



# The Cabletow

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES



Grand Lodge officers renew their Pledge of Allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, led by MCW Bunda, PGM.



At the Altar: "Returning" brethren reaffirm their allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.



14th

# VISAYAS REGIONAL MASONIC CONVENTION



July 27-28, 2007, Iloilo City

HOST: MASONIC DISTRICT No. R-VI-A

(Under the Jurisdiction of the MW Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines)



WB Graciano Lopez Jaena, 33<sup>o</sup>

**"Live More Masonically Towards a Better Society"**  
**Masonic Year 2007-2008 Theme**



MW Serafin Teves (1965)

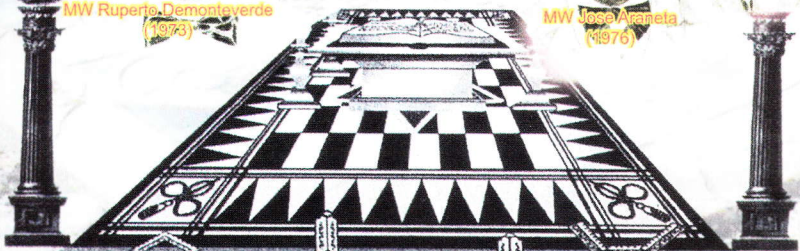
MW Joseph Schon (1968)

MW Ruperto Demonteverde (1973)

MW Jose Araneta (1976)

MW Calixto Zaldivar (1977)

MW Ricardo Galvez (2003)



**"Harmony being the strength and support of all societies, especially of ours"**

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### OUR COVER

Most Worshipful Rudyardo V. Bunda, Past Grand Master and current Grand Treasurer, leads the brethren, from the Grand Master down to the youngest Master Mason, in reaffirming their allegiance to the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines during the Annual Convention of Masonic District IV-A held in Naic, Cavite on November 30, 2007.

The back cover shows the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, and the Senior Grand Warden, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, RW Pacifico B. Aniag, and RW Peter Lim Lo Suy, respectively, welcoming back the 14 brethren who had joined the IGLPI but had contritely returned to the fold of the GLP and reaffirmed their loyalty and allegiance to it.

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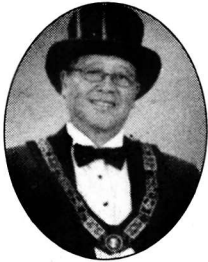
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*From the Grand Oriental Chair*



## UNFALTERINGLY PROCEEDING TO OUR ALLOTTED TASKS

There are several things we are allotted to do during the last "embers" of the year 2007. Let us unfalteringly proceed to do them for our beloved Craft's sake.

Firstly, Lodge officers should acquaint (or re-acquaint) themselves with the contents of our Masonic Law Book and other sources of Masonic jurisprudence in order to enhance their ability to efficiently and effectively manage the affairs of their respective Lodges.

Secondly, the same brethren are urged to pay closer attention to ritualistic proficiency because the ritual is the fundamental tool in Masonic education and instruction. They should also focus their attention on intensifying their respective Lodges' Mentorship Program and on strictly observing the Tried and Proven method or system of Masonically educating and instructing candidates for Masonic degrees.

Thirdly, in December District officers are expected to conduct a leadership seminar-workshop for the new sets of officers of Lodges in their respective areas of responsibility, as well as to make sure that the Lodge Lights pass the required proficiency examinations before they can be installed into their offices.

Fourthly, District leaders are expected to lead the brethren in their respective areas of responsibility in jointly giving holiday cheers and gifts to unfortunate children such as those confined in hospitals due to various ailments, those residing in orphanages and similar establishments, and those belonging to economically disadvantaged families. "What you do to the least of these children, you do unto me," said the Lord.

Lastly, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines celebrates the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding on the 19<sup>th</sup> of December. We ask you, dear brethren, to invoke God's blessing on the leadership of our Grand Lodge.

In this connection, I want to reassure you, dear brethren, that the leadership of our Grand Lodge will do everything within its power to ensure the collective interests of Symbolic Lodges. Symbolic Lodges should, in turn, be concerned with having a strong Grand Lodge to administer for them. This requires us to mutually understand

our Masonic mission as well as to willingly subordinate our views and appetites to the considered opinion and decision of the duly constituted authority, which should, in turn, be ever mindful of, as well as sensitive to, the differences of opinion that exist within its jurisdiction. Thus, in the end, Masonic administration will always result in the harmony we require as a condition of our existence.

Masonry is, or should be, the realm of peace and harmony, its long-term goal being the eventual establishment on earth of a true Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God. Hence, we should place peace and harmony as the primary objective of all of our undertakings.

I sincerely wish all of you, dear brethren, and your families a most blessed Christmas Season and a prosperous 2008. May the GAOTU bless our Grand Jurisdiction with the good fortune of having a more productive 2008 than 2007. May all of us work together in close harmony to get things done for the best interest, the welfare and the survival of our Masonic Family.

Fraternally,

JAIME Y. GONZALES  
Grand Master



*Brethren and Sisters, DeMolays and Job's Daughters invoke God's blessing at the start of the Wreath-Laying Ceremony before the Quezon Monument in Lucena City.*

*From the Editor's Desk*

## **TOWARD IMPROVED RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE CRAFT**

There seems to be a wide gap between what we in the Craft should be and what we are. We should be "one sacred band, or society of friends and brothers, among whom no contention should ever exist but that noble contention, or rather emulation, of who best can work or best agree." But are we, really?

There is a dire need for us to improve our interrelationship in the Craft. This requires us to renew our commitment to live by the principles regularly developed and illustrated in the degrees into which Masonry, as a progressive moral science, has been conveniently divided. Let us review those principles.

We ought to be good and true brothers and friends to fellow Freemasons, precisely because we are linked together by an indissoluble chain of sincere affection. Besides, we are engaged in a common enterprise, the building of Masonry's symbolic temple of liberty, equality, and fraternity in the souls of men and nations. Hence, we should have a unity of purpose and proudly work together in close harmony to accomplish our common purpose. Like the numerous workmen employed in the erection of King Solomon's Temple, we should not suffer envy, discord, nor confusion to interrupt or disturb the peace and good fellowship among us.

Not a few among us, however, have not internalized and lived by this important aspect of Masonic life:

*"To be good and true is the first lesson we are taught in Masonry. On this theme we contemplate, and by its dictates endeavor to regulate our conduct. Hence, while influenced by this principle, hypocrisy and deceit are unknown among us; sincerity and plain dealing distinguish us; and with heart and tongue, we join in promoting each other's welfare and rejoicing in each other's prosperity."*

Not a few among us, however, tend to speak ill of a brother in his absence. Not a few of us even reveal secrets entrusted to them strictly in charge. "If you want a rumor about a certain brother to spread like wild fire," our current Grand Master once jestingly told us, "tell your interlocutors that the rumor is strictly in charge."

Why are there piques and quarrels among brethren? Have we not been charged "not to palliate nor aggravate the offenses of your brethren; but in the decision of every trespass against our rules, you are to judge with candor, admonish with

friendship and reprehend with justice"? Have we not been charged to faithfully observe the Five Points of Fellowship?

It is, therefore, high time for us to take the following passage into serious consideration and then act accordingly:

*"To go upon a brother's errand or to his relief, even barefoot and upon flinty ground; to remember him in your supplications to the Deity; to clasp him to your heart, and protect him against malice and evil-speaking; to uphold him when about to stumble and fall; and to give him prudent, honest, and friendly counsel- these duties are plainly written upon the pages of God's great code of laws, and the first among the ordinances of Masonry."*(Albert Pike, *Morals and Dogma*, p 137).

We are expected to be our brother's keepers. That is why we are authorized to correct the irregularities of our less informed brethren, to fortify their minds against the snares of the insidious, and to guard them against every allurements to vicious practices. But, have we judiciously exercised that authority?

Have we, moreover, cautioned the inexperienced among us against any breach of fidelity in order to help preserve unsullied our Fraternity's reputation?

Peace and harmony will prevail among us if and when the inferiors in rank or office are obedient and submissive to their superiors, if and when equals or peers are courteous and affable to one another, if and when superiors are kind and condescending to their inferiors. Peace and harmony will prevail among us if all of us are benevolent to one another. Let's listen, then, to Brother Albert Pike once more:

*"There needs to be more of the spirit of the ancient fellowship among us, more tenderness for each other's faults, more forgiveness, more solicitude for each other's improvement and good fortune; somewhat of a brotherly feeling that it be not shame to use the word **brother**.* (Ibid, p. 122).

We should, each of us, exert a little more effort to use wisdom in our relationship with one another, to make harmony the primary objective of all our undertakings, and to show to all and sundry the beauty of the fellowship that exists among the Craft.

If we are good and true brothers and friends to fellow Freemasons, there is yet hope that, someday, we will complete the construction of the Temple of the Brotherhood of Man under the Fatherhood of God.

*Grand Lecturers' Corner*

## **ON MAKING MEN MASONS**

OFFICERS OF NOT a few Symbolic Lodges have complained that the Masonic laws, rules and regulations which the Grand Lodge of the Philippines is currently enforcing render it quite difficult for them to acquire and produce new members in such a fast pace and in such numbers as they would desire.

Those brethren seem to have forgotten that to preserve unsullied the reputation of the Fraternity ought to be the constant care of every Mason; that every Mason has been charged to refuse to recommend anyone to a participation in our privileges unless he has strong reasons to believe that his recommendee will be also so faithful to every trust committed to his care as to ultimately reflect honor on our ancient Institution; that it is the responsibility of every Symbolic Lodge to select from among the petitioners only those who it believes possess those internal qualifications that recommend them to be made Masons; that the primary function of every Symbolic Lodge is not simply to confer the degrees of Masonry on the candidates therefor, nor yet to enlarge its membership and, therefore, to augment its funds, but rather to help Masonry attain its principal purpose, which is, in the words of the late Worshipful Brother Manuel V. Moran, who once served creditably as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, "to create in the world a band of men to whom others may look for example and inspiration – men who others will say are men of honor, virtue and charitable feelings."

The creation in the world of a band of such men is not a swift or sudden process; it is a slow and protracted one; it is never-ending task of the officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge.

Ergo, instead of desiring to acquire and produce new members in a very fast fashion and in big numbers, the officers and members of every Masonic Lodge should use the oxymoronic proverb "*Make haste slowly*" as a guide in their action.

They should, for instance, make sure that the brethren signing the petitions for membership in the Craft put the welfare of the Craft above the interests of their recommendees.

The brethren assigned by the Worshipful Master to constitute the Investigating Committee should faithfully and responsibly seek the necessary information about the character and status of every petitioner for membership in the Craft, using as their guide the questions given in Edict No. 60, as amended, which they are to find on pp. 130-131 of our Masonic Law Book, revised 1994, updated 2005.

The officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge must see to it that the name of every petitioner for Masonic membership is regularly published in the Grand Lodge Circular (G. L. Form No. 12), and that proof of such publication is presented, as well as read aloud, in open Lodge, so that the brethren may have due notice thereof.

The officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge, moreover, should strictly observe the provisions on the balloting of petitions for Masonic membership contained in our *Masonic Law Book*, pp. 61-64, as well as those on objections and prohibitions contained on pp. 64 to 67.

