



THE CABLE TOW

Volume 97, No. 1 April-June 2020

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



SURIGAO LA SUERTE CORPORATION

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ABOUT THE COVER

The COVID-19 Pandemic has gripped the whole world, and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines has been no exception. Masonic labors in almost all jurisdictions around the globe has been suspended since March 2020 and our Brethren have no recourse but to meet virtually via online video-conferencing platforms like Zoom. Our cover for this issue features one hundred unique Zoom windows sent by the Brethren throughout the jurisdiction, overlaid on a depiction of an empty GLP edifice, creating a striking photomosaic of our "labors" during the Enhanced Community Quarantine. Our Lodges may be physically closed, but they are open virtually. - Concept & Artwork by WB Alberto C. Dumlao (Managing Editor)

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FROM THE GRAND EAST



MW AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
GRAND MASTER



My Dear Brethren:

In the long history of the publication of our esteemed magazine – The Cable Tow, the April-May-June 2020 issue will be the first of its kind. It is an offshoot of the current COVID-19 pandemic where we shifted to on-line publishing from the traditional printed form owing to the restrictions on normal business. Of course, there will be printed editions but in limited numbers only because the on-line publication will virtually reach all Masons in the jurisdiction instantly, conveniently and without the usual delay in dispatching the printed version.

The initial work of the new editorial team headed by WB J. Harold Santiago, this edition will feature about 100 pages of meaty, relevant, and informative articles not only on current events happening throughout the entire jurisdiction but also on very important masonic topics. This will afford crucial and continuous information and educational materials for the brethren despite the current lockdown. Definitely, a well-informed mason makes for a better man.


As you know, due to the exigencies of the crisis and following the consensus of all concerned, the current leadership of the Grand Lodge was retained while masonic activities remain under suspension and the Grand Lodge and Subordinate Lodges are under self-imposed lockdown or restricted from holding our usual gatherings. This does not mean that the business of Masonry has to stop. There is no such thing as temporary Masonry or fair-weathered Masons. We are all brethren for good times and bad times. And so we should all the more display the beauty of Freemasonry during times of hardship and this issue of the Cable Tow will inform the brethren what we have done, what we are doing and what we should be doing during the pandemic.

I am holding office in the Grand Lodge almost every day, dispensing of corporate matters and attending to other pressing masonic issues. Please be assured that the Grand Lodge remains accessible under my extended watch and you can all reach out to me for anything within my power to give.

The brethren may be restricted in meeting face to face, but we should not stop fraternal interaction by other means. Let us take advantage of modern technologies. Let us continue to hold On-line Masonic Conferences through convenient social media platforms to monitor each other's status and take care of routine lodge business. Let us not stop doing charity works because Masons should be especially visible, relevant, and helpful during times of crisis like the present. While doing so, document your masonic efforts and expose your important labors in our publication.

Your Cable Tow is our mirror, a chronicle of what we are. It is truly the exponent of masonic progress in this jurisdiction and I want all brethren to patronize and read it. Above all, do what you can to become sources of worthy news articles because good masonic deeds and labors, if not seen by many, should always be read by all.

Grand Lodge of the Philippines
City of Manila
July 9, 2020


AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

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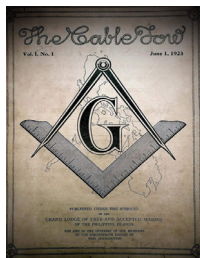
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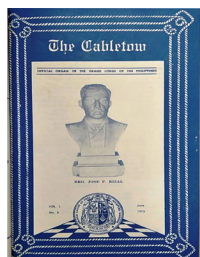
Editor's Page



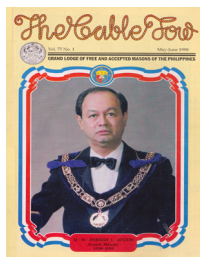
This is the first of five Installments of Vol.97 of the Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines. One hundred (100) pages long, it contains 45 articles written by 26 brother Masons and one DeMolay collected and organized from our jurisdiction. Behold the initial fruit of the labors of our 16-Member Editorial Team.



In attempting a geographically - balanced representation, Issue No.1 includes news from 13 Lodges and various districts from the NCR, Luzon, Visayas & Mindanao Regions. Many lodges have submitted their stories, but spatial limitations made us divide the materials between this issue and succeeding ones. There are three accounts from various groups including Pusong Mason and five significant updates from the GLP itself. Four of our Brethren shared their narratives during the Extended Community Quarantine while a former Grand Lodge Chief of Staff shared light moments with the late MW Eugenio Laboritoria during his journey in the Grand East. Spread out in these pages are five inspiring communique from the Grand Master delivered in the last 3 months plus a message of Hope from RW Rolen C. Paulino - our Deputy Grand Master. Lastly there are 6 informative articles from a select few who know their field and a Fish Recipe that happens to be one of MW Suan's favorite dish. Truly this issue covers a lot from labor to refreshment, as we try to capture the spirit of the times and make it available to the readers of today and future bibliophiles who will surely ask the question: What was then done?



On its 97th year, all issues of The Cable Tow shall have regular columns specific to certain topics including Architecture, Medicine, Lodge Administration and other Masonic-related subjects like jurisprudence, lectures and assistance; On the level talks from Senior Citizens and even the fine art of Dining. There will be write-ups about the magazine itself as well as our esteemed contemporary - The Far Eastern Freemason. Collected materials were accented with the right burst of shots and pictures enhancing their appeal.



On top of the labors of the TCT Team, we express our gratitude to the 16 contributors who submitted their stories in this issue for everyone's consumption. We further encourage other Brethren from more Lodges, Districts, Appendant Bodies and Sojourner Clubs to share their thoughts, insights, experiences and expertise and allow The Cable Tow to transform them as digital and printed inspirations for our readers of today forward the Level of Time.

Happy Reading mga Kapatid: SALUD!

Pasig City, 29 July 2020


WB J. Harold W. Santiago, PM
Editor-In-Chief

A Grand Design

BY WB ALBERTO DURLAO, PM



Architecture, Geometry and Freemasonry

As an architect by profession, one of the reasons why my curiosity for Freemasonry developed, is our Craft's affinity to architecture and geometry. In this regard, I may consider myself both an operative and speculative mason.

In this series of articles, we will attempt to investigate further how the beautiful lessons of the art of architecture are communicated in our lectures, and how these are inculcated in our masonic world-view. I shall also be featuring how this is manifested in the way we design our temples and masonic halls, focusing on its shape, proportions and symbolism.

The GAOTU

One of hallmarks of Freemasonry is the way we masons regard the Supreme Being as the Great Architect of the Universe. While the term is used by Christians, Hindus, Hermetics, Rosicrucians, Gnostics among others, masons use it to represent the deity neutrally. The use of the allegorical term GAOTU first entered Masonic tradition through Rev. James Anderson's *The Book of Constitutions*, published in



God The Geometer. The compass in this 13th century manuscript is a symbol of God's act of Creation.

1723. Anderson was both a mason and a Calvinist minister. John Calvin was a 16th Century theologian who wrote in 1536 "Institutes of the Christian Religion" where he repeatedly calls the Christian God "The Architect of the Universe", and also referred to his works as "Architecture of the Universe."



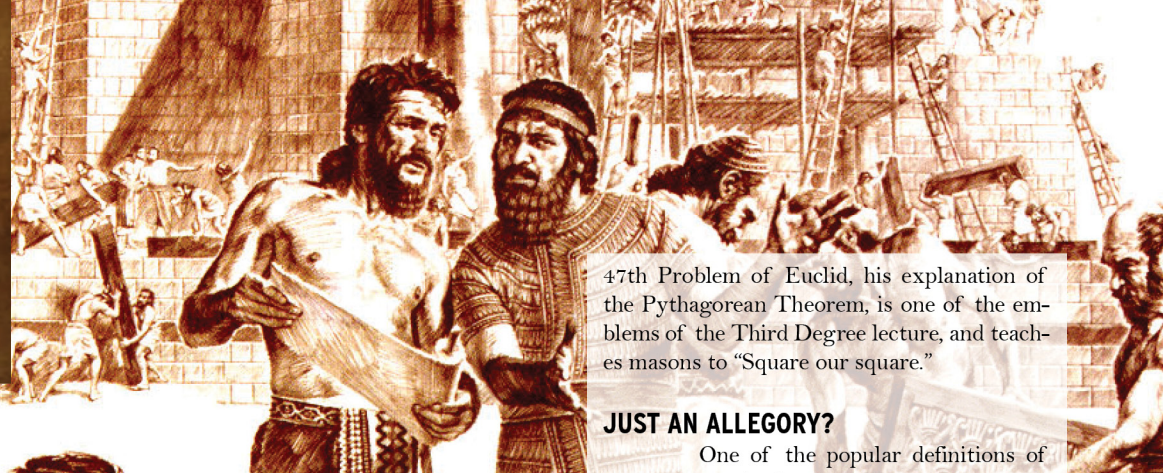
GEOMETRY

It could be said that Architecture begins with geometry. Since earliest times, builders tried to imitate natural forms. We learned in the Second Degree lecture how the Orders of Architecture were developed by imitating how trees were put together to construct the earliest forms of shelter. Mathematical principles of ratio and proportion were then used to standardize and replicate these forms. We were then presented



The Five Orders of Classical Architecture. From left, Tuscan, Doric, Ionic, Corinthian and Composite.

with the foundations of Euclidean geometry – point, line, area (superfice) and volume (solid). Euclid was a Greek mathematician who is often referred to as the father of geometry, having written in 300 BCE, the "Elements" – a compilation of 465 theorems or "problems", wherein he explained all the known works of his mathematical predecessors such as Pythagoras, Hippocrates, Theudius, Theaetetus and Eudoxus using only a compass and a straight edge. The



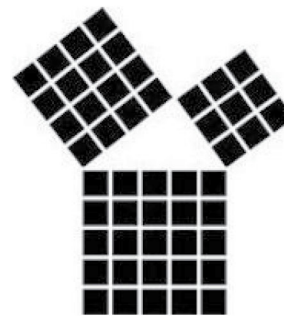
47th Problem of Euclid, his explanation of the Pythagorean Theorem, is one of the emblems of the Third Degree lecture, and teaches masons to "Square our square."

JUST AN ALLEGORY?

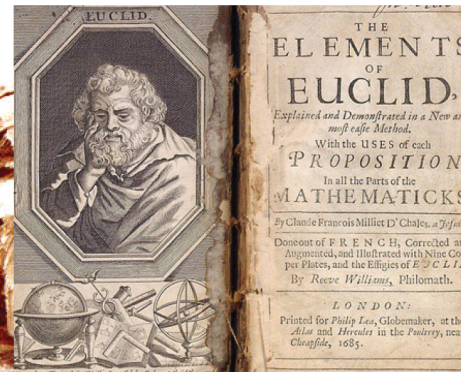
One of the popular definitions of Freemasonry is that it is "a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols." We have briefly discussed above the conceptual construct of architecture and geometry as a complement to our belief in a Supreme Being who created all of nature.

We may now ask ourselves, is this part of the allegory?

Or is there something more tangible, naturally occurring and observable phenomena, that, to quote a passage in our Third Degree Lecture, "bears the nearest resemblance or affinity to that Supreme Intelligence which pervades all nature.?"



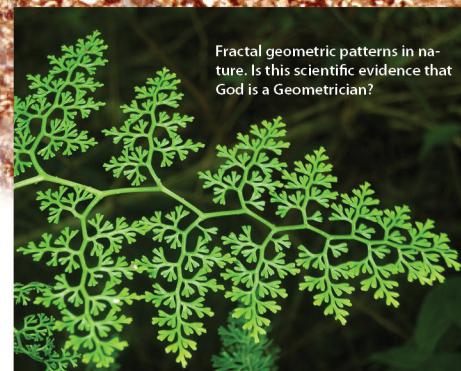
The 47th Problem of Euclid



FRACTAL GEOMETRY - THE GEOMETRY OF NATURE?

The idea of fractals, or a subset of repeating patterns observable on different scales and levels, was popularized by the French mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot in his book, *The Fractal Geometry of Nature*, published in 1982. He theorized that the shapes we learned in classical, Euclidean geometry was "smooth" and uses formulas to define shapes. Fractal geometry was "rough" and uses the process of iteration or repetition.

According to Mandelbrot, when we look at elements of nature, like trees or mountains or river systems, they don't resemble any "classical" shapes. But if we look closely we may see patterns repeated over and over again on different scales. Is fractal geometry then, the geometry of nature, and by extrapolation, the Geometry of the GAOTU?



Fractal geometric patterns in nature. Is this scientific evidence that God is a Geometrician?

In our next issue we will further investigate the concept of fractals and how it may have led Plato to say that "God is a Geometrician."



NCR NEWS

“PAMILYA MO, SAGOT NG KUYANG KO! MARAMING SALAMAT MEDICAL FRONTLINERS!”

By WB Harold Santiago, PM

Plaridel Masonic Temple

April 7 - Tuesday, as the country slowed down to a standstill, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. issued Circular No.37 initiating Mason-led assistance for Medical Frontliners in the National Capital Region and other Masonic Districts. The said communication is unique as it took effect not after being read in open lodge but immediately upon posting in the official GLP website. A unique instruction, following the issuance of several GM Circulars Suspending Lodge Meetings and Cancelling Masonic Events as early as March 13.

The project which is a direct manifestation of the Grand Master's Theme: CHARITY & HUMILITY: Hallmarks of a True Mason, intends to lessen the stress of our Medical Health Personel from worrying for their respective families while they are in the hospital taking care of COVID-19 patients, and as a token

of Masonic Appreciation provide them with grocery packs for their respective families.

The initiative also aimed to unify and centralize the efforts of all Brethren in NCR to a common avenue of giving relief to these New Heroes thereby creating a bigger impact and, help the government in fighting the pandemic.

The Proposed Assistance Benchmark per intended beneficiary is a grocery pack that will contain approximately One Thousand Pesos (PHP1,000.00) worth of grocery items or more. Donations in kind from suppliers or businesses owned by Brethren and their associates were encouraged. Funding was done thru solicitation from the Brethren of all the NCR districts. The ideal target is for one brother to cover at least one family of a Medical Front liner. Brethren who can give more were encouraged to do so. To expedite collection, donations can be deposited to a dedicated GLP Bank Account:

**Grand Lodge of the Philippines
Metrobank SPF
Account No. 211-3-211-50419-7**

The great and important undertaking was coordinated with all the Grand Master's Deputies in all eight NCR Districts namely: VW Bros. Ian Christian M. Valencia, Crisostomo C. Beltran, Francisco R. Munez, Hagen Alexander J. Topacio, Beda A Epres, Gerald Alan A. Quebral, Mariano C. Bassig and Brian N. Co of Masonic Districts NCR A to NCR H respectively. They were readily assisted by the



Worshipful Masters of lodges in the National Capital Region.

In response to the Grand Master's Circular more than Php 2,500,000.00 was donated by the Brethren which was then converted to more than 2,500 tokens of grocery packs. Each package enough to cover at least 2 weeks-worth of groceries for a family.

"This is a Humble labor for Charity by the Brethren" said VW Cris Beltran who spearheaded the entire operation. "Aside from acknowledging our donors, we also express our appreciation to the Kuyangs and Atengs who volunteered in the repacking" Added the DDGM.

First Phase: Repacking

To comply with social distancing rules, only a handful of Mason Volunteers were requested. Some like VW Ariel Cayanan and VW Diosdado Melegrito were assisted by their better halves, spending 2 weeks at the Plaridel Masonic Temple repacking the groceries from April 20 (supposed AnCom week) to May 2 as no outsider or 3rd Party Service Provider were involved.

Second Phase: Distribution

Another group of masons delivered the Grocery Package to the various medical personnel at the following medical institutions:

East Avenue Medical Center

Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital
LTO Action Center (Quezon Ave)
Lung Center of the Philippines
Ninoy Aquino Stadium (COVID-19 Facility)
PNP Medical Hospital
QCMC / Quirino Memorial Medical Center
San Lazaro Hospital
V. Luna Medical Center

"This is the Mason's way of acknowledging the sacrifices of our Medical Frontliners" Said MW Suan. "Through this humble gesture, may we be able to boost their morale and keep their spirits up." The Grand Master added.

As the Brethren in different Masonic Districts from within and without the National Capital Region were encouraged by the Grand Master's call, they each undertook their own initiatives to support and assist front liners in their respective areas under this national medical emergency and state of calamity brought about by the current pandemic caused by COVID-19.

Others also reached out to the marginalized sector of society. Still, there were also Master Masons who kept to their obligations and took care of brothers in distress, their families, widows, and orphans. There were those who were able to document their initiatives, some even forwarded their narratives to The Cable Tow Editorship. Their stories are contained in this issue of the Grand Lodge Publication as well as in succeeding issues as humble testimony of our jurisdiction's resilience in these trying times. ❧





Quezon City Lodge No. 122 adapts to the new normal

By WB Jojo Narciso / Head News Correspondent - NCR

The events that have happened worldwide in the past few months will go down as one of the unprecedented moments in history. The COVID-19 Pandemic has affected everything - even Freemasonry.

For QC Lodge No. 122, the first supposed Regular Stated Meeting (RSM) on March 14, under its newly-Installed Worshipful Master, did not push through following the release of GLP Circular No. 36 on Friday the 13th. The prospects of resuming Masonic Labors grew dimmer with the Extension of the Community Quarantine throughout Luzon and the Grand Lodge suspending Masonic Activities Nationwide on March 17.

The lodge conducted the following activities in adapt to the new normal:

As the demands of physical distancing make masonic hearts grow fonder, QCL 122 brethren found a way to connect with each other through online video calls or the Lodge's Viber Chat Group. In the absence of Regular Stated Meetings, Virtual Caucus Meetings were held instead.

Tambay ngunit Dumadamay Fund

The initial concern was how the lodge can dispense funds for fraternal assistance from without the Temple. In response, the Master directed the Secretary to create a temporary bank account in March 24. The substitute charity fund under the Secretary's name: Tyrone Stevenson T. Chua can be used for immediate assistance to members in distress during the lockdown. It can accept donations online via G-Cash, Banco de Oro and Bank of the Philippine Islands. The appropriate amount will then be withdrawn as approved by the Brethren via Viber Group.

For transparency, Bro Sec Tyrone updates the brethren via financial report which he reads during caucus meetings every 2nd Saturday and posting the same in the QCL122 Viber Group as needed. To date, eight members have been assisted by the TND Fund. The contents of the account will be incorporated with the Lodge's Fraternal Funds once Regular Stated Meetings are allowed.

Online Webinar

As the lodge members begin to familiarize themselves with the Zoom Application, WM Joel made use of it as a platform for one of his advocacy projects, a webinar entitled "Investment 101". Conducted in April 11 by the lodge secretary - WB Tyrone Chua, who is both a Certified Public Accountant & Certified Fraud Examiner with an MBA at the Asian Institute of Management, the webinar aims to help brothers to be more financially literate. The 7:00 PM class had 24 attendees composed of brethren, their families and friends.

Annual Vaccination Program

May 21 is the Lodge's Founding Anniversary. It was observed with a Family Outreach Activity of Flu & Pneumonia Vaccination. The program has been an annual lodge activity whereby members and their families receive flu shots at the expense of the lodge. This year's activity - held last May 31 had a record high of 148 Flu Shots and 34 Pneumonia Shots administered. The Flu Vaccines were free while the Pneumonia Vaccines were availed at a bulk discount.

To observe proper ECQ Protocols, the brethren and their families drove through the Capitol Masonic Temple one vehicle a time to receive their shots from Bro. Andrew Niedo - a registered nurse who was assisted by two other nurses for better facilitation.

