The centennial celebration of St. Agnes’ Academy, Legazpi City was held for three days—June 29 – July 1, 2012. The much-awaited event was attended by the entire school community, as well as the alumni, parents, BOT members and fifty-five (55) Benedictine Sisters from the different communities all over the Philippines.

The first day started with the Blessing and Opening of SAA Portal, followed by Jamming with Jesus and “Hataw” held at the school rotonda. After the booth-hopping and agape of the students, the Guidance Center-sponsored “Rich Conversations with the SAA Alumni” activity was held in the respective classrooms of the students where one or two alumni shared their experiences as Agnesians. Then was the Campus Tour where students, by class went around the different areas in the campus which had labels with what used to be the present venue in the past was (e.g. the present high school stage area used to be the social hall for the students, Year II classrooms used to be the clausura/convent of the Sisters, etc.) Human Logo of SAA at 100 was formed by the students, teachers, staff and alumni, followed by Mob Dance, both held at the high school quadrangle. In the evening was the Cultural Show presented at the gymnasium. It had two parts: the first part depicting the history of SAA with video clips, dance drama, songs and dances; and the second part was the celebration part with high-powered songs and dances. Both parts showcased the talents of the Agnesians, alumni, parents, teachers, staff and the Benedictine Sisters.
The second day of the celebration started with a Memory Walk from the Penaranda Park to Divine Word College of Legazpi campus, the first site of St. Agnes’ Academy which was then called Academia de Sta. Ines. A moving liturgy was prayed in the said site, followed by the giving of framed picture of the old Academia de Sta. Ines and the new St. Agnes’ Academy to the SVD priests. Following the Memory Walk was the Street Presentation participated in by Grades 5-7 and Years II-IV students in their assigned festival (festivals from the different places in Bicol e.g. Ibalong Festival of Legazpi, etc.). The Dance Festival Showdown of the Street Presentation participants took place in the gymnasium. Surprise guest was Ten-Ten, the centennial mascot of St. Scholastica’s College, Manila. After the exciting and colorful Dance Festival Showdown was the Opening of the Art Exhibit at the administration building lobby. The Ruby Jubilarians of this year who sponsored a Scrap Book-Making Contest last Centennial Alumni Homecoming in May 2012, turn over the winning scrapbooks to Sr. Micahela Manalang, OSB which will be permanently placed at the school’s Archives-Museum. The second showing of the Cultural Show was presented in the early evening, followed by the Variety Show and Countdown until midnight. This was ended by a Thanksgiving Liturgy for the 100th Birthday of SAA!

July 1, 2012, the third and last day of the celebration started with a motorcade of 100 cars of parents and alumni. The Eucharistic Celebration held at the gym followed, with Msgr. Ramon Tronqued, Vicar General of the Diocese of Legazpi as the Main Celebrant, with Fr. Roderick Salazar, SVD, SAA’s BOT Chairman, SVD, SDB and diocesan priests as concelebrants. The Benedictine Sisters, headed by Sr. Lumen Gloria Dungca, OSB, Prioress sung a post-communion song: My Heart’s Thanksgiving. Right after the Mass was the Honoring of SAA’s past BOT Chairpersons, Alumni Association Presidents and the Superiors and Directresses. The alumna composer of the song “St. Agnes, Your Spirit Lives in Me” which the young generations of Agnesians have been singing in school events, was also honored. Then was the Unveiling of the Marker (SAA as a historical marker in Legazpi by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines) held in front of the facade of the ninety-two year-old SAA main building. The said event was graced by Legazpi Mayor Carmen Rosal, Vice-Mayor Roces, City Councilors, heads of the National Historical Commission, alumni and parents. The three-day celebration was capped by the Mass Demo of Kindergarten 1 and 2 and Grades 1-4 pupils. The last part of the Mass Demo was a Tribute to the Benedictine Sisters, in gratitude for their Prayer and Work, loving and dedicated service for 100 years, touching the lives of many Albayanos who in turn have been giving service all over the world in their respective fields.

*by: Sr. Michaela M. Manalang, OSB*