Those brethren assigned by the Worshipful Master to conduct the required orientation lectures to those petitioners whom the Lodge has elected by a favorable ballot to receive the degrees of Masonry in the Lodge should make optimal use of the *Tried and Proven* Method of Masonically educating and instructing the candidates for Masonic degrees. They must train the candidates to understand why Masonry is "*an organized society of men symbolically applying the principles of operative masonry and architecture to the science and art of character building.*" They must help the candidates to understand the truths which the ritual and ceremonies are calculated to inculcate; to develop themselves from "rough" to perfect ashlar"; to strive for personal excellence or self-mastery; to cultivate the social and moral, as well as the domestic and public, virtues upon which Masonry is founded; and to help propagate Masonry as "*a progressive moral science divided into different degrees.*"

The officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge, furthermore, should confer or communicate the degrees of Masonry as solemnly, proficiently, and impressively as they can because the ritual and ceremonies are the fundamental tool in Masonically educating and instructing the candidates. What the candidates learn from ritualistic and ceremonial work in the Lodge is the first and usually the determining impression which Masonry makes on them. They either like what they hear, see, and feel before, during and after each degree work or they discover that the Fraternity does not offer to them what they expected. Therefore, before every degree work, members of the conferral team must take the time to practice or rehearse; during the degree work, they must present the ritual and ceremonies as efficiently and effectively as they reasonably can, delivering their lines eloquently and distinctly, executing the floorworks precisely and accurately, and exerting all-out effort to make every candidate for the Masonic degree being conferred make heads and tails of what they are reciting. In case the performers have forgotten their speaking lines, only one or two brethren in attendance should be assigned to do the prompting; and the brethren should refrain from doing anything unto the candidates which is not called for in the ritual and ceremonies. After the degree work, those assigned by the Worshipful Master as mentors or instructors should explain and interpret to the candidates the important lessons contained in the ritual and ceremonies, as

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well as stimulate them to apply those lessons in daily life. The members of the "Tried and Proven" Committee, likewise, should do their assigned task as best as they can.

All the officers and members of the Lodge must regularly conduct themselves before, during and after each degree work because the candidates look for Masonry in them- in all Master Masons, for that matter. The officers and members of the Lodge, to the candidates, stand as prima-facie evidence of the effectiveness of Masonic teachings. Therefore, they should not give the candidates any cause to doubt or question the fundamental principles and the lofty ideals of Masonry.

One of these principles or ideals is the Golden Rule, which teaches us to do unto others what others, in similar situations, want that we should do unto them. We ourselves wanted those who would confer the degrees of Masonry on us not to trifle with our feelings and persons; therefore, we should not trifle with the feelings and persons of the candidates on whom we are conferring the degrees of Masonry. We must strictly observe the edicts on how to treat our candidates properly and fairly.

Those of us who are assigned by the Worshipful Master to serve as mentors or instructors to the candidates should not be content with helping the candidates to pass the required proficiency examinations, but should endeavor to help the candidates understand the symbolic meanings of the various forms and ceremonies made use of during their initiation, passing and raising.

Lest we forget, the officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge are prohibited from requesting or permitting candidates to furnish or pay for refreshments during the period they are receiving the degrees of Masonry. (See the *Masonic Law Book*. p. 167.)

Even after our candidates have passed the required proficiency examinations, the officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge must continue paying close attention to the welfare, happiness and Masonic development of the newly initiated, passed and raised brethren.

Making good men worthy and exemplary Masons, we repeat for the sake of emphasis, is not a swift or sudden process, but rather a slow and protracted one; it is a continuing task of the officers and members of the Lodge. The officers and members of the Lodge must work together in close harmony in order to accomplish that task. They must devote and dedicate their concerted efforts to achieving this purpose in order to help Masonry to attain its great and glorious goal of creating in the world a band of men who constantly improve themselves in order to be better able to help improve the world they are living in.

Decidedly, the officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge cannot accomplish their allotted task of helping good men develop themselves into worthy and exemplary Masons in a precipitate, hurried manner. There are no short cuts in the process. The efficient and effective accomplishment of that paramount task requires time, patience and perseverance; it requires the officers and members of every Symbolic Lodge to make haste slowly.



*The Grand Master poses with members of the Masonic Family in Quezon Province after floral offering.*



## **MASONIC INFORMATION**

by VW Conrado V, Sanga, PDDGM



### **1. What were the Boundaries of the Temple?**

On the East, by the brook of Kedron; on the South, the reservoirs and water sheds; on the West, by Jerusalem; and on the Southwest, the City of David.

### **2. From whom did King Solomon acquire Mount Moriah as the site of the Temple?**

From Ornan the Jebusite, to whom he paid 600 shekels of gold.

### **3. What is a shekel?**

In the 4<sup>th</sup>, or Mark Master, degree, it is said that the value of a mark is a Jewish half-shekel of silver or 25 US cents. The shekel of silver was the weight used in antiquity among the Jews. Its value is roughly half of a US dollar.

### **4. Did Hiram Abif survive the construction of the Temple?**

Yes!

### **5. Were there any bells used in King Solomon's Temple?**

Bells were not invented till the 5<sup>th</sup> century A.D. Therefore, the use of a bell in the Third, of Master Mason, degree is but an anachronism.

### **6. Who was King Hiram of Tyre?**

King Hiram of Tyre was a contemporary of King Solomon of Israel. The former assisted the latter in the building of the Temple. He loaned King Solomon 120 talents of gold (which is roughly 230 million pesos).

### **7. Who succeeded Solomon as King Israel?**

His Son Rehoboam.

### **8. Which way did King Solomon take to arrive at the middle chamber of the Temple?**

By way of a flight of winding stairs (2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Ritual; I Kings VI-8).

### **9. What mosque is now located on one of the slopes of Mount Moriah?**

The mosque of Oman.

**10. How old was the Temple when it was destroyed by the Chaldeans?**

Four hundred thirty-five (435) years old.

**11. What was Jachin?**

The name of one of the pillars standing at the porch of the Temple. The other pillar was called Boaz. The name *Jachin* was derived from *jah* and *jachin*, meaning will establish and God will establish, respectively.

**12. What were the dimensions of the great pillars Boaz and Jachin?**

According to our Monitor, they were five and thirty cubits high, twelve in circumference and four in diameter and were surmounted by chapiters of five cubits each, making in all forty cubits in height.

**13. How many times was the Temple built?**

Three times – by King Solomon, Zerubabel, and Herod, respectively.

**14. Who was Aaron?**

Aaron was a brother of Moses. He was the first High Priest of the Mosaic dispensation.

**15. Where is Mount Sinai? What is its significance?**

Mount Sinai is a mountain of Arabia, between the horns of the Red Sea. It is where Moses received the two tablets on which were inscribed the Decalogue or Ten Commandments.

**WHAT IS FREEMASONRY?**

by Bro. Walter H. Bonn, Victor, Iowa

*It's not a sign or handshake, a hall where tilers sit.*

*It's not a guarded building, where passwords will admit.*

*It's not a place of symbols, which wardens of display.*

*It's not a lodge of members, who seat in white array.*

*It is the home of Justice, of Liberty and Truth.*

*Of loyalty to country, of sympathy for youth, of succor for a brother,*

*of gentleness and cheer, of tolerance for neighbors, whose life is often dear.*

*In My Opinion*

by VW Godofredo V. Señires, Jr., PAGES



## CREATION OF REGIONAL GRAND LODGES

Our Masonic Law Book grants the Grand Master the power to create Regional Grand Lodges and to appoint the Regional Grand Masters. (See Sec. 2 (m), Article XIX.)

There are brethren who oppose the creation of Regional Grand Lodges, on the ground that the same will decrease or diminish the powers and authority of the Grand Master in the government of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction. These brethren point out that attempts have been made, in the past, of creating Regional Deputies of the Grand Master, but the same proved ineffective. The objectors also point out that the appointment of a Regional Grand Master will just duplicate the functions of the District Deputy Grand Master within the same area.

Those who propose the creation of Regional Grand Lodges are of the view that the creation of Regional Grand Lodges will not diminish the powers and authority of the Grand Master. The Regional Grand Masters will merely reduce the burden of the Grand Master in overseeing the works of the Blue Lodges, because the Regional Grand Master will be able to assist him in the closer supervision of the Blue Lodges, within the jurisdiction of the Regional Grand Lodge. And the annual *per capita* dues to be paid to the Grand Lodge by the brethren shall remain the same.

With respect to the District Deputy Grand Masters, they may continue to function. But their number should be significantly reduced and they will be under the direct supervision of the Regional Grand Master.

The failure, in the past, of the Regional Deputies of the Grand Master was due to the fact that they were not given particular functions in the government of their respective regions.

In the proposed creation of Regional Grand Lodges, specific functions should be provided in the enabling law. Such functions, however, will not include the power to issue dispensation to organize a new Lodge and the power to grant Charters to Lodges. Also, the Regional Grand Masters will not be given the authority to discipline the members of the Fraternity. The ultimate authority to discipline members shall remain with the Grand Lodge and the Grand Master.

I believe that the time has come for the brethren to study the possibility of allowing the creation of Regional Grand Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines.

# OUT OF THE HUMDRUM

by VW Robert O. Asuncion, PJGL



**1. Jingle Bells** was the first song broadcast from outer space. As a prank, GEMINI 6 astronauts sent the following message to Mission Control on December 16, 1965.

*We have an object like a satellite going from north to south probably in polar orbit. I see a command module and eight smaller modules in front. The pilot of the command module is wearing a red suit... The astronauts then produced a smuggled harmonica and sleigh bells and broadcast a rendition of "Jingle Bells"*

*(Smithsonian Magazine, December 2005)*

On board the GEMINI 6 were Bro. Walter M. Schirra, Commander (Canaveral Lodge No. 339, Florida), and Bro. Thomas Stafford, Pilot (Western Star Lodge No. 138, Oklahoma).

**2.** There are more than 500 versions of the song "*White Christmas*" in dozens of languages, making it the most recorded Christmas single of all time. "White Christmas" was written by Bro. Irving Berlin of Munn Lodge No. 190, New York.

**3.** Initially the *AEGUGKA*, the National Anthem of Korea, and the *GAUMI SALAAM*, the National Anthem of Maldives, were sung to the tune of *AULD LANG SYNE*, the famous New Year's Eve Song penned by Bro. Robert Burns, St. David Lodge.

**4.** Bro. Emilio Aguinaldo assumed office as the "*Kapitan Municipal*" of Kawit Cavite on **New Year's Day** of 1895 and on the same day was initiated into the mysteries of Freemasonry in Pilar Lodge at Imus.

**5.** The first recorded activity of the KNIGHTS TEMPLAR in the Philippines took place on **Christmas Day**, 1898. At the invitation of Major Frank Foote, Past Grand Commander of Wyoming, all Knights Templar in Manila assembled at high twelve at the Grand Luneta Hotel to participate in the customary Christmas party.

6. Two of our Grand Masters were born in Maryland on the **Feast of the Three Kings**, January 6, 1913: Joseph E. Schon, Grand Master in 1968, and William Councill, Grand Master in 1972.

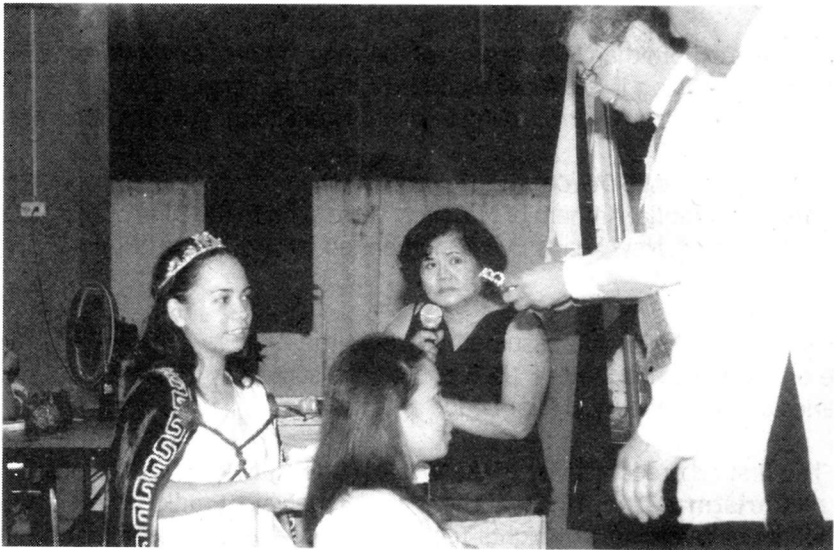
7. **Poinsettia** is the most popular Christmas plant and the number one potted plant in North America. It was named after Bro. Joel Roberts Poinsette (Solomon Lodge No. 1, North Carolina), who introduced the plant in America from Mexico, where he was the first American ambassador. He is also credited with introducing Freemasonry in Mexico.

8. Like other sacred plants of antiquity, the **Mistletoe** is also a symbol of the immortality of the soul. This famous Christmas symbol was considered by the Druids to be an "in between" or a gateway to other worlds.