Bingo para kay Bro

As of this writing, the QC-based Lodge is preoccupied in organizing another Charity Project - an online Bingo scheduled on the 4th Saturday of August. The fund-raising is to further augment the lodge's Fraternal Assistance Fund. Interested parties can avail of one set of 5 Bingo Cards at 1,000php which can be



used for up to 14 games.

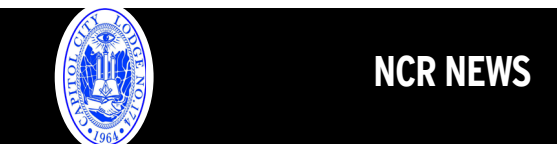
The Major Prize for the Black Out Round is 10% of the Total Pot Money which is targeted at 200,000 php as the Lodge intends to sell 200 sets of Bingo Cards. The Online Game which will be held on August 22 at 3:00 PM is totally virtual in nature to ensure physical distancing:

1. Bingo tickets will be sent by email, which the buyers can print.
2. Ticket Payments can be paid via the Secretary's G-Cash, BPI and BDO Accounts.
3. The Bingo Game to be drawn at a specified location can be witnessed by the players via private Zoom Meeting.
4. Cash Prizes will also be sent online via Bank Transfers.

Contact Details:

QCL122CharityBingo@gmail.com or
Bro Tyrone Chua @ 0998-988-5979

“These small acts of brotherly love are a representation of our promise to the brethren during our Installation,” WM Joel Valencia said, “that of putting the interest of the brethren first.” ☘



Capitol City Lodge No. 174 reaches out to the community during the COVID-19 pandemic

By WB Jojo Narciso / Head News Correspondent - NCR

When COVID-19 strikes the Nation, Filipinos rise together to counter it. At the forefront of the fight against the virus are our healthcare workers and various frontliners. Daily they face the hazards of infection with their mantra: “We go to work for you. Please stay at home for us.” As Healthcare workers became outnumbered due to their first-hand exposure to the Virus, Masons become more passionate in supporting them.

Also disturbing are the plight of our countrymen who live a hand to mouth existence. The ongoing health crisis is a challenge to the people as a species to bring about an increased sense of compassion, community, and humanity.

Freemasonry adapting to the Times

In March 25, during the early stages of the country under Enhanced Community Quarantine, the Lodge heeded the call of VV Bada Epres, District Deputy Grand Master (NCR-E) with cash donations that provided Food packs and Alcohol to medical frontliners in selected hospitals in Quezon City and Pasig City.

As the Pandemic has put on hold many key projects in the Lodge’ calendar, Capitol City Lodge No.174 shifted to activities that are more in sync with the demands of the times.

Frontliners Assistance

The initial fund-drive that was donated to the District, inspired the brethren to do

more for the community. An initial Php50,000 from the Lodge' Project Funds was contributed to procure Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the medical frontliners at the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC). The members then made personal donations which snowballed into Php70,000. After pooling its resources to Php 120,000, a total of 255 sets of Hazmat Suits with K-N95 Face Masks were acquired which the Worshipful Master, Senior & Junior Wardens turned-over to the Emergency Room Staff at EAMC on April 14.

Portable Swabbing Booth (PSB) Donation

On April 24 and May 11 the CCML 174 donated five (5) Portable Swabbing Booths to the following health facilities in National

Capital Region and neighboring communities:

- Marikina Molecular Diagnostic Laboratory
- Metro Antipolo Hospital, Inc.
- University of the Philippines Diliman Health Services
- Novaliches District Hospital (Quezon City)
- Perpetual Help Hospital (Binan, Laguna)

“As Testing is the cornerstone of our national COVID response, and since there is a scarcity of medical consumables necessary for day to day testing, the Lodge decided on providing booths to allied health frontliners as their protective space when conducting swab tests on patients”. Said WM Jimmy Planas.

T-Shirt Drive

To secure additional funds for succeeding projects, the Lodge sold “We Heal As One” Shirts. By end of June some 400 shirts were sold which earned the lodge about Php30,000. The amount has been reserved for future outreach program of the Lodge. 🏠





NCR NEWS

DAPITAN 21 dared the Pandemic as it continued to serve By VW Edgar S. Bentulan, DGL

Not even the threatening lethal spread of the COVID-19 Pandemic has stopped the Brethren of Dapitan Lodge No. 21 in serving during this period of inactivity in Metro Manila under Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ).

Bro. Lawrence Plata, the Worshipful Master reported that from March to May, his lodge continued to serve.

Foremost to their members was the holding of online Masonic Education via group chats in Viber and Messenger, using IMES syllabus materials in Microsoft Powerpoint slides. Two Masonic subjects were covered in

the Lodge's online ME: Masonic History and Lodge Jurisprudence. This activity was carefully handled by VW Caesar M. Ortega as moderator and contributor and WB Arnulfo B. Macatangay, lodge lecturer, in charge of monitoring.

Another undertaking that Dapitan 21 hurdled is the support of Brotherly Love to their members by allocating P54,000 from their funds for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) for members who were frontliners in the fight against COVID-19. In addition, the lodge received 50 sets of full PPEs from MW Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PGM, a Dapitan 21 Past Master.

All in all, WM Plata in his report said that the Lodge from March 30 to May 17 distributed the following: 50 sets of full PPEs; 24 pcs N95 masks; 16 respirator masks with 100 filters; 15 face shields (donated by Bro. Henry Loo / Jose Rizal 22); and 500 face masks. Some 100 pieces of customized face masks were also given to members of the Lodge.

Also from April 7 to May 16, Dapitan 21 distributed some 240 Jollibee and 600 Chowking food packs together with protective equipment to different frontliners in hospitals, medical and mental health centers, police pre-



cinct stations and various barangays in Manila, Quezon City, Caloocan City and Sampaloc, Manila.

The Lodge, moreover, was able to raise Php 101,000 from brethren contributions to provide financial relief and assistance to lodge members who were in need, including widows and orphans. Beneficiaries of this assistance so far were: Bro. Philip de Guzman, P10,000; Bro. Virgilio “Bobot” Castro, P10,000; and Bro. Edwin Oronce, P5,000 as burial assistance for his departed father.

Groceries and sacks of Rice were sent to widows and orphans of lodge brethren namely late VW Edgar Ustare, Bro. Dennis Ritualo and Bro. Edmund Buenaflor.

These thoughtful and timely actions were much appreciated by the recipients who sent their thanks through Facebook and Messenger.

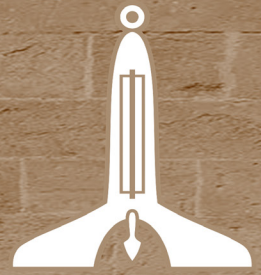
“Hindi inaasahan, pero sobrang pasasalamat po sa inyong munting regalo sa

aming Pamilya” Posted Erwin Ustarte on FB as he tagged his Dad Okka Linco Santos as well as his Dad WM Lawrence Plata. “Hindi nyo pa din po kami nakakalimutan, pati rin po si Papa +. Maraming Salamat po sa buong Dapitan Masonic Lodge No.21, God Bless you all and your Family.” Added the son of VW Edgar Ustarte.

In a private message via FB Messenger, Denille said, “dumating na po ito ngayon. On behalf po naming 3 nina mama maraming Salamat po sa inyo sa Dapitan Lodge 21 (smiley) napakalaking tulug po nito sa amin SALAMAT PO!!! (more smileys).” The message sent to Bro. Erwin Aquino - Senior Warden was accompanied by photos of assorted groceries, a sack of Rice and a letter from the lodge. The 3 mentioned in the message are the widow and orphans of Bro. Dennis Ritualo.

WM Plata also reported of the Lodge’s support to Grand Lodge’s initiatives, with their donation of P5,000 cash for GM Agapito Suan, Jr.’s Circular 37 and another P5,000 cash for the WB Greg Macasaet Fund (Circular 39). ❄️

ON THE LEVEL



By VW Edgar S. Bentulan, DGL

Locked down in the doldrums

Such ruthlessness, such widespreadness! Yet, not even the advancement in science and technology of American and European countries saw this coming that so suddenly, morbidly hulking in the corridors of hospitals even in them, First World countries. Who in their sanity could ever think of coddling this dreadful virus as to cause so much severe punishment to humanity? China herself, USA, or who else? Is Dan Brown in his "Inferno" complicit in any Malthusian conspiracy to save the world from population catastrophe?

February 29, this year, was the last stated meetings I had as DGL for Bukidnon North District prior to the COVID-19 community quarantine and lockdown. Starting first week of March I stayed home after learning of a cockfight derby held in Davao City infected a number of the sport's aficionados from Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro (CDO) and neighboring towns. Of course, eventually soon, all meetings were ordered suspended by GM Agapito 'Jun' Suan following government's call.

Anon, worldwide, thousands of deaths in China, Italy, France, Spain, Iran, USA and other countries and more than 500,000 of Covid-positive cases globally were reported (as of March 27). World

Health Organization's prognosis of the viral disease as to having no cure yet was even more so scary and very worrisome.



Well, who has not come to grips with social media hullabaloo? But the condition here in our end became more frightening when this hysteria was reverberated in radio and tv stations, even calling for "total lockdown!" as deaths and confirmed cases in Metro Manila and parts of Luzon and Cebu were increasing by the day. In our neighborhood, it was practically preferred not to talk about the swelling contagion and its death tolls.

Later soon, Omnibus Guidelines on the Implementation of Community Quarantine started to pour out from the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) with amendments one after another, spelling out, at first, among others, the sweeping don'ts for those 20 years old and below and those 60 years old above under CDO's category of General Community Quarantine (GCQ).

Is this protection, or discrimination, suffocation? In no time, I posted this clincher in **Facebook**. While still able and strong, we deserve the pittance of responsible movements outside home to buy the essentials we need without lying on our age

to the guards, and continue to reinforce our body immune system by outdoor exercises, guided by the health precautions required. Save the occasional video group chats over beers with brethren of LTP 220, my dual lodge, the internet access to varied **Netflix** action movie series and unlimited **Spotify** music, I can't imagine how the world would have been with everything turning to the distance.

But, thanks, the restrictions for our age on non-contact sports as tennis are now relaxed with CDO transformed to Modified General Community Quarantine and IATF Resolution No. 43 last June 3. At least for now.

Nonetheless, still the spectre is just here, there and anywhere. Probably, even unwary of the facemask! We never can tell. Infections are daily counting. Health authorities around the world have seemed to agree that even with the vaccine to fight it is in the offing, we still have, accordingly, five years the least to grapple with COVID-19.

The future's horizons are a chilling chasm of uncertainties!

Five long years should be apt and enough for us to contemplate as Masons and "see the forest" of the meaning of our existence in the Craft, and the malady affecting humanity. Albert Pike succinctly postulated in his "Morals and Dogma" the essence of our being in our ancient fraternity "as the physical and moral amelioration and the intellectual and spiritual improvement of individuals and society. Neither can be effected, except by the dissemination of truth."

A far-reaching proposition for online transaction as best potential of a medium to make ourselves significant in the new normal. If I may go further in

this contemplation, I can only better take the state of mind of Pike while locked in this doldrums in this flow of philosophic rationalization.

How else should we, sublime Masons, healthily look at our duty with our present personal handicap to be on top of situation — and free — from the present paralysis that is seizing the whole of human society by its very gamuts? ❖





Plaridel Masonic Temple gets a new Athletic Lift

By WB Pong Macatangay / Head News Correspondent - NCR

GLP Compound - Ermita, Manila

Last June 1, as the Grand Lodge slowly resumed its corporate activities after more than 2 months of Extended Community Quarantine, a variety of sports equipment began arriving at the Plaridel Masonic Temple. They were later duly installed at the main hall.

With the General Suspension of all Masonic Activities nationwide, MW Suan in his extended term as Grand Master, sought to make use of the now idle space in the Emilio Aguinal-

do Hall by converting the area into a temporary Indoor Sports Facility.

A Table Tennis was placed on the left-wing fronting The Cable Tow office entrance, two Badminton Courts now stood at the center of the Hall, and Chess Sets ready to be played at center stage. Dart Boards are being set-up on the wall at the right wing and a Billiard Table shall be introduced soon.

“As these are all non-contact sports, there will be no violations in Social Distancing Protocols being imposed by the Government through the IATF,” said VW Raymundo Chris Beltran, District Deputy Grand Master for Masonic District NCR-B.

Named after a Mason who became the first Philippine President, the Emilio Aguinaldo



From Floor Works to Foot Works: Masons brush-up on their smash, strikes and spins as visiting Brethren sweat it out with the Grand Master while Craft Ritual is on downtime during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Hall has a floor area of approximately 300 square feet. The newly improvised Sports Facilities are open to the Brethren and their Families. MW Jun himself spends time playing Table Tennis and is always looking for a Match to warm up his paddle.

The Sporty Theme now in vogue at the GLP have inspired some brothers towards more athletic endeavors. VW Ariel Cayanan, PDDGM installed moveable Basketball Courts at the GLP Parking lot prompting the Brethren to look forward to a time when they can shoot some hoops as a team once again.





Message from the Grand Master on Independence Day June 12, 2020

My dear brethren:

Today we celebrate the 122nd Independence Anniversary of our beloved country. I believe that since the recognition of June 12, 1898 as our true date of independence, we masons have always been present in good numbers in various Independence Day ceremonies throughout the country, proudly clad in our masonic attire to celebrate this day. And rightfully so because aside from being a national event, we have always considered this day as a true masonic occasion in itself.

However, for the first time, we are unable to assemble as modern day masons and descendants of our past brethren – the heroes of our revolution – and salute their glorious accomplishment. Sadly, the impact of the Coronavirus has once again forced us to remain in the sidelines. But we cannot let this important occasion pass without any commemoration, no matter how small and humble. For truly, our brethren heroes have played vital roles in our quest for in-



dependence as a nation. They deserve our accolade and admiration, they deserve nothing less than the recognition of the entire nation.

Yet, for all the great influence of Freemasonry in the formation of our free nation, history books would just relegate the role of the institution as a simple footnote in our nation’s struggle for independence. We do not mind - because we know better. In the archives of our lodges, in the private writings and anecdotes of our illustrious brethren, and other contemporary records, we find true accounts of the undeniable impact of Masonry in the struggle to free our country from the chokehold of a superior foreign power.

And so, you cannot talk of Philippine independence without tracing the significant contributions and pervasive influences of masons. The initial spark was made by the Cavite Mutiny on January 20, 1872 – a mini revolt against Spanish authority which was considered the beginning of Filipino nationalism. In the aftermath of that failed mutiny, Fathers Gomez, Burgos and Zamora were executed and became the inspiration for many reformist-masons. Several masons were implicated in the mutiny as well. They were arrested and imprisoned, some were deported and some were eventually executed.

That event fueled the Propaganda Movement for major social and political reforms directed by Filipino masons in Spain, under the leadership of Brothers Jose Rizal, Marcelo H. del Pilar, and Graciano Lopez Jaena and other prominent masons. They

openly advocated among others, equality for Filipinos and Spanish, for freedom of speech and association, for the creation of public schools, for representation in the Spanish parliament, and for the removal of the dominance of the Spanish clergy.

Again, you cannot talk of independence without citing the personal crusades of masons of that period. Bro. Jose Rizal wrote the novel *Noli Me Tangere* and exposed the abuses and avarice of the friars in the Philippines. Together with other masons, he organized the *La Liga Filipina* to actively work for political and social reforms through peaceful means. When the call for reforms were repeatedly rejected and suppressed, the Katipunan was organized by Brothers Andres Bonifacio, Ladislao Diwa; Deodato Arellano and other mason leaders of that time which advocated for total independence from Spain by the use of force.

Evidently, the structure and system of admission of the Katipunan were patterned after Masonry. Thus, Spanish authorities suspected that Freemasonry was actively involved in the revolution. Masons were harassed and oppressed such that lodges could no longer meet regularly. This repression drove more masons to eventually join the Katipunan. As a result, many masons were persecuted before and during the revolution. Some were imprisoned; some were exiled; many died in the battlefields.

The Thirteen Martyrs of Cavite were executed by Spanish authorities on September 12, 1896 for joining the Katipu-

nan, and ten of them were masons. Jose Rizal was publicly executed at Bagumbayan on December 30, 1896 for alleged rebellion. This was followed by the public execution of the 13 Martyrs of Bagumbayan in Luneta on January 11, 1897 - twelve (12) of them were masons. Tragically, there were far too many brethren then who suffered and died simply because they were masons but their names were not made prominent in history books.

By all accounts, it was only when Filipino Masons actively flourished in the Philippines in the late 19th Century that the Filipinos began to agitate for nationwide reforms and to demand basic rights which were denied them for centuries of Spanish regime. Definitely, it took the initiatives of masons to spell the end of 300 years of Spanish rule. This culminated in the Declaration of Independence of our country on June 12, 1898 by Brother Emilio Aguinaldo which we fittingly observe today. And on this point, Bro. Aguinaldo later declared, and I quote:

“The successful Revolution of 1896 was Masonically inspired, Masonically led, and Masonically executed. And I venture to say that the first Philippine Republic, of which I was its humble president, was an achievement we owe largely, to Masonry and the Masons.”

What emanated out of the revolution was the very first constitution of the Philippines - the Malolos Constitution, promulgated on January 21, 1899, and this was largely a product of masonic delegates. They produced a Constitution with many provisions expressing masonic



concepts which are still in place today. It embodied the reforms that masons sacrificed their lives for. For the first time, the separation of church and state was established and various individual rights such as freedom of speech, suffrage, religion, assembly, education and other civil and political liberties were secured for the Filipinos.

“The successful Revolution of 1896 was Masonically inspired, Masonically led, and Masonically executed. And I venture to say that the first Philippine Republic, of which I was its humble president, was an achievement we owe largely, to Masonry and the Masons.”

For sure, you will not read any confirmation in history books of the direct involvement of Freemasonry as an institution in the revolution of 1896. Then and now, Freemasonry does not actively engage itself in affairs of church and government. No masonic lodge and no masonic authority were ever directly involved in the revolution of 1896. You will not read a Grand Master or a Master of a Lodge directing the revolution as part of the masonic organization. But masons did participate in large numbers albeit in their private and individual capacities and they did so by joining or supporting the Katipunan. However, Spanish rulers saw no difference and for this masonry was blamed and masons were relentlessly persecuted.

Perhaps, Freemasonry can be faulted for imbuing its members with a thirst for justice, a constant demand for equality among men, a desire for liberty, a persistent craving to be freed from bias and bigotry, a never ending quest for truth, and a bound-

less love of country. These are some of our masonic ideals and perhaps they served as the very compelling influences which drove our mason heroes to act individually and independently to further the cause of the revolution. They were leaders of men outside of their lodges in the struggle to bring about a just government and a free society which would enjoy the principles and values that Freemasonry has instilled in them.

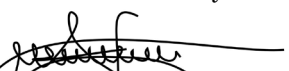
And so my dear brethren, be proud of your membership in the Fraternity, for no other human institution has a greater influence on the formation of a free and enlightened Philippine society. We can say that our greatest contribution is nothing more than the ideals of democracy, and our lasting gift is nothing less than the very free air that we breathe today, but which is sadly taken for granted by those who are woefully unaware of the enduring legacy of masons.

Celebrate our independence day with much passion and dignity because by it we likewise honor the great sacrifices of our masonic forebears. They were truly the driving force of the revolution and the catalyst for the unity of the Filipinos. Be proud of what they have fought for and what they have achieved at the cost of their lives, liberty and fortune.

They have brought about the greatest accomplishment of masons in this part of the world – OUR LIBERATION AS A NATION AND THE ENJOYMENT OF FREEDOM FOR ALL FILIPINOS.

Happy Independence Day to all!

