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1978, F5

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**In memory of the late Sister Isabel of the Angels –
MISTAKES MADE EXCELLENCE**

SEVEN is a special number in many cultures and religions. I was fortunate and blessed for being a student for seven years in receiving my basic education from St Paul's and for being a Paulinian for life.

There were too many memorable things to recall in laughter and tear in those seven years between 1973 and 1980, among which, I would like to share my profound gratitude to the Principal, the late Sister Isabel of the Angels Narciso. She had allowed us much liberty and freedom to grow and learn by both achievements and mistakes, including disagreement with her and disobedience to her request and instructions. She always addressed us as “ladies” not “girls” with a purpose to “in-build” in us a sense of self-respect by which we were obliged to behave in a proper manner. When we made mistakes, she reasoned with us, but allowed us to choose what to do for remedy, or not to do anything at all. I realized many years later that Sister Isabel has had a lot of trust and love in us for doing so. When I encountered similar situations with my staff, I learnt that blame and penalty would never be a way out. Instead, I should empower them for correction and excellence.

Paulinians are proud (not arrogant though) because we were taught with a sense of pride in ourselves and always strive for the best. This has become my motto in running my own public affairs consultancy to offer proactively superior services to clients. We believe that a proactive approach is the key to effective communication. We advise and help our clients set the agenda and proactively manage the environment to achieve the communication objectives.

I am very happy and proud to celebrate the 160th anniversary with so many Paulinians, young and mature, far and near. I wish every success of our beloved school for another 160 years to come.