9. In his autobiography, "Marching Along," Bro. John Philip Sousa told how he composed on Christmas Day 1896 the "**Stars and Stripes Forever**," widely considered to be his magnum opus and by act of Congress is the National March of the United States of America.

10. The emblem of the **Order of the Eastern Star**, the largest fraternal organization that both men and women can join, is a five-pointed star representing the **Star of Bethlehem** with the white ray of the star pointing downwards toward the manger.

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MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, putting the crown on Danielle Rani Valles, PHQ, as Miss Job's Daughter Philippines

## Hard Talk

Mawi B. Lazaro Jr., PDDGM

Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147 & Bud Daho Lodge No. 102



# MY DEAR SON

The November-December issue of our publication usually gets distributed when the Blue Lodges elect their new set of officers and prepare for the latter's installation. That is also the time when the Past Grand Masters will have selected seven prospective nominees for the position of Junior Grand Warden and Lodges are agog as to who to vote among them.

Just the other day, my dear son, my only child, Jowi and his better half Khaye lost their first baby through a miscarriage. What would have come out as Jowi's dear son was almost 5 months old. So, since then, I have been searching for relief, I guess along theological and ethical lines.

When Jowi's mother was carrying him in her womb, we were deep in struggle to change the system. Somehow we dreamt that Jowi's generation would be a lot better than what we had gone through. It is turning out to be a lot far worse. I am sure that Jowi and Khaye had the same thoughts for their lost son.

I have become a Mason along the way, but the challenges for a better life for future generations have increased tremendously. Even if Jowi and Khaye would continue on to have stable incomes, their son could have been subjected to more pressures and stresses than what had been encountered by previous generations.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) recently came out with its The Fourth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4), a 570-page report compiled by 390 experts from observations, studies and data garnered over two decades.

Environment Reporter Lewis Smith captures the darkest scenario, thus, "the speed at which mankind has used the Earth's resources over the past 20 years has put "humanity's very survival" at risk.... The environmental audit, for the United Nations, found that each person in the world now requires a third more land to supply his or her needs than the Earth can supply.

Thirty per cent of amphibians, 23 per cent of mammals and 12 per cent of birds are under threat of extinction, while one in ten of the world's major rivers runs dry every year before it reaches the sea. The bleak verdict on the environment was issued as an "urgent call for action" by the United Nations Environment Programme, which said that the "point of no return" was fast approaching.

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"The need couldn't be more urgent and the time couldn't be more opportune, with our enhanced understanding of the challenges we face, to act now to safeguard our own survival and that of future generations," GEO-4 said.

UNEP Executive Director Achim Steiner, in presenting the GEO-4 report was emphatic in issuing out a warning with finality – "the systematic destruction of the Earth's natural and nature-based resources has reached a point where the economic viability of economies is being challenged — and where the bill we hand on to our children may prove impossible to pay."

Simply stated, gas emissions, mainly from industrialized countries, cause climate change, which in turn, causes among others the melting of glaciers and thus, rising sea levels. This would be a very dark scenario for the so-called Third World countries, the Philippines included.

Early next year, there will be a conference among Grand Masters from all legitimate Grand Lodges the world over. Our very own Grand Master will have the opportunity to clarify what Lodges are considered illegitimate in our Philippine jurisdiction. That would be a significant move to clean up the mess some ambitious elements had created. But over and above this, which at the level of the global gathering may appear as parochial, let us hope and pray that the Grand Masters address the issues and challenges of climate change.

I guess it is already a little overdue that Blue Lodges and our appendant bodies likewise take up climate change. In due time, most of us will be *lolos* and our dear sisters *lolas*, ever enthusiastic about taking care of their *apos*.



MW "Jun" Ebdane, other Masonic leaders, and brethren wait for the start of foot parade in Catanduanes.

## *Stirrings in the Beehive*

by Bro. Gene Calonge, Island Luz Minerva Lodge No. 5

### TRAVELS OF A MASON



Many years ago, I happened to have met in Maryland a Brother whose was a Civil Engineer in a firm that had contracts with US Forces in Korea. This Brother, whose name is Ruffy Valencia, spoke highly of Korea and, in particular, its capital, Seoul. He said that Masons there were closely-knit and stuck together in good and bad times. Everytime we had occasion to meet, he did not run of nice things to say about the Fraternity in Korea.

At the back of my mind, I told myself that one of these days I would set foot in Seoul and try to test Brother Ruffy's words of praise about our brethren in that country. At last, the chance to see Seoul came! For fifteen days, 15-30 November this year, I was on official travel to Korea. Instinctively, I emailed the President of the Travellers of Washington, D.C., Brother Roland Pagua, and requested him to inform Ruffy that I was in his former station and that I wanted to test the camaraderie of the Brethren. Within twenty four hours, I received an email saying that someone would contact me.

True enough, I received an email from VW Sonny Flancia of MacArthur Lodge asking how I was doing and if I wanted to see the city. The following day, he came to the place where I was billeted and, with his wife, taught me the intricacies of the Seoul subway system. In succeeding days, we had dinner at the US Army base, had good time at the Manila Bar and spent Thanksgiving with a group of Filipinos in the house of another Brother Mason. Throughout my stay, VW Flancia was there to keep me company in my spare time. We even visited MacArthur Lodge though it had no meeting at that time.

By coincidence, I have a dear friend at the Philippine Embassy in Seoul, Senior Trade Representative Gary Garcia, a Senior DeMolay, UP Vanguard and former colleague in Washington, D.C. Sonny, Gary and I had a great time together enjoying the shops and streets of Seoul and had interesting conversations. Gary had arrived only quite recently in Seoul but already had mastery of the subway and bus systems and he knew the best restaurants. I am certain that Sonny and Gary will have been very close friends by the time I left Seoul.

Now I know why Brother Ruffy was so proud of his attachment to the Craft in Seoul. He had a buddy in VW Flancia. I benefited from their close ties and enjoyed being with VW Flancia even if it was my first time to meet him. Such is the essence of friendship engendered by our gentle Fraternity. It is an example of a true story

## The Cabletow

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that I will keep telling Masons, old and new. Every place where we have a Brother is our home. Every Mason we meet is a long-lost friend and that our meetings will leave indelible imprints in our memories. This distinguishes us from all other organizations: there are no strangers in our midst. *Mabuhay ang Masonerya! Mabuhay ang mga Mason sa Korea!*

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Our daughters from Bethel No. 14 of Kidapawan City also graced the 10th Southern Mindanao Convention and presented a dance number.

**In Fraternal Tribute to the Memory of VW Tomas Castillo, PDGL**

**A GOOD MAN MADE BETTER BY MASONRY**

by MW Reynato S. Puno, PGM, GMH



The Great Architect of the Universe issued His summons to WB Tomas O. del Castillo, Jr., Past Master of Hiram Lodge No. 88 of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. It is not the usual summons issued by the human hand of a judge; it was a summons issued by the divine hand of the Supreme Judge, the Lord Almighty. It is the summons that all must obey, the prince and the pauper, the rich and the poor; the summons that can reach all people, from the West to the East, from the North to the South. It is the summons awaited by those of us who have worn their lambskin apron with honor for it is the summons that will open to us the door to His Kingdom, where we are assured by the Holy Book that there God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes, where there shall be no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain for the former things are passed away.

Bro. Tom has traveled to life eternal. He has left us with a lot of legacy. These legacies will bind us to him, and I like to stress a few of them. I cannot even attempt to lay down most of them for no canvass can contain the many facets of his multi-dimensional life. With this caveat, let me just mention a few of them and let the rest be treasured in the museum of memories.

Tom was twice a brother to me. He and I belong to the Alpha Phi Beta fraternity of the University of the Philippines. He entered the fraternity ahead of me and initiated me. I remember him well for he never laid his physical hands on me. We were not only fraternity brothers; we were also classmates in the UP College of Arts and Sciences and later in the College of Law. We belong to Class '62 of the UP College of Law. We like to think that our class is the best produced by the UP College of Law. It was difficult to shine in our class for it was heavily laden with intellect and with talent. Our class was led by a magna cum laude graduate whose grade is the highest on record in the UP College of Law, a record that perhaps will not be broken. You know in the UP College of Law, the unwritten law is that nobody can graduate summa cum laude. The honor summa cum laude is reserved for God. In any event, our class is extraordinarily strong and the members proved their worth even after leaving the university. Our class has four members of the Supreme Court, several members in the Court of Appeals and the trial courts, outstanding businessmen, winners of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, Ten Outstanding Filipinos, Ten Outstanding Young Men.... You name them, we got them.

Tom was one member of Class 1962 who was consistently good from student days to his lawyering days. As a student, he excelled in campus journalism. He was my Managing Editor when I was Editor of the Philippine Collegian. He wrote a weekly column entitled Point and Counterpoint. His writings were well minted; his words were eloquent; his logic was unassailable and it was comforting to be to be fighting worthy causes side by side with him in many of the campus controversies in the late fifties and the early sixties. I had no doubt he would succeed as a lawyer and he fulfilled all our expectations. At the time of his demise, he was named partner of one of our oldest, most honored law officers in the Philippines. He has contributed a lot to our jurisprudence, but he is best remembered as the best defense lawyer in libel cases. He defended the libel and damage suits against the who is who in Philippine media and acquitted them. These media people have all the reason to be thankful to Tom, for without Tom they would now be behind bars. But on the part of the people, on the part of the nation, we thank Tom, for in defending media from libel suit, he also struck a blow for freedom of speech and of the press, a freedom that is not only etched in our Constitution but a freedom that is set in stone in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights itself.

Bro. Tom was not only a good lawyer but likewise a good Mason. A highly cerebral person, Tom did not knock at the door of Masonry without giving it a lot of serious thought and time. I entered the Craft earlier than him and we spent precious time discussing and debating

its teachings, including the risk of membership, especially the risk of misunderstanding by the forces of organized obscurantism, the forces that cannot withstand the light of Masonry. Finally, he petitioned for membership and I had the honor to raise him as a brother Mason. The Masonic precepts of brotherly love, relief and truth strongly appealed to him, and he became very active in the brotherhood. The brethren of Hiram Lodge rewarded his services by electing him as their Worshipful Master, the highest gift they could bestow on a worthy brother. As I said, Bro. Tom did not join Masonry with a blindfold but with all his intellectual antennae up, well knowing all its teachings, especially its moral teachings. And so later when there were attempts on the part of some religion to wrest him away from Masonry, when there was attempt to distort to him the teachings of the Craft, he resisted them with his first-hand knowledge of Masonry, for he knew his Masonry by heart and by mind. But we can debate with the critics of Masonry endlessly with no one coming out as winner. Indeed, this is a debate that has persisted for centuries, but I know that Bro. Tom is one of the few who won this debate during his lifetime. Bro. Tom, as I said, was one who was richly endowed with intelligence. More than that, he was a skillful lawyer, an expert in argumentation, but he won the debate against the critics of the Craft not by words but by his deeds in life. He led the life of a true Mason. He expressed our creed of love, relief and truth by daily deeds. Tom was a good man made better by Masonry, and no criticism of Masonry can speak against a good man, a man who lives his moral creed with deeds, a man who walks his talk.

*District, Multi-District,  
Regional Conventions*

**BATANGAS MASONS HOLD  
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

The annual convention of our brethren in Masonic District IV-D was held on 21 July 2007 at the Mabini-Kalaw Masonic Temple.

VW Jaime M. Tolentino, PJGL, led the brethren in invoking God's blessings; WB Virgilio T. Inhumang, Jr., PM, in singing the National Anthem and Grand Lodge March.

WM Dondon V. Perez of host Lodge Dr. Jose P. Laurel No. 325 welcomed one and all. Then he and the WMs of the other Lodges in Batangas, namely, WBs Eusebio R. Magnaye of Batangas No. 35, Ernesto O. Espiritu of Sixto Lopez (Batulao) No. 129, Aristotle O. Liwag of Mabini-Kalaw No. 195, reported the accomplishments and plans of their respective Lodges.

VW Democrito P. Manalo, DDGM, then gave his accomplishment report and message, followed by a Masonic Education Lecture by VW Jesus Flor R. Nicolas, SGL.