Fraternally,

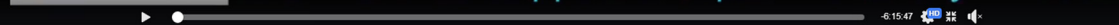

AGAPITO S. SWAN, JR.
Grand Master



PLEASE STAND BY



020 122nd Philippine Independence Day KAL



The GLP goes virtual on Freedom Day

By WB Alberto C. Dumlao

1440 San Marcelino St., Ermita, Manila

The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines celebrated the 122nd Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence, dubbed “Kalayaan 2020”, last June 12, 2020 with a historic, first-ever virtual commemoration.

Due to quarantine protocols, the National Independence Day programs held in various sites around the country was done through simpler celebrations without the usual ceremonial elements, crowds and parades. The GLP was thus not able to celebrate with its usual contingent at the Rizal Park.

At 9:00 AM, the Grand Master MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan Jr., led a few selected Brethren, representatives of Appendant Bodies and Masonic Youth Organizations, and Grand Lodge staff in simple, yet solemn Flag Raising and Wreath Laying Ceremo-

nies held at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in Manila. VW Rev. Joel O. Porlares, Grand Chaplain delivered the invocation, while the Philippine Flag was raised by VW Ali C. Espina, Grand Historian and VW Roberto B. Fajardo, Grand Tyler. WB Harold Santiago, Editor in Chief of The Cable Tow Newsletter led the recitation of the Panunumpa ng Katapatan sa Watawat. Grand Lodge Chief of Staff VW Dennis Cunanan, served as Master of Ceremonies.

The solemnities were followed by the Grand Master’s Message, wherein MW Bro. Suan acknowledged the effect of the pandemic on our usual masonic activities. “Due to the current restrictions on mass gatherings, we are unable to assemble and salute the glorious of our mason heroes who have played vital roles in our quest for independence as a nation” he said.

Despite the limitations, Brethren from across our whole jurisdiction was able to join the celebration, as it was live-streamed via The Cable Tow Facebook page. To cap the activities for the day, VW Bro. Teodoro Kalaw IV, Senior Grand Lecturer delivered his Masonic Education Lecture entitled “Freemasonry is Being Filipino.” A total of 600 Brethren registered officially for the lecture via Zoom Online Video Conferencing.

“This attempt is historic in a sense because it is the first time that we will be doing this... and this is the biggest (Independence Day) celebration so far...” COS VW Cunanan remarked during the live broadcast, noting that it already had 13,000 views at that point. To date, the live coverage has had 16,155 views and an estimated reach of 29,000.



VW Aqapito S Suan, Jr

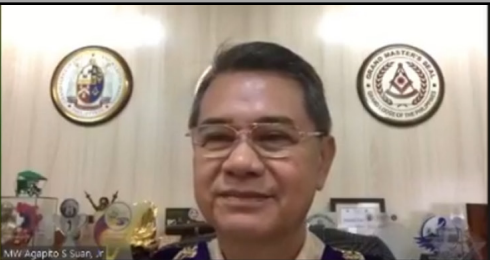


THE CABLE TOW 2020 - 2021
THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES

PHILIPPINES GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE



Dennis Cuhanan



VW Aqapito S Suan, Jr



VW Teddy Kham





Masons & Masonettes of Narra Lodge No.171 meet for Independence Day

By VW Edwin B. Ubungin, PDGL/Lodge Secretary



A handful of brethren of Narra 171 met at San Jose City last June 12, at the San Jose City Social Circle in simple commemoration of 122 Years of Freedom. Unlike in previous years, attendance is currently limited in compliance with the requirements set by IATF as well as Circular 42 of the Grand Master. The Lodge offered a floral wreath in the monument of Dr. Jose P. Rizal, National Hero, Freemason and one of the primary characters of the Philippine Revolution.

The Master of the Lodge - Enrico A. Doculan together with the SW Jafer Marcon E. Martinez and JW Enrique P. Estrella led the brethren in the solemnities. Also present were WB Mario Torres, Bro. Jetro Bautista, Bro. Florencio Hipolito and Bro. Jun Cordero of San Jose City Masonic Lodge No. 309.

On the same Friday Morning, the San Jose City Masonettes Club led by Lady President, Sis. May B. Doculan the Worshipful Master's Wife, turned - over face masks and face shields to the Frontliners of San Jose City General Hospital and Ospital ng Lungsod San Jose. They were accompanied by other members of the Narra Lodge family.

The SJCMC is a 39 year old club founded by the Atengs of members of Narra Lodge No.171 in February 14, 1981.



122nd INDEPENDENCE DAY OF THE PHILIPPINES

"REVISIONISM AND CHANGING VIEWS ON PHILIPPINE HEROISM AND PATRIOTISM"

PRES. EMILIO AGUINALDO- THE MOST MISUNDERSTOOD PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HERO



PART 1 OF A WEBINAR SERIES HOSTED BY BRO. DR. MEDARDO BOMBITA PHD

AND PRESENTED BY THE BRETHREN OF:

ANG TIPOLO MASONIC LODGE NO. 334

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

FRIDAY/8:00 PM/VIA



MR. RYAN M. AGUINALDO
RESOURCE SPEAKER

Ang Tipolo Masonic Lodge No.334 holds Webinar on Independence Day

By Bro. Medardo B. Bombita

June 12, 2020

ATML No.334 under the leadership of WB Don O. Dayandayan conducted its first Webinar episode coinciding with the 122nd Philippine Independence Day.

The Online Event was done in cooperation with the Rizal York Rite Bodies, Rizal Bodies of the Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite, and the Masonic District R-IV Rizal represented by Excellent High Priest Gustav Joseph O. Bocek, Venerable Master Emelito M. Felix, and VW Nicolas B. Manipon, the District Deputy Grand Master respectively. 100 participants registered.

The program started at 8:00 sharp with everyone cordially receiving the resource speaker, Mr. Ryan M. Aguinaldo via Zoom platform. A history lecturer in leading universities in the country and a great, great, grand nephew of the First President of the Republic – the speaker discussed "Revisionism and the Changing Views on Philippine Heroism and Patriotism ~ Pres. Emilio F. Aguinaldo: The Most Misunderstood Philippine Hero."

Aside from venerating the sacrifices of national and unsung heroes for the country's sovereignty, the lecturer focused in

answering the numerous controversies surrounding his Lolo Miong's involvement in the Philippine Revolution. As a descendant of President Aguinaldo, he forthrightly defended his innocence against criticisms and allegations using historical evidences and circumstantial points during the open forum. He asserted that this generation should not relate the 21st century norms with the 20th century events. History should not be judged in such manner otherwise one will commit injustice and anachronism. A leader of different ages makes judgement calls. It's just, one should choose inevitably his own poison. In the case of Aguinaldo, the antagonism of history against him.

As in the words of the Senior Grand Lecturer during the Grand Lodge Webinar, VW Teodoro E. Kalaw IV said, "Should we be ashamed of the actions of our heroes? No, because we may make mistakes but we continue to live out our Masonic ideals, learn from our mistakes and move forward."

General Emilio Aguinaldo y Famy is a member of Pilar Lodge no. 15. He is known as "Kuyang Colon" by his brother masons.



MD RIII Nueva Ecija East & Aurora in ONE with the Masonic Family in observance of the 122nd year of Philippine Independence By VW Tito Jess Tuquero, PDGL

I cannot help but take cognizance of the great and noble work which your grand fraternity had done and is still doing for freedom of thought and conscience, for democracy and equality. In our country and in the United States, members of your brotherhood led in the fight for the sacrosanct cause of liberty, equality and fraternity – President Carlos P. Garcia.

In observance of Independence Day and in conformity to Circular 42-SUAN, the well-meaning brethren of MD R3- Nueva Ecija East & Aurora held a wreath-laying ceremony TWICE at the Veterans Post and at the statue of Bro. Jose P. Rizal in Municipality of Rizal Nueva Ecija.

In spite of the slight drizzle and strict adherence to physical distancing, VW Rhomel A. Martinez, DDGM led the ceremonies with the floral offering, the singing of the national anthem and the recitation of the Panunumpa sa Watawat ng Pilipinas. He was accompanied by WM Ricardo Yerro (Pantabangan Bonari Masonic Lodge No.203), WM Rafael Perez (Model Masonic Lodge No.373), WM Alfred Leonard Domingo (Talavera Masonic Lodge No.273), VW Edison Rivera, PDGL, the Senior & Junior Wardens of PBML 203 and other brethren from the three lodges.

The assembly then proceeded to the humble abode of WM Ric Yerro, where brunch was served to the drenched but still energetic attendees.



Urdaneta Masonic Lodge No. 302 joins the City Government in celebrating Philippine Independence Day in Pangasinan

By Bro. Noel T. Patelo / Head News Correspondent – Luzon

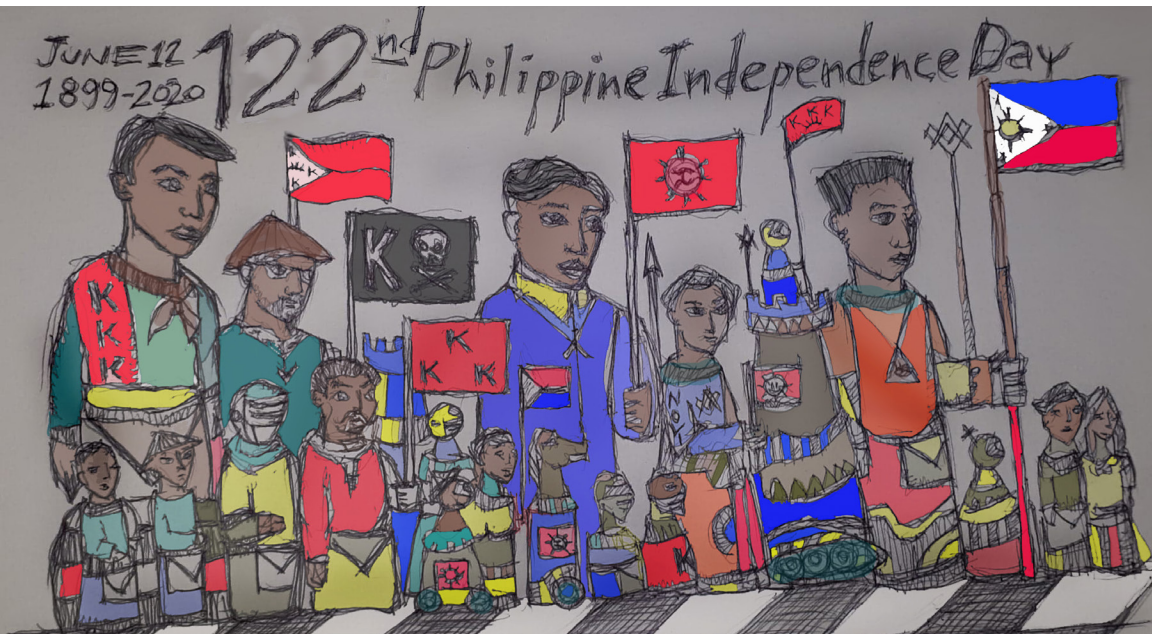
Rizal Monument, Urdaneta City Hall

WM Bonnie D. Resuello led his lodgemates in their patriotic duty as they join the City Government in a wreath-laying ceremony that commemorated the 122nd Anniversary of the declaration of Philippine Independence.

Present were: VW Dominic Marvin D. Sy, District Deputy Grand Master - MD R1 Pangasinan, Senior Warden Mark David Celzo, Malcom John Lewis (Treasurer), Loreto "Jun" Munoz (Secretary), VW Rufino Ramil San Juan, VW Roderick E.R. Mina, VW Franklin Q. Carmelo, VW Dominador R. Delizo, WB Gabriel Rosales, WB John E. Mangonon, WB Elmer L. Aquino, WB Emelito Roxas, Bro Reynal MJ C. Soriano. Together, they joined the Honorable Mayor Julio F. Parayno III and other City Government Officials - Vice Mayor Jimmy Parayno, City councilors, Department Heads and the Chief of Police of Urdaneta City Bro PLT. Col Jun Castor.

This year's celebration was almost shelved due to the COVID-19 Pandemic placing the entire Luzon under Enhanced Community Quarantine for more than two months. Pangasinan has eased into General Community Quarantine in May 16. The event in June 12 was observed with strict compliance to existing IATF, national and local protocols.

Constituted in July 03, 1993 at the Urdaneta I Central School Quadrangle, Urdaneta Masonic Lodge No.302 is set to observe its 39th Charter Anniversary in 21 days.





Ways to Wisdom: Unlocking the message of Psalm 133

By Bro. Patrick Alain T. Azanza

As an Entered Apprentice, the first thing we hear as we get initiated into Freemasonry is Psalm 133, to wit:

1. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!
2. It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;
3. As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.

This Biblical passage otherwise known as "A Song of Ascent", was supposedly written by David when all the tribes of Israel met and finally received him as King, and once

again unified the Kingdoms of Judah and Israel which were divided under the reign of King Saul.

Psalm 133 is one of the most prominent quotations from the Holy Scriptures that is recited during masonic rituals. It is mentioned in full during the circumambulation of the Entered Apprentice degree.

Why must Psalm 133 be given such importance in our masonic journey? I would surmise that there should be a paramount reason behind. Allow me to share my humble rationalization by drawing upon some possible meaningful explanations.

The first word in the passage is "Behold" and it aims to draw our attention. Often, our attention is called upon when something important is about to be shared or announced to us. Therefore, right at the start of our journey, at the very first degree as Entered Apprentice, we were already being enjoined to take due notice of the message to us masons conveyed in Psalm 133.

And how do we decipher such codified message? The profound and beautiful meaning of the psalm in our masonic life can be unraveled by combining the first stanza with the last stanza, and by considering the other stanzas in between as mere intervening phrases that simply expound the first and last stanzas which together shall now read as:

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ...For there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life forevermore.”

The first stanza talks about brotherly love. Like adjectives or positive descriptions, it tells us how “good” and how “pleasant” what we supposedly experience when we as masonic brothers “dwell together”. It refers to each and every brother mason coming into the group and maintaining a harmonious relationship with one another. It means understanding each other and embracing unconditionally the uniqueness of every brother mason just like true solid members of one family. In that way, the masonic brotherhood becomes a strong bond that anyone would feel that there is indeed strength in unity, which can become an insurmountable force when challenged from the outside.

By unity, we do not necessarily mean uniformity at all times, nor conformity to the point of becoming blind followers. For we can be united even as we think and act differently from each other. There is unity in diversity. In fact, as masons we have always been taught to think independently, to seek the truth on our own, and to find life’s meaning for ourselves. In our history as an organization and in every nation where Freemasonry exists, it is not uncommon to find masons taking different or unorthodox views and yet in the end, we brother masons manage to stand united for our common masonic ideals and principles. Our heroes Jose Rizal, Emilio Aguinaldo, Andres Bonifacio, Antonio Luna, Apolinario Mabini – all masons – may have differed in their political strategies and individual outlooks in life, but were always united in the common fight against our country’s oppressors.

We freemasons are not known to

conform to inequalities, injustice, bigotry, racisms and other forms of inequities. That kind of conformity or subservience is against our grain. We square our actions by correcting and harmonizing our conduct based on principles of morality and virtue. We are guided by our compasses to draw a boundary line around our desires and passion to keep ourselves within that circle of self-restrain and moderation, which are the foundation of morality and wisdom. This way we realize that it is by transforming ourselves, from selfish to selfless individuals, and by learning brotherly love that we can achieve unity in the brotherhood.

The final stanza of Psalm 133 speaks about the “blessing” which the Lord commanded for having exhibited such unity among brothers. And such gift was even described to last “even life forevermore”, meaning that it can last in perpetuity. What exactly then is the kind of “blessing” that we masonic brothers can derive out of Psalm 133? Usually, when one talks of a “blessing”, it would refer to something that is of divine origin capable of enriching one’s life, and it may come in many forms such as material, carnal, spiritual, event, or any other thing that we can imagine. But the “blessing” that I would like to think that finds more meaning in our masonic journey is one that allows every one of us to become a blessing to others.

In our lodge, for example, when we start to think less of ourselves and more of our mason brothers, then we actually start to live a life for the good of others. We now learn to consider first the others before we look out for our own interests. We start to become a blessing to our mason brothers. And then when that becomes a standard of our personal conduct, it becomes our way of life. We then bring that same attitude and practice to the outside world. That way, we become a blessing to our families, relatives, friends, neighbors, every person we deal with, and even to strangers. In the end, we ourselves also feel blessed. We become a fulfilled person. That is actually the point where the mysterious message of Psalm 133 is revealed to us!

Once we have achieved that unity through brotherly love, then the last stanza would find its real meaning to our masonic travel. Take note that the first stanza is a condition precedent for the realization of the last stanza. It is a state of affairs or an event that is required to happen before the promised "blessing" in the ultimate stanza can occur or can be received. Thus, there must be unity among us brothers first for us to be able to expect to receive what was promised.

When we have achieved that unity and brotherly love, the promise in Psalm 133 has been likewise fulfilled. And as we continue to show our unity and brotherly love, that promise will then "live forevermore". Our masonic organization will be blessed and shall out-live all of us. Freemasonry shall last beyond generations anyone of us can imagine so long as unity and brotherly love continue to prevail among us.

It is at this point that the two intervening stanzas would also find meaning to us. Because they are descriptions of how we have improved ourselves as brother masons. Brotherly love evokes awareness that eventually everyone would take notice. It is likened to the customary tradition of a host anointing his guest with perfumed oil that fills the house with the scent. "Like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the

beard, even Aaron's beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments."

Remember that in the Bible and the Koran, Aaron was described as the High Priest brother of Moses. He was designated by God to serve as the assistant of Moses to help him resolve his inability to communicate well. The parallelism is between the acts of brotherly love and the perfume that engulfs a High Priest poured from his head and flowing down to his worn adornments, the smell of which would hardly go unnoticed. In the same fashion, the next intervening stanza describes the scene, "As the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion." I believe that this second intervening phrase actually refers to the moist and bountiful dew of Mount Hermon that likewise flows to Mount Zion, the place where God installed David as King. Thus the two intervening stanzas can be taken to describe how brotherly love and unity would enable every blessing to flow from one brother mason to another, and eventually permeate amongst other people in the outside world who come in contact with every enlightened brother mason.

When we achieve that, it means that we have unlocked the coded message in Psalm 133 and realized the lesson that was being conveyed to us right from the very moment we were being initiated as Entered Apprentice. ❖





2nd CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

LEON KILAT LODGE 437

UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MOST
WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE OF FREE AND
ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

JUNE 2, 2020



Visayan Vistas

A New Normal Kind of Labor and Celebration: Leon Kilat Masonic Lodge No. 437 amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic By WB Jeff Edward L. Pintac / Head News Correspondent - Visayas

We masons love going to the lodge, break bread, shake hands and extend warm brotherly hugs and close fraternal fellowship with our masonic brethren. In these trying times amidst the global health crisis, prevention guidelines appear to be anti-social as they strongly advise the maintenance of social and physical distancing to prevent the spread of the virus. These new health protocols and preventive measures brought by the COVID-19 pandemic have, made a significant impact, imposing a big change as we go through our daily lives.

It is common and universal experience, not only among masonic lodges, but for most civic and even business organizations to have their arduously prepared year-long planned programs, strategies, and activities for the 2020 Calendar suddenly rendered useless due to the unprecedented crisis. Some even say that this year 2020 should be foregone as the pandemic brought with it a magnanimous wave of problems, especially to the least fortunate and marginalized sectors of society. They are the ones who experienced the hardest time in dealing with the impact of the pandemic on health, physical mobility, losses of jobs and income, and other life-

threatening struggles.

Aside from the social and economic crisis, the fear of community transmissions and global contagion that threatens the lives of millions also poses a constraint to the usual responsiveness and enthusiasm of many civic organizations in extending their aids and assistances to those affected.

These concerns challenged the masonic lodges such as the young Leon Kilat No.437 to find solutions and make innovations on how to show compassion, practice charity, and extend their cable tow to the least fortunate brothers and sisters in this difficult time. Equally important are the Brethren's innate passion to show their support to our beloved "frontliners" in this war against an invisible enemy, the COVID-19 Virus.

