

# The Cable Ford



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GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



MW LEON ANGEL D. PANÉZ JR.

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LEITE PARK RESORT CONVENTION CENTER  
TACLOBAN CITY  
APRIL 24-26, 1997



ELECTED GRAND LODGE OFFICERS

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## EDITORIAL STAFF

**J. Flor R. Nicolas**  
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**Charles G. Agar**  
Managing Editor

**Robert Q. Pagotan**  
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**Mag A. Nuevo**  
Circulation / Exchange

## CONSULTANTS

**MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM**

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# GRAND MASTER'S *Message*

**Brethren:**

I will never be able to thank you enough for the honor and distinction you have bestowed on me—that of serving as the 80th Grand Master of our MW Grand Lodge. I will endeavor, to the best of my ability, to be faithful to your trust.

Surely, I will depend on the officers and leaders at all levels of the Craft to serve as "the offensive front line" in accomplishing the various thrusts of our administrative program for this Masonic year, which is centered on the theme FREEMASONRY: BROTHERHOOD FOR PEACE, UNITY, AND HUMAN PROGRESS. Of course, I expect each and every one of the members to extend utmost support and cooperation to the officers and leaders of the Craft.

Actually, the theme is a paraphrase of our Masonic forebears' vision of a completed spiritual temple built of good and strong men. Therefore, we must persistently strive for the perfection of our craft and practice in daily life the tenets and principles of our Fraternity.

We must, moreover, convince the world that, as a Brotherhood, we have a formula for achieving unity. This means that we have to give meaning and substance to the motto "Who best can work and best agree." We must, in other words, focus our attention on what unites us and set aside all things offensive and defensive whereby the peace and harmony among the Craft might be disturbed. Thus, we will prove to non-Masons that we are a group of men who work together in close harmony to accomplish the many worthwhile goals we have set before us. Doing things together and accomplishing things together is, to me, what Freemasonry is all about. That is

why our motto during my term is "TOGETHER IS BETTER".

We must, furthermore, make our Masonry felt more and seen better by people around us. We can do this, not by doling out goods to our less fortunate countrymen, but by providing them with opportunities to participate in society through meaningful and productive activities. Besides, as Lodges or as Districts, we can work together in planning and implementing programs of action that provide the greater masses of our people not only with basic material needs, but also with opportunities to advance and to share in the determination of their own future. Furthermore, individually and collectively, we can get involved in the achievement of local-community, national, and even international peace goals, so that the Masonic ideal of the Brotherhood of men under the Fatherhood of God will soon be actualized. We will, for instance, contribute our share in combating crimes, particularly illegal drugs.

May we, especially during this Masonic year, commit and dedicate ourselves to the achievement of peace, unity, and human progress. So mote it be!

Fraternally,

LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR.  
Grand Master

# TOWARD MAKING OUR GRAND LODGE THE FIRST IN MANY THINGS

**W**ith heart and tongue we join in greeting our PGMs born in May and June "Happy birthday, MW Sirs!"

Ten of them celebrate their birthdays in the Celestial Lodge, where the Supreme Architect of the Universe presides. They are (1) MW CLIFFORD C. BENNETT, our GM in 1950, who celebrates his 87th birthday on May 5; (2) MW NEWTON C. COMFORT, our GM in 1914 and GS from 1915 to 1934, who celebrates his 112th on May 15; (3) MW CHRISTIAN W. ROSENSTOCK, our GM in 1925, who celebrates his 112th on May 16; (4) MW EMILIO P. VIRATA, our GM in 1947, who celebrates his 107th on May 17; (5) MW WILLIAM H. QUASHA, our GM in 1955, who celebrates his 85th on May 19; (6) MW JOE R. GUERRERO, our GM in 1991, who celebrates his 56th on May 19, too; (7) MW MARIANO Q. TINIO, our GM in 1967, who celebrates his 97th on May 27; (8) MW WILLIAM W. LARKIN, our GM in 1931, who celebrates his 117th on May 27, likewise; (9) MW RUPERTO S. DEMONTEVERDE, SR., our GM in 1973, who celebrates his 86th also on May 27; and (10) MW GEORGE R. HARVEY, our GM in 1915, who celebrates his 129th on June 22.

Five of them are still using, in their own measure, life's working tools. They are (1) MW REYNATO

S. PUNO, our GM in 1984, who celebrates his 57th birthday on May 17; (2) MW RAYMOND E. WILMART, our GM in 1966, who celebrates his 86th on May 23; (3) MW MANUEL D. MANDAC, our GM in 1980, who celebrates his 86th on May 27, too; (4) MW JOHNNY C. NABONG, JR., our GM in 1989, who celebrates his 62nd on June 8; and (5) MW RIZAL D. APORADERA, our GM in 1993, who celebrates his 59th on June 19.

All these PGMs have one common desire, namely, as phrased by the most senior of them, the late MW Comfort, "*to make our Grand Lodge the first in friendship, in fellowship, in charity, in fraternal zeal, and in loyalty to Brotherman.*"

This, too, may as well be the desire of our current Grand Master, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., who, like the late MW Bennett, would like to see us, members of the Craft, to be "*men who always subdue our passions to the dictates of our reason; fearless men of conviction, who will fight evil wherever it may be found; men who, with faith in God and a firm belief in those self-evident truths taught in our lodges, will go forth and preach them outside, in words as well as in deeds.*"

The realization of that desire depends on each of us, officers and members alike, contributing to the leadership, direction, and management of the Craft. It depends on the officers living up to

the expectations of the members, and vice-versa.

We, the members of the Craft, expect those brethren who have been elected and appointed to positions of responsibility to make the willing commitment to themselves and to the Craft that, to the best of their ability, they will perform. Specifically, we expect that they consider it top priority to aid in the selection and training of future leaders, and that they base their selection of leaders to be trained, not on worldly wealth and honors, but on demonstrated ability to render service—service for the advancement of the best interests of the Craft, for the love of our fellowmen, and for progressively building a better and finer world according to God's plan—or what our Masonic forebears envisioned as the completed spiritual temple built of good and strong men.

We, the members, must realize at the same time that we have an important part in that service. We must realize that we have an important role to play in the leadership of our respective Districts and Lodges—and that role is to participate and get involved so actively as to give direction to the Craft; for, as Ill. Bro. Lawrence D. Inglis, 33°, Past Grand Master of Masons in Illinois, has aptly phrased it, "*A failure to participate is in itself the same as an officer failing to plan.*"

Yes, Masonic leadership is the responsibility of every one of us, members of the Craft. We must tell the leaders of the Craft that we expect them to act, manage, and direct the Craft. We must tell our leaders that while they expect us to assist and support them in

the accomplishment of the goals we have set before us, we expect them, in turn, to encourage those ahead of them and to help those behind, and that we expect them to tell us, the workers, what is expected of us. Oftentimes those who lead us fail to know what they want and fail to tell us what is expected and to whom to report. Naturally, if we do not know what is expected of us, we have no commitment to perform anything and therefore have nothing worthwhile to report to whomever we should report to. And, not infrequently, we are not given the budget needed to perform the task assigned to us.

Hence, it all boils down to this: *officers and members must live up to each other's expectations.* Both officers and members must work responsibly and work together in close harmony toward realizing the desire of the Grand Lodge leadership, which is also ours, "*to make our Grand Lodge the first in friendship, in fellowship, in charity, in fraternal zeal, and in loyalty to Brotherman.*"

The realization of this desire is the best gift we can give to our Past Grand Masters, particularly those born in May and June, and to our present Grand Master as well.

With the fervent hope that officers and members of the Craft will live up to each other's expectations, with heart and tongue we greet our PGMs born in May and June "*Happy birthday, MW Sirs!*" and fervently wish our current Grand Master a *fruitful and fulfilling year in the Grand East.*

--eF.R.eN

# THE CABLETOW

**T**he Cabletow is, as we know very well, a symbol of those external restraints by which a man is controlled by others or by forces outside himself. If a man does not keep the law of his own free will, then he must be compelled to keep it.

The removal of the Cabletow signifies that when a man becomes master of himself, he will keep the law instinctively by his own character.

We hope that the following lines will stimulate every Brother to make optimal use of his Cabletow.

- C** is for CHARITY, which really is love,  
the best way to worship God above.
- A** is for APRON, badge by which all see  
that we are members of Freemasonry.
- B** is for BROTHER, whose hand we clasp  
with warmth and friendship that ever will last.
- L** is for LODGE where we Freemasons meet,  
aim at perfection and each other greet.
- E** is for EAR, by which we good lessons hear,  
and for EYE, by which we see things far and near.
- I** is for TOOLS we use as symbolic guides  
to seek the good life where peace e'er abides.
- O** is for OATH that binds us as one,  
working together as duty is done.
- W** is for WORD lost years and years ago  
which we ever seek that we may grow.

-eF.R.eN

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## are we...?

- 1 ...emulating in our daily lives the teachings we have learned in Freemasonry?
- 2 ...conducting ourselves within the points of the extended compasses?
- 3 ...supporting the Blue Lodge of which we are members?
- 4 ...fostering harmony within the Craft by our actions?
- 5 ...true and trustworthy to our brethren?
- 6 ...putting our selfish ambitions above the general good of the fraternity?
- 7 ...injuring brethren in their persons or good names by indulging in unnecessary idle talk?
- 8 ...using financial resources to gain positions of respect in the fraternity?
- 9 ...aspiring for high office even if it is outside the scope of our capabilities?
- 10...overly ambitious in our desires to the detriment of the fraternity as a whole?
- 11...manipulating Lodges according to our own selfish interests?

if your answer to items 1 to 5 is no and yes for items 6 to 11...

are you not ashamed to be called a Master Mason?

*Bro. Mario Q. Angeles*  
*Zapote Lodge No. 29*

# OUR GRAND MASTER, HIS INAUGURAL ADDRESS AND PROGRAM THRUSTS

**M**W Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. was 76 years, six months, and 26 days old when he was installed as the 80th Grand Master of Masons of the Philippines at the Leyte Park Hotel, Tacloban City, on April 26, 1997. He was, in effect, the second oldest to be installed Grand Master, the oldest being the late MW Luther Bewley, who was 84.

In his inaugural address, MW Bañez expressed his pride in having been born into a Masonic family, in having been an active Mason for the last 38 years, and in having a family, relatives and good friends who have been supportive to him in his Masonic career and who have stood by him during difficult times.

## **Born into a Masonic Family**

Our Grand Master in 1922, the late MW Quintin Paredes, was his granduncle, he being the younger brother of his maternal grandmother, the late Nicolasa Paredes-Purugganan.

During his year in the Grand East, MW Paredes repeatedly stressed that members of the Craft must be true Brothers to one another, so that non-Masons might see that Freemasonry, with its ideals, mission, and clear vision, is bound to be a factor for human progress.

Like his granduncle, MW Bañez will work hard to promote peace and unity among members of the big Masonic Family, as well as to enhance rapport and harmonious relations between our Grand Lodge and other Grand Lodges; for he firmly believes that doing things together, sharing together in sincere love and fellowship, working together in close harmony to accomplish the

worthwhile goals we have set before us, and showing our pride in our Masonic membership is what Masonry is all about. For this Masonic year, therefore, we will give substance and meaning to the theme "Freemasonry: a Brotherhood for Peace, Unity and Human Progress," and our motto shall be "Together Is Better."

Our Grand Master's own father, the late Colonel Leon C. Bañez, Sr., was a veritable "traveller." He was a long-standing member of Sarangani Lodge No. 50 in Davao City, became a Charter Member and Past Master of Abra Lodge No. 86 in Bangued, Abra, and served as Grand Lodge Inspector for Mabini Lodge No. 39 in Aparri, Cagayan way back in 1936.

Recalled MW Bañez: "*Like other Freemasons at that time, my father was rather secretive about Freemasonry, so that I grew up with hardly any idea about what Freemasonry was all about. The secretiveness of the earlier generations of Freemasons has been responsible, in a great measure, for the fact that Freemasonry continues to be misunderstood by the general public and its teachings are deliberately misinterpreted by its detractors. Up to now, many non-*

*Masons, including our own families and relatives, regard Freemasonry as a secret society or as a society with secret rites and ceremonies."*

In view of this, MW Bañez said, Masonic leaders in various grand jurisdictions have advocated a critical look at ourselves as a Fraternity. He cited this statement of a Masonic leader: *"We are more concerned with ourselves, our isolation, our exclusiveness, our own welfare as members of the Masonic bodies than we are with the welfare or considerations of others beyond the scope of Freemasonry."* He stressed that this critical evaluation jibes with various definitions of Freemasonry, such as this one given by MW Tomas Sarobe y Piñero, Grand Master of Spain: *"Freemasonry is an institution which tries to improve man and the world he lives in. It is not based on either religion or politics. It is an organization of free men who try to improve themselves and society in general. In Freemasonry, one's family and one's self come before the institution or anything else."*

Such positive conceptions of Freemasonry, together with the good example set by his granduncle, his own father, and other Freemasons who led exemplary lives, attracted MW Bañez to the Fraternity.

### **An Active Mason for the Last 38 Years**

In 1959 he joined Gonzaga Lodge No. 66 in Tuguegarao, Cagayan and became its Worshipful Master in 1964 and in 1973. Several times he served as DDGM for Masonic District No. 2

(now No. 49). Since 1994 he has served our Grand Lodge and the brethren "through the line," working with several Grand Masters and in several Grand Lodge Committees.

MW Bañez has been actively involved in the works of Appendant Bodies, too. He came to be an Active Member of the Supreme Council, A & ASR, 33rd and Last Degree in the Republic of the Philippines. In fact, he retired as SGIG for the Orient of North Cagayan Valley. He also spearheaded the establishment of the Colonel Tirso H. Gador Chapter of the Order of DeMolay in Tuguegarao. Up to now he is a Grand Senior Counselor of the Supreme Council of DeMolay Phils. He is, moreover, a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, the Order of the Amaranth, and the Royal Order of Scotland.

*"Since my initiation to Masonry,"* MW Bañez said, *"I have always tried to live by the tenets and teachings of the Fraternity. Unless we bring down Masonic ideals and principles to the human level of love and sacrifice, they would serve no purpose."*

Besides living his Masonry, MW Bañez has gotten his family involved in Masonic functions and, as a consequence thereof, all his four sons—Leon Jr. (or Leny), Noel, Quintin and Benjie—entered the Fraternity.

### **Unconditional Love and Support of Family, Relatives, Friends and Brethren**

*"Without the unconditional love and support my family, relatives and good friends have given me through all these years,"* MW Bañez revealed, *"I would not*

be here before you, in all this grand jewelry. You see only one man standing before you. But I have never been alone because my wife, your *Hermana*, has always been with me in memories which can make me laugh sometimes and at others make me cry, memories which have made me strong and kept me going on. This is what she and our son, your Brother, WB Leon Jr., would have wanted me to be and do.... May I humbly ask for a moment of prayer for the repose of their souls. And may we include all Brethren and *Hermanas* who have gone before us to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveller returns."

He then urged the Brethren to involve their families further in Masonic affairs, to inform their relatives and friends more about Freemasonry, and to be Brothers to their fellow Masons more than before.

"Without the love and support of our families, relatives, close friends and Brethren," he said categorically, "we would not accomplish much, and Freemasonry would be nothing. It is important, therefore, that we, as a Fraternity, are understood and recognized by our own families, relatives, and other fellowmen, who serve as the *raison d'être* of Freemasonry."

### Expressions of Gratitude and Pledge

Next MW Bañez introduced his sister Elsa (a *balikbayan*), his brother Arnulfo (a retired general) and sister-in-law Cecilia, his children and grandchildren, and other relatives. He thanked them for their continuing love and respect for the Fraternity and for

their presence during his elevation to the Grand Oriental Chair.

He also thanked the foreign dignitaries for gracing the event with their presence and the Brethren and Sisters of the host District for making Ancom '97 a resounding success.

To all the Brethren he said, "I thank you so much for your trust and confidence. My family and I are very honored. Rest assured that this Grand Master's Jewel, symbol of your trust and confidence, are in good hands. And I pledge that its luster shall not be dimmed by any unworthy act of my humble person."

### Continued Implementation of His Predecessors' Program Thrusts

Like MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, MW Bañez will pursue implementation of the program thrusts of his worthy predecessors in the Grand Orient.

He wants us to study Masonry further and to live it. Says he: "If we practice even only one tenth of what we have been taught, men of good character and leaders of noble intentions will jump at the chance of becoming members of our Fraternity."

And he wants us to inform our families and friends about Freemasonry and involve them in Masonic functions, as well as to reach out to our fellowmen, particularly the less fortunate, so that eventually Freemasonry will become known as a Brotherhood for Peace, Unity and Human Progress.

Together, let us rally behind our Grand Master and other leaders of our Fraternity. Together is better. Decidedly!



↑ Grand Master's family in 1986



← MW Ko invests incoming Grand Master with GM's Jewel.

MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, Installing Officer, presents newly-installed Grand Master Bañez with gavel. ↓





MW Bañez delivers his inaugural address. ←

Masonic dignitaries salute the new Grand Master. ⇒



↑ Our new Grand Master with his family

# OFFICERS OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR THE MASONIC YEAR 1997-1998

## GRAND LINE

Grand Master	MW LEON ANGEL P. BAÑEZ, JR.
Deputy Grand Master	RW ENRIQUE L. LOCSIN
Senior Grand Warden	RW FRANKLIN J. DEMONTEVERDE
Junior Grand Warden	RW OSCAR V. BUNYI
Grand Treasurer	MW JOHN L. CHOA, PGM
Grand Secretary	MW RAYMUNDO N. BELTRAN, PGM
Asst. Grand Treasurer	VW AGERICO V. AMAGNA, JR.
Asst. Grand Secretary	VW EMILIANO P. LANGOMEZ, JR.
Grand Chaplain	VW BENJAMIN G. BROWN
Grand Orator	VW CESAR L. GO
Grand Marshal	VW ARTEMIO A. TADIAR
Senior Grand Deacon	VW SIMEON L. TORRALBA
Junior Grand Deacon	VW JOSE R. AÑES
Grand Standard Bearer	VW EDGARDO C. PEREZ
Grand Sword Bearer	VW LEONARDO T. CHUA
Grand Bible Bearer	VW LEOCADIO SC. SANTIAGO
Senior Grand Lecturer	VW ROBERTO Q. PAGOTAN
Junior Grand Lecturers	
North Western Luzon	VW CLEMENTE M. NAVA
North Eastern Luzon	VW MANOLO A. CIPRIANO
West Central Luzon	VW COSMO P. ANTONIO
East Central Luzon	VW RODOLFO N. ESTRADA
National Capital Region	VW DANILO D. LIM
Tagalog Region	VW PERFECTO L. ALIBADBAD
Quezon & Bicol Region	VW GODOFREDO O. PETEZA, SR.
Eastern Visayas	VW GALDINO G. VARONA
Western Visayas	VW TOMMY Q. QUE
Western Mindanao	VW SABDANI J. HADRIJUL
Eastern Mindanao	VW DOWNEY C. VALDEVILLA
North Central Mindanao	VW HENRY C. DY
South Central Mindanao	VW FROILAN G. TECSON
Overseas	VW RAMONCITO B. PIAÑA
Senior Grand Steward	VW EDILBERTO R. FRAGANTE
Junior Grand Steward	VW JUANITO L. BERNARDO
Grand Pursuivant	VW JOSELITO C. VILLAROSA
Grand Organist	VW RENATO H. CRUZ
Grand Tyler	VW OSCAR A. SUGUITAN

# BOARD FOR GENERAL PURPOSES

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman  
Member  
Member  
Secretary

MW REYNATO S. PUNO, PGM  
MW REYNOLD S. FAJARDO, PGM  
MW AGUSTIN V. MATEO, PGM  
MW PABLO C. KO, JR., PGM  
MW DANILO D. ANGELES, PGM  
RW ENRIQUE L. LOCSIN, DGM

## DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTERS and DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS

### DISTRICT NO. 1

DDGM : VW WILLIAM WEBB  
DGLs : VW MARIANO J. REMOQUILLO  
VW TEODORO B. GONZALES

VW ARIEL A. BAGABALDO  
VW ABNER N. ARRIETTA

### DISTRICT NO. 2

DDGM : VW RUPERTO S. SANGALANG  
DGLs : VW ANTOLIN B. GEMANIL  
VW DOMINADOR VICTOR R. EUGENIO  
VW ESPIRIDION A. ZAPANTA  
VW RUBEN C. VIDALLON  
VW VERGEL H. DOMINGO  
VW EDUARDO R. VICTA  
VW ARISTEDES C. VELAZCO

### DISTRICT NO. 7

DDGM : VW MATEO V. BAWAGAN  
DGLs : VW CHARLES G. AGAR  
VW EMILIO C. DALICAN

### DISTRICT NO. 8

DDGM : VW LEUVINO R. MAGUYON  
DGLs : VW JUAN R. PALADAN  
VW CHITO KO

### DISTRICT NO. 3

DDGM : VW JOSE MARLOWE S. PEDREGOSA  
DGLs : VW ANTONIO A. TUASON  
VW BENTO K. TAN  
VW RUDY L. ONG

### DISTRICT NO. 9

DDGM : VW ELUDERIO S. SALVO  
DGL : VW PEDRO U. PAGUNURAN

### DISTRICT NO. 5

DDGM : VW JAIME Y. GONZALES  
DGLs : VW SONNY K. WANG  
VW ROBERT C. OCAMPO  
VW FELIX S. KO

### DISTRICT NO. 10

DDGM : VW PATRICK M. CASAO, SR.  
DGLs : VW ROQUE P. BIHIS  
VW AURELIO R. DY  
VW GEMENIANO T. NOCHE

### DISTRICT NO. 6

DDGM : VW LORENZO C. DIAZ  
DGLs : VW FLORANTE C. FAUSTINO

### DISTRICT NO. 11

DDGM : VW ALFREDO B. ESPINO  
DGLs : VW CIRIO ERNANI T. CRUZ  
VW PEDRO R. FALCON  
VW REY A. BANAAG

**DISTRICT NO. 12**

DDGM : VW LUCIANO M. MAGGAY  
 DGLs : VW GODOFREDO O. SALAGOSTE  
 VW GAVINO L. PLOPENIO  
 VW GEORGE S. YOROBE

**DISTRICT NO. 13**

DDGM : VW HERNANI B. LOPEZ  
 DGLs : VW WILFREDO N. DELLOSO  
 VW MELVYN S. JURISPRUDENCIA  
 VW DANILO C. DATU

**DISTRICT NO. 14**

DDGM : VW SOLOMON S. TEH  
 DGL : VW ROBERTO U. PALANCA

**DISTRICT NO. 15**

DDGM : VW JOSE ARTHUR D. CHAN, JR  
 DGLs : VW ANGEL C. BALDEMOR  
 VW ROGER R. REBANAL

**DISTRICT NO. 16**

DDGM : VW MANUEL T. LAO  
 DGL : VW NEAL H. TAN

**DISTRICT NO. 17**

DDGM : VW DENNIS E. PROVENCHER  
 DGL : VW AMADO P. ARNAIZ

**DISTRICT NO. 18**

DDGM : VW VICTOR A. DOMINGO  
 DGL : VW EDWARD Y. CHUA

**DISTRICT NO. 19**

DDGM : VW PETER ISMAEL F. EUSOOF

**DISTRICT NO. 20**

DDGM : VW EMILIO YOUNG  
 DGLs : VW PATRICIO M. MAGAT  
 VW ARTHUR U. YOUNG

**DISTRICT NO. 21**

DDGM : VW MICHAEL R. JUGAN  
 DGL : VW PETER A. SAWYER

**DISTRICT NO. 22**

DDGM : VW JESUS D. ANGODUNG

DGLs : VW ABRAHAM E. TIONKO  
 VW ENRIQUE C. LIM, JR.

**DISTRICT NO. 23**

DDGM : VW AMADO L. SADSAD  
 DGLs : VW JUAN V. VALBUENA  
 VW ALEXANDER T. BERNARDINO  
 VW NICOLAS G. TABLANTE

**DISTRICT NO. 24**

DDGM : VW PROCOPIO B. TRABAJO II  
 DGLs : VW ULYSSES B. TIROL  
 VW SAMUEL K. MORGIA

**DISTRICT NO. 25**

DDGM : VW RICARDO J. LEUTERIO  
 DGL : VW VICTOR B. EXCLAMADOR

**DISTRICT NO. 26**

DDGM : VW JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL  
 DGLs : VW BONIFACIO BING  
 VW TERCENIO A. SERVILLON

**DISTRICT NO. 27**

DDGM : VW ROMEO P. RAMOS

**DISTRICT NO. 28**

DDGM : VW HENRY T. CHING TIU  
 DGLs : VW MACDUFFIE A. TAN  
 VW DIOSDADO T. RATUNIL

**DISTRICT NO. 29**

DDGM : VW LEONARDO T. TING  
 DGLs : VW PROCESO T. DOMINGO  
 VW ESTELITO M. CHAN  
 VW FRANCO S. MANAHAN  
 VW ANDRES N. BERNARDO  
 VW ISIDORO A. YEE

**DISTRICT NO. 30**

DDGM : VW TAURINO C. ONG  
 DGL : VW LEONARDO M. ARCOL

**DISTRICT NO. 32**

DDGM : VW MANUEL O. URQUIAGA

**DISTRICT NO. 33**

DDGM : VW FELIXBERTO C. LEGARDA  
 DGLs : VW HENRY T. YU  
 VW WILFREDO B. BOBILA  
 VW FELINO D. CATABONA, JR.

**DISTRICT NO. 34**

DDGM : VW FELIPE G. ZAPATOS  
 DGLs : VW CAMILO A. ROSAL  
 VW HENRY T. TALADUA

**DISTRICT NO. 35**

DDGM : VW ALBEE O. BUAYAN  
 DGLs : VW RODOLFO R. SALCEDO  
 VW EUFROCINO C. CABOTAGE

**DISTRICT NO. 36**

DDGM : VW THEONILLO A. PALA  
 DGL : VW ERVINS. ASPIRAS

**DISTRICT NO. 37**

DDGM : VW ROY V. SERRANO  
 DGLs : VW JESUS MANUEL M. MISA  
 VW EDGAR C. TACADENA

**DISTRICT NO. 38**

DDGM : VW EULOGIO M. PEDRANO  
 DGLs : VW ROBERTO A. BUENAFE  
 VW VICENTE B. TECSON  
 VW REYNALDO M. RAFANAN

**DISTRICT NO. 39**

DDGM : VW PABLO S. MACARAEG  
 DGLs : VW MAXIMINO O. GABATINO, JR.  
 VW GODOFREDO M. BATARAQ, JR.

**DISTRICT NO. 40**

DDGM : VW JOSEPH B. BAULA  
 DGLs : VW RAUL G. CABALANG  
 VW GIL G. TABOR

**DISTRICT 41**

DDGM : VW RENATO B. BARTOLOME  
 DGL : VW RIMAS G. CALIXTO

**DISTRICT NO. 42**

DDGM : VW MELCHOR S. PERDIDO  
 DGL : VW FRANKLIN B. BUNO

**DISTRICT 43**

DDGM : VW CARLOS M. VALENCERINA  
 DGL : VW MARIO A. LO  
 VW PEDRO B. PIS-O

**DISTRICT NO. 44**

DDGM : VW NESTOR C. PURUGGANAN  
 DGL : VW CHIN BON TE LU

**DISTRICT NO. 45**

DDGM : VW DANTE E. SIMON  
 DGLs : VW GUALFREDO C. MARTINEZ  
 VW CESAR C. PURUGGANAN

**DISTRICT NO. 46**

DDGM : VW JOSE A.R. DE GUZMAN  
 DGLs : VW WILFREDO T. SIAO  
 VW FREDDIE BAYNOSA  
 VW GREGORIONEALSON M. DY

**DISTRICT NO. 47**

DDGM : VW NAPOLEON A. DOMINGO  
 DGLs : VW GERONIMO B. SINGSON  
 VW NOEL S. ENCARNACION  
 VW GODOFREDO L. DUQUE

**DISTRICT NO. 48**

DDGM : VW MENANDRO V. LAPUZ  
 DGLs : VW RAMON T. DEL CASTILLO, JR.  
 VW TIMORAY T. ANG

**DISTRICT NO. 49**

DDGM : VW HERMAN C. ASANIAS  
 DGLs : VW ELPIDIOT. PAUIG  
 VW FORTUNATO B. TUMALIUAN, JR.  
 VW MANUEL R. LITTAUA

**DISTRICT NO. 50**

DDGM : VW VICTOR C. HO  
 DGLs : VW DANIEL A. TAN  
 VW ELMER S. QUE

**DISTRICT NO. 51**

DDGM : VW NAPOLEON H. ROQUE  
 DGLs : VW GILBERT G. PAGULAYAN  
 VW NICOMEDES A. COLLADO

# SCHEDULE OF VISITATIONS, SPECIAL COMMUNICATIONS, AND CONVENTIONS FOR 1997-98

1. **May 31, 1997**  
Constitution, Mendez-Nuñez # 316, Tagaytay City, Cavite (MD 2)
2. **June 14**  
a.m.-Constitution, San Mateo # 319, San Mateo, Isabela (MD 45)  
p.m.-Constitution, Pinacanauan #318, Ilagan, Isabela (MD 45)
3. **June 16**  
Constitution, Diffun # 317, Cabarroguis, Isabela (Quirino/MD 51)
4. **June 19**  
Bro. Jose Rizal's Birth Anniversary and District Convention, Laguna (MD 6)
5. **July 18-19**  
Cornerstone-laying, MW Joseph E Schon, PGM Mem'l Lodge #186, San Carlos City and Constitution of MW R.S. Demonteverde Mem'l Lodge #320, Bacolod City (MD 22)
6. **Aug. 8-9**  
Joint Convention, Bicol Region, MDs 12 & 14 (Host: MD 14, Mayon #61)
7. **Aug. 15-16**  
Multi-District Convention, Western Mindanao, MDs 32,34,36,38 & 50 (Host: MD 34, Gregorio O. Calit #154)
8. **Aug. 22-23**  
Multi-District Convention, Southern Tagalog (MDs 6, 8 & 10)
9. **Aug. 29-30**  
Convention, Panay (Host: Iloilo-Acacia #11)
10. **Sept. 5-6**  
Multi-District Convention, Northeastern Luzon (MDs 39, 43, 45 & 49)
11. **Sept. 19-20**  
Multi-District Convention, Southern Mindanao (MDs 42,44, 46, & 48)
12. **3rd Week of Sept. to October**  
Overseas
13. **Oct. 24-25**  
Multi-District Convention, Northern Mindanao, MDs 42, 44, 46 & 48 (Host: District 28, Macalajar #184 & Macahambus #315)
14. **Nov. 7-8**  
Multi-District Convention, Northwestern Luzon, MDs 37, 41 & 47 (Host: MD 37, Lingayen #161)
15. **Nov. 14-15**  
Regional Convention, Visayas (Host: Dumaguete City)
16. **Nov. 20-22**  
Multi-District Convention, Central Luzon, MDs 23, 25, 27, 29, 33 & 35 (Host: MD 25)
17. **Nov. 29**  
Convention, Cavite (MD 2)
18. **Nov. 29**  
Joint Convention, MDs 9 & 11, Quezon City & Caloocan City (Host: MD 11)
19. **Dec. 13**  
Multi-District Convention, Manila/Las Piñas, MDs 1, 3, 5, 7 & 13 (Host: MD 3)
20. **Jan. '98**  
42nd Mindanao Regional Masonic Convention (Host: Bud Bongao #288, Tawi-Tawi)

## MW BAÑEZ'S FIRST TWO MONTHS IN OFFICE

**A** full-time Grand Master, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. sleeps at the GM's quarters and is at work at the GM's office from early morning to late in the evening.

His first month in office, May, was very busy. On the 6th he presided over the organizational meeting of the GLP staff at the GLP conference room. On the 11th, together with his party, he joined other brethren from various Lodges in the funeral rites given in memory of the late WB Antonio Montenegro, Past Master of San Pedro Lodge No. 292 in San Pedro, Laguna. On the 12th he and other Grand Lodge officers attended the Mass in commemoration of the first death anniversary of the late William H.

Quasha, PGM, at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Forbes Park, Makati City. On the 13th he presided over the meeting of the Committee on Philippine Centennial at the GLP conference room. On the 14th he attended the monthly meeting of the AMASI, of which he is honorary chairman.

On the 17th and 18th he was in Davao City to attend the necrological services for the late VW Raymundo Yu, Sr., one of the biggest donors to the Grand Lodge for the construction of Plaridel



↑ Grand Master and brethren in funeral rites in memory of WB Montenegro.

MW Bañez, other G.L. Officers join assembly in praying for repose of MW Quasha's soul. ↓



Temple II. On the 21st he again presided over the meeting of the Phil. Centennial Committee.

He was in his native town, Tuguegarao, Cagayan, from the 22nd to the 26th. While there he got in touch with brethren from the Cagayan Valley.

On the 30th he attended the joint meeting of the Board for General Purposes and the Board of Directors. After the meeting he joined the brethren in the fraternal dinner of the PNP Square & Compass Club at the Aguinaldo Hall, GLP. He gave an inspirational message. On the 31st he presided over the Constitution of Mendez-Nuñez Lodge No. 316. Toward the end of the installation of officers he gave another inspirational message.

June was equally busy for the Grand Master. On the 5th, together with his son Benjie, the AGS, the SGL and the Cabletow editorial staff, he attended the funeral rites for the late Bro. Orlando C. Dulay at the Multi-Purpose Hall, Camp Crame, Q.C. given by brethren from Quezon City and Caloocan City, particularly those of Andres Bonifacio Lodge No. 199.

On the 6th he attended the Phil. Shrine Association affair in Manila Diamond Hotel. On the 10th he attended the monthly meeting of the MCCI at the Phil. Columbian in Paco. Together with VW Johnny Mendoza and VW Mabini G. Hernandez, he paid MW Raymond E. Wilmarth a courtesy visit.

On the 11th he attended the monthly meeting of the AMASI. He also turned over a check of P100,000 to the Supreme Council

of DeMolay Phils.