Several resolutions having been presented, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, GM, enlightened the brethren on the Cavite problem and other concerns.

Dinner and fellowship capped the convention.

The Grand Master and his party, composed of VW Nicolas, VW Sammy Laus (DDGM for NCR-D), VW Generoso Opiña (JGL, Southern Luzon), VW Ignacio Illenberger (Grand Historian), and VW Ernesto Gregorio, Jr. (Grand Tyler) retired quite early to their hotel rooms to be able to wake up early for the next day's activities in Tanauan City, native town of Brother Apolinario Mabini and MW Jaime Gonzales.

**ANG MASONERIYA AY HINDI LAMANG  
NASA NGUSO, HINDI LAMANG NASA ULO,  
KUNDI NASA PUSO'T KALULUWA, AT NASA  
GAWA.**

## **MASONIC DISTRICT RVI-A HOSTS 11<sup>TH</sup> VISAYAS REGIONAL MASONIC CONVENTION**

MASONIC DISTRICT RVI-A, led by VW Nery G. Duremdes, hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> Visayas Regional Masonic Convention held at the Iloilo Masonic Temple in Iloilo City on July 27-28, 2007, with Hamtik No. 76 as lead Lodge.

The two-day assemblage was participated in by brethren not only from the host District but also by those from Masonic Districts RVI-B, RVII-A, RVIII-A, and RVIII-B, led by VWBs Restituto V. Pahilanga, Jr., Dennis R. Villamor, Allan P. Mate, and Winton V. Alvero, respectively.

After a brief floral offering ceremony at the Rizal monument, the convention proper started, with WB Hernando R. Catequista, Jr., PM, leading the brethren in invoking God's blessings, followed by an eloquent rendition of the "Pagpupugay sa Watawat" by Bro. John B. Franco.

VW Duremdes having congenially welcomed one and all, Bro. Jerry P. Treñas (through his representative) gave a brief message.

After the reports of the DDGMs, VW Edward Y. Chua, JGL for Central and Eastern Visayas, and VW Ignacio V. Illenberger, Grand Historian and Executive Director of the IMES, and VW Jesus Flor R. Nicolas, SGL, lectured on certain Masonic subjects.

The fellowship night at Villa Beach was, to say the least, fraternally enjoyable, with everybody relishing the native delicacies and imbibing wine or beer. It was capped by the speech of the guest of honor, the Governor of the Province of Antique, Hon. Salvacion Zaldivar-Perez, daughter of the late Past Grand Master Calixto Zaldivar. After a brief message from MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, a dance troupe entertained the brethren, sisters and guests with their Hawaiian numbers. Then there was ballroom/disco dancing.

The plenary session on the second day focused on the presentation of resolutions, with the majority of the brethren voting down the proposal that Regional Grand Lodges be established.

MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, in his closing remarks, focused on developments in the Grand Lodge. His message was warmly applauded by the brethren.

The send-off luncheon at the Meridian Garden was well attended by delegates from the different districts. But the Grand Master and his party had to hurry to the airport for their flight back to Manila. VW Illenberger informed us along the way

that VW Elmer C. Balbin, JGL for Western Visayas, who was assigned to give the parting words, gave an enlightening Masonic education talk.

That, in brief, is the story of the 11th Visayas Regional Masonic Convention as I saw it.  
– eF.R.eN

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## 24<sup>th</sup> Bicol Regional Masonic Convention



GM Gonzales, PGM Ebdane chat with some brethren before the parade.



Behold, the "invasion forces" are marching in! At background is the cathedral in Virac.

## **ON FOCUS: Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291**

by VW Carlos "Itos" Briones, Grand Orator

MIRACLES do happen in the most unexpected way. This Most Worshipful Jaime Y. Gonzales, Grand Master of Masons of the Philippines, his entourage from Manila and all Master Masons who participated in the 25<sup>th</sup> Regional Districts Convention hosted by Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291, had to discover.

There was practically no inkling that the convention would turn out to be extraordinary. The Grand Master, joined by his Senior Grand Lecturer, VW Jesus Flor Nicolas, VW Generoso Opiña, JGL for Southern Luzon-Bicol, VW Angelito Monge, Grand Junior Steward, VW Samuel A. Laus, DDGM for NCR-D and Brother Benito Dionson of Jacques De Molay Lodge No. 305, arrived in Naga City past 1100 PM of Thursday, 02 August. They were met by VW Armando "Pan" Navarroza, DDGM for District V-A and some officers and members of Naga City Lodge No. 257 at the Villa Caceres Hotel.

### **Day I – Friday, 03 August 2007**

The GM's group and the Naga brethren had very little time to sleep. At four in the morning, they left Naga in a convoy of three vans. I was navigator in the GM's car to guide the party to take a new route to the seaport City of Tabaco and board the M/V Regina II. This vessel, owned by the family of the new governor-elect, WB Joseph C. Cua, a Past Master of the Catanduanes Lodge was to leave the pier at 7:00 a.m. for a two-and-a-half hour sail to the port of San Andres town for another 25 minutes ride to the capital town of Virac.

We were met by a reception of local brethren and some sisters led by WB Gabby Tejerero with their vans and a shuttle bus provided by the RSL Transport Lines, a subsidiary of RSL Shipping plying the route Virac to Manila in ordinary and first class air-conditioned busses. The first batch to join the GM in the ferry were brethren from the two Lodges in Naga, also from the two Lodges in Daet, Camarines Norte, from Masbate, Iriga City and some from Mayon Lodge No. 61 in Legazpi City and from Bulusan Lodge in Sorsogon.

But even as we were approaching Virac, the plane of DPWH Secretary and MW Hermogenes Ebdane was preparing to touch down at the Virac tarmac. Minutes later, two helicopters landed in bearing P.A. General and Brother Arsenio Arugay, stationed in Tinangis Camp, Pili, Camarines Sur and Commodore Alberto R. Araojo, the PN commanding officer in Bicol. The arrival of these dignitaries was turning the affair into a star-studded event.

Our lunch at the capitol dome was thirty minutes late because the GM directed the driver to proceed to the Virac cathedral for more important acts of piety. He would later reveal to us that he thought he was just attempting to establish a beachhead in Virac but beholding the long line of Masons that marched during the next morning's parade, he was convinced we made an invasion.

The rest of the afternoon gave the sojourners time for a short nap and freshen up for the Grand Master's Night Little did the brethren expect that the evening would not only offer a food-tripping delight but would have an orchestra to provide music for entertainment. Later, the brethren who were singing aficionados would steal the show and compete with the band's songstresses. The discovery of the evening came from the soothing ballads of Brother General Arugay.

Another surprise came from the oldest Mason in the hall, Illustrious Salvador Santiago. He requested to be recognized and addressed the body, climbing the stage on wobbly legs to deliver a lengthy but spicy message. When the Grand Master approached to compliment him for his discourse, he told the GM: "Pay your dues!" That elicited the hilarious uproar for the night.

### **Day II- Saturday, 04 August 2007**

At 6:00 a.m., the brethren, dressed resplendently like the respectable citizens they are, had formed their line behind the lead group of Most Worshipful

Gonzales, Past Grand Master Ebdane, the Grand Lodge Officers. The marching masons were sandwiched by two drum and lyre bands courtesy of the local public schools. They marched heads up along a kilometer main thoroughfare of the of the capital town. On both sides of the street were a line of surprised onlookers wondering wide-eyed at the marching Mason with their array of colorful aprons and jewels.

Arriving at the Rizal monument at the spacious public plaza between the Virac cathedral and the municipal hall, MW Gonzales and WB Tejerero proceeded with the floral offering. WB Santiago Villanueva, PM of Juliam Ocampo Memorial Lodge No. 236, delivered a very solemn and beautifully crafted invocation he had hurriedly written on the page of a cigarette wrapper. I delivered the tribute to Brother Rizal but the Grand Master could not resist the temptation to voice out his passionate feelings being at that time overwhelmed by the Bicol Masons' positive response to the Catanduanes Lodge's call for assistance as well as the appreciative attitude he could see from the crowd that was observing us at close range.

— then luck started pouring in —

MW Gonzales readily admitted that throughout the journey, from Manila to Naga up to Virac, he was apprehensive and wary that we might not be able to achieve the main purpose for the gathering. In his ears continuously rang the distress call of then Senior Warden Gabby Tejerero who appealed to hold the next convention which he begged from the Bulusan to be held in Virac this

year. Brother Gabby then pleaded to him to be the guest speaker (as he would be Grand Master by then) and to the brethren in Daet, at the time to send in as many Masons as they could to jolt the consciousness of the Catanduanangons that Masons could muster convincing number to brethren to assist a beleaguered Lodge. The Bicol brethren responded well. Even unexpected circumstances favored the situations. Brother Santiago 'Boy' Gabionza (a native of nearby Bato and a dual member of Q.C. Lodge No. 122) has convincingly swayed MW Ebdane to schedule his Bicol inspection in time for the Virac convention. This gave the residences of Virac a chance to witness him, in the full habiliment of a Past Grand Master, as he joined the lead pack in our parade.

At the opening program and reception at the capitol dome more surprises exploded. Literally, the Catanduanes brethren could be drowning as the floodgates of Mother Luck unleashed its stock of material goodness. The Lodge's almost empty bin would soon be overflowing with economic and financial strength. In the welcome address of the lone Congressman, the Honorable Joseph A. Santiago, time must have stood still when he announced that he was donating a seed money of One Million Pesos to the local Lodge. Pandemonium broke loose and sent all the Masons standing to join the Virac Mason's jubilant applause. Congressman Santiago said it was from his personal funds and taken from the campaign savings he made from the last May 14 election. Gratitude was also instantaneous and spontaneous as the entire convention stood clapping,

including the waiters and food handlers who were preparing our lunch. The Congressman's generosity could be understood. He is a son of a Mason, the late brother Alberto Santiago, a former harbor pilot in the port of Tabaco sometime in the '60s.

As if the furor were not enough, WB Gabby also announced the donation of a 1000 sq. meter lot from the Talion property in nearby Barangay Sto. Domingo, where the brethren could construct their own permanent temple. The Father and son tandem both named Juan Talion are both members of CIL and were given due recognition during the proceedings.

When it rains it indeed pours. The once dried up resources of Catanduanes Island Lodge became the recipient of a seemingly bursting and surging tide of enormous blessings. The prayer of WB Gabby was not only answered; it was being fulfilled!

In between breaks and during the Grand Master's Night and also the culminating program, MW Gonzales was all ears to the travails of the island brethren. He now understood the snail pace movement in that Lodge's membership. He also learned of the long account of persecution being waged against the Lodge by the local church hierarchy. One such unfortunate account includes a newly raised Master Mason who was required to read a prepared "retraction" from Masonry in front of the faithful and at the altar on his wedding day; otherwise no ceremony would be solemnized. He had no choice. The

guests and relatives were already inside the church.

In contrast, when Brother Col. Julius Jubilla, the PNP provincial director then, remarried in the same church, it was a concelebrated mass complete with petals showered from a helicopter hovering by the church' patio! Both are Masons but treated quite differently. So, who would not be confused by the attitude of the supposedly holy men?

In a separate incident, Brother Alex Caning, now a Past Master, thought he was able to dodge the Catanduanes priests by having his wedding in Naga City. His eyes nearly sprang out of their sockets when three priests from Virac were standing by the officiating monsignor, the parish priest of Peñafrañcia Shrine, waiting for him. When he was handed a document bearing the words: "Retraction from Pre-Masonry" He showed it to VW Eugene L. Ong, then DDGM, who merely smiled and told him: "GO ahead and sign. There's no such thing anyway". That piece of paper was never seen nor heard of again.

There are also accounts of petitioners who were visited in their homes by local priests and persuaded not to pursue their plans. For those who show resistance, they either talk to the wife or to the parents. And these proved to be effective; hence, the poor membership. A departed monsignor was once heard to have publicly announced that: "just like the Jaycees, the Lions and Rotary clubs which did not thrive in Virac, Masonry won't last either." Now,

seventeen years later, Masonry has still survived. Indeed, time, patience and perseverance have accomplished for this Lodge.

