

HAU history book 'engrossing' -- writer

By JIMMY M. HIPOLITO

ANGELES CITY — The designated book reviewer for "Destiny and Destination: The Extraordinary Story and History of Holy Angel University 1933-2008" described the 300-page coffee-table book as "engrossing, compelling and worth reading from cover to cover."

Mariel N. Francisco, one of the country's top female writers, editors and book reviewers, told the audience during the book launching that the book has highlighted the need for inclusion of local history in the curriculum.

"The author," Francisco said, "brings to this book not only his outstanding research and writing skills but also his privileged view as an affectionate insider. He is both observer and participant in the story of Holy Angel."

The book, written by Robby Tandingan, director of the Center for Kapampangan Studies and the University's AVP for Student Services and Affairs, was launched at the closing ceremonies of the HAU Diamond Jubilee Year recently.

"Local history was not part of the high school curriculum during our time and instead, we had subjects like World History and American History," Ms.

PHOTO ON PAGE 7



Francisco talks about HAU's new book.

HAU... page 2

Francisco said, "So it is a completion of my education to read *Destiny and Destination*."

"I am delighted with the motif that the author weaves throughout the book, which is that the history of Holy Angel and the history of Angeles are intertwined. We cannot imagine an Angeles without a Holy Angel, and vice versa," Francisco said.

"Destiny and Destina-

tion has deepened my understanding and appreciation of both my alma mater and my hometown," she added.

Mariel Francisco is the author of the best-selling book "History of the Burgis." She also co-authored (with Gilda Cordero Fernando) the book "Ladies Lunch."

Francisco said that "it is Tandingan's sense of drama and shrewd creativity that makes this book not only the factual reading but also the engrossing story

of Holy Angel. The most compelling part is how the school was born as a young boy's wish, which his father fulfilled with wise indulgence, creating far-reaching consequences for the future.

"Each of the eight Presidents is given his or her moment in time as a unique personality crossing paths with the school's destiny. What each achieved or failed to achieve is regarded with generosity and fairness in their total context.

Several celebrity alumni are featured in charming cameo interviews, completing our view from the top and from the bottom," Francisco continued.

"I urge everyone who loves Holy Angel to buy and read the book!" Francisco told the audience.

The book is available at leading bookstores in Manila as well as at the Center for Kapampangan Studies, Don Juan Building, Holy Angel University, Angeles City.