On the 12th, Independence Day, he led a big delegation of Masons and members of Appendant Bodies in wreath-laying ceremonies at the Rizal Monument in Luneta. He was represented by DGM Enrique L. Locsin at the flag raising in Kawit, Cavite. In the afternoon he again led a much larger delegation in the parade at the Luneta.

On the 13th he and his party left the GLP for Santiago City. In the morning of the 14th he presided over the Constitution of San Mateo Lodge No. 319 in San Mateo, Isabela and in the afternoon over the Constitution of Pinacanauan Lodge No. 318 in Ilagan. On the 15th he led a big group of Masons and members of Appendant Bodies in the Thanksgiving Mass at the Poor Clare's Monastery Chapel in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. Later at Villa Ludivina he had a conference with the local press. On the 16th he presided over the Constitution of Diffun Lodge No. 317 in Quirino.

On the 18th he presided over the Dedication of the Temple of Makiling Lodge No. 72 in Los Baños, Laguna.

On the 19th he led the brethren in a floral offering at the Rizal monument in Calamba and officially visited M.D. No. 6 on the occasion of its 39th annual convention at Elvira O. Tan Hall, PCARRD, Los Baños.

On the 28th he presided over the Institution of Palanyag Lodge, U.D. in Better Living, Paranaque.

On the 29th he attended the Installation of Officers of the International Order of Job's Daughter at the GLP.

# ANCOM HIGHLIGHTS, SIDELIGHTS

## RED CARPET FOR GRAND MASTER, OTHER MASONIC DIGNITARIES, GUESTS

The brethren of host District No. 18, as well as officers of appendant bodies like the Order of the Eastern Star, were in full force at the Tacloban City Airport on Tuesday, April 22, to extend warm welcome to the Grand Master, MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, and MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM. MW Adiong was accompanied by his son, Mark Oliver, and Bro. Bong delos Santos of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148. MW Bunda was accompanied by his wife.

Leyte Governor Remedios L. Petilla was there to welcome the Grand Master and party.

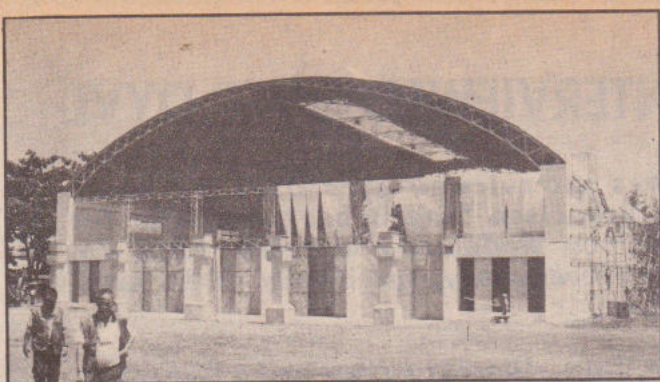
← Tacloban City Mayor Uldarico Mate presented the Grand Master with the symbolic key to the city; the Grand Master in turn raised the symbolic key—to the amusement of the brethren and media reporters. The PNP Band, meanwhile, continuously played musical numbers.

← The Grand Master was patently elated to see the big number of brethren and sisters at the airport. Among the welcomers was Bro. Chioking Lee, who was in wheelchair. Another was VW Salvador Santiago, Sr., PDDGM, who had to plod his way to greet MW Adiong, MW Bunda, and the other arrivals.



At the airport's VIP Lounge, Congressman Rolando Andaya engaged MW Adiong and MW Bunda in conversation. Later MW Adiong and MW Bunda, together with Ancom '97 Execom Chair Victor Domingo, were interviewed by broadcast and print media reporters. ⇒





After the interview, the new arrivals were driven to the Leyte Park Hotel. The Grand Master forthwith inspected the convention hall, which was being made ready by workmen for the Ancom proceedings.



## GOLF, TENNIS COMPETITIONS

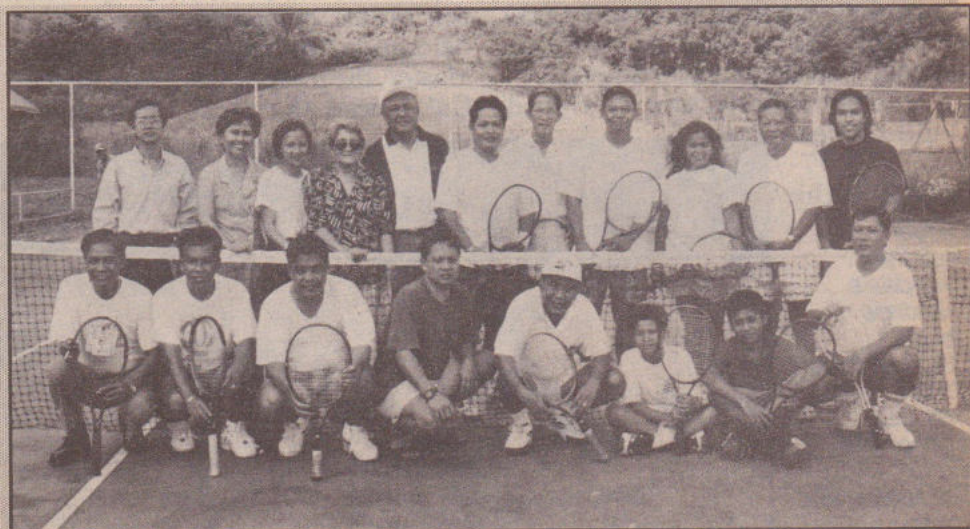
**G**olf enthusiasts and tennis aficionados among the brethren competed with one another at Olot and at San Gerardo Heights, respectively, on Wednesday, April 23.

At Olot, Bro. Rahon garnered Lowest Gross and Efren Alvez Lowest Net. Bro. Zafra, R. Sobredilla, and R. Ang emerged as Champions in Class A, Class B, and Class C, respectively. First runners-up were B. Mutia, Bro. Vic Domingo, and Bro. Tom Rentoy; second runners-up, Bro. Acebedo, Bro. Lapuz, and L. Cañete.

Bros. Ed Espejo, Vic Domingo, and Ed Zafra captured the Longest Drive, Longest Putt, and Nearest to

Pin honors. Class B Champion R. Sobredilla and Class C Champion R. Ang submitted the most number of birdies; Bro. Rahon, most number of pars; and G. Tiongco, most number of bogeys. Bro. Oscar Bunyi was adjudged most exercised player.

In tennis, Bros. Romy Grospe and Ruben Tan came out champions; Bros. Willy Jimenez and James Pimentel, 1st runners-up; MW Danilo D. Angeles and partner, 2nd runners-up.



↑ Grand Lodge and District 18 officers, together with some brethren, sisters and sons of Masons, pose just before start of tennis competitions at San Gerardo Heights.

## MW ADIONG INTERVIEWED OVER DYVL

**M**W JPL Adiong was interviewed over DYVL by Radio Station Manager Francisca "Ate Babes" Custodio for more than an hour on Wednesday morning, April 23. He answered questions on Freemasonry, specifically on its aims, membership, and activities.

During the interview, Ms. Elsie Abellera, a well-known choreographer and music teacher in the city, called in to inform the Grand Master and radio listeners that she was a beneficiary of the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children.

*"I stayed in Mary Johnston*

*Hospital for one and a half years," Ms. Abellera said. "I will forever be grateful to the Masons."*

Visibly touched, as was noticed by "Ate Babes", MW Adiong invited Ms. Abellera to be his guest at the Leyte Park Hotel, and Ms. Abellera accepted the invitation.

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## GGPMP HOLDS 13TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

**T**he Grand Guild of Past Masters of the Philippines (GGPMP), headed by MW John L. Choa, PGM, held its 13th Annual Convention at Kanhuraw Convention Center, Tacloban City, on Wednesday afternoon, April 23, 1997.

The GGPMP raised the gratuity grants of brethren who have laid down their working tools to P4,000 and for those who have been hospitalized to the same amount.

After the election of Grand

Guild gave awards to the earliest registrant, the youngest registrant, the oldest registrant, the largest delegation, the longest-serving Lodge Master, the most outstanding District Guild, and the most outstanding

Guild officers for 1997-2000, the

*Oldest registrant awardee's response delights GGPMP Pres. John L. Choa, MW Gus Mateo, VW Ernie Malapaya, and other dignitaries in the East. →*



District Guild President.

The GGPMP and the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay of the Republic of the Philippines, had a joint fellowship dinner in the same venue. MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM, Grand Guild Chaplain, gave the invocation, and Grand Guild President John L. Choa the welcome remarks. MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, Grand Master of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay, gave an inspirational talk, followed by a video presentation by the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay.

VW Oscar V. Bunyi, Membership Committee Chair, explained the significance of the Collar Jewels of Active Members of the Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay; MW John L. Choa administered the oath of Active Members; and MW Herrera presented the Collar Jewels.

MW JPL Adiong, Grand Master, gave the closing remarks; MW Angeles led the closing prayer and MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

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## WREATH LAYING, OPENING CEREMONIES

**A**t 6:30 a.m., Thursday, April 24, Freemasons, as well as members of Appendant Bodies, assembled at the RTR Plaza and laid wreaths at the Rizal monument.

The wreath laying over, the brethren proceeded to the convention site at Leyte Park for the opening ceremonies. RW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. opened the Grand Lodge and received MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, who in turn received the Past Grand Masters of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, foreign Masonic dignitaries, Governor Remedios L.

Petilla, Tacloban City Mayor Uldarico Mate, and Hon. Salvador H. Laurel, guest of honor and keynote speaker.

After the presentation of the Philippine flag and the Grand Lodge standard, Bro. Willy Jimenez led the assembly in singing the Philippine national anthem and VW Oscar V. Bunyi, Grand Chaplain, led the invocation.

↓ *Past Grand Masters of the GLP are received with full honors.*





↑  
So are the  
visiting  
foreign  
Masonic  
Dignitaries.

Reception  
of Hon.  
Salvador H.  
Laurel,  
guest of  
honor and  
speaker  
→



← "The most good-  
looking governor in the  
world" welcomes  
delegates and guests  
to the province of  
Leyte.

# STRAIGHT FROM THE HEART...

**T**hus spake Philippine Centennial Commission Chair Salvador H. Laurel, Ancom '97 Guest of Honor and Speaker. Setting aside his prepared speech, he spoke from his heart, extemporaneously and eloquently.

He addressed the assembled brethren as "Brother Masons." He considered himself a soulmate of Masons not only because he is a grandson and a son of distinguished Masons, but also because he, too, is a believer in the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. He reiterated that he was speaking straight from the heart because he was amongst brethren.

He revealed receiving a call for a conference that same morning at Malacañang, but he requested President Fidel V. Ramos if they could meet at another time because he could not break his commitment to address the Masons at Tacloban, and his request was instantly granted.

*"To the President's credit," Laurel said, "he urged me not to miss this occasion and instead to meet with him later in the evening."*

Since most of the greatest heroes of the revolution were Masons, he stated, it is very important that due credit and due recognition should be given the Masons for the major role they played in the birth of this Nation.

He informed his audience that Spain had finally recognized Dr. Rizal and his works. As Philippine Centennial Commission Chair, he was able to convince the highest authorities of Spain to recognize that Rizal was a product of Spanish education, for which they could claim credit. Hence, the Spanish government decided that a monument be erected at the Parque de Santander in the heart of Madrid, in honor of Rizal as hero of the world. That monument, an exact replica of the one in Luneta, was unveiled on December 5, 1996. On the left side of the monument is Rizal's immortal "Mi Ultimo Adios" in Spanish and on the right in Filipino.

Hon. Laurel punctuated his keynote address with this challenge: *"As our forefathers gave their share in the founding of this Nation, you, the Freemasons of today, must give your share so that future generations in the next centennial will know what their forefathers did during their time. The least you can do to give your share is to join the National Centennial Movement..."*

That's straight from the heart. Thus spake Bro. Doy Laurel. —MagN.



← Grand Secretary Raymundo N. Beltran presents Plaque of Appreciation to Guest of Honor & Keynote Speaker Salvador H. Laurel. Also in the picture are incoming Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., outgoing Grand Master JPL Adiong, and MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM.

# GRAND LODGE, SCOTTISH RITE SUPREME COUNCIL FORMALLY JOIN PHILIPPINE CENTENNIAL MOVEMENT

**T**he Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines and the Supreme Council, A. & A.S.R., Republic of the Philippines, led by MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, GM, and Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, SGC, respectively, formally joined the Philippine Centennial Membership Movement on April 24, 1997 at the Leyte Park Convention Hall.

MW Adiong announced that the Masons were joining the Movement *"not just to be part of the golden scroll which will be enshrined forever in that sealed capsule, but to really rededicate ourselves to the principles that Masonry used to build this country."*

He invited the foreign brethren to join the Masons of the Philippines in their commitment to the centennial of Philippine independence since in the histories of different countries peoples of other nationalities have helped a people in their aspirations.

Hon. Salvador P. Laurel led the brethren in reciting the following pledge, which he had to translate to English for the sake of the foreign brethren: *"Ako, si \_\_\_\_\_, ay nanunumpa na aking isusulong ang*

*mga simulain ng ating mga bayani at ninuno bilang sagisag ng aking pagka-Pilipino. Itataguyod at palalaganapin ang pagmamahal sa Inang Bayan at kalayaan sa pamamagitan ng aking pagsapi sa kilusang ito. Hinihiling ko sa Poong Maykapal na patnubayan ako at dulutan ng alab ng puso, gabay at sigla upang magampanan ko ang aking mga tungkulin bilang isang Pilipino para sa Diyos, para sa kapwa, para sa bayan at sa isang magandang kinabukasan."*

Hon. Laurel recognized and formally accepted the commitment of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the Supreme Council, 33rd and Last Degree, A & ASR, Republic of the Philippines. He presented Centennial Movement Plaques of Excellence to GM Adiong



←Incoming GM Bañez, outgoing GM Adiong, Hon. Laurel, MW Herrera, MW Choa, MW Aportadera, MW Angeles lead local brethren and visiting dignitaries in committing themselves to the centennial of Philippine Independence.

and SGC Bunda as evidence that the Masons had joined the Movement. He also presented replicas of the Philippine flag with the correct colors and dimensions to the two Masonic leaders. Then he pinned the Centennial Pin on MW Adiong and distributed others to other Masonic dignitaries.

SGC Bunda thanked Hon. Laurel for accepting the Masons in the Centennial Movement, the mission of which is the same as that of Masonry, which also stands for freedom. He informed Hon. Laurel that the bells of freedom ring in the Scottish Rite Creed, which goes this way: *"Human progress is our cause, liberty of thought our supreme wish, freedom of conscience our mission, and the guarantee of equal rights to all people everywhere our ultimate goal."*

He added that there is hardly

any institution in the world that has contributed more to the cause of human freedom than Masonry.

*"The first democracy in Asia was established in the Philippines, and its foundationstones were laid down by freedom-loving Masons,"* Ill. Bunda continued. *"In our country, the Philippines, the honor roll of heroes is nearly monopolized by Masons."* He rattled off names of Masons who had contributed to the building up of the Filipino nation, and concluded his response with the assurance that *"Masons are still here. We pledge to continue what our Masonic forebears and heroic brethren have begun..."*

MW Adiong, on his part, told Hon. Laurel that he had issued a circular enjoining Masons to display the national colors at Masonic temples and their own homes on Independence Day and on other national holidays.



↑ MW Ray Beltran, RW Henry Locsin, MW Rody Herrera, incoming GM Leon A.P. Bañez, Jr., outgoing GM JPL Adiong, MW John Choa and RW Frank Demonteverde pose with Hon. Laurel after receipt of Centennial Movement Plaque of Excellence.



↑ Incoming and outgoing Grand Masters, assisted by RW Frank Demonteverde, fold Phil. flag while dignitaries in the East look on with interest.

## GRAND MASTER TREATS FOREIGN DIGNITARIES TO DINNER

**M**W Jose Percival L. Adiong, together with other Grand Lodge Officers, treated the foreign Masonic dignitaries to dinner at Kanhuraw in the evening of Thursday, April 24.

Conspicuously present during the affair was Sis. Gloria C. Adiong, who was with her *ninang*, Sis Esperanza Herrera.

Also in attendance were leaders of host District No. 18 and staff members of the Grand Lodge and The Cabletow.

Foreign Masonic dignitaries dancing the "tinikling" with young pulchritudes.





Engr. & Bro. John T. Marquez receives award from MW JPL Adiong while Sis. Gloria Adiong arranges ribbon. ⇒



← MW Adiong to Ancom Execom Chair Vic Domingo: "Here's a token of our sincerest appreciation of your hard work to make Ancom '97 a resounding success."

## OES OFFICERS COORDINATE TOURS FOR DELEGATES

**W**orthy Matron Baby Bonifacio, assisted by Sisters Ester Alcaraz, Annie Alvero, Marianne Uyvico, Evy Santiago, Janet Lopez, Susan Mayor, Ester Vanilla, and Precy Domingo, coordinated tours for delegates, foreign guests, and interested friends of Masonry on April 24, 25, and 26.