It is in this light that the officers and members of LK437, despite having halted their stated communications and calendared activities, look at this pandemic as an opportunity to live by their masonic duty to support each other and their surrounding community. This trying time also calls for members to remain strong and step up as a

lodge and do something to share in this fight against COVID-19.

Faced with the limitations of not being able to meet physically and convene in the lodge room, Bro. David Alexander T. Patriana – the Worshipful Master held online conferences to check on the well-being of the brethren, their families, and most especially to monitor the conditions of the elderly members of the lodge.

During these “Virtual Kumustahans”, members discussed various concerns faced by the brethren in the frontlines. The WM even requested some of the Brethren to assess the current situation in the surrounding communities and look for opportunities where the lodge can extend its assistance.

On the last week of March - two weeks since the declaration of a State of National Public Health Emergency and imple-



The Brethren of Leon Kilat Masonic Lodge No.437 pose in their lodge-inspired face masks as they celebrate their 2nd Charter Anniversary in the mountain Municipality of San Fernando, Cebu last JUNE 2, 2020

mentation of Community Quarantine, Honorary Member Archiles Gantuangco, informed the Lodge of the plight of the marginalized sector in Carcar City and conferred with the WM and Past Master Roger P. Panganiban on how Leon Kilat No.437 can alleviate them from their current situation.

“Affected families are in real danger and have nothing on their table in the coming days; too many will go hungry.” Bro. Gantuangco said.

The pillars of the Lodge acted swiftly, making an appeal to the brethren through the Lodge’s Viber Group to extend their assistance to the community through financial donations for those in need. Thanks to the generosity of the Brethren an ample amount was raised giving life to a COVID-19 Relief Fund for the charitable efforts of the lodge.

By April 7, WM Patriana, WB Roger Panganiban and Bro. Gantuangco delivered and turned-over, through the Barangay Captain, 12 sacks of rice and various canned goods to be distributed to the affected families of Brgy. Perrelos, Carcar, Cebu.

Meanwhile in the frontlines, the men and women in uniform, are waning out their supplies that will protect themselves from the invisible enemy. On April 17, yours truly and Ateng Dr. Edilyn S. Pintac, accompanied by the Worshipful Master, visited the Mandaue City Police Office to turn-over 8 gallons of Ethyl Alcohol to Col. Jonathan Abella the City Director. Also a Mason, Bro. Abella was glad of the good and timely arrival of the disinfectant solution. It was distributed to the different Quarantine Control Checkpoints in the city immediately.

Masonic Charity did not stop in the Cities of Carcar and Mandaue. It climbed its way to the mountain barangay of Campa-og, San Fernando on April 22, where the WM Patriana together with brethren from South Cebu distributed relief goods to 250 families - a benevolent gesture as many of our kababayans in this remote part of Cebu are on a “one day, one meal” diet, and on sadder days even none at all.

Throughout the Lockdown period, more members of our beloved brotherhood continued the practice of charity and compassion in their own little ways. The Brethren felt the essence of the masonic teachings that may serve as effective tools to combat the effects of any global crisis.

Despite being physically away from the lodge, and staying home for three life-changing months, the brethren had become

more eager to meet and break bread with one other in fraternal fellowship.

As the National Government lifted the Enhanced Community Quarantine Status in the Province of Cebu last June 1, 2020, the officers and members of Leon Kilat Masonic Lodge No. 437 found a window of opportunity to physically celebrate on the following day its 2nd Lodge Charter Anniversary.

The intended observance of this important milestone was not as grand as everyone would wish it to be as every attendee is bound to strictly follow the new health protocols of wearing a protective mask, observe social or physical distancing, and regular hand-washing.

To avoid the danger of the confined spaces of a lodge hall and to ensure an unlimited supply of fresh air the Master of the Lodge offered his residence in the mountain barangay of San Fernando Town as the venue for the celebration.

As an added measure and in compliance to the prohibition on mass gathering during this time of the pandemic, the attendance is limited to a few lodge members aged 21 to 59 years old.

It was a simple yet meaningful celebration as the attendees were given a respite from the loneliness and boredom of a quarantined life while enjoying the ambiance that Mother Nature has to offer. As they returned to their respective places of abode, each brother was reminded of the importance of solidarity, the practice of charity, and the moral act of compassion which increase in our sense of humanity, especially, in difficult times like this.

Looking back at the good deeds done while away from each other, we came to realize that with the "Acts of Love" that we showed and the "Bundles of Joy" that we shared, the recipients and beneficiaries came to know LEON KILAT, not only as a legendary local hero, but also a group of fine gentlemen and masonic brothers with sincere generosity, who are willing to share what they can offer even in the most dangerous and difficult of times - at the time of isolation, IN THE MIDST OF COVID-19. 🏠



STRENGTHENING THE BOND AMONG MASONIC YOUTH AMIDST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

By DeMolay brother Charles Eden M. Perales,
Lapu-Lapu Chapter, Order of DeMolay

28 June 2020, Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu

We are in a period of subtle darkness in our history; not in the macabre manner of war, but in one that poses a considerable challenge to our ability to keep up with adversaries and conquer adversities. It's only subtle darkness –mild but severe, mundane but vicious. It's unwise to be complacent, but its passing is definitive. The solution to the crisis, they say, is a vaccine; and day by day, humanity comes closer to acquiring it. But before it reaches the corners of the world, we sure have some time to spare waiting.

The world continues to suffer from COVID-19. Since the advent of the pandemic, it has caused crises in multiple aspects. But no matter the adversity, we have found alternatives to counter each one. It has been straight three months since my last official meeting with my DeMolay brethren in the Lapu-Lapu Chapter and that was not long after our 125th Public Installation of Officers. Since then, it has been so much of a challenge to get together again. It's practically impossible because of the restrictions of the local government imposed. However, that is by no means a reason for us remain idle in the comfort of our homes, especially in the case of the bond of the Masonic Family.

Locked up in our homes in barangays and cities on lockdown, my brethren and I in the Lapu-Lapu Chapter, Order of DeMolay have been communicating nonstop through an online platform. For a start, we



The newly installed officers for 2020 Term-A of Lapu-Lapu Chapter together with Dad Masons. Photo courtesy of Sis Malou Savellon.

discussed what a failure it is to have no choice but to cancel all the plans and programs for this year so far. We would also express our frustrations on not being able to meet each other. We have many times resorted to virtual meetings, which are fairly effective given how accessible online resources are for most. On April 6, 2020, the DMLY Talks Volume 1 was hosted by Ambrosio A. Flores Chapter through the online video conferencing application Zoom, with the collaborative efforts of the ever active and supportive National Junior Councilor, brother Vince Edward Pintac. The Mt. Samat Chapter, Order of DeMolay were enthusiastic participants of the said activity. The speakers were Brother Jacob “Kobi” Tolentino and the Brother National Junior Councilor, himself. The online discussion deepened the sentiment of finding light in the dark; transforming our current challenges into stepping stones to excellent leadership skills.

On May 16, 2020, my brothers and I attended the TIE-UP WITH TYLER IN THE PHILIPPINES: IMC GOES AROUND THE WORLD online conference, which was held by the DeMolay National Congress. It was a spectacular way to connect with the brethren even outside the chapter. If not for an official business, the brethren would also many times indulge in online games to spend time together leisurely.

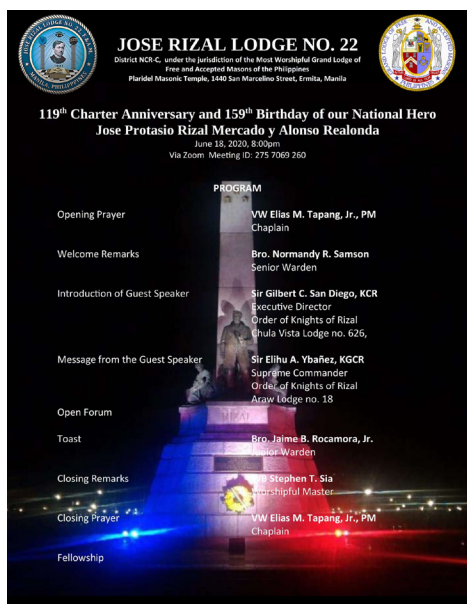
Of course, the DeMolays in the Masonic Family will not be doing perfectly fine if not for the support of the Dad Masons. In order to supply the crucial need of everyone in this pandemic, the Master Councilor of Lapu-Lapu Chapter took initiative to produce cloth masks with the help of Dad Masons and sold it to brethren and anyone else in need of it. The DeMolay Alumni Association of the Philippines or DAAP also engaged in the same initiative and produced cloth masks with the DeMolay Emblem. In fact, I have four of them we alternatively use in our family every time somebody has to go out. It was my father who brought them to us.

My father is also my Dad Mason. Many of my brethren share the same nature. Some of my brethren even have a sister who’s also a sister Jobie. Biological or not, altogether, we make up the Masonic Family; and although we are faced with a hearty challenge in these trying times, our bond has never been stronger. We’re closer like never before. May this pandemic not hinder the rich and genuine bond that we all share in the Masonic Family. Instead may it strengthen the already iron-clad grip of our bonds with each other so that in the days that are yet to come, we will create a world greater than ever and contribute to the betterment of the world. ☞

A Three-Day Event by a Lodge named Rizal

By VW Kenneth G. Tieng, PDGL

Jose Rizal Lodge No.22 celebrated its 119th Lodge Anniversary in June, its founding date incidentally falls a day before its namesake was born. To honor the National Hero as well as the lodge's existence, the Rizal Brethren led by their Worshipful Master Stephen I. Sia organized and participated in the following events for three consecutive days:



Day 1 – June 18

A virtual program via Zoom Application started the celebration at 8:00 in the evening. The online event was conducted with the members of the Order of the Knights of Rizal as resource persons. Sir Gilbert C. San Diego, KCR, Executive Director of The Order of Knights of Rizal introduced the Guest Speaker - Sir Elihu A. Ybañez, KGCR, Supreme Commander of The Order of Knights of Rizal who discussed about “**Natural Law, Rizal and Freemasonry**”. Both Knights were also Bother Masons.

The program was well-attended with 65 brethren registering. Among them were:

WM of Lodge Perla Del Oriente No.1034 (Grand Lodge of Scotland)

RW Pravin Thakur Sharma

VW Anthony Tan (Isagani Lodge No.96 / Masonic District RIII Tarlac

VW Francisco R. Muñoz – DDGM of Masonic District NCR – C

The Officers and Members of the following lodges were also represented:

Dr. Jose P. Rizal (Calamba) Lodge No.270 (Masonic District R4-Laguna)

Dimasalang Lodge No.196 (Grand Lodge of British Columbia & Yukon)

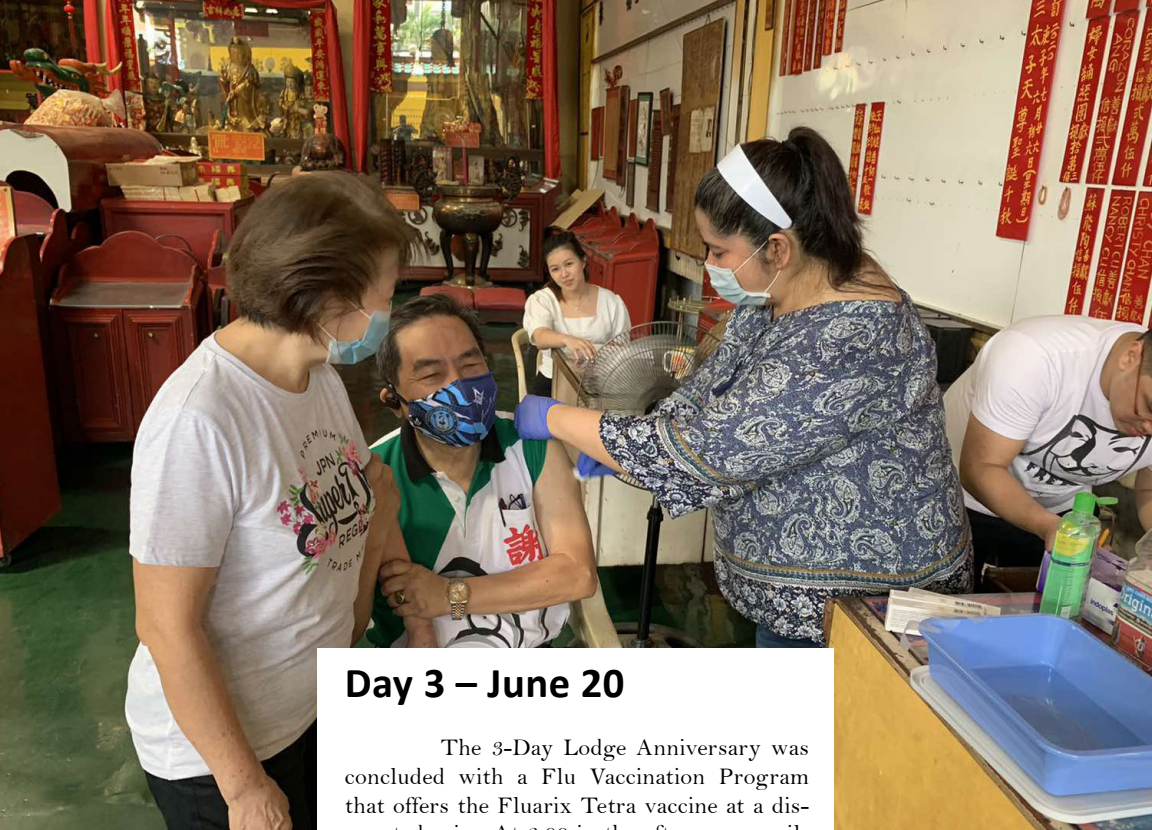
Lodge Jose Rizal No.1045 (United Grand Lodge of New South Wales & Australian Capital Territory)

Jose Rizal Lodge No.1172 (Grand Lodge of the State of New York)

Day 2 – June 19

On Friday at 9:00 AM - MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. in his extended term as Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, led a small assembly of Masons in a Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the GLP Compound. He was assisted by the Officers and Members of the 22nd Lodge in the jurisdiction. The event was in reverend observance of the 159th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Jose Rizal – National Hero and Freemason.

After the solemnities, the Brethren retired at the Emilio Aguinaldo Hall where a breakfast was prepared by Jose Rizal No.22. The Master of the Lodge - who is in the egg-laying business distributed cartons of his farm's produce to all those present.



Day 3 – June 20

The 3-Day Lodge Anniversary was concluded with a Flu Vaccination Program that offers the Fluarix Tetra vaccine at a discounted price. At 2:00 in the afternoon, awaiting brethren and their families lined-up at the Temple of Taoism Int'l, Inc. in Malate, Manila where Dra. Cleofe Medina administered the shots. A total to 59 persons benefited from the program while proper physical-distancing was observed.



FREEMASONRY – where brothers from different mothers, origins and sizes lined-up in a familiar pattern. From left to right are: Bro SW Normandy R. Samson (Jose Rizal 22), Bro. Jose P. Rizal, Honorary PM (Acacia 9, GODE), Bro. Luisito “Totoy” G. Salazar (Dalisyas 14).





Lodge History Summary

Founded on June 18, 1901 by Rizal's friend – Trinidad H. Pardo de Tavera, under the Grand

Orient of France, the lodge became dormant in 1907 when French Freemasonry lost its recognition among other jurisdictions. The lodge was revived in 1912 by Bro. Felipe Temponco under Gran Oriente Español.

In February 1917, Rizal Lodge No.315, together with 29 other lodges shifted allegiance to the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands. The name was edited to Jose Rizal Lodge No.

22 in January 1956. The lodge has not changed neither nomenclature nor obedience since.

Jose Rizal 22 members who became Grand Masters include MW Vicente Carmona (1930) and MW Jaime Y. Gonzales (2007).

At 119 years of age, the lodge is 126 masons strong, composed of 31 Life Members (by Longevity), 91 Regular Members and 4 Dual Members. Jose Rizal 22 is among the cluster of lodges under Masonic District NCR-C.

As lodges are prohibited to meet physically, the Brethren conduct online caucus meetings every 1st Wednesday of the month (in the same schedule as their Regular Stated Meeting). ☒



government which existed from 1898-1901.

Gen. Wesley E. Merritt was the first Military Governor in 1898. He was followed by Gen. Elwell S. Otis (1898-1900). The third Military Governor was Gen. Arthur MacArthur (1900-1901).

The Capture of Aguinaldo

Gen. Frederick Funston, aided by some Tagalog renegades and 80 Macabebe scouts, captured Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo at Palanan, Isabela (Palanan was the capital of the last Malolos Republic).

Gen. Aguinaldo was brought by ship to Manila and was warmly and amiably received by Military Governor Arthur MacArthur.

Philippine Bill of 1902

The organic act about the Philippines was called the Cooper Act which provided: "1) Extension of the Bill of Rights to Filipinos; 2) Establishment of an elective Philippine Assembly, after the proclamation of peace and two years after the publication of the Philippine census; 3) Appointment of two resident commissioners to represent the Filipino people in Washington; 4) Retention of the Philippine Commission as the upper house of the legislature, with the Philippine Assembly as the lower house; and, 5) Conservation of the natural resources of the Philippines for the Filipinos.

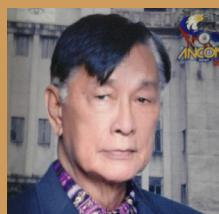
Interviewed by Associated Press correspondent Vicente Albano Pacis, U.S. Rep Henry A. Cooper (R.WI) remarked: "xxx In all modesty, one of the highlights - one of the most thrilling moments - of my long congressional service was my participation in drafting and enactment of the first enabling act for the Philippines. And, sir, President McKinley, Governor Taft, and the rest of us met obstacles on every side. But do you know who came to the rescue, sir? None other than your great martyr and hero, Jose Rizal."

Rep. Cooper recalled: "Philippine-American relations started very badly xxx. Those of us who were trying to formulate what might be a just and wise Philippine policy were harassed on every side. Do you know, sir, that President McKinley finally had to resort to nightly prayer?"

The congressional record for that day chronicled Rep. Cooper's opening remarks: "Every day we hear men declare that the people

THE POWER OF RIZAL'S POEM IN U.S. CONGRESS

By VR Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC, HA



Senator John C. Spooner's (Wisconsin) amendment to the Army Appropriation Act passed by U.S. Congress on March 2, 1901 authorized the President of the United States

(who up to that time was administering the Philippines by virtue of his war powers), to proceed with the establishment of a civil government in the Philippines. Known as the Spooner Amendment, the Act marked the beginning of a civil regime in the Philippines.

In pursuance of the Spooner Amendment, Judge William H. Taft was appointed as the first Civil Governor, and on July 4, 1901 was inaugurated in Manila.

The civil government exercised jurisdiction over the pacified Philippine provinces and islands.

Military Government

The first government established by the Americans in the Philippines was a military

of the Philippines are 'pirate,' 'barbarians,' 'savages,' 'incapable of civilization' xxx newspapers of prominence have repeatedly endorsed this view."

"Mr. Chairman, I am not here to join in this cry so often heard xxx Before we say that the Filipino people are barbarians and savages whose future is hopeless, we should remember the past and not forget how largely human beings are the products of environment xxx Think of their history! For three hundred hopeless years they had seen Spanish officials treat office merely as a means by which to rob the helpless people. For three hundred years they lived under a government which deliberately kept the mass of the people in ignorance, which deliberately sought to close to them every avenue of social and political advancement, a government under which it was well-nigh useless for a man even to attempt to acquire property, because his accumulations furnished only so much more of temptation and opportunity for the rapacity of government officials, a government which punished even the most respectful protest against its infamous executions with banishment or death xxx."