During the fellowship in the closing program, WB Gabby announced that five of the members of his joggers' club (who have been observing the Masons) have signified their intentions to petition. This could be another miracle as the names he mentioned are known citizens of Virac. So those years of trials may be coming to an end. The future of this Lodge has been strengthened by a million. The Grand Master was now convinced we had achieved our purpose and that the Catanduanes lodge will be around for a long time.

It would be a long trek back to the Grand Lodge in Manila but the labor with the Bicol brethren, the fellowship with the three Lodges of District V-B under VW Robert Palanca and the 6 Lodges in District V-A under VW Pan Navarroza would live long in the memory of the brethren who were there and were with the Grand Master for his "invasion." All the things that had happened would secure the future of that Lodge. It will be an enriching experience for all to cherish the generosity of two Catandunganons, one a full-blooded Mason, the other, a son of a mason who came forward to save a Lodge. Hopefully, it will also be a fulfilling journey for those who came for the first time and left their footprints on this hallowed spot in Mother Earth where the waters of the Pacific Ocean eternally and incessantly lap at her sun-blest shores.

## THE 49<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION OF REGION 4-C

by VW Joselito P. Tamaray, PDDGM

The Brethren of Masonic District Region 4-C were fortunate indeed to have as their Guest of Honor and Speaker MW Jaime Y. Gonzales during their 49<sup>th</sup> Annual District Convention on August 18, 2007 held at Max Restaurant, Tayabas, Quezon.

At exactly 7:30 a.m., the brethren of the District assembled at the Kalilayan Lodge Temple and paraded with full Masonic regalia to the monument of the First Filipino Grand Master, MW Manuel L. Quezon, at the Perez Park, Capitol Compound. The Blue Masons headed by the District Deputy Grand Master, VW Reynaldo O. Calayan, Jr., were joined by the members of the Appendant Bodies of Quezon Province, namely: (a) Lucena Bodies, A. & A.S.R. headed by Ill. Jesus R. Decena, 33<sup>o</sup>, IGH, Deputy for the Orient of Laguna, Quezon and Marinduque; Ill. Roy Roxas, 33<sup>o</sup>, IGH, Valley Supervisor of the Valley of Lucena City, Ill. Victor Samuel C. Habito, 33<sup>o</sup>, IGH, Ill. Joselito P. Tamaray, 33<sup>o</sup> IGH and Bro. Alex Reynoir Cariaga, 32<sup>o</sup>, KCCH, Venerable Master, Lamong Bay Lodge of Perfection. (b) The Banahaw Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. (c) The Kalilayan Chapter of the International Order of the DeMolay and (d) the Banahaw Chapter of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls.

The floral offering was highlighted with the participation of Bro. Rafael P. Nantes, the Incumbent Governor of Quezon Province and Senior Warden of Saigon Lodge No. 188. He welcomed the party of MW Jaime Y. Gonzales and the delegates to the convention and exhorted the brethren to continue to preserve and practice the Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

After the floral offering, sets of computers were distributed to three Elementary Public Schools of Lucena City as part of the continuing project of VW Reynaldo O. Calayan, Jr., with the support of the Lodges and the Appendant Bodies of Quezon Province and in line with the – ADOPT AND SUPPORT THE PUBLIC SCHOOL PROGRAM OF MW JAIME Y. GONZALES. In fact, 20 computers had already been distributed in the remote Elementary Public Schools in Quezon Province since the DDGM assumed office.

During the convention proper, VW Reynaldo O. Calayan, Jr. invited the brethren for a brief journey to the past concerning the deeply rooted Masonic History of Quezon Province. The Original Lodges that operated in the province of Tayabas long before the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was organized on December 19, 1912 were Rizal Lodge No. 312 (20) in Lopez, Quezon; Banahaw Lodge No. 332 (24) in Atimonan, Quezon; Balintawak Lodge No. 354 (28) in Gumaca, Quezon; and Kalilayan Lodge No. 37 of Lucena City. Aside from these Lodges that operated under

the Gran Oriente Español, there were early Triangles and Lodges that also operated preceding them. In fact, the very first Filipino who was initiated a Mason in 1872 in a Lodge in Pandacan was Bro. Enrique Paraiso, who was a native of Tayabas and one of the leaders of the Reform Movement in 1872 and later exiled in Cartagena, Spain together with Bros. Crisanto De Los Reyes and Maximo Innocencio who are members of a Lodge in Cavite during the period.

The Masonic Education Lecture of VW Jesus Flor R. Nicolas, our Senior Grand Lecturer, was very enlightening and the brethren were doubly delighted later to learn that the lecturer was the famous eF.R.eN. of the Cabletow.

The message of MW Jaime Y. Gonzales was very passionate when he expounded to the brethren the confusion and aberration affecting the brethren and Lodges in Cavite under the Grand Lodge of the Philippines. It was a message worthy of our concern as Masons in this Grand Jurisdiction.

Fraternal Fellowship followed after the convention and thereafter, the Party of MW Jaime Y. Gonzales proceeded to the Residential Rest House of Bro. Raffy P. Nantes in Sampaloc, Quezon to join the Group of MW Reynato S. Puno, MW Rosendo C. Herrera and MW Oscar V. Bunyi, all PGM's and who were guests of the Governor for the celebration of the 129<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Manuel L. Quezon the following day.

Indeed, the District Convention was very successful with the able support of

the brethren and the Lodges in Quezon. It was an affair to remember for on the same occasion and for the first time in the district an award of recognition was conferred to VW Juan Paladan of Balintawak Lodge No. 28, who served his Lodge for almost 44 years in various capacities and as Secretary of his Lodge for 20 years. His dedication to masonry is second to none and worthy of emulation. Despite his age of 78 years, he still continues to preach and spread the gospel of the Lord as provincial Parish Priest of the Aglipayan Church in the Province of Marinduque.

The following day, the brethren of the District joined the Provincial Celebration of the 129<sup>th</sup> Birth of Manuel L. Quezon and the Guest of Honor and Speaker was MW Reynato S. Puno, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. With him during the celebration were MW Rosendo C. Herrera, PGM and MW Oscar V. Bunyi, PGM. A sumptuous luncheon was thereafter hosted by Bro. Raffy Nantes at the Governor's Mansion with the brethren and a free-wheeling discussion on Masonic concerns and interests followed to the delight of all those who were present. It was the wisdom of the 3 Past Grand Masters that added spice to the luncheon fellowship and will be cherished forever.

The two-day Masonic affair in the serene Province of Quezon will forever be remembered by the brethren of the District as one of the most successful and well attended conventions ever held. We congratulate the able leadership of VW Reynaldo O. Calayan, Jr. and the District Officers who never wavered in their

## The Cabletow

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desire to make the affair a very memorable one and to all the delegates from various Lodges in the District who made their presence felt as true brothers of the mystic-tie. There is no substitute indeed for the

brethren to work in harmony for the good of the craft and may we all continue to enjoy Masonry with all its splendor and beauty until time shall be no more. May the GAOTU bless us all!



*A view of the East during Lucena Convention*

**Masonry is a place where you can confidently trust every person, entrust your family with them.**

**Masonry is a place where, within moral and civil guidelines free thought, free speaking and the spiritual growth of man can grow into its fullest potential.**

## A FRUITFUL NORTEAST LUZON MULTI-DISTRICT CONVENTION

by VW Rogelio P. Matalang, PDDGM (MD RII-C)

To host of the 15<sup>th</sup> Multi-District Convention of Northeast Luzon on August 24-25, 2007 held at the Cagayan Colleges Tuguegarao Gymnasium in Tuguegarao City was, for us, a very rare privilege.

The convention's theme was "Live More Masonically towards a Better Society!"

The two-day affair included bloodletting, with the staff of the Cagayan Medical Center in charge, courtesy of Bro. Emmanuel Acluba, the Chief of the Center. The shootfest held at the PNP Police Regional Office 02 grounds was participated in by brethren from the various Lodges in the region. So was the lawn tennis tournament. These competitions were marked by unity and harmony, thanks to the efficient management of the brethren of Itawes Lodge No. 245.

In the early morning of August 25, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, Grand Master, together with other Grand Line and District Officers, led the brethren of the region in offering flowers in fraternal tribute to the memory of our late Brother Jose Protacio Rizal at the park in Tuguegarao City named after him. In his message, the Grand Master stressed the pro-patria labors of our nation's foremost hero.

There was a big number of delegates not only from MD RII-C but also from the other participating districts, namely, RII-A, RII-B, RII-D, RII-E, and CAR-A.

The resolutions from the various Districts and Lodges having been presented and deliberated on, VW Edilberto Carabbacan and VW Jesus Flor Nicolas gave their Masonic Education Lectures, followed by the message of the Presiding DDGM, VW Flor B. Mandac, MD RII-C.

The Grand Master and other Grand Lodge Officers then joined the brethren in a very warm fellowship social, which featured the CCT Dance Troupe, the famous Panaddamman Dance Troupe, and the sexy dance instructors from the CSU.

The brethren enjoyed the show during the fellowship social, which ended with a non-stop ballroom dancing, with the beautiful ladies in their equally colorful costumes leading the dancers. Even the Grand Master participated in the dancing.

An interesting feature of the convention was the conferral of the Installed Past Master's Degree, with VW Ed Carabbacan, JGL for North Luzon, presiding.

The brethren were all grateful to Hon. Victor V. Perez, CCT President and a member of lead Lodge Itawes No. 215.

What a fruitful, enjoyable convention it was!

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## **RIA & CAR-B PLAYS HOST TO RI, RIB & CAR-C**

MASONIC DISTRICT RIA and CAR-B, headed by VW Amerhassan G. Lucman, DDGM, played host to MDs RI and RIB & CAR-C, headed by VWBs William A. Pre and Paul Francis T. Co, DDGMs, respectively, on October 12-13, 2007 as the 3 Districts convened for the 21<sup>st</sup> time.

The two-day convention took place in La Trinidad, Benquet, with La Trinidad No. 344 serving as lead Lodge.

On the 12<sup>th</sup>, after the floral-offering ceremony, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales led the brethren in paying La Trinidad Mayor Artemio A. Galwan a courtesy call.

Lunch over, the brethren assembled in the Palispic Hall of the Benquet Capitol. The call of the roll by WB Manny Ydia, Secretary of the host District, revealed the presence of at least 167 registered delegates.

The Masonic education lectures of VWBs Jesus Flor R. Nicolas and VW Edilberto P. Carabacan, SGL and JGL-North Luzon, respectively, were intently listened to by the brethren, some of whom asked pertinent questions during the open forum. VW Ed Carabacan's lecture on the Square whetted the brethren's appetite for more esoteric enlightenment.

The Grand Master's Night at the DPWH Compound was eventful and enjoyable. MW Jaime Y. Gonzales was wooed by the cultural dancers into participating in the Ibaloi and Kan-Kanaey dances.

The Grand Master's inspirational message over, VW "Wayda" Lucman led the brethren in a toast in fraternal tribute to MW Gonzales.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, the DDGMs of the three participating districts showed, through their reports, that they were faithfully implementing the Grand Master's administrative program thrusts.

VW Federico I. Paragas, PJGL, presided over the presentation and disposition of resolutions, regaling the brethren with his characteristic sense of humor as he did so.

Masonic District RI-B & CAR-C will host the 2008 Tri-District Convention, with Laoag No. 71 as lead Lodge.

VW Jack Gesner of Baguio Lodge No. 67 was patently moved when the 50-years medal and certificate were presented to him by no less than the Grand Master of Masons in the jurisdiction of the Philippines.

In his message, MW Gonzales, among other things, challenged the younger Masons to so improve themselves in Masonry that they would be able to keep burning the flame of the Masonic torch passed on to them by their elder

brethren. He commended VW Rodolfo M. Jubinal for his eloquent rendition of the Tribute to the Flag; VW Albert Gahid, DGL, and Bro. Acks Pobre, for ably emceeding the post-dinner fellowship program during the Grand Master's Night and, above all, the organizers of the convention for a job very well done. The brethren, in turn, gratified the Grand Master by faithfully remaining in the hall till the very end of the convention, thereby getting well informed on the developments in the Grand Lodge.