On the 24th the Eastern Stars took the delegates, guests and interested others to San Juanico Bridge, Small Medium Enterprise Development Center, and the Price (CAP) Mansion.

On the 25th, the "tourists" admired the MacArthur National Memorial Park and the Rock Garden of Peace in the morning. In the afternoon, they were taken to San Gerardo Heights, where they enjoyed bingo socials, swimming, tennis, golf, and ballroom dancing.

On the 26th, the tour was focused on the Sto. Niño Shrine and the Heritage Museum.

# LOOKING BACK WITH PRIDE... LOOKING FORWARD WITH ANTICIPATION...

by VW William Webb

**B**rethren, I am thankful that I can attend a Masonic function, such as the one we are having, because I feel the sense of welcome and acceptance that typifies what I consider to be the junction of cultures and Brotherhood that our Fraternity generates.

I invite you to look back on the accomplishments of our Masonic forebears, **r e n e w o u r** commitment to pursue their vision, and look **f o r w a r d w i t h** anticipation to the role we, as a Fraternity, will play in the future.

Our Grand Lodge will celebrate its first **C e n t e n n i a l** Anniversary in 2017 and in concord with this year's Masonic theme I invite you to look forward with anticipation to the role our Fraternity could play in the years leading up to that special event.

In order that we might anticipate that future role, we should look back at those principles, ideals, values, etc., which have stood the test of time and given our Fraternity the strength it has today.

## A System of Morality

As we look back into history, we realize that the origins of Freemasonry are somewhat obscure. Recently it has been proposed that during the 1600s informal lodges meeting in various



parts of England could have started as **BOX CLUBS** where members' dues were kept in a box and from which members could draw in time of need. There being no state welfare system at that time, the natural tendency would be that persons of the same craft or trade would form a **BOX CLUB**.

These box clubs also probably took in others outside the particular group, and there is evidence that members were initiated.

It is also suggested that the Grand Lodge in England was formed in 1717 as basically a trade-oriented benefit society or **BOX CLUB**. It appears that the newly established Grand Lodge of England almost floundered in its early years. Around the 1720s the change from a benefit-oriented society into a system of morality veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols was brought about by Dr. John T. Desaguliers, a far-sighted Grand Master and truly Speculative Freemason.

The change from being a benefit society to a system of morality veiled in allegory and

illustrated by symbols set the Fraternity on the course which we enjoy today. It is this formula which has stood the test of time.

Freemasonry's strength lies in the moral development and growth of the individual, and when members follow the teachings of the Craft, they become better men and thereby help build a better world.

The vital matter is whether Masonry for each of us is merely a series of symbolic rites or we assimilate the teachings so that our lives are changed. It is the value of applying the symbolic teachings of Freemasonry to oneself that will ensure the lasting existence of our beloved Fraternity. I am sure that the early far-sighted Grand Masters in England understood this concept clearly. It is believed that this factor is the reason for the widespread, enduring, universal appeal and acceptance of Freemasonry.

### The Three Tenets

The three tenets of Freemasonry—Brotherly Love, Truth and Relief—are the foundation of the Fraternity. When the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Apostle James, he took up the theme that "Faith without works is dead" (James 2:17). While the church and religion focuses on "FAITH," Freemasonry, through the three tenets, practices "WORKS," which is the outcome of true Faith. Before any man can be accepted into Freemasonry, he must have Faith in the Supreme Being. Therefore, Freemasonry does not rival or conflict with religion, but rather, complements it.

The 'WORKS' and accomplishments of Freemasons are too

vast to be enumerated. However, one may mention here that during the small beginnings of Freemasonry in London, the Freemasons of the 1700s built a Free Masons' Hall, a Royal Institute for girls and another one for boys. Many of these early land marks remain, even though the structures may have been re-built over the years. Similarly, Freemasons around the world, including us in the Philippines, have many notable achievements to our record, evidence enough that we are, indeed, builders for country and for mankind.

I am sure we will continue to plan and build for the future, in spite of continued attacks from anti-Masonic quarters.

### Criticism of the Craft

Criticism is not new to Freemasonry. As early as 1698, about 20 years before the formation of the first Grand Lodge, Freemasonry was the target of an anti-Masonic leaflet, a copy of which is in the Grand Lodge Library in London. Further attacks have been made over the years, a notable one being the first Papal Bull against Freemasonry issued in 1738, the main contention of which was that the relationship between a Roman Catholic and his priest should be without "secrets". Other Papal Bulls followed.

Over the years the Roman Catholic Church has modified its stance against Freemasonry. In 1974 the Pro Grand Master in England, Earl Cadogan, wrote to the Roman Catholic Archbishop at Westminster in London, requesting clarification of the Church's position regarding Freemasonry.

The following is the reply:

"Canon 2335 of the Code of Canon Law forbade Catholics to join the Freemasons or any similar organization under pain of excommunication. The ban was imposed because in many countries Freemasonry was regarded as being a secret society plotting against Church and State. Times change. The Holy See has reviewed the Church's present relationship with Freemasonry. Widespread consultation failed to produce a uniform response from the world's Bishops. So the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has recently told Bishops the universal legislation is to remain unchanged; at least until the revision of the whole Code of Canon Law. But the Congregation has ruled that Canon 2335 no longer automatically bars a Catholic from membership of Masonic groups. In particular cases, it is to be subject to the restrictive interpretation applied to penal legislation. And so a Catholic who joins the Freemasons is excommunicated only if the policy and actions of the Freemasons in his area are known to be hostile to the Church.

"The Bishops of England and Wales have taken note of this guidance. They wish to clarify procedure in their countries until such time as the universal law of the Church is reformulated.

"A Catholic should regard himself as first and foremost a member of the Catholic Church, finding his inspiration for Christian living in the Church and his fellowship within that community. But if he sincerely believes that membership of Freemasonry does not conflict with this deeper loyalty, he should

approach his bishop, through his parish priest, to discuss the implications of such membership. Local conditions would, of course, have to be kept in mind. A Catholic who has in the past left the Church to become a Freemason is urged to seek reconciliation.

"Priests, religious, and members of Secular Institutes are still forbidden by the universal law of the Church to accept membership of the Masonic order or similar organizations."

Our MW Grand Lodge received a similar statement on Freemasonry from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP).

The trickle-down effect of the change in the Roman Catholic Church's position in regard to Freemasonry may take a long time. Meanwhile, individual incidents against Masons may continue.

There are other anti-Masonic forces than the Roman Catholic Church. But, my Brethren, much of the criticism against our Fraternity stems from deliberate misinterpretation. Therefore, instead of keeping silent about such matters, as we did in the past, we should answer critics in a factual manner; hold dialogues with interested churches or religious organizations; wherever appropriate, undertake projects together with religious and fraternal organizations; and, above all, be active in our respective churches or religious organizations and demonstrate our Masonic values and principles to all.

Yes, in today's concept of TRANSPARENCY, we should consider standing tall for Freemasonry, answer criticisms

against it, and set the record straight. We should clearly explain to our critics that, like all other associations and organizations which have some matters that are private and essentially of interest to those concerned, Freemasonry does not have anything secret but purely of a private nature and concerned solely with its members. We need to be more TRANSPARENT in our dealings with our respective churches or religious organizations, so that no one should doubt the integrity of the Fraternity or its members.

### Image of the Fraternity

Besides being *transparent*, we should project a positive IMAGE of Freemasonry in the eyes of the general public. The image of an organization is considered of paramount importance. While we do not need a professional public relations exercise, I believe there are avenues we can successfully use to show the true face of Freemasonry.

In our actions, initiations, and working together, let us show the world, which is tired of violence, bloodshed and war, the GENTLE face of Freemasonry, not only through charity activities, but also in our dealings with those we come in contact day by day. Gentleness, which is the fruit of the spirit, is much needed today.

One way of showing the gentle face of Freemasonry is to keep in close contact with new Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts, so that they will feel important and needed. We seem to lose too many of such brethren. We should also consider holding a part of a Lodge meeting at these levels

to encourage attendance, or holding a special meeting for these members, say, once per quarter.

We should, moreover, place more emphasis on the Masonic education of new Master Masons, since this is a key factor in encouraging them to improve themselves in Masonry.

By word and by deed, we can also show the world that fellowship is an extremely important aspect of Freemasonry. We should show non-Masons that our Fraternity affords an opportunity for social contacts and the development of friendships, and that we are the best group for developing the feeling of "belonging," precisely because, as a Fraternity, we have a glorious past, many great men have been Masons, Freemasonry teaches timely and timeless principles, and it affords much opportunity for us to be of service to mankind. Yes, we should show to non-Masons that by constantly coming together in worthwhile activities, we feel a keen sense of "belonging"—nay, we feel linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection.

But, of course, we must make our fellowship socials more than just dining and drinking together.

Let us, in addition, invite more non-Masons to selected Masonic activities.

Besides, to give a good impression of our Fraternity, we should exert all-out effort to make our lodge buildings and grounds a credit to the neighborhood.

In this connection, it is hoped that the Temple Builders Club which has more than P800,000 still in the bank, will make its financial resources available to Lodges which desire to have temples of their own.

It is hoped, too, that the

consider public tours of the Plaridel Masonic Temple. Perhaps it only requires two or three set hours per week to conduct such tours.

But, my Brethren, we must remember that a Lodge is not just the building and the grounds, but first and foremost, the members who compose it. Another way the community views each one of our Lodges is by the actions or non-actions of its members in community projects. Let us, then, be more active than before in community affairs and sponsor more community development projects of our own.

We may, furthermore, sponsor symposia on Freemasonry—if possible, jointly with other organizations. The symposium to be held at Barcelona, Spain in December 1997 is a case in point. It is titled LA MASONERIA ESPANOLA Y LA CRISIS DEL 98 and organized by the Universities of Barcelona and Zaragoza and the Center for Historic Studies in Spanish Masonry. It will be interesting to see what the symposium has to offer on the role that Filipino Masons may have played during that period. Our MW Grand Lodge, I believe, will be represented in that symposium.

The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite Masonry in the Philippines should be lauded for sponsoring with the Order of the Knights of Rizal a symposium on Dr. and Bro. Jose Rizal held in our own Plaridel Masonic Temple. We should have more of these worthwhile activities.

We can, moreover, sponsor oratorical and essay-writing contests among students in coordination with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports

and the Commission on Higher Education, both of which are headed by brother Masons, VW Ricardo Gloria and WB Angel Alcala, respectively.

It is proposed, furthermore, that a well-coordinated National Scholarship Program be established with coverage in national newspapers.

We should also prepare simple publications on Freemasonry for public consumption. It is hoped that the Grand Lodge leadership, through the Masonic Assistance and Information Center, The Cabletow, and the Committee on Vital Issues, will publish brochures on specific topics relating to Freemasonry.

Likewise other Masonic Districts should follow the lead of Masonic District No. 14, which has published in major newspapers in Cebu simple articles on Freemasonry designed to raise the general public's awareness and understanding of Freemasonry and Freemasons.

In addition, we should distribute copies of The Cabletow and other Masonic publications, including Lodge and District newsletters, to policy makers in government, to school libraries, and to the public at large.

Our various Appendant Bodies and Allied Organizations could be brighter and more visible neon signs if lit up more than they have been.

The Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. (AMASI), for instance, may consider expansion. It can come up with a national insurance scheme, as well as venture into savings or development banking.

We may even consider building Regional Grand Lodges or

similar institutions, which would strengthen and improve the operation of our fraternal interests.

I submit to our leaders and powers that be of Philippine Masonry that we Freemasons in this grand jurisdiction should focus on other and additional "neon signs" to show us off to the eyes of the community.

### A Changing World

In all ages, people have had to cope with change due to technology. Today the pace of change is probably the quickest that mankind has experienced. It is also good to note that throughout almost three centuries of Speculative Masonry, its members have embraced changes, not for the sake of change alone, but to enhance the goals of Freemasonry.

Today, because of the many technological changes, **globalization** is a key word. In less than a day, we can travel to almost any point on earth. People are better informed. It is quite common nowadays for television sets to receive double or triple digits of local and foreign stations via cable networks or antennas. Cellular phones, personal and lap-top computers with modems, Internet, and many more related inventions are the order of the day.

Indeed, we are seeing an explosion in information technology. In over 106 countries, people with access to computers can now tap into great qualities of information on the Internet (Net), commonly called the Information superhighway.

Video conferencing, smart money, TV shopping, and a host of other electronic developments are

with us now or will be here within the next few years. What kind of impact, if any, will these things have on our Fraternity? This should be one of the topics to be discussed in Masonic Education sessions.

Our Grand Lodge leadership has taken the initiative of posting some home pages on the World Wide Web. It is anticipated that, in the course of time, with the possible availability of telephone lines throughout the Philippines, Masonic Districts, Blue Lodges, Appendant and Allied Bodies will be able to avail of this facility.

Public access to the Grand Lodge Web Site will ensure that correct information is given to those who seek it.

Now, along with information about our Fraternity, which we can use to attract potential members, we will be able to use the Internet to transmit news to Freemasons, to communicate upcoming events, information about scholarships and services programs, charitable works for unfortunate children and the elderly, even our Masonic Library and Museum, may be displayed there.

E-Mail, my Brethren, facilitates communication between Grand Lodges, Masonic Districts, Blue Lodges, and members of the Craft. Internet home pages supplement the monthly notices which Lodges send to their members.

This new and important resource could be a powerful tool to enhance the Fraternity.

I, therefore, convey my heartfelt commendation to those who have had the foresight and vision to establish home pages on

the World Wide Web. I wish to recognize the following Brethren for a job well done: our Grand Master, MW Jose Percival L. Adiong; our Deputy Grand Master, RW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr.; the DDGM of Masonic District No. 5, VW Emil Langomez; and our Brother from Sierra Madre Lodge No. 180 in Laguna, who is based in Hongkong, Bro. Pieter Nootemboom.

### **In Conclusion**

With the knowledge and inventive nature of Freemasons the world over, I feel confident that worldwide Masonry, and especially Philippine Masonry, will continue to grow.

It will continue to grow as long as we have good and true leaders at all levels who are dedicated to the

cause of Freemasonry;--as long as we Master Masons continuously improve ourselves in Freemasonry;--as long as we, the present members in good standing, dedicate a good portion of our time to our Fraternity;--and as long as we put into practice the ideals and principles of the greatest Fraternity that has ever graced the annals of the world's history.

We look forward with anticipation to more accomplishments or "works" by our MW Grand Lodge and its constituent Districts and Lodges during the ensuing Masonic year, so that Freemasonry will be known further as a "Brotherhood for Peace, Unity, and Human Progress."

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## **REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS, DECISIONS**

### **When Is a Subordinate Lodge Authorized to Defer Its Stated Meeting?**

**A** subordinate Lodge is authorized to defer its stated meeting to any other date, without the necessity of requesting dispensation or paying a dispensation fee, whenever any national or special holiday coincides with or falls on the day scheduled for the Lodge's stated meeting.

This resolution, submitted by Nilad Lodge No. 12, was approved by the brethren in Ancom '97.

### **No Demition From One's Mother Lodge ?**

**T**he majority of the brethren in Ancom '97 decided that a Brother should not demit from his Mother Lodge!

But not a few Masonic leaders frown upon the decision because they believe it is too restrictive and therefore ought to be reviewed.

## Which Is Better?

**A**re you, Brother, a member of your Lodge in good standing? If you are, you may pick either of these options:

1. You pay the Acacia Mutual Aid Society, Inc. (AMASI), through your Lodge, a yearly sum of P160. If you die, your family receives a mutual fund of P10,000.

2. You give a one-time contribution of P1,500, refundable in case of your death. Hence, your family will receive a mutual fund of P11,500.

## Edict No. 174 Upheld

**O**ne of the hottest issues at the Ancom in Tacloban City was the renumbering of Masonic Districts under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.Ms. of the Philippines, as decreed in Edict No. 174. The house had to be divided.

In the end, 257 were in favor of reverting to the old numbering and 334 in favor of the new system.

## Masonic District No. 51 Is Born

**M**W Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., Grand Master, divided Masonic District No. 45, which formerly had 12 Lodges, into two.

The northern portion, which remains to be called Masonic District No. 45, now consists of five Lodges, namely: Isabela 60, Mallig Plains 191, Tumauni 251, San Mariano 307, and Pinacanauan 318.

New Masonic District No. 51, the southern portion, consists of seven Lodges, namely: Cagayan Valley 133, Maharlika 180, Saranay 193, R.S. Roque 289, Ganano 313, Diffun 317 and San Mateo 319.

## Election of Lodge Officers Reverted to December

**T**he majority of the delegates to Ancom '97 voted in favor of reverting the election of Blue Lodge officers to December and the installation of officers within the months of January and February.

MW JPL Adiong assured the incumbent Masters thus: *"Brethren, even if you will serve only for 10 months, so long as your term of office will be served with dignity and honor, you will still be entitled to the Past Master's Jewel and the corresponding award."*

## Degree Conferral Fee Increased

**T**he Resolution of the Committee on Budget that conferral degree fees be increased from P600 to P1,100 was approved overwhelmingly by the Ancom delegates.