"What the Filipino think, what they feel what they do, are only the natural results of what they have undergone. Yet, sir, despite this environment, this deprivation, this wrong and contumely and outrage, this unfortunate race has given to the world not a few examples of intellectual and moral worth-men in the height of mind and power of character."

Briefly, he narrated the life of the hero from his birth in Calamba to his sentence to death by a Spanish court-martial in Manila.

"It has been said that if American institutions had done nothing else than furnish to the world the character of George Washington, that alone would entitle them to the respect of mankind. So, sir, I say to all those who denounce the Filipinos indiscriminately as barbarians and savages without possibility of civilized future, that this despised race proved itself entitled to their respect and to the respect of mankind when it furnished to the world the character of Jose Rizal."

"On the night before his death, he wrote a poem," xxx. "I will read it, that the house may know what were the last thoughts of this 'pirate,' this 'barbarian,' this 'savage,' of a race 'incapable of civilization!'"

Congressman Cooper then plunged

into his climax and thundered: " 'Pirates. Barbarians. Savages. Incapable of civilization.' How many of the civilized, Caucasian slanderers of his race could ever be capable of thought like these, which on the awful night, as he sat alone amidst silence unbroken save by the rustling of the black plumes of the death angel at this side, poured from the soul of the martyred Filipino? Search the long and bloody roll of the world's martyred dead, the where-on what soil, under what sky-did Tyranny ever claim a nobler victim?"

"Sir, the future is not without hope for a person who, from the midst of such an environment has furnished to the world a character so lofty and so pure as that of Jose Rizal."

According to Rep. Cooper, "The story and poetry of Rizal did something to the House akin to a miracle, he continued. Your great patriot made congressmen – as well as senators – forget the Philippine insurrection and remember only your people's travails. Rizal kindled a light by which, for the first time, Americans had done in 1776. Out of Rizal's life and labors there was born an American-Philippine kinship that he has endured."

"xxx In the voting on the bill which followed shortly, American statesmen gave Rizal a sizeable majority: The measure was soon ready for the signature of the President, Theodore Roosevelt, for alas, the gentle McKinley had been assassinated the previous year."

Epilogue

The powerful story and poem of Rizal opened the eyes of Democrat and Republican lawmakers.

Earlier, anti-imperialist league headed by powerful men like Ex-President Grover Cleveland, Justice Joseph Story and Andres Carnegie were indignant that the Republican administration was embarking on a career of imperialism.

The Democratic Party were in favor of giving independence immediately. Their official platform declared, "The Filipinos cannot be citizens without endangering our civilization xxx"

Political animosities, ignorance of Philippine history, and fake news carried by American press that detailed Filipino brutalities and atrocities poisoned the American public minds.

Providentially, Mason Brethren like

President William McKinley, Senator John Spooner, President Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft formulated just and wise policies for the Filipinos.

John C. Spooner (1843-1919), U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, was a member of Hiram Lodge No. 850 at Madison and a Knight Templar. He was a close friend and confidant of three Presidents – McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft.

On March 2, 1901, the United States Congress passed the Spooner Amendment providing for a civil government in the Philippines. William McKinley (1843-1901), twenty-fifth President of the United States was raised in Hiram Lodge No. 21 of Winchester, Virginia. He later affiliated with Canton Lodge No. 90, Canton, Ohio.

President McKinley created the First Philippine Commission known as Schurman Commission to aid in shaping a Philippine policy on January 20, 1899.

President McKinley created a second Philippine Commission called the Taft Commission. The Commission was guided by McKinley's famous instructions written by Secretary of War, Elihu Root, that embodied the basic democratic principles underlying American policy and was called the "Magna Carta of the Philippines."

Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919), twenty-sixth President of the United States, was a member of Matinecock Lodge No. 806 of Oyster Bay, N.Y.

James Amos, President Roosevelt's butler and private valet relates this story: "He (Roosevelt) was not much of a joiner. Of course, as President, he was elected to all sorts of organizations. But I think the only one he ever joined of his own volition was the Matinecock Lodge of Masons at Oyster Bay. And I am sure he did this largely because his gardener Seaman was the Master of the Lodge. He used to go to the meetings occasionally. He enjoyed going there as a simple member while his own gardener sat in the seat of authority and presided and called him 'Brother Roosevelt'."

William Howard Taft (1857-1930), twenty-seventh President of the United States, was made a Mason "at sight" within the body of Kilwinning Lodge No. 365, Cincinnati, Ohio by Grand Master Charles S. Hoskinson. On this occasion, Pres. Taft said: "I am glad to be here, and to be a Mason. It does me good to feel the thrill that comes from recognizing on all hands the

fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man xxx. Many years ago my father stood in the same place and expressed his love and admiration of the Order."

During the incumbency of Bro. Taft, Filipinos were given greater participation in the government.

First Filipino jurist, Cayetano Arellano of the Supreme Court, Dr. F.H. Pardo de Tavera, Benito Legarda, Sr., and Jose Luzuriaga became members of the Taft Commission; and Gregorio Araneta appointed as Secretary of Finance and Justice.

The Philippine Bill of 1902 provided that the Philippines be represented by two resident commissioners. The first Filipino resident commissioners in Washington were Masons: Benito Legarda Sr., (1907-1912), and Pablo Ocampo (1907-1909).

Manuel O. Quezon of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16, who later will be the first Filipino Grand Master in the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands in 1917, served as resident commissioner from 1909-1916.

Other prominent Mason brethren who served as resident commissioners up to 1935 were Manuel Earnshaw, Jaime C. de Vera, Teodoro Yangco, Isauro Gabaldon, Camilo Osias, Pedro Guevarra and Francisco Delgado.

Francisco Delgado of Bagumbayan No. 4 was elected Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands in 1926 and Camilo Osias, also of Bagumbayan No. 4, in 1955.

Bro./Dr. Rizal in the ninth stanza of his poem *Mi Ultimo Adios* penned:

**"Pray for all those that hapless have died,
For all who have suffered the unmeasur'd pain;
For our mothers that bitterly their woes have cried,
For widows and orphans, for captives by torture tried
And then for thyself that redemption thou mayst gain."**

Redemption from military to civil government became a reality in pacified provinces and islands. Local governments in towns and provinces were controlled by Filipinos. Governors and provincial boards were elected by Filipinos.

Non Omnis Moriar. ☒

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THE GLP DURING THE PANDEMIC OF 2020

By VW Ali C. Espina, Grand Historian



18 June 2020

The following article is an excerpt of the Grand Historian report written under the same title and submitted last 14 May 2020. Some portions have been updated since its submission.

The Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic happened at what would have been the tail-end of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr.'s term. The pandemic, by this time exhaustively researched, written and talked about, was identified to have started in Wuhan, China in late December 2019 – near the beginning of the second half of the Masonic Year. Three months after, on 16 March 2020, Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared the entire Luzon on lockdown or Enhanced Community Quarantine or ECQ.

As of this writing, the victims of COVID-19 are still increasing. When this report / article was first written (8 May 2020), confirmed cases in the Philippines were at 10,463 and deaths at 696 (source: OfficialDOH.gov Facebook Page). As of 16 June 2020, confirmed cases are already at 26,781 and 1,103 deaths. Global statistics had already more than 3 million confirmed cases at the time of first writing. A browse through its website, the World Health Organization statistics shows it already has 7,941,791 cases and 434,796 deaths (as of 16 June 2020).

It appears to have defied reason and common sense that while local cases are still increasing, the Inter-Agency Task Force on Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF) issued Resolution No. 40 last 27 May 2020, easing certain regions in the country from Enhanced Community Quarantine to more moderate iterations — the Modified General Community Quarantine (MGCQ) and General Community Quarantine (GCQ). This meant that mobility was already allowed in specific areas or regions

and certain industries were given permission to go back to work on a limited capacity, among others.

Suspension of Labors: An Extraordinary Time for The Fraternity.

When it was announced at the beginning of March that there was a state of public health emergency due to the virus, MW Suan immediately issued Circular No. 34, detailing health and safety protocols. On 13 March, 3 days before the ECQ announcement, the Grand Master issued Circular No. 35. It stated that, "...all stated and special meetings and all other masonic activities of Subordinate Lodges, Appendant Bodies, Orders or Organizations, Masonic Clubs and Associations throughout the entire Philippines including overseas districts and lodges, shall be suspended effective immediately until further notice." effectively suspending all labors in the entire jurisdiction.

This was not an unusual proclamation in Freemasonry because as early as 5 March 2020, the Mother Grand Lodge, The United Grand Lodge of England, already sent out guidelines to minimize physical contacts during meetings and rituals to avoid contraction of the virus. The same was true from our sponsor jurisdiction, The Grand Lodge of California; as well as other jurisdictions.

The ECQ was extended until 30 April. Extended again to 15 May. Extended further to end of May. As of this writing, iterations of the original ECQ (ie. GCQ and MGCQ) are already further extended until 30 June 2020 – probably the longest quarantine period of any country.

In keeping with the dictates of Ancient Landmarks, rituals and other ceremonial workings of the fraternity, upon the unani-

mous agreement of the incumbent and incoming leadership composed of the Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Grand Wardens, the Grand Treasurer and Grand Secretary, and upon the unanimous advice of the Board for General Purposes composed of Past Grand Masters, MW Suan issued Edict No. 332 last 21 May 2020, resetting the holding of the earlier postponed 104th Annual Communication (ANCOM) scheduled last 23 to 25 April in Olon-gapo City to 21 to 24 April 2021.

Edict No. 332 also effectively extended the terms of the Grand Master and all Grand Line Officers to another year. Only two other brethren have sat in the Grand East for more than one year since the founding of the Grand Lodge of The Philippines – MW William H. Taylor, from whose “gentleman’s agreement” with MW Manuel L. Quezon the Grand East would be occupied alternately by an American and then a Filipino; and MW Michael Goldenberg when he became acting Grand Master at the end of World War II and eventually regularly elected in 1946.

Aside from the recent Edict No. 322, the Grand Master has so far issued two more Circulars:

Circular No. 40 relates to the Grand Master’s direction on how the transition of power from the incumbent to the elected officers will be transferred for subordinate lodges that have yet to install their elected officers last December.

Circular No. 41 pertains to the online Masonic conferences to make up for, but not as a substitute or replacement, “missed” regular stated meetings. This is primarily done to address necessary administrative matters and to engage lodge members while the ECQ, GCQ, MGCQ or whatever type of quarantine is in effect.

An Attempt To Draw Comparison

The newest portion of this article is the attempt to find out how the Grand Lodge behaved during a similar situation in the past. Having a high regard as a fellow lover of history to the newly appointed Editor-In-Chief, armed with only dates and a few sources to go back to, I obliged.

The only other time that the Grand Lodge experienced a similar situation was the Pandemic Flu of 1918 (infamously named

“Spanish Flu”). It happened over a span of 3 years from 1918 to 1920. It infected about 500 million people or one third of the world’s total population at that time.

In the Philippines, the pandemic claimed 88,908 lives (source: The Philippines in the World of the Influenza Pandemic of 1918-1919 / Philippine Islands Census Office 1920-21, 1046ff)

The Annual Communications (AnCom) proceedings of 1919 recorded that 44 brethren of 20 lodges dropped their working tools. Included in the list was a certain brother named Mariano Ponce of Sinukuan Lodge No. 16 who was recorded to have passed on 5 May 1918 (source: Seventh [1919] Annual Communication Proceedings, MW Milton Springer) (Note: Filipino Patriot Mariano Ponce’s death was recorded as 23 May 1918).

The AnCom proceedings of 1920 recorded that out of the 4,107 Master Masons as of 30 November 1919, 44 brethren dropped their working tools. This time, no mention of names and lodges were recorded. (source: Eight [1920] Annual Communication Proceedings, MW Rafael Palma).

On both proceedings, however, no record of the cause of deaths or whether the deaths were because of the flu.

A tribute to the life of Worshipful Brother Elisha Ward Wilbur of Corregidor Lodge No. 3 “who departed this life after a few days’ illness at the Department Hospital early Sunday morning, the 12th day of October, 1919.” was also mentioned who passed in the 1920 AnCom proceedings. Brother Wilbur was Senior Grand Deacon at the time. It was not clear what his illness was. It was only written that he was a very upstanding member of the craft and heavily involved in the medical department. He enlisted during the Spanish – American war, was deployed in the Philippines in the Hospital Corps, and later on became Chief Clerk to the Department of Surgeon. He was remembered through the founding of a lodge in his memory, Elisha Wilbur Lodge No. 101. The lodge later on consolidated and survived after World War II by Kanla-on Lodge No. 64. (source: Kanla-on Lodge No. 64 History)

Alas, there was never any mention of the Flu Pandemic of 1918 during the 1919 and 1920 AnCom proceedings. My best guess is that the brethren wanted to avoid discussion

about it. Never mentioning the major health and political backdrop of the AnCom which was the flu pandemic was the Grand Lodge way of showing support and respect to Brother Francis Burton Harrison, the US Governor General of The Philippines at that time. Especially because he was the one invited to deliver the welcome address of the Eight Annual Communications.

Brother Harrison, one of the most beloved American Governor General of the Philippines introduced the “Filipinization” program – the gradual transferring of powers to Filipinos from the colonial administration.

The Grand Lodge In Quarantine

Having attended the recent 122nd Independence Day Celebration at the Plaridel Masonic Temple last 12 June 2020, you will immediately see the stark difference how it was changed by the quarantine. The parking lot is almost empty. There were considerably fewer vehicles – only those of the Grand Master, maybe of the staff who brought their cars, and of the few brethren invited to the occasion. The side where the billboards were stood a newly installed basketball hoop. Aguinaldo Hall was installed a makeshift badminton court at the center; while another portion had a table tennis set-up. These were donations of charitable brethren so the Grand Master, some Grand Line officers and staff still holding office can while away their free time with sports while maintaining social distancing. With the exceptions of occasional laughter from brothers who just saw each other after 3 months in home quarantine, the Grand Lodge grounds, the building itself, the whole compound was unusually quiet.

Brethren eager to see each other, are still prohibited to hold meetings. They are however satisfied with the help of technology in their “meetings” or “e-fellowships” via Zoom, Google Meet, Skype, Facebook, etc.

WB Greg Macasaet Special Memorial Fund

For some brethren, the pandemic brought about free times (albeit briefly) from their professional work. For some, it would be a way to recharge from their daily routine. For some, to take advantage of the quarantine and be with their family. While for a rare few like Worshipful Brother Greg Macasaet, it would be a great and yet sorrowful proof of him being an outstanding doctor and truly a worthy brother.

Worshipful Brother Greg Macasaet, a Past Master of Keystone Lodge No. 100, was an anesthesiologist at the Manila Doctors Hospital. He worked tirelessly especially during the COVID-19 outbreak until he himself fell victim to the virus; finally succumbing to it on 22 March 2020. He is one of the first brothers to drop their working tools due to the virus. His story of honoring his Hippocratic Oath has been well publicized in media. His was the best example of Charity and Humility – of choosing to serve when he can opt not to; and at the eventual expense of his life and unbearable grief of his family.

In his honor, The Grand Lodge set up a one-time special fund for the purpose of helping the families of departed brethren caused by the virus.

Initially intended for Grand Line Officers only, it was eventually opened to all brethren. Total pledge has reached Php 3,000,000 while a total of Php 2,868,490.10 has already been collected from the brethren (as of 9 June 2020).

Charity and Humility: Foundations of A True Mason

Last April, instead of being busy with the preparation of ANCOM, Masonic Districts of the National Capital Region spearheaded by the Grand Master himself initiated “Munting regalo para sa pamilya mo, Sagot ng Kuyang Ko.” (Small gifts for your family, from our brothers), a fund drive to give grocery packs to the frontliners fighting the pandemic.

Directed by NCR-B District Deputy Grand Master VW Crisostomo Beltran, 1,530 grocery packages (worth approximately Php 1,000.00 each) were distributed in a span of 5 days (last week of April) among the frontliners of Philippine National Police General Hospital in Camp Crame, V. Luna Hospital, Gat. Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, San Lazaro Hospital, Quezon City General Hospital, Lung Center of The Philippines, Ninoy Aquino Stadium Quarantine Facility and LTO NCR Enforcement Team.

The District Deputy Grand Masters of the National Capital Region are:

NCR-A: VW Ian Christian M. Valencia
NCR-E: VW Beda A. Epres
NCR-B: VW Crisostomo Beltran
NCR-F: VW Gerald Alan A. Quebral
NCR-C: VW Francisco R. Munez
NCR-G: VW Mariano C. Bassig
NCR-D: VW Hagen Alexander J. Topacio
NCR-H: VW Brian Co

Charitable activities of districts, individual lodges, masonic clubs and organization and even individual brethren have not stopped. We still see efforts of our most charitable brethren in social media.

To cite a few, my mother lodge, Labong Lodge No. 59 headed by WM Stevenson Y. Ang, has already distributed face shields, face masks, personal protective equipment (PPE), gallons of alcohol, water and food to front-liners in more than 15 hospitals and to our widows and orphans.

Quezon City Lodge No. 122 headed by WM Joel M. Valencia, Jr. has so far distributed medical supplies and food packs to the areas of CAMANAVA (Caloocan – Malabon – Navotas – Valenzuela), Makati and as far away as Tawi-Tawi in Mindanao. They have also been providing carpool services from Imus, Cavite to Metro Manila.

St. John The Baptist Masonic Lodge No. 362 headed by WM Henry Kok has not stopped donating food packs to front-liners in various parts of Metro Manila ever since the beginning of the ECQ. I still see posts of their donations in Facebook as I write this.

WB Jensen Tan and WB Sherwin Co, both from Dalisay Lodge No. 14, established “Shields for Heroes PH.” Its main purpose initially was to serve and provide front-liners with quality face shields throughout Metro Manila. They have so far distributed more than 250,000 face shields in the entire country.

Pagong Ako Kuyang Pilipinas (PAKP) headed by VW D. Guilmar Vidanes (Co-Founder) and Brother Adrian Salvador (President), did its share of unannounced charity by bringing in Laboratory Gowns, Coveralls, Alcohol and other medical equipment to lesser known hospitals in Manila.

VW Rudy L. Ong, President of Institute of Masonic Education and Studies (IMES) and Maharlika Shrine Club, converted his sewing factory to manufacture PPE's and sell them at cost. This way, he was able to help in the shortage of PPE's and at the same time, was able to still utilize and provide income for his employees.

The Disaster Relief Committee, headed by MW Voltaire T. Gazmin and VW Benito K. Tan, donated through Bro. Guillermo T. Eleazar (PNP Deputy Chief for Operation and Chief of Joint Task Force COVID-Shield), 4,000 pieces of facemasks to the Philippine National Police per-

sonnel assigned at quarantine check points.

Deputy Grand Master RW Rolan C. Paulino, captured during the Zoom meeting of Grand Line Officers, mentioned that they have been busy with relief operations and has so far extended help to 27,000 families at that time. This is the reason why he said that it was absolutely fine to postpone the ANCOM to the following year. He said he was not in a hurry to be Grand Master and would rather continue helping the constituents of Olongapo and Zambales. Truly a genuine example of Charity and Humility!

These are just a few examples of the charity work done and still being done by the brethren. Some not mentioned can be seen in the website or social media pages of brethren and/or lodges. While other information of such work can also be read in previous issues of The Cable Tow.

End

In my conversation with MW Suan last May, he said in jest that some of the brethren joked about him being the “Grand Master of Disasters” referring to the typhoons, earthquakes, the Taal Volcano eruption and this pandemic that happened during his term. I replied, “MW Sir, God gives his hardest battles to his strongest soldiers.” To which, with all humility in his voice, he answered “Amen.”

The article ends by quoting the Grand Master's Circular No. 37...

