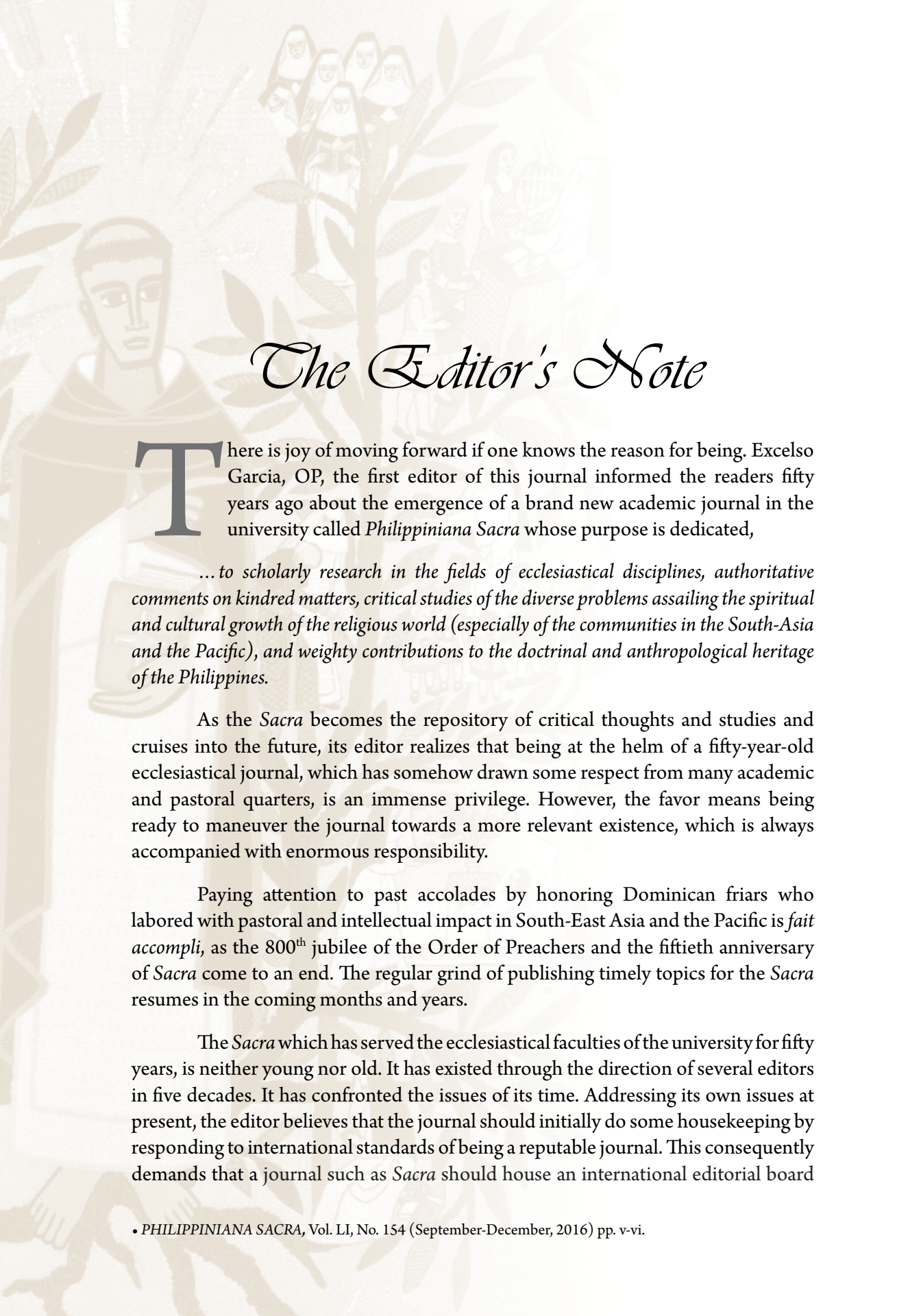


The background of the page features a faint, stylized illustration. On the left, there is a large, dark silhouette of a religious figure, possibly a saint or a monk, with a halo. To the right of this figure is a tall, leafy tree. In the upper part of the tree, several small, white-robed figures are visible, some appearing to be in prayer or contemplation. The overall style is reminiscent of traditional religious art or woodcut prints, rendered in a light, monochromatic tone that blends with the page's background.

The Editor's Note

There is joy of moving forward if one knows the reason for being. Excelso Garcia, OP, the first editor of this journal informed the readers fifty years ago about the emergence of a brand new academic journal in the university called *Philippiniana Sacra* whose purpose is dedicated,

...to scholarly research in the fields of ecclesiastical disciplines, authoritative comments on kindred matters, critical studies of the diverse problems assailing the spiritual and cultural growth of the religious world (especially of the communities in the South-Asia and the Pacific), and weighty contributions to the doctrinal and anthropological heritage of the Philippines.

As the *Sacra* becomes the repository of critical thoughts and studies and cruises into the future, its editor realizes that being at the helm of a fifty-year-old ecclesiastical journal, which has somehow drawn some respect from many academic and pastoral quarters, is an immense privilege. However, the favor means being ready to maneuver the journal towards a more relevant existence, which is always accompanied with enormous responsibility.

Paying attention to past accolades by honoring Dominican friars who labored with pastoral and intellectual impact in South-East Asia and the Pacific is *fait accompli*, as the 800th jubilee of the Order of Preachers and the fiftieth anniversary of *Sacra* come to an end. The regular grind of publishing timely topics for the *Sacra* resumes in the coming months and years.

The *Sacra* which has served the ecclesiastical faculties of the university for fifty years, is neither young nor old. It has existed through the direction of several editors in five decades. It has confronted the issues of its time. Addressing its own issues at present, the editor believes that the journal should initially do some housekeeping by responding to international standards of being a reputable journal. This consequently demands that a journal such as *Sacra* should house an international editorial board

and/or advisory board; that *Sacra* should attract more contributions from authors of various nationalities and are directed to an international scholarly audience; and, that *Sacra*'s website achieves maximum functionality to serve the best intrerests of researchers and readers.

In the spirit of Dominican intellectual heritage and tradition at the service of *Veritas*, *Sacra* intends to intensify its Dominican character by focusing more on the works on *Thomistic* studies. On the other hand, the journal, being geographically Asian, offers to feature ample evident researches and studies on interreligious and inter-cultural dialogues rooted from the rich religious and cultural diversity of the vast Asian continent. Part of its sacred duty, being an heir to the University of Santo Tomas' Archives with four hundred year old prodigious collections, *Sacra* hopes to be a resolute venue in publishing historico-literary works of Dominican missionaries on the whole Philippine archipelago and South-East Asia. The journal carries an opinion that theology and philosophy should be attentive to the signs of the times, and would therefore be an important *locus* for ardent academic issues in morals and ethics that influence pastoral practice.

It is always with great pleasure to the editor and his associates whenever the journal brings to the readers and researchers the latest and fervent discourses in philosophy, theology, religious studies, and canon law that provide an impact to the overall pastoral, clerical, and ecclesiastical academic formation of people. The journey of the *Philippiniana Sacra* as a ministry of preaching of the written word by the Dominicans in South-East Asia continues. ■

