

CLOSING REMARKS
LAUNCHING OF PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND MODULES
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2013
SR. CARIDAD BARRION HALL

Before we all go back to our homes and our offices, I would like to end this launching with a little bit of memory. Perhaps you are wondering why we chose a Saturday to launch our books. Sr. Tammy very ably gave us the reason why. What I will say is only a little addition to what she already said.

I like to think that we chose this day to launch these books because a little more than a hundred years ago today, these books started to be written when 5 young women bravely set foot on Philippine shores not knowing what lay ahead of them.

Yes, these books lay ahead of them.

And so, we remember them today and in our hearts, we hand over these first copies to them. And in our hearts, too, we hand over with greatest gratitude these first copies to all the Benedictine Sisters and teachers who, down the years made Benedictine history by teaching children how to read and write. We also thank with all our hearts our teachers, Benedictine or not who taught us how to read and how to write. And we thank the Benedictine Sisters, who, in our adulthood, taught us how to listen to the human condition with the ear of our hearts.

Humbly, today, we are making history again, coming full circle to that morning in September when, amidst September winds, a dream of Peace began.

Allow me a little deviation at this point. Today, I am wearing the first medal I was ever awarded by St. Scholastica's College. I won this in an essay writing contest. The little of my essay was "Why I Want to be a Nun" and my teacher was Sr. Firmina, OSB.

Once upon a time, I had a group of students who wrote graffiti on the walls of one of our comfort rooms. For their punishment, I made them write a book. The book is entitled "Santa Elena" which was the name of our outreach community located in the exact place where the mall 168 now stands. It was the very first Peace Book written in St. Scholastica's College. We brought it to the United States to a World Conference for Gifted Children and it was featured on U.S. television. That was in August 1987. Today, 26 years later, the child editor of that book is sitting in the front row among the authors: Ms. Malou Nery Cura, now Assistant Principal of the High School and author of the Peace Sourcebook for the High School. What a full circle and what a harvest!

And so it is with these thoughts that we send our books aloft borne on wings of peace. And our team of writers would like to express our endless gratitude to Sr. Tammy and St. Scholastica's College, for the privilege of helping helping to put this dream into words.

Thank you for the thoughts of many seasons and the services of many hands.