Tabled, however, was the proposal to increase The Cabletow

subscription from P80 to P120 for local brethren and from US\$ 6.50 to US\$20 for brethren overseas. The Cabletow editorial staff was advised to make a deeper analysis of the problem, and RW Enrique L. Locsin was assigned to head a special committee to help out in properly examining ways to insure that copies of The Cabletow will reach the brethren on time and in determining the proper subscription rates, taking into consideration increases in printing and postage costs.

## Did You Know ...

**S**an Carlos Lodge No. 186 has been renamed MW Joseph E. Schon Memorial Lodge No. 186?

MW Schon, dubbed "Masonic pilot," was our Grand Master in 1986. Here is one of his declarations:

*"Over a span of centuries, our Fraternity has always stood at the forefront whenever and wherever freedom is threatened. Our history is one of militant protectionism over the rights of individuals under legally constituted authority. And whenever and wherever that legally constituted authority has itself been endangered, Masons have always had the courage and the ability and, above all, the responsibility to run to its assistance."*

He was a U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander, who saw action in the Atlantic and South Pacific areas from 1942 to 1946. In 1948 he married Helen Bennett and became a farmer gentleman in Kanlaon City, Negros Occidental.

In 1961 he affiliated with Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91 in Dumaguete City. He served as Wor. Master of that Lodge in 1963 and in 1964.

MW Schon fell in love with things Philippine and imbibed traits deemed Filipino.

## MW Fajardo Heads GLP Centennial Movement Chapter

**M**W Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, was assigned as President of the GLP Centennial Movement Chapter, and MW John L. Choa, PGM, as Chapter Treasurer.

The following are chapter members: VW Juan Luis Faustman, VW Fernando V. Pascua, VW Samuel P. Fernandez, VW Bernardino L. Saplaco, Jr., VW Emiliano P. Langomez, Jr., VW Benito T. Ty, VW Ricardo P. Galvez, VW Tomas del Castillo, VW Rey A. Banaag, VW Rodrigo Y. Arandia, VW Benjamin J. Torres, VW Raoul Victorino, and Cabletow Editor-in-Chief J. Flor R. Nicolas.

The GLP Centennial Movement Chapter will publish a book on the history of the role of Masonry in the development of Filipino nationalism. RW Enrique L. Locsin, DGM, will publish the book.

The Chapter will also try to bring back to the Philippines the bells of Balangiga, Samar, which the Americans brought to the United States.

## TBC To Help Blue Lodges Put Up Their Buildings

**I**ts main task, the construction of our new Plaridel Masonic Temple, having been accomplished, the Temple Builders Club (TBC) may rechannel its resources to helping Blue Lodges in putting up their buildings/halls.

This was reported by MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and TBC President, during the Ancom in Tacloban City. He revealed that the TBC has in its custody more than P868,090.

*"The office of the TBC is open every Saturday from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. and every Tuesday and Friday, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.,"* MW Beltran told the brethren. *"You are welcome to drop by the office. We have provided some reading materials."*

He assured the brethren, moreover, that the TBC would continue to assist our Grand Lodge in any worthwhile undertaking.

## Developments in Foreign Relations

**M**W Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM, replaced the late MW William H. Quasha, PGM, as Grand Representative of the Grand Lodge of New York near our Grand Lodge. He received his patent of office just recently.

Bro. Rafael Mesa Perez and Bro. Dan Bally were recommended as Grand Representatives of our Grand Lodge near the Gran Logia Nacional de Columbia and the Grand Lodge Suisse Alpina, respectively. Their respective patents of office were already sent to their respective Grand Lodges.

Meanwhile, our Grand Lodge gave recognition to the Grand Lodge of Senegal since it is recognized by the United Grand Lodge of England and recommended by the Grand Masters of North America. Besides, it was constituted by the National Grand Lodge of France with which our Grand Lodge has good fraternal relations.

## Our Grand Lodge On Its Way To Full Computerization

**I**ncoming Asst. Grand Secretary Emil Langomez, Jr. encouraged the various Masonic Districts to organize their own Masonic assistance and information centers. He also revealed to the incoming set of Grand Lodge officers that our Grand Lodge already has a Web Site in the Internet.

*"Once the Grand Lodge is fully computerized,"* he added, *"we will be requesting the different Districts, Blue Lodges, and Appendant Bodies to provide us with bits of information, so that we will create for you homepages in the Internet, for free. This is a compliment of Bro. Pieter Nootemboom...."*

Incoming Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. also revealed that visiting brethren from Australia and New Zealand had expressed their strong desire to help computerize our Grand Lodge free of charge.

## Come, Visit Our Grand Lodge Library !

**I**t's now open Mondays to Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 8:00 p.m. with a permanent librarian available to serve you.

You will find the physical set-up more conducive to reading for your Masonic upliftment. A new airconditioning unit has been installed, more lighting fixtures have been added, and lounging, as well as cushioned, chairs provided for your comfort and convenience.

Aching to be perused by you are a significant number of new books, such as those which RW Enrique L. Locsin, our DGM, donated; he had ordered them direct from the U.S. through the Southern California Research Lodge. You may be interested to read books which the widow of the late MW William H. Quasha donated. The Committee on Library & Museum expects to receive more book donations from the heirs of some of the late PGMs and other brethren. It shall also make optimal use of the Cunanan and Bascara

Library Endowments and the new library fee of P20 per member for the purchase of more books, foreign and local alike, specifically Filipiniana items.

Soon a computer to be donated by Masonic District No. 5 will be installed in our Grand Lodge Library. Through this computer you will be able to travel through the Information Superhighway or Internet.

The Committee on Library & Museum, by the way, intends to provide xeroxed copies of new books at cost plus handling charges. All orders, of course, shall be prepaid. Through a circular, Lodges will soon receive a list of such books, including their costs.

So, come, visit our Grand Lodge Library. But don't forget to drop by the Cabletow office, which is now a non-smoking area.

## Masons Care for Disadvantaged Children and the Youth

**T**he brethren agreed that their annual assessment for the Masonic Charities for Crippled Children, Inc. (MCCCI) be increased from P50 to P75. For this reason, the MCCCI is now in a very sound financial position.

The Masonic groups that have extended regular financial support to the MCCCI's projects include Dalisay Lodge No. 14, ; Kasilawan Lodge No. 77, ; Labong Lodge No. 57, ; Mencius Lodge No. 93, ; Manila Bodies, A&ASR; Royal Order of Scotland, Provincial Grand Lodge of

the Philippines; Bamboo Shrine Oasis, AAONMS; Maharlika Shrine Oasis, AAONMS; Aloha Temple, AAONMS; and Capitol Masonic Corporation.

The Rainbow Girls of Perla Assembly No. 1 and the DeMolays of General Douglas MacArthur

Chapter, moreover, have paid regular visits and brought cheers to the patients (there were 21 last year) in the Masonic ward at the Mary Johnston Hospital.

Several individuals have contributed to the great humanitarian undertaking of helping crippled children walk again and be freed, as much as possible, from their handicaps.

Notable among these are MW Rosendo and Sis Esperanza Herrera, who donated P50,000 for the MCCC's main unit in Manila and P10,000 each to its regional units in Cebu, Davao, Baguio, and Cabanatuan. Besides, they have perennially hosted the Christmas party for the young patients, doctors, staff, nurses and employees of the Mary Johnston Hospital. During this affair, they not only provide food and gift items, but impart inspirational messages to the patients as well. Sis. Luzviminda Puno and brethren from different Lodges are also present during the affair, helping in the distribution of gifts.

A daughter of the Herrerias, Agnes, has also given regular financial contributions to the MCCC.

The late Bro. Manuel Rivera was the medical director of our Masonic ward in Mary Johnston for more than 40 years. He actually performed the operations on our patients, with the able assistance of Bro. Michael Z. Rivera.

The medical directors of the regional units are Bro. James C. Paggao, Baguio; WB Emiliano Perez, Cabanatuan; VW Felix J. Vicuña, Jr., Cebu; and WB Esperidion R. Reyes, Davao. The DDGMs in these areas act as MCCC representatives.

Dr. Johnson Tan Lee,

orthopedic surgeon, has assisted Bro. Paggao in our unit in Baguio City.

Ms. Ruth Beltran, DECS Special School teacher, has enabled the young patients to continue their schooling without interruption even during their confinement.

VW Ramon Go, WB Manfred Rode, Bro. Antonio Ricafrente, WB Albino Ty, WB Eduardo Ramos, Sis Edith Li, and Sis Carmelita Joson have given their regular financial contributions, too.

Businessman Joseph Tan and businesswoman Alice Go David have also given generous financial support and shown genuine concern for the welfare of the patients.

There is no gainsaying the fact the Board of Trustees have disinterestedly worked for the MCCC and for the welfare of the patients. They meet every second Tuesday at the Philippine Columbian Club House without spending a single centavo of the MCCC funds for their dinner.

Remarked MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and MCCC President: *"Serving in the Masonic Charities is a very rewarding experience. Whenever we see a crippled child walk again, after being attended to by our doctors, we feel that we are fully compensated for our labors."*

The brethren have shown their concern not only for the crippled children but for other young people as well. These include the members of the Masonic youth organizations (MYOs).

Last year during the Ancom in Cagayan de Oro City the brethren approved an assessment of P50 for the MYOs—P30 for the DeMolays, P10 for the Rainbow Girls, and P10 for the Job's Daughters.

This year during the Ancom in Tacloban City the brethren approved the Youth Committee's resolution that the MYOs be given free use of the halls of the Grand Lodge and its constituent Lodges for their official functions. They also approved the same committee's resolution that a separate Grand Lodge Youth Fund be put up; they agreed to an annual assessment of P20 to be used

by the Grand Lodge to finance projects for the benefit of other young people than MYO members.

The Guardship Committee, meanwhile, has recommended that the Guardship Fund be transferred and added to the other scholarship funds of the Grand Lodge and its interest utilized as scholarship grant for the deserving youth of the land.

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## HOSTS FOR ANCOM '98 & ANCOM '99

**W**ith pain in our hearts," VW Nick Ricafrente, DDGM, announced, "we are withdrawing the bid of Masonic District No. 2 (Cavite) to host Ancom '98. This is in deference to RW Enrique L. Locsin, DGM, who would like to orchestrate the coming Ancom and the coming centennial celebration."

With that announcement, Metro Manila Districts, specifically No. 13, gained the right to host Ancom '98. RW Locsin himself will chair the Executive Committee for Ancom '98, with his Mother Lodge, Jacobo Zobel Memorial 202, as lead

Lodge.

The hosting of the 1999 Ancom, on the other hand, was a close contest. The house had to be divided, resulting in Bacolod with 138 votes, Pampanga-Bulacan-Zambales with 137, and Gen. Santos City with 145.

## GRAND MASTER'S NIGHT AT OLOT

**T**he Grand Master's Night held at Olot, Tolosa, Leyte on April 24, 1997 was, to say the least, well attended. It was hosted by Hon. Imelda R. Marcos, Representative of the 1st District of Leyte, who looked still youngish as she addressed the big assemblage of Masons and friends of Masonry. Conspicuously present, too, was another pulchritude: Hon. Remedios L. Petilla, Governor of Leyte.

MW Jose Percival L. Adiong presented awards to standouts in the Philippine grand jurisdiction.

The following were awarded as the ten outstanding Masons for Masonic year 1996-97: MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM, **Banking**; Bro. Santiago Y. Toledo, **Law Enforcement**; Bro. Clemente P. Mariano, **Military**; Bro. David

S. Odilao, Jr., **Government Service**; VW Tito F. Garcia, **Technology**; Bro. Arsenio R. Reyes, **Commercial Printing**; Wor. Bro. Rene Leandro P. Ebro, **Electronics & Communication**; Bro. Jovito Y. Deauna, **Science**; VW

Downey C. Valdevilla, **Judiciary**; and VW Gauvain J. Benzonan, **Public Service**.

THE TROWEL, the official publication of Masonic District No. 45, was most outstanding among district newsletters. LEE SIN TIMES of Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial (ALSM) 158 was most outstanding among lodge publications, followed by THE LEVEL of Pangasinan Lodge No. 56 and D'TROWEL of Koronadal Lodge No. 209.

ALSM 158 was awarded most outstanding Lodge for the third consecutive year. Another most outstanding local Lodge was Labong 59, while Emon 179 was most outstanding among Lodges overseas.

WB Roy V. Serrano (158) and WB Benito K. Tan (59) were accordingly awarded as most outstanding Worshipful Masters, and Bro. Joseph P. Hufano (158) and WB Ignacio V. Illenberger as most Outstanding Lodge Secretaries.

Awarded as outstanding Lodges were Koronadal 209 and Mencius 93. Their WMs, VW Rodolfo C. Soledad and WB Eduardo S. Ramos, respectively, were outstanding Worshipful Masters; their Secretaries, Bro. Leopoldo C. Hong and VW Mariano Sih, respectively, were outstanding Lodge Secretaries.

VW Procopio B. Trabajo II was awarded most outstanding DDGM, and VWBs Iluminado K. Nirza and Jose P. Alamillo received the most

outstanding DGL award. Hence, their district, M.D. No. 24, was adjudged most outstanding.

WB Antonio D. Catembong Jr. (191), who was assigned to San Mariano Lodge No. 307, was most outstanding Grand Lodge Inspector (GLI). Outstanding GLI was WB Conrado C. Veneracion (122), who was assigned to Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147.

VW Antonio T. Uy, DDGM of M.D. No. 44, was awardee for most outstanding Master Mason.

MW Reynold S. Fajardo, PGM, was recipient of the **Grand Lodge Gold Medal of Honor**. Another PGM, MW Rosendo C. Herrera, was awarded the **Jose Abad Santos Silver Medal**. VW Pax S. Mangudadatu, likewise.

The **Jose Abad Santos Bronze Medal** was awarded to the following: VW Emiliano P. Langomez, Jr., Bro. Pieter Nootemboom, Bro. Arthur Edward Thomas, Bro. John Marquez, and Bro. James D. Libres.

The following Masonic leaders received Diplomas of Merit: Nicolas G. Ricafrente, Bonifacio Sing, Vic Domingo, Mervyn Añover, Ruben Tan, Benjamin I. Benjamin, Avelino I. Razon, and Benjamin N. Libarnes.

MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM and Grand Secretary, and VW B.J. Torres, AGS, assisted MW Adiong in presenting the awards.

A full ensemble of cultural dances capped the memorable affair at Olot.



*Local and foreign Masonic dignitaries with the former Philippine First Lady.*

←



Outgoing Grand Master Adiong with recipients of various awards

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## A CRYING JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN?

**W**hen asked whether or not he would accept his election, newly elected JGW Oscar V. Bunyi said, *"I cannot offer you a good speech. If there was a crying Grand Master, you now see a crying Junior Grand Warden. Thank you very much, and I assure you that you will have my service with all the sincerity.... With all humility, I accept."*

The election for the position of Junior Grand Warden was protracted. It reached three ballotings, so that suspense gripped the convention hall.

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## NEW SET OF GRAND LODGE OFFICERS INSTALLED

**G**rand Lodge officers for 1997-98, both elected and appointed, were installed in solemn ceremonies at the Leyte Park Convention Center on April 26 by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM. He was ably aided by MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., who acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Before the installation proper, MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, outgoing Grand Master, received with full honors the Past Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, the visiting Masonic dignitaries, and Rev. Fr. Reynaldo (Leo Maria) Gonzales Usman, A.M., personal guest of the incoming Grand Master.

Rev. Fr. Usman led the assembly in the invocation and gave the final benediction.

After MW Leon Angel A. Bañez, Jr. had delivered his inaugural address, MW Puno presented the PGM's Jewel to Immediate Past Grand Master Adiong, who in turn gave his response.

Dinner and the inaugural ball took place at the Provincial Sports Center.



← Grand Marshal Servando Lara presents Rev. Usman to the presiding Grand Master.

Master of Ceremonies Pablo C. Ko, Jr. leads Grand Wardens -elect Oscar V. Bunyi and Franklin J. Demonteverde to the altar, while DGM-elect Enrique L. Locsin waits for his turn. ↓



MW Ko presents hat to incoming Grand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr.

←



*"... I declare the new set of Grand Lodge Officers duly installed!"*



*Sis. Gloria Adiong prepares to kiss her husband while MW Puno and the Adiong children watch with amusement. ↓*



*IPGM Adiong gives response after receipt of PGM's Jewel.*



# INAUGURAL DINNER, BALL IN PICTURES



↑ Outgoing Grand Master JPL Adiong presents memorabilia to dignitaries from Malaysia.



↑ JPL Adiong, outgoing Grand Master, hands over a check from WB Rapinett to Rev. Father Reynaldo Gonzales Usman, A.M. as donation to his church.

# ANCOM '97 FUND RAISING FOR MISS INTERNATIONAL JOB'S DAUGHTER

**A** total of P23,000 was raised during the Inaugural Ball of Ancom '97 to support the trips of our Miss International Job's Daughter, Miss Marion Jaimee Uy, in the United States. This sum was raised through passing the Almoner's Bag around and the dancing of "kuratsa" by MW Jose Percival L. Adiong, MW Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., and Leyte Governor Remedios L. Petilla.

