three issues of the year 2016 with articles which we hope will render justice, though minutely and even mutely, to the spirit and truth which the Journal *Philippiniana Sacra* appropriates from the Order of Preachers.

We will not anticipate our readers' curiosity on the contents of the three issues. We leave that to the Editor and the staff who promise to pursue this special issue with even more candor and enthusiasm. ■