The Grand Master and his party left the brethren with that oft-repeated refrain, "Happy to meet, sorry to part, hoping to meet again"; for they had to hurry back to Manila to attend the Festive Board to be tendered in the Grand Master's honor by the Provincial Grand Lodge of the Royal Order of Scotland.



MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, VW "Wayda" Lucman with 50-years service medalist, VW Jack Gesner.

Grand Master receives token of appreciation from host District



## **A BRIEF REPORT ON THE 14<sup>TH</sup> NORTHWESTERN MINDANAO MASONIC CONVENTION**

Masonic District RX-C, led by VW Ramon I. Gighe, successfully hosted the 14<sup>th</sup> Northwestern Mindanao Masonic Convention held at the Naomi's Botanical Garden in Ozamis City on November 8-10, 2007, with Palilan No. 239, led by WM Sandy D. Ablania, as lead Lodge.

Sports activities (golf, tennis and badminton) were participated in by delegates from the host district and from these other districts: RIX-A, led by VW Angelito L. Martinez; RIX-B and RX-B, led by VW Jaime S. Vesagas; RIX-C, led by VV Rodolfo C. Maadil; RX-D and ARMM-D, led by VW James T. Yu; and RXI-A headed by VW Rodel Riezl S. Reyes.

In the afternoon of November 9 MW Jaime Y. Gonzales and the brethren paid the City Mayor a courtesy call, who graciously participated in the floral offering that took place at the Rizal Park. The Grand Master and his party, as well as officials and delegates of the participating districts, having offered floral wreaths at Brother Rizal's Monuments, Bro. Renato R. Laguna led the invocation, Bro. Joseph Kent C. Bacolod delivered a tribute to Bro. Jose Rizal, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales gave his message, and VW Ramon I. Gighe acknowledged the participating delegations. The program was emceed by WM Sandy D. Ablana.

In the evening of the same day the Grand Master's Night was held at the Timothy's Mall, Naomi's Botanical Garden, with Bro. Laguna again leading the invocation. VW Gighe welcomed one and all to the special event, and VW Vincent O. Soledad, DGL, called the roll by Masonic Districts.

After dinner, members of the different segments of the Masonic Family in Western Mindanao presented their numbers. Then VW Alberto P. Caga-anan, PDDGM, introduced the Grand Master, who obviously elated by the big turn-out of brethren, sisters, sons, and daughters.

VW Gighe, assisted by VW Abaña, gave out awards to the winners of the different sports activities, and WB Luisito S. Yu took charge of the raffle draw.

The Grand Master's Night, which was capped by dances, was emceed by Bro. Josel J. Agraviador.

The convention proper at Chloe's Hall, Naomi's Botanical Garden, was made all the more solemn by the eloquent rendition by Bro. Vermeo R. Botonio of the Salute to the Flag. Hon. & Bro. Loreto Leo S. Ocampos, Provincial Governor of Misamis

Occidental, welcomed all and sundry to his province in his characteristic eloquent and humorous way.

Because he had to go back to Manila for an important engagement, Grand Master Jaime Y. Gonzales delivered his message.

In the afternoon, VW Edilberto P. Carabbacan, JGL for Northern Luzon, got the admiration and praises of the brethren because he gave a very enlightening lecture on the symbolic meanings of the ornaments, furniture, supports, jewels and lights of a Lodge.

Several resolutions having been presented and discussed, VW James T. Yu formally accepted the hosting by Masonic District RX-B & ARMM-D of the 15<sup>th</sup> Western Mindanao Masonic Convention.



Davao City. – MW Jaime Y. Gonzales welcomes the oldest widow who attended the Widows and Orphans Day, who is 102 years old and the widow of the late WB Casimero F. Arkoncel, Sr., Past Master of Sarangani Lodge No. 50.

### MT. MAINAN LODGE NO. 49 HOSTS THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DISTRICT CONVENTION OF MASONIC DISTRICT REGION IV-A (CAVITE)

by WI Ruel L. Ditan, GLI  
District Secretary

The 75<sup>th</sup> Annual District Convention hosted by Mt. Mainam Lodge No. 49, F. & A.M., was held at the Naic Covered Court, Naic Cavite last November 30, 2007. The event was attended by approximately 800 attendees from the Grand Lodge, Cavite Lodges, Lodges from other Districts, and Appendant Bodies.

In the early morning of November 30, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, Grand Master, with VW Delfin P. Narvaez, DDGM, WM Conrado L. Nati, Jr. of the Host Lodge, and other Grand Line Officers made a courtesy call on WB Efren C. Nazareno, PM and Municipal Mayor of Naic, Cavite, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at Rizal Monument, Naic Town Plaza.

From the Town Plaza, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, Grand Master, led the Parade, which was participated in by the Grand Line Officers, Cavite Lodges, Order of the Amaranth, Eastern Star, Rainbow for Girls and DeMolay to the venue of the convention.

The Convention was highlighted by the Oath of Re-Allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, spearheaded by MW Rudyardo V. Bunda, PGM. Fourteen (14) Brethren took their solemn oath and were welcomed back by all the Brethren who attended the affair.

Another highlight was the Masonic Education rendered by VW Edilberto Carabbacan, JGL for Northern Luzon, which was enlightening, informative and well appreciated by the attendees.

In his speech MW Gonzales welcomed back the Brethren who had returned to our fold and gave the latest developments in the ACACIA or the FRAP. The GM in

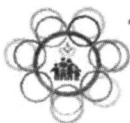


parting gave emphasis on our Masonic tenets.

Lunch and fellowship social capped the very successful 75<sup>th</sup> Annual District Convention of Masonic District Region IV-A.

## NUEVA ECIJA SOUTH HOSTS THE 17<sup>TH</sup> MULTIDISTRICT CONVENTION OF MASONIC LODGES

by: Bro. Ian G. Carganillo



**17th CENTRAL LUZON MULTI DISTRICT  
CONVENTION**



The brethren, led by their respective District Deputy Grand Masters from the Masonic districts of the provinces of Tarlac, Bulacan, Pampang, Zambales, Bataan and Nueva Ecija, convened in the City of Cabanatuan for the Annual Multidistrict Convention of Masonic Lodges last December 7-8, 2007 under the clarion call of the Most Worshipful Jaime Y. Gonzales' theme: **LIVE MORE MASONICALLY, TOWARDS A BETTER SOCIETY.**

The two-day convention was marked on the first day with some sports activities, such as golf, badminton and lawn tennis. These were followed by the traditional Grand Master's Night in honor of the incumbent Grand Master of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, the Most Worshipful Jaime Y. Gonzales.

Early Saturday morning, the brethren with the seven DDGMs and the Grand Master's entourage gathered at the monument of Dr. Jose P. Rizal at the Cabanatuan City Hall compound for a simple wreath-laying ceremony, which was followed by a motorcade to Wesleyan University-Philippines, the venue of the convention proper.

Donned in their Masonic regalia, the different district dignitaries and the entourage of the Grand Master, together with the appendant bodies representatives, lined up in a solemn procession as the Brother Marshal escorted them inside the convention hall and presented them before the altar to the presiding District Deputy Grand Master, VWBro. Emil Andrew M. dela Rosa, II, of host Masonic District RIII-D.

Shortly thereafter, the Very Reverend Manuel G. Palomo led the congregation in an invocation with a powerful yet gentle voice as he sought the blessings of the Great Architect of the Universe upon all Freemasons present.

## The Cabletow

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Meanwhile, the Very Worshipful Bro. Bernardo R. Mangahas, Jr. shone anew as he delivered the Tribute to the Flag with mastery and precision in pure Tagalog, while the Very Worshipful Bro. Jaime V. Magno called the roll of Lodges.

During the business meeting, the minutes of the previous Convention was unanimously approved by the body. The DDGMs of the seven districts then reported on how they had implemented the program and rallying thrusts of the Most Worshipful Jaime Y. Gonzales.

Moreover, the brethren present witnessed the presentation of the Order of the DeMolay and the First Bethel under dispensation of the Job's Daughters International, with the latter making a processional so solemn that it captured the hearts of all Master Masons.

The convention then adopted the first Multidistrict logo, which was first introduced during the 17<sup>th</sup> Multidistrict Convention, to be the official seal of the Central Luzon Masonic Districts.



The brethren and the Jobies pose with the Grand Master, the Deputy Grand Master, other Grand Line Officers, the DDGM and other District Officers.

**PAG-AALAY NG BULAKLAK SA BANTAYOG  
NI GAT APOLINARIO MABINI SA KANYANG DAMBANA  
SA BARANGAY TALAGA, LUNGSOD NG TANAUAN,  
IKA-144 NA ANIBERSARYO NG KANYANG PAGSILANG**



Si MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, nagtatalumpati bilang Panauhing Pandangal.



Malugod na tinanggap si MW Jaime Y. Gonzales ni  
Mayor Sonia Torres Aquino, Punong-Lungsod ng Tanauan.



Ang naghandog para sa kapatiran Masoneriya (Kaliwa-Pakanan): PNP Superintendent Prudencio "Tom" Bañas, Direktor ng Batangas Provincial PNP Command; ang Grand Master, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales; WB Aristole O. Liwag, Marangal na Guro ng Lohiyang Mabini-Kalaw Blg. 195 na nagsalita

bilang kinatawan ng Gobernador, Kgg. Vilma Santos-Recto; at si VW Democrito P. Manalo, DDGM ng Masonic District RIV-D. Hindi nakasama sa larawan si WB Dondon Perez, Marangal na Guro ng Dr. Jose P. Laurel Lodge No. 325, na siyang pangunahing



Umagapay kay MW Grand Master Jaime Y. Gonzales sa mga seremonyang idinaos bilang paggunita sa ika-144 na kaarawan ni Gat Apolinario Mabini buhat sa lalawigan ng Batangas at Laguna. Nasa larawan buhat sa kaliwa: Bro.

Eusebio "Boy" Magnaye, SW at Pansamantalang Marangal na Guro ng Lohiyang Batangas Blg. 35; VW Generoso Opiña, JGL para sa Southern Luzon; VW Benedicto P. Parumog, PDGL (RIV-D); Bro. Benedicto Corona, Konsehal ng Tanauan City; PSupt. Prudencio Bañas, PNP Direktor ng lalawigan ng Batangas; ang Grand Master, MW Jaime Y. Gonzales; VW Democrito P. Manalo, DDGM ng RIV-D; at VW Simeon C. Caguicla, DGL ng RIV-D. Inagayapan nila ng isang kawal ng Batangas PNP.

# KA PULE MABINI: DAKILANG BAYANING BATANGENYO

ni Jaime Y. Gonzales  
Gran Maestro ng mga Mason sa Pilipinas

## Isang Malaking Karangalan

Para sa inyong lingkod, isang malaking karangalan ang maatasang magbigay ng mensahe at maituring na panauhing pandangal sa okasyong ito – ang paggunita ng ika-143ng anibersayo ng araw ng pagsilang ni Gat Apolinario Maranan Mabini.

## Ang Kanyang Pagsilang, Pamilya't Edukasyon

Batid na po nating lahat na ang ating kababayang bayani ay isinilang sa ika-23 ng Hulyo ng taong 1864 sa Talaga, Tanauan. Siya'y ikalawa sa walong supling nina Inocencio Mabini at Dionisia Maranan, mga maralitang magsasaka.

Batid na rin po nating lahat na nag-aral si Ka Apolinario or Ka Pule sa paaralang pribado ni Padre Valerio Malabanan sa Bayan ng Bauan. Masipag at matalinong estudyante raw si Ka Pule. Nang bata pa siya, mahina na ang kondisyon pisikal niya. Upang lumakas kunti ang katawan niya, naglaro siya madalas ng sipa.

Batid na rin po natin lahat na, nung matapos si Ka Pule ang kanyang edukasyong elementarya, sa payo ni Padre Malabanan, kumuha siya ng "competitive examination" upang maging eskolar siya sa Colegio de San Juan de Letran, na nasa Intramuros, Siyudad ng Maynila. Napasa niya ang "competitive examination" at naging eskolar siya sa Letran.