“Allow me to conclude on a note of hope, as founded on who we are as built by those who have gone before us. Just as our history as a Grand Lodge has demonstrated so many times before - like the Fusion of American and Filipino lodges in 1917, the rebuilding of our Grand Lodge after World War II, and the coming together of Brethren to address natural calamities in numerous Masonic years - let us all continue to strive together in charity and humility, so that when our successors look upon these dark times from the perspective of hindsight, our future Brethren will say that this, too, was again another of our finest hours.” ❧

FORTITUDE

MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr.
Grand Master



HOPE

RW Rolen C. Paulino
Deputy Grand Master

24 April 2020

Dearest Brethren,

I pray that you all are continuing to stay safe and strong for your families during these times. Pursuant to the suspension of all Masonic activities, I am deeply pained that we cannot join together in fraternal unity for our traditional Annual Communication this week, as normally mandated by our Masonic Constitution.

Rest assured that I and your grand lodge officers will never abandon our posts during these trying times. Until we can convene our Annual Communication this year, we will continue to stand fast and stay true to the charge you have entrusted to us during this Masonic Term.

Once we have appropriately transitioned to the next Masonic Term with the installation of our new grand master as soon as we can practically do so, we will not remain a moment longer. In this regard, I have instructed our grand line officers to best facilitate an orderly transition, so that RW Rolen Paulino and his own incoming grand line officers are best prepared for their Masonic Term despite this disruption in the life of our Craft.

In keeping with the charge you have entrusted upon us during this Masonic Term, I and the rest of your Grand Line officers fully understand that we are always accountable to you for the well-being and sustainability of the Craft in this Masonic jurisdiction. I have therefore instructed our Grand Line officers and the respective committees of the Grand Lodge to ensure that they will competently and capably complete their end-of-term requirements as required by our Masonic Law Book.

As such, my term report and those of the other grand lodge officers as well as the various standing and special committees, the Record of Proceedings of the 2019 Annual Communication, and all other usual reports requiring plenary ratification by the Brethren during our Annual Communication, shall be posted on our Grand Lodge website (www.grandlodge.ph) not later than 12 May 2020 for your consideration and evaluation. I am requiring such so that we can immediately confirm and proceed with preparations for this year's Annual Communication at the first available instance when developments in this public health crisis permits. I do very much recognize, however, that the challenges we face today may eventually make it extremely difficult for us to convene together to celebrate and sustain our fraternal bonds. I have thus also directed our grand lodge officers to study both the legal and technical feasibility of holding our Annual Communication primarily

online.

While these unique times have constrained us to consider this alternative, I am hopeful that advances in information technology will allow us to make this a reality in the event we must take this route. Should we do so, rest assured that I will explain in my implementing edict how such proceedings are fully compliant with Philippine and Masonic law, as well as how we can best observe our ancient traditions through this facility of the digital age. Implementing circular(s) will also be issued detailing the technical aspects of how we will go about such online proceedings in the most transparent and productive manner.

Let there be no doubt that my aim as much as possible is to actually convene the 2020 Annual Communication in person if we can legally and feasibly do so. If necessary, this may involve once again rescheduling through an appropriate circular our tentative date for the event currently set to now begin on Thursday, 28 May 2020. Regardless of whether we convene in person or online, we will always be guided by what should be the best interests of the Craft.

As I and the rest of your grand lodge officers prepare to conclude this Masonic Term as I describe above, we hope that you will continue to join us in contributing to the relief of Brethren and their families adversely affected by this public health crisis, as well as our front liners addressing their needs. Particularly as to the widows and orphans of our Brethren who have dropped their working tools as a result of this public health crisis, they should be the primary focus of our relief efforts at this time.

Allow me to conclude on a note of hope, as founded on who we are as built by those who have gone before us. Just as our history as a Grand Lodge has demonstrated so many times before - like the Fusion of American and Filipino lodges in 1917, the rebuilding of our Grand Lodge after World War II, and the coming together of Brethren to address natural calamities in numerous Masonic years - let us all continue to strive together in charity and humility, so that when our successors look upon these dark times from the perspective of hindsight, our future Brethren will say that this, too, was again another of our finest hours.

Fraternaly yours,

AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

Fraternal Greetings!

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a lot of disruption in our lives. These include among others, closure of businesses, schools, stoppage in works, banning of public gatherings, limited movement of people and some other measures put in place to combat the spread or if not eradicate the dreaded virus.

The craft was not spared from the effect of this COVID-19 pandemic. Our scheduled Annual Communication was deferred to a future date (April 2021). Blue Lodges were not allowed to have their stated meetings. Masonic activities were put on hold. Our usual fellowships were banned as mass gatherings were not allowed.

We have lost brethren and members of their families because of this pandemic. Some of them were in the forefront of the battle. They have given their time, effort and lives in the fight against COVID-19. They were our unsung heroes. We may have asked ourselves, will this really have to happen? When will it end? Will our lives ever be the same again? We may have doubted what the future may bring us.

Beyond this doubt there will be HOPE.

The brethren of this Grand Jurisdiction have shown this. Amidst the chaos and despair prevailing, we have shown that all is not lost. We have gone beyond our doubts. Each one have gone out of his own way to show that Freemasonry is a source of HOPE for others. We have pooled our resources to help others - particularly those most vulnerable to the economic effects brought about by this pandemic.

Blue Lodges organized themselves to give aids, thru distribution of relief packages to our kababayans in need. You have extended your cable tow to our front liners in the medical battle field.

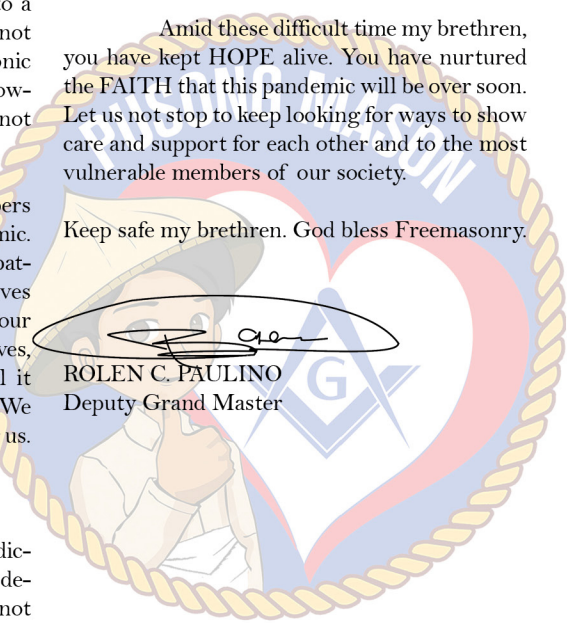
Indeed the virtue of CHARITY was alive!

The pandemic and the changes it has caused in our normal life has not deterred us to alleviate the fear and uncertainty among the people we have helped.

Amid these difficult time my brethren, you have kept HOPE alive. You have nurtured the FAITH that this pandemic will be over soon. Let us not stop to keep looking for ways to show care and support for each other and to the most vulnerable members of our society.

Keep safe my brethren. God bless Freemasonry.

ROLEN C. PAULINO
Deputy Grand Master



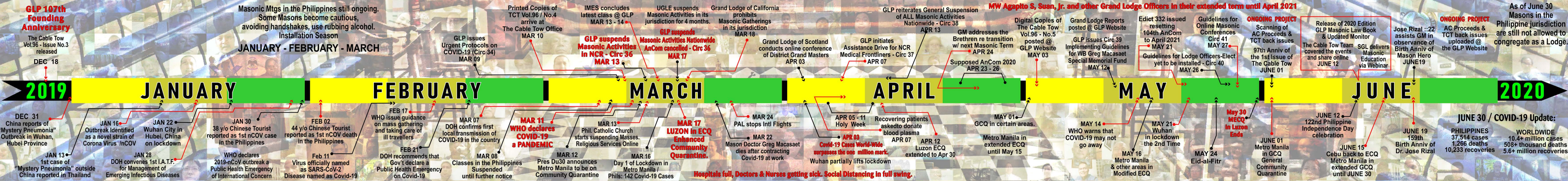


THE GRAND LODGE OF FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

DURING THE

CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC

DECEMBER 2019 TO JUNE 2020





we could to help others cope-up with the unprecedented adverse impact of the pandemic.”

As of July 1, 2020, Olongapo City has recorded 14 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 infections, resulting to two (2) deaths, but with 12 full recoveries. The efficient management of the crisis by the city government, led by a brother mason, City Mayor Rolen C. Paulino, Jr., son of RW Paulino, successfully contained the spread of the virus, achieving a zero (0) positive case record for the past several weeks.

The brethren were able to raise around P3.5M and pooled manpower from among themselves, for the purchase, packing and distribution of goods throughout the various stages of Community Quarantines which began in mid-March 2020.

“We look after our brothers, sisters and families,” said RW Paulino, himself a former mayor of Olongapo, “but we don’t stop there, we also look after the welfare of the people around us, he added, “that is part of being a mason.” ❖

THE WORLD IS AT A STANDSTILL as it continues to ride out the storm of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. We are now at the second quarter of 2020, ushering a new era and turning point in human civilization.



It is the end of the old world, where customs like handshakes, hugs, and other forms of physical contact are now frowned upon. We have now entered a new world – that of social distancing – which many are now calling the “new normal” or the “new reality.” And for all intents and purposes, there is no more going back to the old ways. The Coronavirus pandemic is already changing the way we live – how we work, how we meet, and even how we shop. It is a great global paradigm shift and an even greater awakening to a new consciousness.

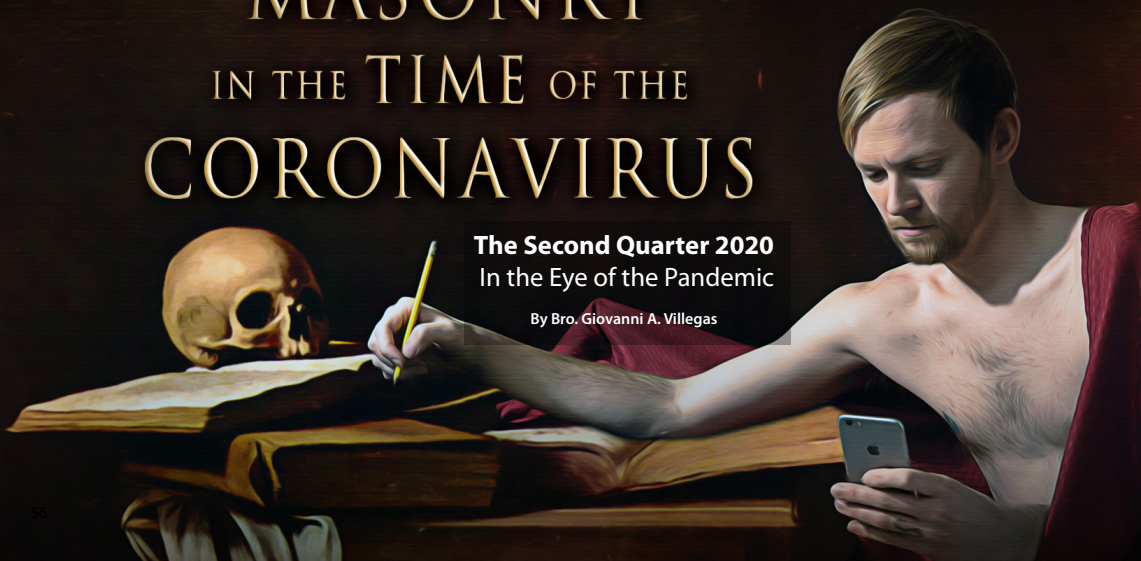
For Masons, this great awakening involves the realization of the *raison d'être* of Masonry itself, finally recognizing what really matters most in their Masonic lives. Because of the pandemic, Masons are now starting to learn more about Masonry at

home, sans the mundane aspects of lodge meetings which used to take so much of a Mason's time from actual Masonic education and practice. Masons who were previously confined to no other activity except lodge politics and administration are now reaching out to their brethren and the outside world with compassion and charity. Although charity is something Masons have been practicing even before the pandemic, only recently have some news networks highlighted how Masons took care of their own and the communities to which they belong. Some lodges have been donating food, medical supplies, and protective gear to health workers in the frontlines. Others that are situated in places affected by lockdowns are finding better ways to reach out to their brethren, especially to the elderly and alone, sometimes even doing groceries for them when allowed. Masons who missed going to lodge meetings have been using the current technologies to

MASONRY IN THE TIME OF THE CORONAVIRUS

The Second Quarter 2020
In the Eye of the Pandemic

By Bro. Giovanni A. Villegas



meet online, to check up on each other in virtual fellowships, and exchange Masonic education materials electronically. These are just some of the positive impacts brought about by the pandemic in the Masonic community.

The impact of the crisis on individual Masons, however, depends on the country and jurisdiction in which they are located. Masons from one side of the globe may be experiencing great suffering and loss, while those from the opposite side may be criticizing the news to be bloating and sensationalizing the severity of the situation. On the micro scale, some Masons may only now be starting to crave more light in Masonry and have begun reading more Masonic literature with the free time they now have in self-isolation, while others, especially the financially affected, may already be writing their letters of demit from the different Masonic organizations to which they belong in order to prioritize their expenses to the bare essentials. One cannot judge or oversimplify the diversity by which this pandemic is affecting Masons worldwide. One can only observe, sympathize, and help whenever able.

Beginning of Sorrows

As of April 3, 2020, COVID-19 – as it is now more commonly called – has doubled in the number of cases since the week before, reaching 1-million infections and about 61,465 deaths all over the world. It is a dramatic increase that we should all rightfully be concerned about in order to have an impetus for preparedness and precaution, without confusing them for panic. The only problem is that when people see other people preparing, they immediately assume that the worst-case scenario is inevitable. Let us therefore see in the coming days, as logged below, if the worst-case scenario is truly coming, or if it has indeed arrived.

The first week of the second quarter of 2020 was the height of apprehensions on the fate of humanity. Overcoming anxiety and depression therefore became one of the greatest challenges of the new era. The government-imposed lockdowns and self-

quarantine measures have forced many people to stay home longer than normal, so they become nervous and agitated. They worry about their families and relatives in far off places whom they could not physically be with, much less take care of. They worry about their lost income, their savings, their work, and their investments. I know several friends who just lost a big part of their savings, and unable to replenish them due to the lack of a source of income. Indeed, for the first time in decades, millions of people are entering poverty instead of escaping it. It has been dubbed the worst recession of our generation, with some even calling it “The Great Depression 2.0.” Time magazine calls it the “First Global Economic Depression of Our Lifetimes.”^[1]

Unpredictable times still lie ahead as we move into another month, probably more, of self-isolation. On the news, we hear the Olympics being cancelled for the first time since World War II. We hear about the heart-attack patient who died after being rejected by almost every hospital because of full capacity. We hear from New York that COVID-19 now affects children, not just the elderly, through a mysterious illness of the skin. We hear news that it could also attack the kidney, the heart, and the nerves, not just the lungs. Then we hear that even our world leaders, who are supposed to be well-equipped to protect themselves, were not spared of contracting the disease. They include Prince Albert II of Monaco; Prince Charles and Prime Minister Boris Johnson of UK; Sophie Gregoire-Trudeau, wife of Canada Prime Minister Justin Trudeau; Australian Home Affairs Minister Peter Dutton; some US Senators, Congressmen, and City Mayors; and Princess Maria Teresa of Bourbon-Parma (cousin of King Felipe VI of Spain), who eventually became the world’s first royal to die due to COVID-19.

Here in the Philippines, our own Masonic family is not without its sad news. Frontline nurse Arvin Pascual, a member of the Order of Demolay, reportedly died of COVID-19. Bro. Dr. Hector Alvarez of Nivaliches District hospital and a member of Bagong Buhay Masonic Lodge No. 17 also

passed away, purportedly due to the same. We also have Bro. Dr. David Jonathan Pagaduan of Dr. Felimon Aguilar Lodge No. 332, though the cause of death was not disclosed. Fortunately, we also have news of recoveries after testing positive for the Coronavirus, such as the case of former Prime Minister of the Philippines, Bro. Cesar Virata of Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No. 202.^[2] On the other hand, we also have the case of Bro. Senator Sommy Angara, who had previously recovered from COVID-19 but tested positive again. It was discovered just in time before donating his blood plasma to supposedly help other COVID-19 patients.^[3]

All these diverse information, fluctuating between good news and bad news, are having a dramatic impact on mental health. The ever increasing number of deaths of loved-ones; news of suffering across the nations; loss of jobs; market crashes; and the seeming hopelessness of ever returning to our regular lives – are all drowning the world in despair. There is increasing frustration over social distancing and isolation while fighting an unseen enemy we have yet to figure out how to defeat. There is the ever present need to know what's really going on out there, yet being bombarded with an array of conflicting information from TV and social media, not knowing which are real and which are fake, added to the fact that information changes by the day, hence the uncertain and unsettling nature of the pandemic. People just want to know the truth that they may accordingly know what to do, but no one can know for certain what the truth is, as everything we know about the Coronavirus is in a constant state of flux. What we know to be true about it today may no longer be so tomorrow. Such atmosphere of uncertainty is causing a form of mental illness that is a concoction of depression, anxiety, paranoia, and hypochondria.

Counseling Today and the American Counseling Association gave a short step-by-step plan of action for dealing with one's mental problems during these times: First step is to write down a list of specific worries, examining them realistically without catastrophizing. Next is to make a

list of possible solutions, focusing on one's strengths instead of weaknesses, then finding concrete and attainable solutions. Next is to pinpoint one's emotional triggers, finding ways to avoid or manage them. Then, conduct a strength inventory, enabling one to call upon them should anxiety or depression strikes.^[4]

Masons who are health professionals with licenses on mental health reassured their brethren on such issues as social isolation, career changes, parenting, family adjustment, etc., in their online Zoom webinar called "Masonry and Mental Health in the Time of COVID-19," hosted by Bro. CR "Chuck" Dunning Jr. on April 29, 2020, with Bros. David Hill, Erik Marks, Lorenzo Ramos, Frank Zepp, and P.L. "Paul" Pennington as panelists. Sometime later, the Freemasons Without Borders group also conducted their own online discussions called "Surviving Depression," while the Square Magazine featured a special article called "Mental Health and Freemasonry." Bro. Jay Hochberg, President of The Masonic Society, USA, warned against consuming too much bad news for it impedes our reason. Meanwhile, The Masonic Society's First Vice President, Bro. Dr. Oscar Alleyne had been appearing on television to reassure a jittery public, even co-hosting web conferences for Masonic audiences on staying safe without resorting to unnecessary extremities. Bro. Alleyne is an epidemiologist who serves as chief program officer for the National Association of County and City Health Officials; earned his Doctor of Public Health degree at New York Medical College; and has years of experience with far more serious outbreaks like H1N1, Smallpox, MERS, West Nile, etc.

Nevertheless, the prevailing question that is the root cause of the growing global mental health crisis remains: Will the Coronavirus ever go away? The indefinite yet increasingly growing obvious answer seems even more depressing than we had hoped. Dr. Mike Ryan of the World Health Organization (WHO) warned on May 14, 2020 that the Coronavirus may never really go away. There may be no im-



munity against it, and people may be unlikely to produce long-lasting protective antibodies against it. It may never even be eradicated even if a cure or vaccine has been found. It may stay with us as long as the flu has, thriving by being passed from host to host – sometimes killing, sometimes not. Perhaps we, as a society, should start accepting this likelihood in order to be able to go on with our lives. Let us not deny it or panic because of it. More importantly, let us not make life unnecessarily difficult that it already is. Let us learn to accept this new reality and learn to live with it.

