



SILLIMAN UNIVERSITY
Dumaguete City, Philippines

and

SILLIMAN ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

confer the

OUTSTANDING SILLIMANIAN AWARD

in

Pastoral Ministry

to

REV. FEDERICO I. AGNIR, Ed.D.

for exemplary services in several parishes as senior pastor in Northeastern USA, where he demonstrated the Biblical tenet "to whom much is given, much will be required" by giving of his multiple talents and skills honed from various academic disciplines - from communications and theater, to music, to social and political sciences, to computer applications, to research and scholarship - to his ministry;

for enhancing and enriching the ministry through tent-making between the academe and church stewardship by producing and acting in community theaters, whose proceeds were donated to charity; conducting choirs, training church staff in computer applications, in addition to serving as President of the Greenfield Council of Churches, and Moderator of the Franklin Association of the United Church of Christ;

for bringing about unity and dynamism among his church members, thereby cultivating warm congregations of worship and fellowship.

Given this 26th day of August 2005 in Dumaguete City, Philippines, on the occasion of the 104th Founders Day of Silliman University.

CANDELARIO V. GONZALEZ
President, Silliman Alumni Association, Inc.

AGUSTIN A. PULIDO
President, Silliman University

LEONOR M. BRIONES
Chairperson, Board of Trustees

**2005 OUTSTANDING SILLIMANIAN AWARDEE
FOR PASTORAL MINISTRY**

REV. DR. FEDERICO I. AGNIR



As a parish minister, Rev. Dr. Federico I. Agnir excelled and distinguished himself as an agent of reconciliation and as a teacher and helper of fellow ministers and church workers. Rev. Agnir graduated from Silliman University in 1968 with a degree of Master of Divinity, *magna cum laude*, after finishing his Bachelor of Arts (Major in History, Minor in Speech and Drama) from the University of the Philippines in 1959. He later pursued a Master of Arts, Major in Communication, at Syracuse University, graduating in 1972. In 1989, he completed his Doctor of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst. For 30 years, he practiced two professions in Western Massachusetts, namely college professor and ordained minister.

Between 1978 and 1995, Rev. Agnir's skills in strategic planning and reconciliation were tested by three controversial issues that hit three different congregations. The first was in 1978 when he had to appease a congregation which had a minister who was indicted and subsequently convicted of statutory rape. The second challenge was in 1988 when he was called to reconcile a congregation which had a powerful group that managed to force its pastor to resign after finding her communication style too abrasive. And his final, and most difficult, challenge was serving as reconciler to a congregation that was split over the issue of homosexuality, and whose pastor was lesbian. In all three challenges, Rev. Agnir was able to help sow the seeds of reconciliation, helping the congregations get beyond their crises and grow again.

A commendable effort was also his successful management of eight established Caucasian churches in Northeastern US. He installed and programmed computer systems in his last two parishes and, as a consultant for the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ, conducted computer management seminars and workshops for pastors, church secretaries and church treasurers all over the state. With his extensive experience in strategic planning, he held a number of administrative positions among which were: Chairman, Board of Directors of the Pastoral Counseling Center of Franklin County (1993-1995), and President, Greater Greenfield Council of Churches (1983)

In the lives of Sillimanians in North America, Rev. Agnir is also a blessing. He played midwife to the creation of an umbrella organization uniting all the Silliman alumni chapters in the United States and Canada. His pioneering work, which started in 1999, culminated in 2001 with the establishment of the Silliman University Alumni Council of North America (SUACONA) during the new organization's initial convention in Chicago. Since then, SUACONA has successfully held conventions, which are nicknamed *Tipon Silliman*, every two years.

Of his experiences, Rev. Agnir says the following: "For a Filipino minister living in the fishbowl environment of a small New England town that is 96% Caucasian, there is an unwritten code of behavior. You are aware that you are always under scrutiny ... you carry on your shoulders ... your countrymen's and your race's reputation. I dutifully carried this responsibility, and it has in many ways helped me stay in the straight and narrow."

Source: Silliman University, *The 2005 Outstanding Sillimanan Awards* (Dumaguete City, August 26, 2005), p. 6