Upang may gastusin siya sa kailangang pang-araw-araw, tinuruan ni Ka Pule ang mga anak ng mga pamilyang mayaman na nakatira sa paligid ng Letran. Ngunit, hindi sapat ang kanyang kita sa "tutoring". Kaya, pahintu-hinto siya sa pag-aaral niya sa Letran. Balik-balik siya rito sa probinsya natin upang makapagturo sa paaralan ni Padre Valerio Malabanan sa Bauan. Nagturo rin daw si Ka Pule sa eskwelahan ni Don Sebastian Virrey sa Lipa.

Kung makaipon siya ng sapat na salapi, balik na naman siya sa Maynila upang ipagpatuloy ang pag-aaral niya sa Letran.

Kahit nahirapan si Ka Pule dahil sa kakulangan ng salaping panggastos sa araw-araw, nag-aral siyang mabuti't matiyaga, at natapos niya ang kanyang kurso, ang Batsilyer sa Pilosopiya.

Kung ipahintulot ninyo, mga kababayan ko, basahin ko sa wikang Ingles ang isang liham niya sa kanyang minamahal na ina. In that letter, Ka Pule wrote in part:

“Dear mother, in the midst of my misfortunes, your memory is not a very painful one when I am consoled by the idea that fate has spared me the sorrow of seeing them. But, if unexpectedly better days would come to me, I would begrudge fate for not allowing you to enjoy my fortune.”

Ang ambisyon o pangarap ni Ka Pule ay maging matagumpay na abogado. Batid na rin po nating lahat na, nung 24 taon ang gulang niya, nagmatrikula’t nag-aral siya ng Abogasiya sa Unibersidad ng Santo Tomas. Upang masuportahan niya ang kanyang sarili habang nag-aaral siya ng Abogasiya, nagtrabaho siya bilang “copyist” sa Court of First Instance sa Siyudad ng Maynila. Ang “boss” niya roon ay si Numeriano Adriano, na isang “law clerk” at isang aktibong Mason. Nagtrabaho rin daw si Ka Pule sa Intendencia General bilang “clerk” o sekretaryo.

Ulit, dahil sa kahirapan sa buhay, pahintu-hinto siya sa pag-aaral ng Abogasiya.

Indeed, Ka Pule’s life as a law student at the University of Santo Tomas was far from easy. He felt the pang of poverty, but he persistently pursued his academic course. He was determined to triumph over his economic adversity. He did not allow adversity to derail him from his ambition to become a lawyer.

Dahil masipag, matiyaga, at seryoso si Ka Pule bilang estudyante, nakamit niya ang ambisyon niya; naging mahusay na abogado siya.

### **Sumapi sa Masoneriya, La Liga Filipina**

Dahil sa inpluwensiya ng kanyang “boss” at kaibigan, na si Numeriano Adriano, sumapi si Ka Pule sa Kapatirang Masoneriya nung Setyembre ng taong 1892. Siya’y may gulang na 28 anyos noon. Naging miyembro siya sa Lohiya Balagtas Bilang 149 sa ilalim ng Gran Oriente Español. Ang Gran Maestre ng Gran Oriente Español noon ay si Propesor Miguel Morayta, na kaibigan ng mga Pilipinong repormista’t propagandista. Sina Kapatid na Marcelo H. del Pilar at Mariano Ponce ay mga opisyal ng Gran Oriente Español. Ang pangalan ni Ka Pule sa Kapatirang Masoneriya ay “KATABAY”.

Nung taong 1893, kabilang si Kapatid na Apolinario “Katabay” Mabini sa mga nagtatag ng Gran Consejo Regional de la Masoneria en Filipinas (Regional Grand Council of Masonry in the Philippines), at siya’y napili bilang Grand Orator ng Konsehong iyon.

Brother Apolinario Mabini was gifted by God with a brilliant mind, a philosophical temper, an eloquent tongue, and a prolific pen. In the Masonic fraternity he was a respected and esteemed leader. His Brother Masons looked to him for example and inspiration because they regarded him as a man of honor, virtue, charitable feelings, and patriotic fervor.

Sumapi rin si Ka Pule sa La Liga Filipina, ang organisasyon na tinatag ni Kapatid na Doctor Jose Rizal noong ika-3 ng Hulyo ng taong 1892. Gaya ng mga Kapatid niyang Mason, gusto rin ni Ka Pule na makamit ang kalayaan ng bansa sa pamamagitan ng kampanya para sa mga reporma.

### **Naging Katipunero's Rebolusyonaryo**

Dahil na-deport si Doctor Jose Rizal sa Dapitan, Zamboanga, at dahil kinumpiska ng mga Kastila ang pera na ipinadala ng mga miyembro ng La Liga Filipina bilang tulong kay Kapatid na Marcelo H. del Pilar sa pag-limbag ng pahayagang *La Solidaridad*, na instrumento ng paghingi ng mga reporma sa pamahalaang espanyol, sumapi si Ka Pule sa Katipunan, na tinatag din ng mga Mason – sina Kapatid na Deodato Arellano, Andres Bonifacio, Valentin Diaz, Ladislow Diwa, Jose Dizon, at Teodoro Plata.

Ito'y sinabi ni Kapatid na Apolinario Mabini tungkol sa rebolusyon: "The Philippine revolution against Spain is justified because all the peaceful means available to the Filipinos for obtaining reforms from the Spanish government have already been exhausted." Panahon na upang umalsa. Panahon na upang lumaban. Panahon na upang makibaka. Tama na, sobra na! Kaya nga, si Ka Pule, na dating repormista't pasipista, ay naging katipunero't rebolusyonaryo.

### **Bakit Naging Matagumpay na Abogado**

Hindi batid ng lahat na, nung abogado't Mason na si Ka Pule, tinulungan siya ng mga Kapatid niya sa Masoneriya. Binigyan nila siya ng mga kliyente. Dahil sa tulong nila, umunlad ang kanyang "law practice" at ang kanyang buhay, at nakabili siya ng bahay at lupa (house and lot) sa Kalye Nagtahan, malapit sa Palasyo ng Malakanyang.

### **Bakit Naging Paralitiko Siya**

Hindi batid ng marami kung bakit naging paralitiko o lumpo si Ka Pule. Nabasa ko sa isang magasin na isa sa mga kliyente ni Apolinario Mabini, bilang abogado, ay isang maganda't mayaman na Pransesa (beautiful and rich French woman), na mahilig sa horseback riding o pagsakay sa kabayo. Ayon sa kuwento, na-in-love si Apolinario Mabini sa kanyang kliyente. Upang ipadarama niya ang kanyang pag-ibig, rinegaluhan niya ang magandang Pransesa ng isang puting kabayo. Ngunit, isang hapon na maulan, nakawala ang kabayo sa koral. Nung mabatid ni Apolinario

Mabini ang nangyari sa kabayo, upang lalong maipadarama ang pag-ibig niya sa Pransesa, nagpaulan siya, hinabol niya ang kabayo, at binalik niya ito sa Pransesa. Nung gabing 'yon, nagkaroon si Apolinario Mabini ng mataas na lagnat; kinabukasan, na-atake o na-stroke siya, at naging paralitiko o lumpo siya. Sinubukan ang mga Mason na doctor o mediko na gamutin ang paralysis niya, ngunit nabigo sila. Sinubukan ni Ka Pule ang magbabad sa "hot spring" ng Pansol, Laguna; ngunit, wala ring epekto 'to.

## **Mga Ginampanan ni Ka Pule sa Himagsikan**

Batid na rin nating lahat na, kahit paralitiko o lumpo si Ka Pule, maraming papel o posisyon ang ginampanan niya sa Himagsikang Pilipino.

Sa rekomendasyon ni Don Felipe Agoncillo, na isa ring Mason, naging Punong Tagapagpayo ni Heneral Emilio Aguinaldo, na isa ring Mason, si Kapatid na Apolinario Mabini.

Sa ika-23 ng Hunyo 1892, ang pamahalaang diktaturyal ay pinalitan ni Heneral Aguinaldo ng pamahalaang rebolusyonaryo. Ang pasiyang ito ay batay sa payo ni Kapatid na Apolinario Mabini, na siyang tumatayong utak ng rebolusyon.

Kabilang sa mga gawain ng pamahalaang rebolusyonaryo ay ang pagtatatag ng mga pamahalaang lokal sa mga lalawigang nakalaya na sa kamay ng mga Kastila. Nagtatag ng Kongreso ng mga Maghihimagsik. Nagdaos ng pulong ng Kongreso noong ika-1 ng Agosto 1898 sa Bacoor, Cavite, kung saan pinagtibay ang kasarinlan ng Pilipinas.

Naging Punong Ministro't Kalihim ng Relasyon Panglabas si Kapatid na Apolinario Mabini.

According to the former American Governor-General William H. Taft, who was also a Mason, "Apolinario Mabini was the most irreconcilable among the Filipinos. His physical infirmity had appealed to the imagination of the Filipinos and to the pity of all ... to place him in the attitude of a martyr."

Nung nahuli ng mga Amerikano si Kapatid na Apolinario Mabini sa Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija, nabilanggo siya. Ngunit, kahit na sa bilanguan siya, patuloy pa rin and pagsulat niya ng mga mahalagang dokumento. Mga ito ang nagpatibay ng loob ng mga Pilipino, sa gitna ng kahirapan, na lumaban para sa kalayaan ng Inang Bayan.

Hindi nanumpa si Kapatid na Apolinario na maging matapat siya sa pamahalaang Amerikano. Na-deport siya sa Guam. Ngunit, ayaw pa rin niyang manumpa ng katapatan sa pamahalaan ng Estados Unidos ng Amerika.

Nung nagkasakit siya ng kolera, pinayagang siya'y bumalik sa Pilipinas. Hanggang sa kamatayan niya noong 1903, sa gulang na 39 na taon, nanatiling matapat siya sa kanyang Inang Bayan.

Ganyan katatag ang loob ng ating bayaning Batangenyos! Ganyan katapang ang "Utak ng Rebolusyong Pilipino"!

### **"Ang Totoong Sampung Utos"**

Isa sa sinulat ni Ka Pule ay "The True Decalogue" o "Ang Tutoong Sampung Utos." Ang mga payo niya sa sinulat niyang ito ay ayon sa mga turo o aral ng Masonerya. Ang mga ito ay:

UNA. Mahalin mo ang Diyos at ang iyong sariling karangalan higit sa lahat

IKALAWA. Sambahin mo ang Diyos ayon sa iyong budhi o konsensya.

IKATLO. Linangin mo ang mga talento na ibinigay ng Diyos sa iyo sa pamamagitan ng pag-aral at trabaho.

IKA-APAT. Mahalin mo ang iyong bayan pagkatapos ng Diyos at iyong karangalan at higit pa sa iyong sarili.

IKA-LIMA. Sikapin mo na iyong bansa ay maligaya dahil lugar siya ng rason, ng katarungan, at ng trabaho.

IKA-ANIM. Sikapin mo na iyong bayan ay may tunay na kasarinlan.

IKA-PITO. Kilalanin at sundin mo ang totoong may kapangyarihan sa iyong bayan.

IKA-WALO. Sikapin mo na magkaroon ang bayan mo ng isang pamahalaang republikano o demokratiko.

IKA-SIYAM. Mahalin mo ang iyong kapuwa tao, gaya nang pagmamahal mo sa iyong sarili.

IKA-SAMPO. Mahalin mo ang iyong kababayan na higit pa sa iyong kapuwa tao.

Sabi ni Kapatid na Apolinario: "Tayong mga Pilipino ay dapat magbuklod-buklod upang malabanan natin ang ating kaaway at upang makamit natin ang mga layunin ng buhay pang-tao."

Sana, mga kababayan ko, isa-puso at isa-gawa nating lahat ang mga payo ni Ka Pule.

## **Konklusyon**

Please allow me to close my message in the English language, which Ka Pule endeavored to master along with Pilipino and Spanish.

Clearly, Ka Pule attained his personal perfection or excellence through dedicated study and hard work. He persistently pursued his dream of a better life not only for himself and his family, but for his country and countrymen as well. He came to enjoy good fortune and blessings because he invested precious time to be equal to the challenges of his era. He knew the meaning of poverty, of hardship, of suffering. He also knew how to rise above his condition and be counted among the enlightened intellectuals and courageous patriots of his day.

Ka Pule has set an example well worthy of emulation by us latter-day Filipinos, especially the young ones among us.