Masons Continue to Help

In an article in the *Midnight Freemasons* entitled “A Similar Crisis,” Bro. Steven Harrison, whose grandfather incidentally died during the 1918 Spanish Flu, wrote of the similarities between that era and the present Coronavirus pandemic, citing documented examples of how Masons back then contributed to helping their communities despite the temporary suspension of Masonic

activities.[5] The same is true today, as Masons continue to help in different ways. For instance, Masons across England and Wales have vowed to help protect the elderly by producing and providing personal protective equipment for care homes. Bro. Dr. David Staples, CEO of the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) said that “no elderly person – or the staff who care for them – should believe their life is at risk due to the lack of essential equipment.” A dedicated group spearheaded a campaign to further increase the production of such protective equipment, while the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) established a COVID-19 Relief Chest to raise more funds.

South Wales Masons started Square Meals which delivered nutritious food directly and safely to the front doors of those classified as vulnerable and unable to go out to buy for themselves. Some members of the Northumbria Widows Sons and Reivers in Northumberland have been volunteering to help support the Ashington and Bedlington Masonic Meals On Wheels Service. Scottish

Masons created a Facebook page called Scottish Constitution Freemasonry supports, where lodges post food delivery services to brethren and lodge widows who are either high-risk or restricted to home. They also posted donations to hospitals, care homes, and food banks. There were even some posts of brethren who volunteered to drive ambulances and other essential service vehicles. Another Facebook page called Mason 77 assured their brethren in the “at risk” classification of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Glasgow that they need not worry for help was available – from on-call drivers to shoppers for home essentials. Other Masons were also helping communities in Dundee and Angus, where they donated and delivered personal protective equipment. Lodges across Inverclyde and Renfrewshire West Province also donated iPads and Android tablets to the elderly in isolation, enabling them to stay in touch with their families and loved-ones while unable to receive visits during lockdowns. In South East London, with the major issues and struggles of frontline health and other key workers, Bro. Julian Trought re-purposed the manufacturing process of his plastic company to produce ventilators, and quickly developed full face visors. His company also donated cash on a weekly basis to local food banks via the Trussell Trust.

Despite these noble efforts of Masons in the British Isles, anti-Masons were also around to put their own bad spin. An article in *The Economist* read “COVID-19 offered chance for some good publicity,” claiming that Masons were merely showcasing their charities as a publicity stunt, allegedly taking advantage of the pandemic to do so.⁶² Of course, we all know better. Masons actually do not advertise their charity works, for such would blemish their good deeds with self-serving or self-gratifying motives, thus running counter to the very reason they do charity in the first place.

In the US, there were reports of blood donation drives held in Masonic lodges, such as in Wisconsin, New Jersey, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, California, and many others. Meanwhile, Warren G. Harding Lodge No. 260 and William Renton

Lodge No. 29, both under the Grand Lodge of Washington, pledged to contribute a thousand dollars to their local food bank, Fishline, for each month they were dark, since they would not be using the money for monthly budget items.

In social media, individual Masons shared with each other what they and their lodges have been doing, giving others ideas on what to do as well. Some lodges supplied facemasks for the frontline workers in their local hospitals, while others delivered for them hot meals, snacks, and water. Some shopped in behalf of the elderly in their area who were unable to go out to buy their own food, medicines, and groceries, while others extended the same for people unable to make a living because of the lockdowns. Some lodges have already dipped into their following year’s philanthropic fund to give to relief organizations that help those affected by the pandemic. Some have partnered with the Red Cross to donate much needed blood, while some have made their lodge spaces available for food storage and centers for the distribution of donated items.

Locally, the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) conducted its own relief operation, giving grocery items to the families of the medical personnel fighting the pandemic. Among the recipients were the frontline workers of the Philippine National Police-General Hospital in Camp Crame, V. Luna Hospital, Andres Bonifacio Memorial Medical Center, East Avenue Medical Center, San Lazaro Hospital, Quezon City General Hospital, the Lung Center of the Philippines, and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium Quarantine Facility. The Grand Lodge saw that extraordinary circumstances have made exceedingly obvious the selfless efforts of these medical personnel, thus necessitating the need to help and protect them in return. Indeed, during this pandemic, there is no second line of defense. The frontline workers are the only line. If we lose them, we lose the battle against COVID-19.

Other subordinate lodges and Masonic organizations in the Philippines have likewise been doing their own share, donat-

ing money, food, medical supplies, and protective gear to hospitals and others essential workers like law enforcers, security personnel, municipal staff, and the like. Some of these lodges and organizations reportedly include: Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4 who distributed milk to children; Jose Rizal Lodge No. 22 who gave away trays of eggs to different barangays; Tayabas Lodge No. 43 who donated facemasks, protective gear, thermal guns, and portable hand-washing drums; Malolos Lodge No. 46 and San Diego Demolay who gave alcohol and personal protective equipment to health workers in the frontlines of Bulacan Provincial Medical Center; Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48, together with the wives of their members, who raised money and donated relief goods to their lodge caretaker, to checkpoint personnel; and to the families in poor neighborhoods; Labong Lodge No. 59 who distributed food, water, alcohol, and personal protective equipment to hospitals; Agno Lodge No. 75 who donated cash to Eastern Pangasinan District Hospital; Isagani Lodge No. 96 who donated medical supplies to Tarlac health centers; Indang Masonic Lodge No. 115 who donated trays of eggs to their municipality; Quezon City Masonic Lodge No. 122 who distributed food packs and medical supplies to the areas of Caloocan, Malabon, Navotas, Valenzuela, Makati, and Tawi-tawi in Mindanao, and likewise provided carpool services from Imus, Cavite to Metro Manila; Rafael Palma Lodge No. 147 who responded to the request of East Avenue Medical Center for facemasks, and likewise made other donations; Alfonso Lee Sin Memorial Lodge No. 158 who donated hygienic kits to Dagupan hospitals and cash to local government units; Datu Bago Lodge No. 197 who donated gallons of hand sanitizers to the Task Force Davao in charge of distribution of goods to frontline personnel, along with Banakon Chapter GGOKCS who donated disinfectant alcohol to the same and to the Coast Guard, Police Office, etc; Digos Lodge No. 198 who donated alcohol and facemasks to the city government of Digos and to the Provincial government of Davao del Sur; Hundred Islands Lodge No. 201 who donated cash to local government units in order to purchase personal protective equipment;

Edilberto Tamondong Lodge No. 217 who donated cash to Eastern Pangasinan District Hospital and sacks of rice for distribution to barangays; Ricardo Galvez Lodge No. 229 who prepared relief goods for Iloilo drivers; Panabo Dalisay Lodge No. 237 who distributed relief goods to various checkpoints in Panabo and Tagum City; La Naval Lodge No. 269 who distributed sacks of rice, food packs, and wheelchairs to military, coastal, and check point personnel in the frontlines; St. John the Baptist Lodge No. 362 who donated food packs to different hospitals and police stations, and likewise protective gear to frontline workers and relief goods to different barangays; Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382 who distributed relief goods to Malaor residents; Moriones Lodge No. 399 who gave food packs to barangay frontline workers; Tuguegarao Lodge No. 408, Leon Banes UD, Itawes Lodge No. 215 and Tuguegarao Court No. 32 of the Order of Amaranth who donated imported personal protective equipment, facemasks, and other essentials to frontline workers; Crescent Lodge No. 419 who donated gloves, facemasks, caps, and shoe covers to Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center, and materials for the production of personal protective equipment to the Iligan Medical Society; and Pedrona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441 who distributed sacks of rice to barangay residents under community quarantine. Lodges of the District of Davao, comprising of Sarangani Lodge No. 50, Davao Lodge No. 149, Datu Bago Lodge No. 197, Digos Lodge No. 198, Toril Lodge No. 208, Beacon Lodge No. 213, Podomo Lodge No. 249, and Madayaw Lodge No. 403, including its District Council, raised and donated money to the city government, and gave relief goods to their members, widows, and orphans in distress. Masons of Masonic District RIII in Tarlac, together with Magiting Shrine Club and Nueva Ecija Travellers Club, conducted a fund-raising and relief operation called Masons Care Project, and likewise conducted disinfecting operations with the Tarlac Fire Department.

Masons from Lodge Perla Del Oriente No. 1034 S.C., the sole lodge in the Philippines under the Grand Lodge of Scotland, also donated personal protective



equipment to St. Patrick's Hospital, where one of their own members, Bro. Dr. Michael Perez, currently works in the frontlines. The Masonic youth organizations, DeMolay and Job's Daughters of Iligan, as well as Roman Kamatoy DeMolay Alumni Chapter, led their own drives in their respective communities. The "Pagong Ako Kuyang" of the Worldwide Fraternity of Turtles brought medical supplies and equipment to lesser known hospitals in Manila. Lodges of the Overseas District of Guam, consisting of Charleston Lodge No. 44, Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 123, and Micronesia Lodge No. 173, also gave food plates to the Guam Police and the Nation Guards manning certain checkpoints in the island.

Individual Masons in the Philippines have also donated to various local care facilities like the institution caring for abandoned babies – a noble advocacy of former local actor, Bro. Jovit Moya. Bro. Senator Sonny Angara once donated his salary to assist people affected by the Coronavirus. Bro. Dr. Rodrigo de Mesa called to his fellow Masons who are doctors to offer their medical services to any brother who might need help or advice during the pandemic. Bros. Jensen Tan and Sherwin Co started Shields for Heroes PH, which has already been providing quality face shields throughout Metro Manila and the rest of the country. VW Rudy Ong, President of the Institute of Masonic

Education and Studies (IMES) used his sewing factory to produce personal protective equipment to be sold at minimum cost in order to address the shortage of the same. RW Rolan Paulino, Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, had also been busy with relief operations for affected families under the constituencies of Olon-gapo and Zambales.

Isolated But Not Separated

The Coronavirus pandemic created an irreversible impact on Masonry. Grand jurisdictions have already issued edicts and circulars allowing Masonic meetings to be conducted virtually via online teleconferencing platforms such as Zoom. The Grand Lodge of Ohio was one of the first in the US to adopt virtual meetings which, though appear tyled-like, were nonetheless devoid of the exchange of Masonic secrets such as ritual works and modes of recognition. Allowing and officially endorsing such type of virtual Masonic meetings is considered a huge deal in the world of Masonry, for such a move, just a few months ago, would have been unthinkable.

It is important to note though that even before the pandemic began, virtual lodges or Internet lodges have already been in the works. According to a progress article for the Connecticut Freemason magazine,

the Grand Lodge of Connecticut could become the first US Grand Lodge to charter an all-Internet-based lodge.^[7] While there were lodges that did call themselves Internet lodges, they were not actually Internet-only or behaved as virtual lodges meeting online.

Now, because of the general suspension of Masonic meetings and other gatherings, Grand Lodges are encouraging their regular lodges to conduct online meetings and webinars. Some lodges have already done so as informal non-ritual virtual meetings, while others as actual video lodge meetings meant as official alternatives to regular stated meetings.

One of the earliest video lodge meetings during this pandemic was conducted live online last March 31, 2020 in Australia, and attended by 178 brethren from across the globe, all in full regalia. Brethren from Australia, Canada, India, Israel, and USA participated in the virtual event while the Grand Masters of Victoria and Israel were given time to speak. Endeavour Virtual Lodge No. 994, the Southern Hemisphere's first virtual Masonic Lodge consecrated as part of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria in Australia, conducted actual online lodge meetings, with agenda that included lodge businesses, voting of new members, welcoming of visitors, and appointment of officers. On April 3, 2020, the Grand Lodge of Scotland also made history by having its first full-blown video conference of District Grand Masters.

It should be noted that during this time, such type of Masonic meetings is still fairly new, and Grand Lodges everywhere have yet to set their own standard protocols and delimitations for their respective subordinate lodges on how to properly conduct such meetings and govern themselves without violating any of the rules and constitutions of Masonry.

In the meantime, virtual Masonic meetings quickly gained a certain appeal. They were found to have had more attendees than regular stated meetings, as Masons who were previously unable to attend could now

do so, whenever and wherever, eliminating any excuse for absences. At the same time, virtual meetings and webinars have become a novelty that many Masons were rushing in to experience out of curiosity. Virtual meetings also gave birth to the modern-day version of the English Nine O'clock Toast to Absent Brethren.

The idea behind the original Nine O'clock Toast was that, during English Festive Boards and some Scottish Harmony, when Toast lists were being proposed in sequence, one Toast had to be offered to absent brethren at a specific time – at 9:00 that evening (England time) – irrespective of what stage the gathering had already reached in its Toast list. That way, no matter where else their absent brethren might be at the time, they would know that they were being remembered at lodge at that exact moment, giving them the option to even join the Toasts in spirit.^[8]

During these days of quarantine, and in the spirit of this old Masonic tradition, Masons have been meeting online at 9:00 p.m., of whatever time zone, in order to offer a Toast to all absent brethren – in this case, all Masons, because of the general suspension of Masonic gatherings. It goes without saying that Masons adopting this new tradition should heed the WHO's warning that drinking excess alcohol may heighten the risk of contracting the Coronavirus, so it would be wise for those participating in such online Toasts to drink even lesser than the usual moderate amount, or perhaps use non-alcoholic drinks instead.

At any rate, many Scottish Masons have already been doing nightly Nine O'clock Toast to Absent Brethren online. Members of Paul Revere Lodge No. 205 of the Grand Lodge of Washington have been doing the same, together with brethren from around the world, with additional Toasts proposed to the numerous professionals who have stood out deserving of salutes. For instance, one night they would propose another Toast to the health workers in the frontlines, the following night to the police officers

on duty, then next to the helpers in their communities, and so on.

In the spirit of this new tradition, I myself took a few minutes to write our very own Nine O'clock Toast to Absent Brethren for use by our local lodges and other Masonic bodies during their virtual meetings. Not long after, I also wrote the informal virtual ceremonies for the coming Masonic observances of the Scottish Rite and the York Rite, which were approved and adopted by the respective Masonic bodies for which they were intended. The short virtual ceremony for the Feast Day of the Chapter of Rose Croix was used and adopted by Davao Bodies, Manila Bodies, Imus Bodies, Sorsogon Bodies, and the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of the Philippines itself on April 8 and 9, 2020. The short virtual libations for the Knights Templar observances of Easter Day and Ascension Day were used and adopted on April 12 and May 21, 2020 respectively by Cavite and Plaridel York Rite bodies. Then the virtual ceremony for the Feast of the Manifesto was used and adopted on May 29 and 30, 2020 by Manila Bodies, Davao Bodies, Imus Bodies, and the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of the Philippines. The latter was even attended by the Grand Master himself of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, MW Agapito Suan Jr.

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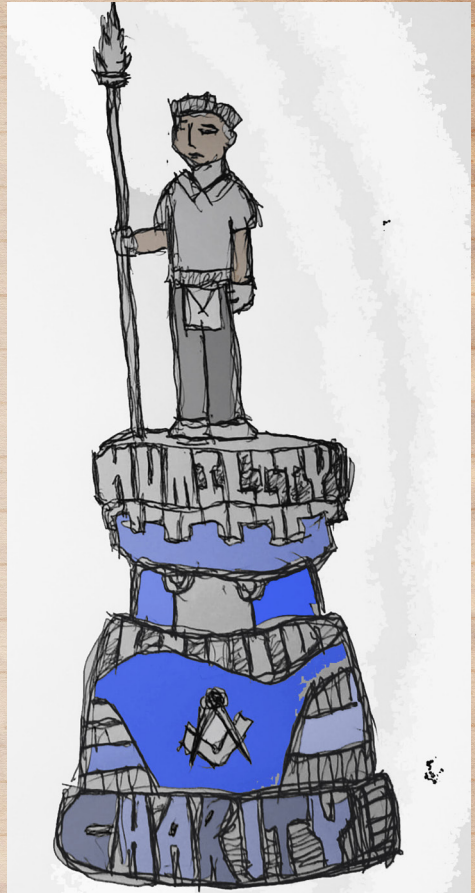
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8 Interview with Cameron Sloan of Lodge Perla Del Oriente No. 1034, *Scottish Constitution*, Grand Lodge of Scotland, March 29, 2020.

9 "Online Masonic Speaker Series," *California Masons* (California Freemasons, accessed June 24, 2020), <https://californiafreemason.org/2020/04/21/speaker-series-archive>.

10. Credit is given to David Johnson's spoofed version of the original Caravaggio painting, "St. Jerome while writing", for the graphics used in the title.

SCWC embarks at TCT in continuance of Aid & Assistance

By VW Edgar S. Bentulan, DGL

Certainly, like any other ordinary Master Masons in this jurisdiction, you must be familiar with the SCWC in a Facebook page.

This is for the reason, that every now and then, calls for succor or distress in behalf of a brother or a Masonic lodge, flash before our eyes, for relief or rescue of lost dear ones of Masons, or plea for personal assistance: An alert about an impending danger or emergency, for assistance in transaction with a government office or private company, even imperatives for blood donations, medical and financial assistance and more. You have them all with SCWC!

You might have even responded to give the vital information being asked. But do you know what SCWC is all about? This acronym simply stands for Square and Compass WE-Connect.

HUMBLE ORIGINS

This all started more than a decade ago – as a text brigade, when a small group of Master Masons, in unanimity with the idea of interconnecting "six brothers away" or what is called the "six degrees of separation" in the world of the Brethren of the Mystic Tie, now made smaller and smaller because of the social media network, connectivity can form themselves into cohesion to "inspire one another" in all Masonic endeavors and put to practice the Craft's principal tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Members who sign-up were included within the scope the text blasts.

On November 27, 2010, some 80 members from different lodges in Luzon de-

ecided to come to a powwow in what they call "Grand Eye-Ball" in Causeway Restaurant at Timog, Quezon City. A fun-filled day, enjoying unlimited food and drinks and of sharing advocacies and fellowships, the ball stirred into a greater fountainhead of commitments and convictions.

During the Annual Communication in Davao City that 2011, a swelling assemblage of 50 brethren in the Philippine jurisdiction met near the AnCom Venue in sequel to formalize its objectives, principles, and program of action. In this meeting a core group emerged to act as Moderators, composed of Bros. Joey Yu, Cary Uy, Yanzu Baldonado and Pong Macatangay.

The following year on June 4, 2012 in

Manila a working committee was created with member Bros.

Alex Daniel (BNB 7),

Raymond Wong (Palanyag 323), Alex Go

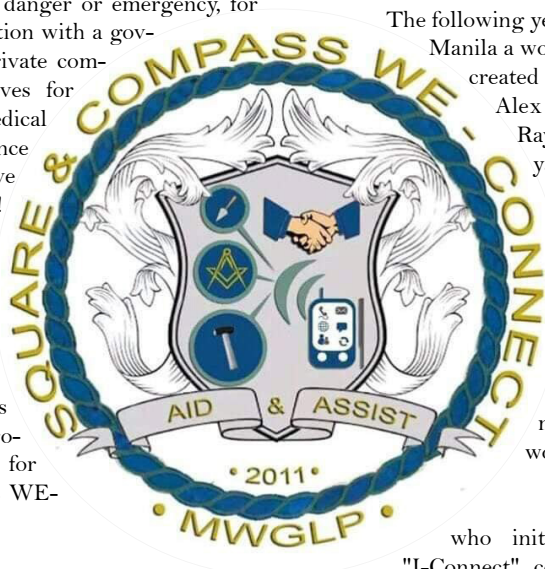
(Sinukuan 16), and Nelzon Villanueva (High Twelve 82).

This group continued to meet thereafter in a beehive of committed labors to fine-tune the information exchange network.

As Bro. Alex Go who initially developed his

"I-Connect" contacts grew in his group's membership, he expanded and transformed it into "WE-Connect" which sooner became the name of the group. Bro. Alex Daniel became the first president and his immediate action was to appoint Moderators for the efficient and timely broadcasting of text messages among brethren. Bro. Joel Ferrer was the acting Secretary and part-time moderator, while Bro. Arnaldo "Pong" Macatangay was appointed Treasurer.