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## ANCOM '97: An Affair to Remember

by VW Sammy P. Fernandez

**T**he Ancom in Tacloban City, whose people have survived Nature's lashes and therefore have become so psychologically sturdy as to be able to surmount any challenge that besets them is, to use a trite but still meaningful expression, *an affair to remember*.

Like our fellow delegates, we Nolitarians, specifically WB Bobbit Bacho, WM Nestor Carreon and I, will never forget the view we got of the lush islet from right under the San Juanico Bridge. This bridge is said to be the longest in Southeast Asia since it has 43 spans totaling more than two kilometers long and rising 41 meters above the sea. It crosses the narrow San Juanico Strait, which is treacherous with swift currents and whirlpools, but scenic with its islets.

Right there and then I was reminded of Kabatok, a pre-hispanic chieftain who ruled a village on the shores of San Juanico Bay. His village was known as Kanka Batok, which means "belonging to Batok." Kankabatok people were fishermen; they caught fish, crabs and shrimps in the shallow bay waters with a cylindrical bamboo trap called *taklub*. The place they frequented was thus known as *tarakluban*,

which became the Tacloban of today.

Leyte was known in the early Spanish records as Tandaya.

On March 16, 1521 Fernao Magalhaes, a Portuguese serving the Spanish crown, touched earth on a small island of Homonhon at Leyte Gulf.

Before Fernao's advent, Rayti (or Ite) ruled the shores that formed part of Cariaga Bay. The settlement was called Hi-Réyti (or Hira-Ite), meaning belonging to Reyti (or Ite). Since then the place was known as Leyte.

From Fernao Magalhaes (popularly known as Ferdinand Magellan) to Ruy Lopez de Villalobos and finally to Adelantado Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, Leyte became known as the focal point of Spanish colonization.

Strangely, the place in which the first Catholic Mass was supposedly held on March 31, 1521 is at present occupied by a

Protestant majority.

I was also reminded of another important event—the landing at Leyte on October 20, 1944 of American forces consisting of four army divisions aboard a fleet of 650 war vessels. In the ensuing holocaust some 81,000 perished.

On April 23-26, 1997, some 3,000 brother Masons and their families “invaded” Leyte, but they in turn were “conquered” by warm Tacloban hospitality.

Like other delegates, we Nolitarians registered at Leyte Park Hotel. Actually, this was a project of then First Lady Imelda R. Marcos and her brother Kokoy.

We will not forget the *capitolio*, on the entrance of which are featured in bold relief two of Leyte’s most important historical events. On the right side of the entrance is the scene of Bro. Gen. Douglas MacArthur’s landing in 1945; on the left, the country’s first Mass in Limasawa. In front of the *capitolio* is the University of the Philippines and diagonally across from it is the children’s park.

We will not forget the Santo Niño Church, which enshrines the ivory image of the Santo Niño, patron saint of Tacloban City and the province of Leyte. The devotees fondly called the Santo Niño *Capitan*. In 1889, they said, the Captain was lost at sea but was wondrously recovered after five months and fifteen days. During the time the statue was missing, the town suffered from a cholera epidemic. But after the image’s retrieval, the cholera epidemic desisted from claiming more lives.

We will not forget, either, the Price Mansion. Built by an American businessman in 1910, the mansion was used by the Japanese as an Officers Club and turned into

Bro. Gen. MacArthur’s headquarters during the battle for Liberation.

We will not forget Palo Cathedral, the largest cathedral in all of Leyte today. Originally, it was erected in 1596 as a mission chapel. Then it served as a refuge for civilians during the battle for Liberation; later it was converted into an evacuation hospital for the US Armed Forces.

Palo is particularly proud of MacArthur Park, which features larger-than-life monuments of Bro. Douglas MacArthur, the late Pres. Sergio Osmeña, the late Gen. Carlos P. Romulo, and four other companions. Every year on October 20, “Liberation Day” is commemorated here.

The MacArthur Hotel was practically “invaded” by Masons, so that one would think that the Ancom was being held in that place.

Another place we will not forget is Sinugba House, where we were treated to a gourmet’s delight consisting mostly of seafoods, by Benedict Young and his lovely wife, Amor.

Still another is Olot in Tolosa, some 24 kilometers from Tacloban City, which served as the venue for the Grand Master’s Night. We learned that Hon. Imelda R. Marcos’ retreat is called *kalipayan*, meaning happiness. Decidedly, one who retreats into her “beach house,” which rests on what is probably the best spot in Leyte where one can view the inviting white beach of the Gulf of Leyte, will find happiness and solace here.

When she addressed the thousands of brethren, their families and guests, the former First Lady still looked youngish. She stressed how Tacloban had

shaped her resolve to survive the exigencies of a widow's life. Observably, PGM Raymundo N. Beltran enthusiastically exceeded the evening's affair, which was capped by a colorful ensemble of cultural dances.

Certainly, we will always show our appreciation of the fine handwoven mats, hats and bags of Tacloban City. Why, for a few pesos we were able to savor the delightful *moron* and *binagol*! Named after its coconut container, *binagol* is a mixture of gabi roots, coconut milk, and sugar; it is served wrapped in banana leaf. Even persons with

diabetes cannot resist the temptation of savoring this delicacy!

Finally, we will never forget the all-out efforts that our Tacloban brethren and sisters exerted to make our Ancom odyssey an affair to remember. We therefore extend our warmest and sincerest congratulations to VW Vic Domingo, VW Mervyn Añover, and other brethren and sisters for the very successful hosting of our Grand Lodge's 81st Ancom.

The weather may have been warm, but the hearts of our Leyte brethren and sisters were warmer with hospitality!

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## HOW THE "AMERICAN CAESAR" WAS SAVED FROM DEATH

**G**en. & Ill. Bro. Douglas MacArthur, acknowledged as the greatest military genius of this century and called the "American Caesar" by biographers, situated himself all the time due east and west, as all Masonic Lodges are, or should be, situated.

When he sat down for meals, when he presided over staff conferences, and when he slept, he stuck to his habit of facing the east. That invariable practice saved him from death when Japanese Zero strafed his headquarters at the Price Mansion in Tacloban, Leyte a few nights after landing hitting the spot where his headboard would have been.

Revealed Cmdr. Francis Salveron (ret.), the general's personal aide for three years, from the days of the allied preparations in Australia to the liberation of Philippines: "*When the staff moved into the Price Mansion, my assistants laid out the general's bed due north and south. But when the*

*general noticed this, he ordered that the bed be situated due east and west. That night, as was their wont, Japanese Zeros raided Tacloban. The next morning, I dug out a slug from the wall against which the general's headboard had been initially placed. At breakfast, after it was determined that the bullet was not American but Japanese, the general simply commented that it was not his time yet.*"

Our illustrious Brother's escape from the Zero's bullets that night added to the aura of invincibility that surrounded him to the end of his days. He was not only the "American Caesar" but also a Mason both at heart and in deed.

# We Did Our Bit to Help Delegates Attend the Ancom

by VW Eddy W. Tan

**W**e, the brethren of Bulusan Lodge No. 38 under the jurisdiction of Masonic District No. 14, led by VW Nelson Doloira and WB Max Ables, placed several signs to guide the "travellers" where to go from Sorsogon to Matnog.

We started receiving "travellers" as early as April 19, 1997 as they passed by Matnog Ferry Terminal en route to Tacloban City. Leading us in booking the ferry boat for "travellers" from North, Central and Southern Luzon was VW Edwin Primo, PDDGM.

On April 22 and 23, we found our hands full as delegates from Isabela, including Bro. & Gov. Ben Dy, followed by those from the National Capital Region, Central Luzon, Cavite, Bicol, and so on arrived one after the other—and sometimes at the same time.

Hon. Emil Ubaldo, Mayor of Matnog, and Mr. Arturo Primo saw

to it that the "travellers" were given special attention while they were in Matnog. The two gentlemen even provided food and drinks to the "travellers".

Brethren of Bulusan Lodge No. 38 who were not able to attend the Ancom, led by VW Tony Manahan and this writer, spent practically the whole day of April 23 for sending off brethren to Tacloban city. VW Ben Apacible, JGL for Metro Manila, was there, too, so as to help us entertain the "travellers".

We did not attend the Ancom, but we found pleasure in attending to our brethren on their way to and from the Ancom.

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## Thrills and Rigors of Travelling

by VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., JGL

**I**n late February, this year I met with then RW (now MW) Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr. at the Grand Lodge. He informed me that he had chosen me as Junior Grand Lecturer for Quezon and the Bicol Region. I gladly accepted the appointment, for this was a clear indication that the incoming Grand Master wanted to give us, the Masons of Camarines Norte, a break we had been longing for. I informed him that Sis. Trining and I were going to Jakarta, Indonesia for a vacation, but I promised him that we would be back to attend the Ancom in Tacloban City, where I would be installed together with other Grand Lodge Officers.

Two weeks after arriving from Indonesia, together with other Camarines Norte Masons, I had the exhilarating experience of travelling by land from Daet, Camarines Norte to

Matnog, Sorsogon, where we had to wait for almost four hours to have our car loaded in the ferryboat en route to San Isidro, Samar, and from there to Tacloban City via the much-vaunted

San Juanico Bridge, the scenic beauty of which really thrilled us. We could hardly believe that such a spiralling seven-kilometer bridge had been built over the crystal-clear but cascading waters of San Juanico Strait. What an engineering feat!

In Tacloban the intensely hot weather made the delegates to perspire profusely. The terrain that surrounded the convention center seemed arid; in fact, the ornamental plants around it were withered. We sought refuge under the big trees so as to avoid the sweltering heat of the sun.

The weather in Bogor, Indonesia, coupled with the invigorating atmosphere, is much more conducive to healthy living. There the highways

and other throughfares are steamlined with trees. This is the kind of environment that we Masons can help replicate.

Travelling back after that eventful Grand Communication was all the more thrilling. We left Tacloban City at about 10:00 p.m., Saturday, April 26 and arrived at Allen, Samar at the wee hours of the following morning. There we did not have much difficulty; hence, our travel time was reduced by four hours.

Travelling by air, land or sea could be very thrilling, but it could also be rigorous. In any case, we arrived back in Daet safe and feeling fulfilled because we had accomplished our mission.

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## SPECIAL GRAND COMMUNICATION

**T**he Special Grand Communication held at the Grand Lodge premises on April 19, 1997 featured two special events: the unveiling of the two Masonic Columns erected on the initiative of Labong Lodge No. 59 and the laying of the foundationstone of the proposed multi-storeyed Masonic Center Bldg.

↓ RW (now MW) Bañez, RW Enrique L. Locsin and RW Frank J. Demonteverde, assisted by WM Diosdado R. Melegrito and WB Manuel Rodrigo Perez, PM, unveil the "B" Column.



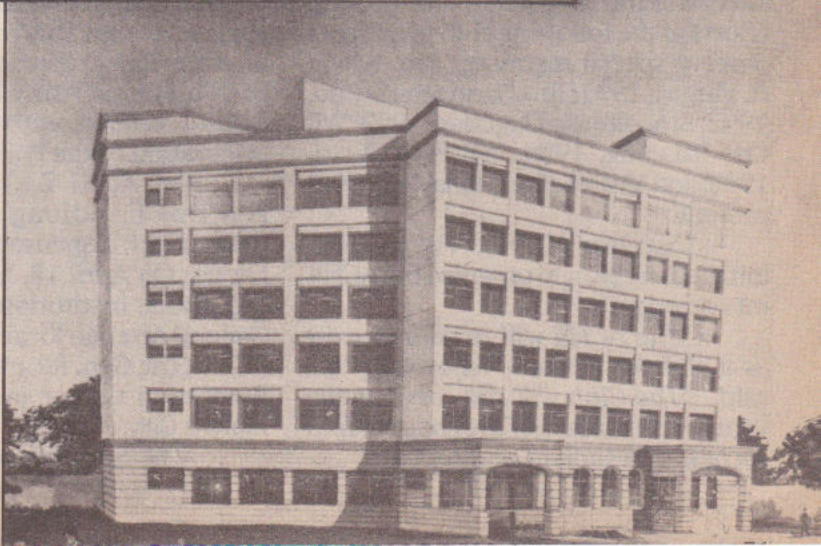
*MW Adiong congratulates our Labong brethren for their "great and important undertaking" for the benefit of the Grand Lodge and the Craft. =>*



*Proposed  
Masonic  
Center  
Building to  
rise where  
the former  
twin  
treehouse  
used to  
stand.*



*↑ MW Adiong declares foundation stone to be well formed, true and trusty, and laid according to the rules of our ancient Craft.*



# AROUND the **DISTRICTS, LODGES**

## ACFBI METAMORPHOSES INTO GARL U.D.

**V**W Greg Camiling, PDDGM, and several brethren, such as Bros. Lauro Lopez, Jr. and Lini Hernando, organized the ACACIA CLUB OF FORT BONIFACIO, INC. (ACFBI) sometime in 1990. They intended the Club to serve as venue for further Masonic education and fellowship among Army Masons assigned in the Metro Manila area. Through the Club, they would stimulate the members in particular and Masons in general to practice the tenets of Masonry, specifically Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. They also intended to promote or spread the tenets of the Fraternity among non-Masons.

The ACFBI eventually became an active affiliate association of the Square and Compass Club of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. As expected, it enhanced unity and goodwill among Masons, particularly among its members.

But due to the fast turnover and reassignments of the Army Masons, the ACFBI has experienced the "rough and rugged road." Yet the elected officers and the ardent members have kept it alive, vibrant, resurgent. The untiring efforts of the following club presidents deserve special mention: Bro. Edwin H. Vargas, 1991; Bro. Santiago Prejido, 1992; Bro. Alfonso Dagudag, 1993; WB Cris Balaoing, 1994; WB Pete Curva, 1995; and VW Josefino Manayao, 1996-present.

Last year (1996), VW Josefino initiated the plan to organize the ACFBI into a Lodge.

*"The ACFBI will remain to exist as a club for Masonic fellowship," he said. "The Club will still serve as the venue for members of the Lodge to find socials, refreshment and repose."*

As planned, the Lodge would enable brethren to remain active in the Craft, to improve themselves in Masonry, and, if possible, to aspire for greater heights in their Masonic career. Hence, several committees were formed: Membership, chaired by Bro. Mon Santos; Research, by VW Pol Organiza; and Document Preparation, by WB Jun Golla.

Twenty-seven brethren signified their desire to be charter members of the Lodge, and WB Clemente P. Mariano suggested that the Lodge be named after the first Commanding General of the Philippine Army as its founding would coincide with the centennial celebration of the Philippine Army.

On April 2, 1997 MW Jose Percival L. Adiong approved the petition for dispensation to form the Lodge. On April 18, he presided over the public institution ceremonies of General Artemio Ricarte Lodge (GARL) U.D. at the Gen. Ricarte Hall of the PA Recreation Center in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

VW Servando Lara, Grand

Marshal, represented the DDGM, and VW Benjamin J. Torres, AGS, assisted by WB Amando Alcantara, acted as Master of Ceremonies.

Installed officers of the Lodge were: WB Clemente P. Mariano, **Worshipful Master**; WB Santos B. Gabison, Jr., PM, **Senior Warden**; VW Josefino B. Manayao, DGL, **Junior Warden**; Generoso Cantos, **Treasurer**; VW Leopoldo Organiza, PDGL, **Secretary**; WB Felix U. Golla, Jr., PM, **Asst. Secretary**; Artemio Cacal, **Senior Deacon**; Ruperto Pabustan, **Junior Deacon**; WB Nelson Tayko, PM, **Auditor**; Olegario dela Cruz, **Chaplain**; Cesar Reyes, **Marshal**; Rovin Asperilla, **Senior Steward**; Reuben Basiao, **Junior Steward**; Pedro Cabuay, **Lecturer**; Efraim Orofel, **Almoner**; Gerardo Cabigao, **Organist**; WB Cristolito Balaoing, **Orator**; and WB Rodrigo

Diapana, PM, **Tyler**.

VW Oscar Bunyi, Grand Chaplain (now RW Junior Grand Warden), led the invocation.

The newly installed Worshipful Master stressed the importance of the Lodge members' Masonic growth, education and experience vis-a-vis their military role. He gave his assurance that the Lodge would support the Grand Lodge's program thrusts.

MW Adiong stimulated the officers and members of the newly instituted Lodge. To deserve Constitution and to become an asset to the Fraternity, he said, you must satisfy the decalogue of requirements of the Grand Lodge.

A cocktail at the Luna Hall, PARC preceded the institution rites. After the rites, the brethren and their guests enjoyed the sumptuous dinner at the Fine Dining Restaurant in the PARC.

WM Clemente P. Mariano hosted the fellowship and ballroom dancing at the Ricarte Hall, and the brethren and their ladies danced the night away.—**WB SANTOS GABISON**, with reports from **WB Jun Golla**, **Bro. Erwin Vargas**, and **Bro. Mon Santos**



↑ MW Adiong congratulates WM Mariano.