As we pay fraternal tribute to his memory, let us renew our commitment to develop ourselves to our highest potential, so that we will be able to help build our city, Tanauan, our province, Batangas, and our country, the Philippines, into places where reason, justice, and work prevail.

May God grant that the Province of Batangas, specifically the City of Tanauan, be inhabited by men, women and children possessed of the admirable qualities which made Apolinario Mabini one of the greatest heroes our country has ever had.

**“TAYO’Y MGA PILIPINO AY DAPAT  
MAGBUKLOD-BUKLOD UPANG MALABANAN  
NATIN ANG ATING KAAWAY AT UPANG  
MAKAMIT NATIN ANG MGA LAYUNIN NG  
BUHAY PANG-TAO.” – KA PULE**

## GM's Fulfilling Trek to Southern Mindanao

by eF.R.eN

Accompanied by VW Jesus Flor R. Nicolas (SGL) and VW Ernesto M. Gregorio (Grand Tyler), MW Jaime Y. Gonzales, GM, was warmly welcomed at the Davao International Airport in the afternoon of October 25, 2007, Thursday, by VW Rodel Riezl S. Reyes, DDGM, and other leaders of MD XI-A.

After a brief respite at the Roadway Inn, the Grand Master and his party, together with Past Grand Master Franklin J. Demonteverde and other Bacolod brethren, attended the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Charity and Thanksgiving Show of the Maharlika Charity Foundation, Inc. at the Venue. The show featured teenage balladeer Raymond Lauchengco. Past Grand Master Rizal D. Aportadera delivered an inspiring talk, in which he expressed profuse thanks to the benefactors of the Maharlika Foundation, Inc., and the late Past Assistant Grand Secretary Roberto C. Reyes was a Tanglaw Maharlika Awardee "for steering the operations of the Foundation smoothly by finding ways and means in raising the needed funds through the years."

On the day following, MW Gonzales and party, MW Demonteverde and party, and Davao Masonic leaders and delegates drove to Kidapawan City, where they attended a floral offering ceremony and paid the city government officials, headed by Bro. Rodolfo Y. Gantuangco, a courtesy call.

The brethren then hied to the Grand Picus Resort, venue of the convention, the proceedings of which went on very smoothly, as planned.

The brethren of Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110 proficiently and impressively exemplified to EAM degree. Hence, they well lauded by the Junior Grand Lecturer for Southern Mindanao, VW Charles Reginald D. Reyes, for their excellent performance.

VW Esteban T. Co, Jr. announced that Masonic District RXII-B would willingly and readily host the 11<sup>th</sup> Southern Mindanao Multi-District Convention.

The Grand Master's Night was, to say the least, filled with food and drinks, songs and dances, cordial camaraderie and fun galore, thereby gratifying the Grand Master, who described it as an eloquent exemplification of Psalm 133.

On October 27, the DDGMs of the four participating districts – namely, VW Rodel Riezl S. Reyes, RXII-A; VW Francisco G. Rivero, RXI-B; VW Esteban T. Co, Jr. RXII-B; and VW Abraham G. Castillo, host RXII-A – presented their reports via power point. Their reports showed that Masonry was thriving in Southern Mindanao.

# The Cabletow

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The presiding officer, VW Castillo, almost broke into tears (or did he break into tears?) due to his joy of hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling, and tasting the "howling" success of the multi-district assemblage. Certainly, he felt the inner flow of achievement when the delegates unanimously passed a resolution thanking the brethren of his district for hosting a success-crowned multi-district convention.

Cotabato Governor Jesus N. Sacdalan, the keynote speaker, said, among other things:

"The Masons are helping us government officials in bringing about meaningful change in Cotabato."

On his part, MW Gonzales, like VW Castillo, was sentimental and joyful because he had seen with his own eyes and heard with his own attentive ears that our brethren in Southern Mindanao were giving due meaning and substance to the theme for his year in the Grand East and were faithfully using the GLP's administrative program as guide for meaningful action. He reported on the progress of his work as Grand Master for the best interest, welfare, and happiness of the Craft in our grand jurisdiction.

After lunch, led by the Grand Master, the brethren planted fruit trees at the Kidapawan Park - 3 lansones, 5 durian, 7 Mang Gustin.

On Sunday, October 28, the District (RXI-A) Guild of Past Masters, led by VW Rodel Riezl S. Reyes, DDGM, sponsored a Masonic Memorial Service in honor of all deceased brethren, sisters, sons and daughters.

The following Masonic Bodies co-sponsored the special event:

Lodges Beacon 213, Sarangani 50, Davao 149, Datu Bago 197, Digos 198, Toril 208, Podomo 294.

Davao Bodies, A. & A.S.R.;

Teodoro Alonso Chapter No. 4, Order of the Eastern Star;

Cattleya Chapter No. 21, Order of the Amaranth; Shangri-la Court No. 9, Order of the Amaranth;

Feliciano Iñigo Chapter, International Order of DeMolay; and

Bethel No. 6, International Order of Job's Daughter.

The solemn and impressive Masonic Memorial Service over, the programme in honor of the more than 20 widows and orphans commenced.

Again, the programme impressed the Grand Master and his party very much.

Following is an anonymous poem reprinted in the program:

## THOUGHTS OF A MASON'S WIFE

*How many wives of masons  
have ever given much thought,  
To the wonderful biblical lessons  
that masonry has taught?  
Have you ever asked yourself this question,  
When you sit alone at night,  
While hubby's away at lodge,  
is my reasoning straight and right?  
I know the nights are long and lonely,  
But the question comes to me,  
"If my husband wasn't a mason,  
what kind of a man would he be?"*

*I know nothing of their secret work,  
but this much I understand.  
That the lessons taught in masonry,  
have made him a better man.  
So ask yourself this question,  
which has always come to me,  
"If my husband wasn't a mason,  
what kind of a man would he be?"*

*They call us "masonic widows",  
I've been one for many a year,  
I've spoken my peace on lonely nights,  
And berated my hubby dear,  
But then again, I regret my words,  
and with wisdom try to see,  
"If my husband wasn't a mason,  
what kind of a man would he be?"*

*So I try to be a patient wife, as alone I meditate,  
And see his point as he leaves for lodge,  
And these words, "I won't be late".  
But deep in my heart I still maintain,  
"That masonry makes the man"  
And as we journey the highway together,  
to the inner things of life,  
May the teachings go on forever,*

*Sincerely a mason's wife*

## *Philippine Balanghay Association*

VW Jojo P. Javier, PDDGM

Enjoying the holiday season may not be the same as it used to be. Holiday shopping, traffic jams, budgets and parties all happen within a span of a month or so. For some, the experience may be stressful while others may even find enjoyment in it.

Children are the happiest this time of the year. It gives them images of desired or sought after toys, new clothes, crisp bills plus shiny coins in their pocket and a good two weeks off from school. The feeling of joy is relatively the same regardless of a child's economic standing or financial status. The sparkle of child's eyes is relatively the same whether they receive a PSP or "3 for 100" toy. It's only the adults that measure their happiness during the season with what they can afford to have and buy.

For a sick child, however, the perspective of a happy Christmas, or even a happy life, changes dramatically. A kid who drifts from consciousness to semi consciousness would find difficulty knowing the time of the year. A weak child who is fed intravenously can only savor a burger and spaghetti meal in his head. A frail child strapped to his bed by his hands and feet because of severe convulsions can never enjoy playing with a new toy, let alone run around with his playmates.

Together with these children are helpless and desperate parents in the several charity wards of the National Children's Hospital. All hoping and praying for a financial miracle to pay for the necessary treatments to bring back their children to a level or normalcy.

How many more stories lie within the sad and depressing confines of that hospital? Behind rooms that smell of fresh paint, or even the stench of death, are parents and children whose only wish is to go back home and get on with their respective lives.

These are the stories that drive the Philippine Balanghay Association. It has a noble objective to take charity and philanthropy to a different level. Its organizers have quietly undertaken this noble deed even before the formation of this association. It was their intention to share the burden to other masons willing to experience the satisfaction of providing relief to the hopeless and needy.

"Alipins" will have first hand encounters with children of different ailments – terminal and otherwise. There were times when the "Alipins" found it difficult to enter a room because of the depressing sights that would welcome them. It is easy to cover one's nose with a handkerchief to bar the putrid smell of stench that

pervades a room but it is difficult to erase the haunting image of a child's sad eyes with bewildered and flustered parents, both not knowing how to wake up from their nightmare.

But God does answer prayers. They come in the most unexpected times and events. One patient down with the Kawasaki Syndrome received his miracle when the first batch of "Balanghay Alipins" came to the child's relief. The child's grandmother could hardly believe that a group of odd looking men in white shorts and white rubber shoes with number tags hanging down their necks would help alleviate their burden.

There was look of doubt in her eyes for a moment. But her quizzical look was suddenly erased when she realized that everything was really happening. Her tears flowed profusely as she incoherently thanked some of the people in funny looking outfits. Other "Alipins" turned away from the sight but with a happy feeling inside.

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### LITTLE CHRISTIAN PALMA GETS HELP FROM DIPOLOG MASONS

by Honorio N. Sakali, PDDGM

Little Christian Palma of Sta. Isabel, Dipolog City, at long last will have free heart surgery at the University of Southern California Medical Center.

This was made possible when the officers and members of Dipolog Lodge No. 162 approved a resolution presented by VW Wilmer L. Regencia, PDDGM, during their September 2007 stated meeting. VW Regencia is the PAL Branch Manager in Dipolog.

The Brethren agreed to shoulder the expense to be incurred for Christian's Non-Immigrant Medical Treatment. Visa Application and Domestic Surcharges, in coordination with the PAL Dipolog Branch office through PAL Foundation Partner, Mending kids International in Sta. Clarita, California



*The brethren with Christian and his mother, together with Dipolog City DSWD officials.*

## **SAN MARIANO LODGE NO. 307 BRETHREN CARRY OUT PROJECTS**

The photos below show the Brethren of San Mariano Lodge No. 307, led by WB Jose Ildefonso B. Cosatales Jr., in action.

They conducted medical-dental, as well as minor surgery and blood letting project in Naguilian, Isabela. The project benefited 410 patients.

WB Costales acknowledged in particular the assistance of WB Eugenio S. Santos, Jr. Bro. Eduardo B. Valdez, Bro. Alarick Samonte, and Bro. Rommel Garcia.

Then the Brethren planted trees at the Masonic Tree Park in San Miguel, Naguilan, Isabela. The project was spearheaded by Bro. Eduardo Valdez, Lodge Secretary. He was assisted by WB Jose Mari Bigornia, Bro. Sergio Botangen, Bro. Armando Casem, WB Pedro Managuelod, and WB Jose Diampoc.



*Medical-dental,  
minor surgery,  
blood-letting project*

*Tree-planting activity*





**10th**

# Southern Mindanao Masonic Multi-District Convention

October 26-27, 2007

Grand Ficus Resort, Kidapawan City



**Grand Lodge Theme:**  
"LIVE MORE MASONICALLY TOWARDS  
A BETTER SOCIETY"

**Slogan:**  
"THINK, SPEAK AND ACT AS MASONS"



**Distinguished Guest:**  
MW JAIME Y. GONZALES  
Grand Master  
Grand Lodge of the Philippines



**Guest of Honor and Speaker:**  
HON. JESUS N. SACDALAN  
Governor  
Cotabato Province



**Host:** MASONIC DISTRICT NO. R-XI-A (North Cotabato and Cotabato City)

**Lodges:** \*Kidang Bato Lodge No. 110

\*Kidapawan Lodge No. 170

\*Rio Grande Lodge No. 192

**PARTICIPATING DISTRICTS:**

Masonic District No. XXI-A - Davao City & Davao del Sur

Masonic District No. XXI-B - Davao del Norte & Davao Oriental

Masonic District No. XXII-A - Cotabato City & North Cotabato

Masonic District No. XXII-B - Gen. Santos City, South Cotabato, Sarangani & Sultan Kudarat



*The  
Grand  
Master,*



*the  
Deputy  
Grand  
Master,*



*and the Senior  
Grand Warden  
lead the brethren  
in welcoming  
the "returnees"  
back*