WMC. Mariano, P.A. Chief, presents MW Adiong with Kagitingan Award. ⇒



# MENDEZ-NUÑEZ LODGE NO. 316 CONSTITUTED

**M**W Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., led the Constitution of Mendez-Nuñez Lodge No. 316 last May 31st at the Tagaytay Lodge No. 165 Masonic Temple, Tagaytay City, the first to be constituted after Ancom '97. Assisting him were RW Franklin J. Demonteverde, SGW, who acted as DGM; RW Oscar V. Bunyi, JGW, who acted as SGW; and VW Nick Ricafrente, PDDGM, as JGW. Also present were MW Pablo C. Ko, Jr., PGM; MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, Grand Secretary; VW Emil P. Langomez, Jr., AGS; VW Ben G. Brown, Grand Chaplain; VW Artemio A. Tadiar, Grand Marshal; VW Simeon L. Torralba, Sr., Grand Deacon; VW Edgardo Perez, Grand Standard Bearer; VW Leonardo T. Chua, Grand Sword Bearer; VW Roberto Q. Pagotan, Sr. Grand Lecturer; VW Al Dualan, DDGM; VW Noel S. Bañez, PDDGM; VW Aris Velasco, PDGL, among others. The ceremonial candles were conveyed by VW Ruperto S. Sangalang, PDDGM, VW Heradel Feranil, PDGL and VW Aris Velasco, DGL.

The Installation of Officers, officiated by MW Raymundo N. Beltran, PGM, as Installing Officer, assisted by VW Heradel Feranil, Master of Ceremonies, followed immediately.

The Guest Speaker, Hon. Francisco L. Mendoza, Municipal Mayor of Mendez, said that though he knew very little about the Fraternity except the heroic exploits of Masons during Dr. Jose Rizal's time, he believes that it will

not only be a brotherhood for its members only but also for the general good of society. He further said that when he retires from politics soon, he might one day seek admission into this noble brotherhood.

The Grand Master and brethren were then served a sumptuous dinner at the dining hall on the ground floor of the temple.

—MagNuevo

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## MAKING SURE THEY ARE DULY PREPARED

**W**M Roger Allan G. de Leon, SW Randi Pinza, JW Ricky Villaverde, Bro. Oliver Bunyi, Bro. Arnel Guste, and other brethren of Saigon Lodge No. 188 conducted their first outreach project for Masonic year 1997-98, dubbed OPERATION TULLI, in Barangay 412, Zone 42, Sampaloc, Manila.

They were assisted by Sis. Nelia de Leon, M.D. and some other friends from the medical field, namely: Dra. Ella Paguyo, a pediatrician from Muntinlupa General Hospital; and Dr. Diosdado Toraña, an anesthesiologist from Ospital ng Maynila. The team coordinated with Barangay Captain

Boy Marizeta.

Twenty boys, whose ages ranged from 5 to 10 years, and a 17-year-old benefited from the noble undertaking — noble because, for the brethren of Saigon Lodge No. 188, it is one way of making sure that those boys — the future brethren — are duly prepared... for manhood.



*Sister Nel de Leon... In action*

## **ANOTHER OPERATION FREE TULI CUM MASONIC GATHERING**

**L**ake Pinamaloy Lodge No. 230 and the Pangantucan Eagles Club jointly sponsored "Operation Free Tuli" at the Rural Health Center in Pangantucan, Bukidnon. The project was spearheaded by WB Roberto Alli, Jr.; this writer; WB Victor E. Monsanto, PM of Bukidnon Lodge No. 245, who literally travelled through rough and rugged roads to Pangantucan; and Bro. Conrado Perez, Pangantucan Eagles Club President, who also provided the snacks.

At the end of the day, 40 boys, whose ages ranged from 5 to 12, benefited from the project; their parents, who accompanied them, were very grateful to the Fraternity.

After the project, the brethren and their families had a fellowship at the SB Hall of Pangantucan. Toward the end of the fellowship, WB Manuel A. Dy thanked all participants for their cooperation and support and announced that the community outreach cum dinner would be hosted by the brethren on a rotation basis.

Everyone went home happy and fulfilled for the job well done and for having dwelt together with members of the Masonic Family in unity. — **BRO. LEO R. LABIAL**



← *WB Roberto Alli, Jr. is assisted by a nurse.*

# ALSM 158 GOES BACK TO THE QUARRIES

**A**lfonso Lee Sin Memorial (ALSM) Lodge No. 158, which again cornered many Grand Lodge awards and therefore captured grand slam honors in the last Ancom, went back to the quarries immediately after arriving from Tacloban City.

Last April 30, the members of the Lodge's Excom met, with VW Andy M. Capati presiding. The different working committees submitted to him their plans and objectives. Moreover, the members of the Execom agreed to undertake a "Bingo Air" program for their fund-raising activity, which will be launched in the last quarter of this year.

The Lodge, through the initiative of the Community Service Committee, conducted "Operation Tuli" at its temple last May 18.

VWB Eduardo J. Dalusong, Jr., meanwhile, is determined to duplicate the achievement of VW Jaime L. Nabua, under whose editorship *Lee Sin Times*, for the first time ever, was awarded Most Outstanding Lodge Newsletter.

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## PDGL RECEIVES AWARD OF RECOGNITION FOR DEMONSTRATING MASONIC RELIEF

**O**n Jan. 29, 1996, Bro. Glen Ang de Gok Go, a member of Daguma Mountain Range Lodge No. 244 in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, and his wife were kidnapped. Five days later (Feb. 3), VWB Menando V. Lapuz, PDGL, a member of the same Lodge, without regard for his personal safety and beyond the call of Masonic OB, went out of his way to rescue the distressed worthy Brother and his wife.

He did not consult with his own wife nor did he inform any other member of his family. Closing his eyes to the possibility of interception by other kidnappers, which is the most dangerous part of a rescue operation, he pursued his perilous mission and accomplished it.

This was revealed by VWB Rodolfo C. Soledad, PDDGM,

associate editor of *D'Trowel*, which was awarded Outstanding Lodge Newsletter in the last Ancom.

Rhetorically asked VWB Soledad: "What is a most fitting wage for this exemplary Masonic labor?" His answer: "No, not gold or money. On March 14, 1997 we, the members of Koronadal Lodge No. 209, of which VWB Lapuz is a dual member, awarded him with a plaque of recognition...."

*(We congratulate WB Pol Hong, PM and the rest of the editorial staff of D'Trowel for the much-improved make-up of their publication.)*

# NILAD LAUNCHES SEMINAR ON FREEMASONRY FOR THE PUBLIC

**N**ilad Lodge No. 12, on the initiative of its incumbent Wor. Master, VW Mariano T. Licauco, PDGL, recently conducted a seminar on Freemasonry for non-Masons at the Rafael Palma Hall.

The seminar, the first of a series lined up by the Lodge, is in conjunction with the Grand Lodge's thrust of raising the level of the general public's awareness and understanding of Freemasonry and Freemasons.

VW Licauco himself discussed the origin and development of Freemasonry, as well as the reason for the constitution of Nilad Lodge, while VW Alexander Madamba, PDDGM, spoke on the moral teachings of Freemasonry.

Also in attendance were brethren of Nilad, such as Bro. Servando Topacio and WB Roman Cariaga, and other Lodges, including VW Samuel P.

Fernandez of Noli Me Tangere Lodge No. 148, who provided answers to the questions of the participants and shared some of his concepts on the Triangle, the Altar, the Celestial Lodge, and the Philippine Flag.

Since the participants had many questions, the activity was continued at the Le Grand Restaurant at Plaridel Temple I.

All in all, the activity lasted five hours.

*"In the end,"* WB Dennis L. del Rosario, PGLI, told us, *"two of the non-Mason participants requested for petition forms."*

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## MENCIUS HOLDS FAMILY OUTING, CELEBRATES 73RD CHARTER DAY

**M**encius held a family outing at Splash Island, Southwoods, Ecocentrum, Biñan, Laguna last May 18.

The Lodge's Wor. Master, Michael Lim Chee We, meanwhile, conducts advance Tai Chi classes on Monday and Thursday evenings at the Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo Hall, Plaridel Masonic Temple II. Enthusiastic participants include VW Benito Sy, VW Florencio Sy, Bro. Eddie Chua, WB Domingo Chua, WB Johnny Flaviano and WB Roman Cariaga. These brethren believe their instructor's statement that whoever practices Tai Chi will gain the pliability of a child, the health of a lumberjack, and the

peace of mind of a sage.

Furthermore, the officers and members of the Lodge, together with their families, honored their Past Masters when they celebrated their 73rd Charter Day, June 24, 1997, at the Taiping Seafood Restaurant in Ongpin St., Sta. Cruz, Manila.

Said Mencius Secretary Mariano Sih, PAGT: *"It is meet and proper that we honor all our Past Masters who have guided Mencius toward becoming Outstanding Lodge for 1996-97 at the national level."*

# MALINAW 25 IS NOW 85 YEARS OLD

**O**n February 23, 1912, 14 native San Pableño Masons who were members of different Masonic Lodges in Manila under the Gran Oriente Español founded Logia Malinaw No. 340. In 1917, this Lodge affiliated with the Grand Lodge of the Philippines and became Malinaw Lodge No. 25.

The word "*Malinaw*" was culled from the name of the barangay in San Pablo where most of the founders originated.

The Lodge's first home was erected in 1919 on Gen. Luna St., overlooking Sampaloc Lake. But when the local government bought the original lot to build what is now the San Pablo City District Hospital, the Lodge transferred to its present site on T. Azucena St.

Having attracted some of the illustrious sons of the community, the Masonic Order has contributed to the city's social and political progress. Some of the members of the Fraternity became chief executives of San Pablo and Laguna.

At present, the Vice Mayor of San Pablo City, Hon. Danton Q. Bueser, and the Chief of Police, Major Felipe Roxas, are Freemasons. In fact, Laguna's Governor, Hon. Jose D. Lina, is also a member of the Fraternity. He succeeded the late Felicisimo San Luis, another Freemason, who served as provincial governor for a long time.

The Lodge has been at the forefront of charitable missions. Through its Foundation, it continues to provide, among others, free medical-dental care to

the less privileged members of the community. It has also shown concern for the youth by sponsoring the Werner P. Schetelig Chapter of the International Order of DeMolay.

The present elected officers of the Lodge are as follows: Baltazar C. Hernandez, *Worshipful Master*; Victor F. Javier, Jr., *Senior Warden*; Philip C. Dy, *Junior Warden*; Leandro C. Aguila, *Treasurer*; Nicanor C. Belsonda, *Secretary*; and Felizardo O. Aquino, *Auditor*.

The appointed officers are: Eduardo Q. Guevara, *Chaplain*; Artemio B. Custodio, *Marshal*; Vicente M. de Rama, *Senior Deacon*; Ben R. Exconde, *Junior Deacon*; Maximino M. Saba, *Senior Steward*; Raul Roldon F. Ciabal, *Junior Steward*; Odilon C. Aquino, *Lecturer*; Danilo R. de las Alas, *Almoner*; Romulo M. Escondo, *Orator*; Teodoro C. Escondo, *Organist*; Dantos S. Briñas, *MM District Representative*; and Nicolas E. Azores, *Tyler*.

With this year's battlecry "*More Alive at 85*", the 92-strong Lodge aims to blend the landmarks of antiquity and conservatism of the Craft with the dynamic challenges and opportunities of modern times.

—BALTY C. HERNANDEZ

# KAMAYO LODGE TEMPLE DEDICATION IN RETROSPECT

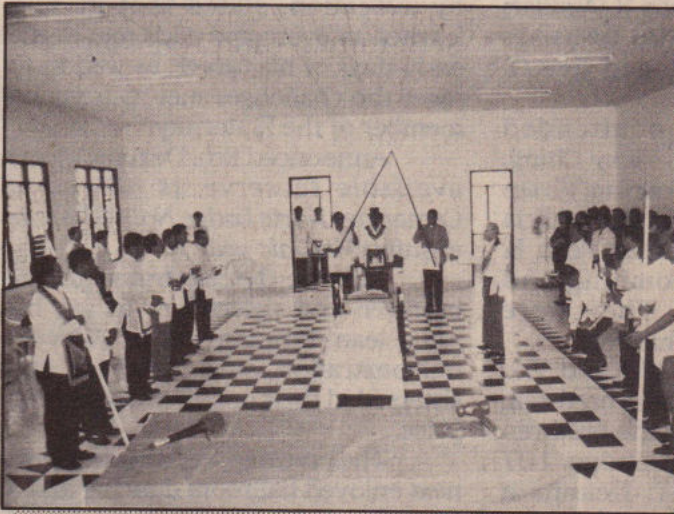
**M**W JPL Adiong, assisted by VW B.J. Torres, presided over the ceremonies for the dedication of the temple of Kamayo Lodge No. 255 in Bislig, Surigao del Sur.

The Grand Master and his party were met by our brethren and sisters in Butuan. After a hearty luncheon in a restaurant somewhere in the city, the brethren and sisters drove in a caravan from Butuan City to Bislig, where they were treated to dinner

and dancing by WM (now VW) Boni Sing.

The following morning the dedication ceremonies took place.

The lot on which the Lodge temple now stands was donated by VW Roberto C. Reyes, PAGS and Past Grand Master, Supreme Council, Order of DeMolay Phils.



*"In this act of dedicating the temple of Kamayo Lodge No. 255, we pledge not only this Lodge to the service of the Most High, the Living God, but also the living temples of our lives...."*

--GM ↓

↑ *The Grand Master who is to preside over the temple dedication ceremonies is received.*



# CN 107 & DAET 27 JOINTLY CELEBRATE ANNIVERSARIES

by VW Godofredo O. Peteza, Sr., JGL

**T**he officers and members of Camarines Norte Lodge 107 and Daet Lodge 247 jointly celebrated their 65th and 16th anniversaries, respectively, on May 25, 1997 at the Masonic Center.

Among the brethren present were Bro. Godofredo E. Peteza, Jr., SW (107); VW Felipe M. Jadinel; VW Jose Dy Ching; VW Ong Peng Lee; VW Jose T. Seeping, Jr.; WB Aurelio R. Aguilar; and Bros. Camilo C. Abordo, Fernando L. Rabo, Romeo C. Ong, and Jose O. Cacho, Jr.

The sisters who attended included the following: Vicky Ching, Trinidad E. Peteza, Fe S. Seeping, Vivian Ong, Fely Rabo, Carlita Jadinel, Alicia C. Tabios, Mayette S. Elizes, Nena B. Peteza, Dolores Chicombing and Josephine Collada. They were accompanied by their children.

WMs Amable C. Ables and Tito C. Collado, Jr. welcomed the brethren, sisters and guests. Then the brethren of Camarines Norte Lodge 107 awarded Bro. Jovito Y. Deauna a Resolution congratulating him for receiving during the Ancom at Tacloban City from the Grand Lodge the distinct honor of being

Outstanding Mason for 1996-97 in the field of Science and Technology.

In response, Bro. Deauna, a dentist by profession and an inventor by avocation, stated that he had learned to overcome odds met in the early days of his career, as well as to meet the challenges met as a young member of the Fraternity.

Announced Bro. Deauna: "I am available to serve as officer of Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107 in the ensuing Masonic year."

Next he demonstrated to the brethren and sisters how to use his Aquaclean Filtration System. After his demonstration, some brethren and sisters filed their orders at discounted price.

The brethren, sisters and guests next enjoyed ballroom dancing and a sumptuous dinner consisting of fried chicken, special sotanghon, chopsuey guisado and fried rice. Outside it was raining cats and dogs.

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## LET US SALUTE OUR UNSUNG HEROES

by VW Florante C. Faustino, DGL, M.D. No. 6

**W**e always hear and read about the high-profile Masons. But hardly anything is written about our unsung heroes—those who take care of the small, nitty-gritty details so important in the daily operation of individual Lodges. These are the Masons who, through their quiet efficiency, dedication and commendable example, have helped the Fraternity through the years in their own unassuming ways. Here is the profile of one of them.

He was raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason on March 26, 1966. *During all these 31 years, he has been absent from our stated meetings just one solitary time*, and that was because he was bedridden at the time. This in itself must be a record of sorts. But while this fact provides incontestable proof of his dedication to the Craft, this is not the only thing which makes him special.

Full of humility, this soft-spoken Past Master makes his contributions to Masonry sans any fanfare or grandstanding. He never tries to impose his will on any incumbent Master. Although he was our elected Lodge Treasurer for 19 years, a testimony to his honesty and reliability, he is never too proud to perform the small and menial tasks. Whenever officers are absent, he will gladly fill in as either Deacon, Steward, or whatever position may be vacant. Always one of the first to come to the Lodge—to prepare the hall for the meeting, he is also the last to leave—to put the paraphernalia away and see that everything is left in order. He has quietly taken it upon himself to take charge of this thankless job during all the years that our peripatetic Lodge has moved from one temporary home to another until we were able to finally erect our very own temple last year.

He will soon be turning 70 years old. Before I became Worshipful Master of our Lodge last year, he expressed his desire to have younger brethren trained to take over his long-held position as Lodge Treasurer. But instead of resting on his past accomplishments as expected, he

accepted his appointment as Custodian of the Work, a position which most young Masons normally, and mistakenly, view as unimportant. But I knew that this was a most suitable post for him, for he is regarded by many as the authority in our Lodge as far as the Rituals, the Monitor, the Constitution, Ancient Landmarks and other things Masonic are concerned.

Outside the Lodge, this gentle man is the paragon of what Masons should strive to be. Having retired in 1989 after faithfully serving the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) for 29 years, he has donated his services to the government as volunteer in the Science and Technology Transfer Program of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST). Recently, he was engaged by the same agency as consultant on matters related to laboratory management and equipment maintenance.

He has been married to Sis. Charito for the past 41 years. They have four children, all of whom are now professionals in their own right. With the same consistency as his attendance in our meetings, he goes to Malolos, Bulacan every first Sunday of the month to visit with his siblings and their families.

A seemingly insignificant incident which I think exemplifies what he is all about happened recently when we were about to confer the third degree of Masonry on a brother. I realized that nobody had been assigned to bring the acacia, and this I communicated to the brethren who had come early. Somebody then said, *"Don't worry, look who's*

coming". Surely enough, there he was, with a smile on his face and an acacia branch in his right hand. Little things like this are so easy to overlook and take for granted. But this is what makes things so much easier for the rest of the brethren of any Lodge.

Do you think that a man like this is too good to be true—a figment of my imagination? No. The brethren of Makiling Lodge No. 72 in Los Baños, Laguna are fortunate indeed to have one of

them in our midst. He is all this and more. He is *WB Engenio P. Enriquez, PM*, a brother who has given and is still giving us an example well worthy of our emulation.

This article was written not merely to thank and praise WB Enriquez, but also to give a friendly reminder to the Brethren. A lot of Lodges have their own WB Enriquez. Has your Lodge given him the appropriate recognition that he so richly deserves?

## APPENDANT,

## ALLIED ORGANIZATIONS

### *GM BAÑEZ ADDRESSES AMARANTH'S ILANG-ILANG SESSION*

**G**rand Master Leon Angel P. Bañez, Jr., accompanied by VW Bros. Roberto Q. Pagotan and Benjamin G. Brown, Senior Grand Lecturer and Grand Chaplain, respectively, was among the distinguished guests on the opening day, April 28, 1997, of the three-day Ilang Ilang Session of the Grand Court of the Philippines, Order of the Amaranth held at the Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City.

Other guests included HL Eva B. Panopio, Deputy Grand Bethel Guardian, PGRM, International Order of Job's Daughter; Sis. Fe Suaco, Supreme Service & Inspector, International Order of Rainbow for Girls; Sis. Nieves Amagna, Deputy, Northern Phils., Order of the Eastern Star; Dr. Ricardo Fernandez, Diabetes Foundation; MW Rosendo C. Herrera, Grand Master, Order of DeMolay; and Ill. Rudyardo V. Bunda, Sovereign Grand Commander, Supreme Council, A&ASR, Republic of the Phils.

MW Bañez expressed happiness over the increase of subordinate Courts

dedicated to generating love of our Fraternity and upholding its ideals, spreading goodwill to fellowmen, and sharing worthy experiences especially during Sessions. He commended the present officers of the Grand Court for their ability to improve the Order's ritualistic work, as well as the Past Grand Royal Matrons and Patrons for actively visiting the subordinate Courts and in the process holding classes of instruction for their improvement.

*"We in Amaranth have undertaken charity projects of our own, including distributing gifts to unfortunate children, particularly the*

crippled," MW Bañez, said. "But the Grand Lodge and the Grand Court should put their charitable acts together for greater impact on the general public"

He assured the officers of the Grand Court that the officers of the Grand Lodge would continue

stimulating Masons to join the Order.

Concluded our Grand Master: "Let us join hands in making the non-Masonic public know that we are a fraternity for peace, unity and human progress. Together, my brothers and sisters, is better."

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## BETHEL U.D. INSTITUTED & INITIATED

**A** Bethel U.D. in Calapan, Oriental Mindoro, sponsored by Tamarraw Lodge No. 65, the incumbent Master of which is VW Carlos G. Aguba, was recently instituted and initiated.

Joanne Leynes is Honored Queen; Myra Fe Aguba, Senior Queen; Darlene Tecson, Junior Queen; Joan Rizaldo, Guide; Kate Lebunfacil, Marshal.

Hazel Catibog is Recorder; Mary Kristine delos Reyes, Treasurer; Kathlyn Tolentino, Chaplain; Florence Davalos, Librarian; and Hermanie Ong, Musician.

Karleni Catibog and Letlet Greg Cabrera have been appointed Senior and Junior Custodians, respectively. First to Fifth Messengers are Elga Catibog, Jessibel Eugenio, Juno Concepcion, Joan Leynes and Beverly To. Sis Edna Tecson is Bethel Guardian; Bro. Modesto Leynes, Associate Bethel Guardian; Sis Lorna

Rizaldo, Secretary; and Sis. Marie Paras, Treasurer.

Associate Members are WB Antonio Catibog II, Bro. Anatalio Dapito, Bro. Michael Seechung, Sis. Alyn To and Miss Jenifer Leynes.

Distinguished guests were: WB Van Cornelius Luspo, Associate Grand Guardian; Sis. Mayette Van Luspo, Vice Grand Guardian; Sis. Madelene Gonzalez, Grand Secretary; Sis. Edna Florendo, Bethel Guardian of Bethel #22 in Manila; and Miss Charlotte F. Aguba, Guardian Secretary, Bethel #22.

Other Daughters from Bethel #22 who were present are: Miss Edge Madamba, PHQ; Miss Michelle Gail Gonzalez, PHQ; Miss Berna Cabiles, HQ; Miss Geinah Nierra, SD; Miss Grace Madrid, Guide; Joy Cabiles, Darah Benitez, and Joyce Ureta.

Also present were the following PHQs of Bethel #25 in Baquio City: Miss Tata Van Luspo, Miss Nanette Lucero and Miss Ivy Trinidad.

← Officers and members of Bethel U.D., Calapan, Mindoro.



## FIRST INVOKE THE BLESSING OF GOD

by VW Napoleon A. Soriano, PDDGM, M.D.1

**T**he first lesson taught us in Freemasonry is that before entering upon any great or important undertaking, we should first invoke the blessings of God.

I am sure that Freemasonry fully practices this teaching, when we open the Lodge, when we start a district meeting, when we install the new set officers of a Lodge, or when we perform the Masonic rites for a departed brother.

Matthew 18:19-20- The Power of United Prayer. *"Again I tell you, if two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in heaven. When two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst."*

Our forebears in Freemasonry saw to it that we pray before we open the Lodge. *"Great Architect of the Universe! In thy name, we have assembled and in thy name we desire to proceed in all our doings."* This is in conformity with the Biblical quotation above: *"...gathered in my name, there am I in their midst."* By our prayer we ask the Great Architect of the Universe to be with us in the meeting to guide

us in our deliberations. Then we continue the prayer: *"Grant that the sublime principles of Freemasonry may so subdue every discordant passion within us--so harmonize and enrich our hearts with Thine own love and goodness—that the Lodge at this time may humbly reflect that order and beauty which reign forever before Thy throne. Amen."* Here we pray for harmony and unity among the brethren so that the meeting will proceed in order and no discordant passion may disturb it. We have the assurance that what we ask will be granted because the Holy Scriptures says, *"If two of you join your voices on earth to pray for anything whatever, it shall be granted you by my Father in Heaven."*

I hope, my brethren, that this first lesson in Freemasonry will always be the guiding light in our daily life. Whatever we do, we consecrate it to the glory of God, for He said, *"for apart from me you can do nothing."* John 15:5

# HIRAM ABIF: FATHER OF HIRAM

**H**iram Abif was descended from Cain, one of the two sons of Adam and Eve. The sons of Cain were the real inventors of arts and sciences. Enoch, his son, taught men how to cut stone and construct bricks. Irad, his other son, and Mehujal, his grandson, taught men the rudiments of irrigation and how to turn cedars into beams. Methusela, another descendant of Cain, invented "the Sacred Character, the books of Tau and the Symbolic T. by which the workers descended from the Genii of the fire recognized each other."

Abel, who taught men how to dress camel skins; Jubel, who was the first to play on the harp and thus became the inventor of music; Tubal-Cain, the first smith; and a daughter, Narmath, who invented spinning and weaving were all children of Lamich.

All this gifted race perished from the flood except Tubal-Cain and his son. The wife of Ham fell in love with his son and by him became the mother of Nimrod, who was a mighty hunter and founder of Babylon. From Nimrod was descended Hiram Abif.

The Chronicles version states that the mother of Hiram Abif was "of the Daughter of Dan." The Kings version states that she was a "widow woman of the tribe of Naphtali." Both accounts, however, agree that his father was a man of Tyre, which was one of the centers of the worship of Adonis. The conflicting testimony about his mother's tribe may be explicable on the grounds that she was one of the old race to whom it is difficult to allot a tribe other than a real Jewish. But in the eyes of historians, it seemed desirable to indicate that Hiram Abif had some Jewish blood in his veins. So it is possible that his mother belonged to the tribe of Dan. Dan was divided into two sections. A small section was separated from the main body and had its location on the desert side of the tribe of Naphtali; while the latter tribe had the territory east of Lebanon,

bordering on Phoenicia. We are, however, clearly told his father was a Phoenician, and from the son's skill which included work in the famous "purple" of Tyre, it is clear that his upbringing was in that city.

His name Hiram had of course a very definite meaning and/or deep significance. Hiram means "Exaltation of Life," or "Their Liberty," or "Whiteness," or "He that destroys." Those meanings apply to the king and the builder, but the latter is distinguished by the addition, in the Hebrew, of the word "Abif," which means "Father." According to Josephus, Hiram Abif is none other than the biblical father of Hiram of Tyre. The biblical title of "father of he that Destroys" is precisely similar to that given to him by Josephus: "the father of God" (Moloch, the destroyer). It is therefore clear that Hiram, the so called architect, was the old, abdicated king of Tyre, whose divinity had then been passed on to his son Hiram, and who should in strictness have been slain.

These facts show that the Masonic tradition claiming that Solomon treated Hiram Abif as an equal is correct. No oriental despot would treat as an equal a mere architect employed by him, but the former king of Tyre and the father of his ally, Hiram, was his equal, and would naturally be treated as such.

—VW ROBERTO Q. PAGOTAN

# OF ADMITTING CANDIDATES

by VW Benito K. Tan, DGL

**O**ne of the major woes of our Fraternity is the dwindling number of new members and/or applicants, mainly because we are not allowed to recruit outwardly.

But, of course, we may invite non-Mason friends who we believe will be assets to the Fraternity to join us in our fellowship and other Lodge activities. In this way we will entice them to join our ranks and at the same time give our brethren the opportunity to know such potential members better.

Although we are desirous of increasing our membership, we should never, never let our guards down, lest we be plagued with the so-called "hoodlums in aprons," "spoon-and-fork Masons," or the "Masons in name only."

There is, certainly, no foolproof system to bank on. But by strictly adhering to our system of screening and investigation, including the Orientation, we can gain a better insight into a candidate's character. We should not allow the personality of a candidate's sponsor to influence our ballots or to affect our decisions. Our Fraternity's well-

being must be our primary concern in admitting candidates into the Craft. This is *non-negotiable*.

Should the candidate pass the initial stages of scrutiny, the next filtration process should be the proficiency exams of the first and second degrees. In this case, we should take into serious consideration, not the candidate's strong desire to get into our Fraternity, nor yet his external qualifications, but rather, his ability and willingness to commit his time and effort in learning the teachings of Masonry; for without this qualification, how can the candidate be expected by us to make Masonry his way of life?

Having passed these stages, the newly accepted Brother must be given a solid foundation—and the proper nurturing. This is not the duty of the Lodge alone, but of all Masons our Brother may encounter in the course of his Masonic life.

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## USING BALLOT FOR RETALIATION OR REVENGE

**"T**he right to cast a ballot by each individual Mason for or against a candidate is a Masonic and not a personal or individual matter. A member of a Lodge is invested with the right of ballot as a Masonic trust, and it is a privilege which should be used by him only in the execution of that trust, and not for the purpose of enabling him to gratify any individual or personal grievance, real or supposed.... I have no hesitancy in saying that a violation of that trust and the casting of a ballot by a member for the purpose of

**enabling him to gratify any individual or personal grievance, real or supposed, if clearly provable against such offending member, would furnish good cause for filing charges against such member for un-Masonic conduct....**

*"I further wish to say that I deem not only un-Masonic but cowardly for a man, who has been afforded the honors of Masonry, to take advantage of a secret ballot in order to serve his own personal needs."*

Thus stated the late MW & Justice Albert Spear (1852-1929), the Grand Master of Masons in Maine in 1922-23. (See *The Maine Mason*, Vol. 20, No. 2, Fall 1992, p. 12.)

In regard to the statement that a man cannot become a Mason if he has a physical deformity, the late MW & Justice Spear very wisely commented, *"The letter of the law killeth, but the spirit of the law*

*giveth life.... It is, therefore, highly important to determine what modification of these decisions, under the constitution, are permissible and desirable in amelioration of physical ineligibility as now defined."*

Finally, he said that since Symbolic Masonry comprises all the other Masonic Orders, all Masons, from Entered Apprentices to the Knights Templar, and from the third degree to the thirty-third degree, should be found standing together, as one united group, for the maintenance of law, order, and justice. *"The craftsman who stands aloof,"* he stressed, *"is not a Mason."*

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## **BLACK BALL REJECTS—WITH CAUTION**

**T**he Black Ball is not a dagger or a weapon for a coward's use, with which to even up an old score. It is not a tool or a brush to besmirch the character of one who may hold divergent views divergent from yours, or of one with whom you may have had a petty quarrel or misunderstanding. He may have a prior thought that you will reject him because of that misunderstanding, but even with that thought, he has mustered enough courage to present his petition because of a genuine desire to join our Fraternity, and not just to be in good terms with you. By casting the White Ball, you may write finis to a life of constantly avoiding meeting him; instead of keeping a perpetual distance from you, he may become a brother and a good friend to you.

A Black Ball is a fraternity shield to protect, not the individuals, but the Order, from those who would injure or cast aspersion against this venerable Institution. It should never be cast with a prejudiced mind, a

selfish thought. Remember, it is a serious thing to constitute one's self jury and executioner in one single act without the Institution's interest demanding it.—VW Mag Nuevo, PDDGM

# WHAT BROTHERHOOD MEANS TO ME

by VW Mabini G. Hernandez, PDDGM

**T**o be a brother, you have to care about your brothers—what they think, what they feel, what they suffer. You have to understand their hopes, fears, and aspirations.

Brotherhood stumbles most often on the rock of inconvenience. A great number of brethren have an abundance of good impulses which they either forget or find inconvenient to translate into actuality. In my twenty-five years in Fraternity, I have found most brothers kindhearted. They are usually willing to do generous things though with much personal inconvenience. They are thoughtful of the sorrow and the needs of their brethren. They find time though the occasion is difficult.

Brotherhood is a plant that has to be cultivated. It must be watered and tended if it is to produce sweet and wholesome fruit. Brotherhood inevitably affects the body as well as the spirit. It is doubtful if it is possible to hate anyone and be completely healthy. Physicians and physical culturists agree that resentment fosters poison in the human system. While it is not possible to love everybody or even to like everybody, at least when there is no brotherly response, the robe of tolerant indifference can be put on.

I am sure that there are more good brothers than we realize. From close observation of our brotherhood, I have come to the conclusion that the average brother is better, not worse, than he seems to be. I have discovered that brothers whom others refer to as selfish, ungenerous, or hard, are almost daily engaged in the odds and ends of a thousand little kind and thoughtful acts. I have met brethren with a soft conscience in a hard coat and many have found the deeper qualities of brotherhood in an inarticulate Brother.

A brother should not be too critical of those who appear tactless or undiplomatic, or who rarely express thanks or show gratitude. Some feel deeply but do not have the gift of expression. Some who seem rude are

only shy. Some who seem ungrateful are only timid. There are some who find it easier to talk than feel. They lack the master quality of sincerity. Insincerity may have a pleasant sound but rings no silver bells of truth. Insincerity is the tinkling cymbal of human relationship.

Above all, brotherhood means to me the immeasurable capacity for forgiveness. It means the ability to check off resentment, rather than letting it persist and poison the spirit. Robert Louis Stevenson wrote, "*He is a green horn at life who can not forgive any mortal thing.*" There is no more enduring thing in life than real brotherhood. If it is not enduring, then it is not real brotherhood as it has not found its way from the far-flung field of acquaintanceship to the inner circle of genuine brotherhood.

One day I was in hurry for a court hearing. "*Toot, Toot, Toot!*" Then a car stopped and its side door opened. The driver, a Past Grand Master, said, "*Come in.*" As I sat myself inside the car, he said, "*Where are you going? You seem to be in a hurry.*"

"*I am late for a court hearing,*" I replied.

"*Inasmuch as I am going that way, I shall take you there,*" he said.

"*Sir, you will be going out of your way.*"

His reply, "*Are we brothers not supposed to go out of our way for a brother?*", uttered in a very low, soft, and sincere tone, melted me into silence. I said no more. At the street corner of the court, I alighted and said, "*Thank you very much, MW Sir.*" I reached the court on time.

Again, this is what brotherhood means to me—to walk out of our way for a brother. For the good of the brother, that is—little personal inconveniences notwithstanding.



**ANCOM '97 HIGHLIGHTS**





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