Built on the popular concept of "Small World Phenomenon" to create an informative social network among the brethren and aid and assist each other, it vows to be a force that "will bring Masonic conscience into social networking,



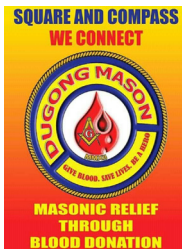
and that all the good work, the true work and the square work, that goes around the network, will come around in a 'karmic cycle' for the good of the Craft in general and the brethren in particular."

Registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 9, 2011. SCWC anchors itself on a mission to "Aid and Assist distressed worthy Master Masons and their community and convey essential messages through any means of communication" – promptly and loudly.

In September 22, 2016 - Square & Compass We-Connect was granted its Certificate of Accreditation by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines as a recognized Allied Organization per Edict 259-A.

ON-GOING LABORS

From a small Masonic Communications group, firming the cable tow through the dissemination of SOS or distress calls, request for assistance, queries, information, etc. of brethren via the SMS (text message) and in social media. It has since expanded its turf of labors by embarking on various advocacies and commitments which were defined by years of extending the cable tow to brothers in need:

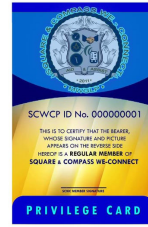


**Dugong Mason
Masonic Relief Through
Blood Donation**

Is SCWC's blood-letting and blood-banking project, it sprang from the most common distress call among the group. The eight-year old advocacy is currently led by VW Roy Castronuevo, PDGL (Magtagumpay 410) and is coordinated and facilitated to save the lives of our medically -distressed brethren and their families. Bloodletting activities for this purpose are conducted monthly in partnership with different Masonic Districts and Clubs nationwide.

SCWC PRIVELEGE CARD

SCWC is now tying up with service providers or sales establishments that can offer



discounts in their services to brethren and their immediate family members. Likewise, as a partner, SCWC gives

free business exposures which are also featured in SCWC-KONEK "Tambalang Magkukuyang 'USAPANG NEGOSYO' edition. Chairman of this project is VW Alex Daniel, PDGL.



SCWC KONEK - TAMBALANG MAGKU KUYANG

An AM RADIO/ ONLINE LIVE STREAMING TALK SHOW is an Informative, Charity & Service-oriented show for the benefit of the Craft and the Community. Hosted by Bro. Edgar Abalos Cook o(Magtagumpay 410), the program is aired over DWIZ 882 AM radio online live streaming every 1st Monday, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. The Brethren can watch it live on the DWIZ 882 khz Facebook page. Reruns can be watched through the FB PAGE and YOUTUBE CHANNEL - SCWC KONEK TAMBALANG MAGKU-KUYANG.



SCWC RESCUE-CERT (CABLETOW EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM)

This undertaking, headed by WB Cary Duval Uy, IPM (SJDm 357) offers basic community emergency seminars to Masonic Districts, Lodges, Appendant Bodies, and Clubs as well as Barangay Organizations. The training covers wound management, emergency transport, basic life support (CPR), and bandaging.

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Mindanao Meet

R-X Masons provide food to Inbound Stranded Individuals

By Bro. Goloo Menghrajani / Head News Correspondent - Mindanao

Cagayan De Oro City

Last June 2020, the Masonic Districts R-X Misamis Oriental & Camiguin and R-X Misamis Oriental & Cagayan De Oro, in partnership with the Philippine Ports Authority distributed food meal provisions for locally Stranded Individuals at the University of Science & Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP) Gym.

The gymnasium served as temporary holding area for Locally Stranded Individuals (LSIs) as well as Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW) returnees while waiting to be fetched by their respective local government units (LGUs) in Cotabato, Zamboanga, Lanao, Misamis, Bukidnon, Davao, and CARAGA Region.

Seeing the plight of the LSI's, R-X Masons in the area under the leadership of VW Jordan Tiu, DDGM of MD RX-B and VW Isidro V. Butaslac Jr., Grand Standard Bearer and General Manager of Philippine Ports Authority in Region 10, distributed provisions of food and meals to the returnees during the following dates:

- June - Saturday - 5 cartons of instant noodles
- June - Sunday - Arrozcaldo (Dinner)
- June - Wednesday - Packed Meals (Dinner)
- June - Sunday - Packed Meals (Lunch)
- June - Sunday - Arrozcaldo (Dinner)
- June - Monday - Packed Meals (Lunch)
- June - Tuesday - Arrozcaldo (Lunch)
- June - Wednesday - Arrozcaldo (Lunch)
- June - Thursday - Arrozcaldo (Lunch)
- June - Friday - Arrozcaldo (Lunch)
- June - Saturday - Arrozcaldo (Lunch)

Dubbed as the 2D-but-1 Outreach, the Joint Masonic RX Districts and PPA Misamis Oriental / Cagayan de Oro was supported by 7 Lodges namely:

- Macajalar 184
- Tolomeo Galarrita 242
- Kitanglay 256
- Camiguin Island 296
- Cagayan de Oro 298
- Benjamin O. Go 303
- Misamis Oriental 335

Five Brother Masons contributed individually: VW Jordan Tui, VW Isidro V. Butaslac, Jr., VW Edgardo De Veyra, WB Alexis S. Saldana, and an anonymous brother who donated the provisions on the first day. 🙏





Mindanao Meet

IN TIMES OF DISTRESS

A Testament to Brotherly Love & Relief during the Covid19-related Lockdown

By WB Mark John B. Prudencio, IPM
Shangri-La Masonic Lodge No.196

March 12 - Tarlac

Early in the evening, the President of the Country announced that Luzon will be placed in a community quarantine. The NAIA Domestic terminals were to be placed in locked down.

I was winding-up the 4-day training we provided for the Central Luzon Sales & Marketing Team of S.L. Agritech Corp., a company selling hybrid seeds to rice farmers. It was the first of two sessions within my two-week trip to Luzon working as their trainer-consultant. Scheduled to proceed for Tuguegarao the following week, I had no return ticket yet back to Davao when the CQ was announced.

We immediately called the airlines to book tickets for Davao but things looked cloudy: First, the booking with Philippine Airlines via Clark to Davao for an afternoon flight in March 13 was not confirmed and was later cancelled. Then a confirmed ticket with Cebu Pacific for early Monday - the 16th, was also cancelled as Davao Airport was locked down a day before. Lastly, an Air Asia ticket from Clark to Cagayan de Oro dated March 17 was also cancelled because as the days went by, Mindanao LGUs made the decision not to receive flights from Luzon due to the increasing number of COVID-19 positive cases in Metro Manila.

I was becoming desperate and hopeless. A marketing manager of S.L. Agritech remained to accompany me, as the rest of the delegation were being sent home. We stayed in a hotel in Tarlac City for 5 days, making 2 attempts at Clark Airport for possible flight

openings. We decided to relocate to Munoz, Nueva Ecija, eyeing to stay at the hostels in the Philippine Carabao Center or the Central Luzon State University (CLSU). But they were already closed just like any other lodging houses in the area due to the Community Quarantine. A stranger in that place, I had nowhere else to go.

March 17 - Nueva Ecija

Remembering a lodge mate in Shangri-La No.196 who was in Nueva Ecija a year before, I sought assistance from Bro. Enrico Ponce. I made my first distress call among the brethren that he knew in the locality and got relief VW Marionito DC. Pacheco (Gov. Eduardo L. Jocoson No.326). Even though it was our first time to meet, Kuyang Jun Pacheco was kind enough to offer us a place to stay at their newly built Lying-Inn clinic in the Science City of Muñoz. It was a great and timely relief especially when travel restrictions are being implemented. As the accommodations were good, we contemplated to wait it out at Kuyang Pacheco's place until the estimated end of the Luzon-wide community quarantine on April 15 and acquired adequate provisions until such time that I can fly back to Davao.

We watched the news most of the time, to monitor any developments but as the crisis worsened, the prospects of going home grew dim. The situation became scary and worrisome and I experienced anxiety attacks. I can hardly sleep and began feeling chest pains.

Working in sales and marketing for more than 25 years, I am good in managing stress but at that time - the fear of not being able to make it home and my loved ones not being able to travel to attend to my medical needs, began to sink in to me. Being a hypertensive, a diabetic, and with a history of asthma made me more vulnerable to the disease. Extra precautions and safety measures are to be made in order to avoid being infected or it can be "game over" anytime soon.

VW Senen Abing Jr., offered support and along with the brethren of my Mother Lodge - Shangri-La 196 expressed their best wishes and prayers for me to overcome the challenge. I had to muster all my

courage, knowledge and ability in order to survive the situation I was in.

I consulted my brother who is a physician on what medicine to take. Bro. William Te (Kapatiran 228) who was also monitoring me all along managed to connect me with the CLSU infirmary, through Bro. Ed Ricio, for an anti-anxiety pill prescription.

During our stay in Munoz, we tried to look for possible ways to return home. Assistance was even sought by Bro. John Paul Narisma (SML 196 Lodge Secretary) from Bro. Allan Carandang, Jr. (JASML 333) of the Phil. Air Force to advice of any possible C130 flights that might bring me home or closer to it. Our lodge mates in the armed forces, Brothers Roy Orquia (BGen PA), Jeffry Balingao (Maj PA), and Benedick Cagatin (Capt. PA) offered help with their contacts. They all informed me, however, that even C130 flights were cancelled and that even if there be one, civilians will not be accommodated.

After almost 2 weeks of being stranded in unfamiliar territory, Kuyang William suggested riding a cargo truck to Mindanao. The idea seemed feasible so we inquired from S.L. Agritech for possible trips to Mindanao.

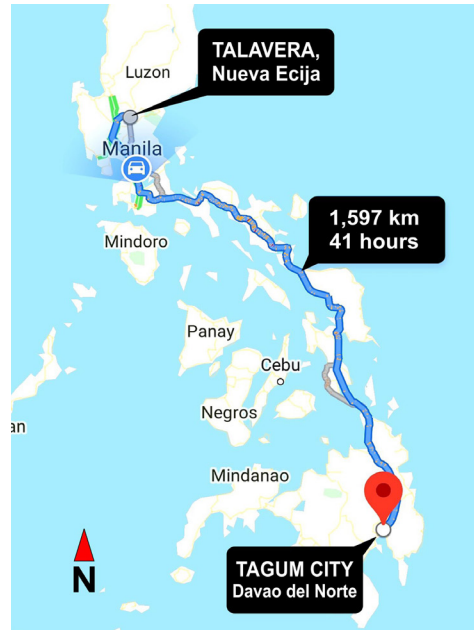
There was one trip scheduled for Iloilo. Thinking it is closer to Mindanao, we inquired from Bro. Delson Sonza on the situation in that area. "Cargos are allowed entry but not the drivers", according to our brother in Iloilo. When asked about the possibility of someone going in, he replied that a 14-day quarantine would be mandatory. Iloilo as a target destination seemed unviable.

Hitch-riding in a cargo truck towards Mindanao was also considered. As more options were analysed two realizations were made:

The Department of Agriculture (DA) is a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) and can issue Food Passes for vehicles with essential cargoes of food and agricultural products.

Pick-up Trucks can be considered as cargo vehicles by the DA.

A grand plan was hatched, which I dubbed "Mission Impossible".



The circuitous route taken by the weary traveller from Talavera, Nueva Ecija to Tagum City, Davao del Norte. Photo derived from Google Maps.

The Preparations:

An S.L. Agritech Salesperson loaned me a pick-up truck and willingly assisted in preparing for the long trip. I packed my belongings, loaded the necessary provisions of food, water, medicine, and prepared the necessary documents as we planned out the trip.

The CIRCUITOUS ROUTE:

I have to travel alone from Nueva Ecija all the way to Sorsogon, pass through Samar and Leyte, then onto Surigao until reaching Tagum City, Davao del Norte. The route from Luzon to Samar was unfamiliar as I was doing it for the first time. There is also the possibility of getting sick along the way, be quarantined somewhere and that could be the end of it.

The DOCUMENTS:

Ms. Donna T. Lim, Production Dept. Head of S.L. Agritech coordinated the hybrid rice seeds and milled rice which are legitimate cargoes for delivery to its consignee in Tagum City along with the Food Pass for the vehicle from the Dept. of Agriculture. She is a sister of VW Adriatico



WB Mark (in green shirt) with VW Jun Pacheco at their new Lying Inn clinic in Munoz, Nueva Ecija, a day prior to the former's land travel for Mindanao.

“Akok” Tan Tee of Biak-na-Bato No.7 and an Honorary Member of Shangri-La 196.

Bro. Robin Charles Romare issued an Army HQ certification for my travel indicating all the details of my cargoes and route. He also reminded me to abide by the protocols implemented at check points which will be manned by Philippine Army personnel.

NOT ALONE in the rough & rugged road

Kuyang Akok also referred me to Bro. Roberto Fajardo with the HPG for possible assistance regarding my travel to Sorsogon.

Bro. Mario Lacurom (ARE 254) a retired General in the Phil. Army took the effort of alerting the brethren from Sorsogon, Samar, Tacloban City, Southern Leyte and Surigao City, so they can be aware of my travel. The ff. worthy brethren responded to Kuyang Mario’s call to monitor my trip, ready to provide assistance in case of need:

- Bro Ed Primo (Matnog, Sorsogon)
- VW Rod Suan (Allen, Samar)
- VW Doc Jing Layon (No. Samar 211)
- WB Vinz Rosales (Calbayog City)
- VW Doc Tito Boy Yulo (Mt Huraw 98)
- WB Jing Kapunan (Mt. Huraw 98)
- VW Boy Mayor (Tacloban City)
- Bro Lt. Col. Bob Obaob
- (Bat. Com - Southern Leyte)
- WB Rey Pik (Hilongos, Leyte)

- WB Dindo Alaras (Sogod Bay 337)
- VW Dr. Nonoy Trumata (Sogod Bay 337)
- WB Engr Rey Pil (Sogod Bay 337)
- VW Serge Mailig (Surigao City)
- FCM Anton Aniano (Sogod Bay 337)

Even Sogod Bay 337 Petitioner PCapt. Gilfran Gaffud (COP San Ricardo) offered his help.

The Journey

March 24 – Tuesday, I departed from Talavera, Nueva Ecija at 3:30 AM. The first leg of the trip took 15 ½ hours which usually took 20 – 22 hours during normal days. I arrived at the Ferry Terminal in Matnog, Sorsogon by 7:00 PM. The coast guard at the port almost denied me passage but was given a go-signal after examining my documents and checking the cargo. Much to my relief I took some light dinner and thanked VW Rod Suan for being on-call.

I travelled through Samar and Leyte late in the evening and through the next morning. I did not bother to drop by or call on the brethren in Samar as strict regulations would have them considered as Persons Under Monitoring (PUMs’) had they made physical contact with someone from Luzon. Nonetheless, the assurance that there are brethren on call should the occasion arise, gave me the needed confidence to proceed.

Crossing from Leyte for Surigao on



June 19 - Kuyang Mark enjoying a simple family dinner in his backyard where he spent 2 weeks of monitored home-quarantine after his return from Luzon.

a barge by noontime and off - loading at Lipata Port in Surigao City by 3:30PM, I dared continue the trip intending to reach my destination before 9:00 PM. Approaching Davao Region, I contacted some of the brethren in the armed forces to request further assistance should it be needed in each boundary.

In this toilsome journey, I passed through more than 40 checkpoints - each watcher making sure that my body temperature was below 37.5 degrees.

March 25 - Wednesday, after 41 hours of travel through 1,600 kilometers of mostly unfamiliar roads with limited food and sleep - I WAS FINALLY HOME. It was 8:45 in the evening 15 minutes shy of the local curfew. 🇵🇭

AUTHOR'S NOTE

This once-in-a-lifetime experience taught me important lessons about family, friends and brothers. The craft became more endeared to me especially when our brethren showed a spark of humanity and reached out to those in real distress like me. I hope to have a chance to meet them all in person to express my thanks and enjoy the fellowship. The valuable "wages" accorded me at a crucial point in time so I can go home in one piece, meant a lot to me and my family. I will forever be grateful that I became a part of our beloved fraternity.

We only have one life to live. The ongoing pandemic may snap it out even if we are not yet ready. No one knows what will be our fate. Nevertheless, we have to remain steadfast, hopeful and relevant to our families and the society. Amidst these troubled and trying times, when we feel down in the rough and rugged pathways of human life, we need to strengthen our resolve. Let us maintain our strong belief that with the grace and guidance of the Great Architect, we can make it through.



The Pick-Up Truck that brought our Brother from Nueva Ecija back to Davao del Norte, from March 24 to 25 was transported back to Luzon in an S.L. Agritech Corp truck sometime in May 2020



Mindanao Meet

Seven Cardinal Virtues Masonic Lodge No.390 distribute locally-made PPEs to Frontliners

By Bro. Goloo Menghrajani / Head News Correspondent - Mindanao

Macajalar Masonic Temple, CDO

Last April, the Brethren of Seven Cardinal Virtues Masonic Lodge No.390, led by their WM Jude Sanchez, distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Hazmat Suits to hospitals and front liners in Cagayan de Oro City.

Done in response to the Grand Master's call for Charity during the period of Enhanced Community Quarantine imposed by the National Government to fight COVID-19, the Brethren through their Lodge Chat Group prioritized the health workers as they are in the frontlines of a viral battle and are exposed to the risk of contracting the COVID-19 Infection.

"As there already was a shortage of PPEs in the commercial market, why not produce them locally using impermeable clothing materials?" A worthy brother suggested. The Lodge then partnered with "Tailor Made" a local tailor shop who contracted in the project on a discounted rate.

With the help of other brethren in the district, SCVML No. 390 was able to accumulate funds sufficient to produce the above PPEs. "Jaycees, Inc.", through its Past Chapter President, Sister Zeanette Jo Q. Cuevas, wife of Bro. SW Joseph Hamilton Cuevas, also extended assistance.

A total amount of 56,000.00 Php was collected which produced 127 PPE Hazmat Suits distributed to the following Hospitals in CDO: Northern Mindanao Medical Center, J.R. Borja Gen. Hospital, Madonna & Child Hospital, and the Maria Reyna Hospital. Some of the suits were also given directly to Brethren in the Frontlines.

At this time of the COVID-19 crisis, the Brethren of this Worshipful Lodge remain steadfast in looking after each other's well-being in through the Lodge Chat Group where updates, protocols and Government Advisories and Grand Lodge notices are being disseminated. Virtual fellowship has also been made possible through the Net. ☺



Some notes on MW EUGENIO S. LABITORIA

By VW Guillermo B Lazaro Jr.,
PDDGM; Past Editor-in-Chief, 2003

Frugality was the first value the then VW Eugenio S. Labitoria impressed on me. First time we met, he lost no time in imparting to me his frugality. He was running for Junior Grand Warden at the 1999 General Santos Ancom. Gensan, specifically the Dolefil Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Multi-Purpose Cooperative Incorporated (DARBCCI) was covered by our consultancy. He requested that I secure all the cheapest accommodations for his supporters, and to leave the expensive ones to his possible competitors. Done. And he won. Of course his supporters were to be taken care of as well. As he was reviewing the expenses, his concern was the possible wrath of better half, Ateng Dra. Juliet.

Close to his assumption to the Grand Oriental Chair, he was determined in setting up a Scholarship Fund for the deserving sons and daughters of distressed, worthy brother Master Masons. He hand-picked the initial members of said committee, he issued the appropriate edict. That was the project he wanted to be remembered by. Done.

In choosing his territorial deputies, he placed premium on their leadership capacities. He did not want what he called 'boxers' who with their closed fists would be stingy. He wanted fun fare and to enjoy his stint at the Grand East. He assured his staff he would be good at happy story-telling. He didn't like low-key and subdued fellowships. He would want to be welcomed and received with much sound and fury in his official visitations. Being his Chief of Staff, I never missed being reminded to make sure there better be "wang-wang" or police escorts

with sirens blazing in his trips.

His signature joke was about brethren about to enter the gates of heaven and being examined by St. Peter, who allegedly would ask those coming in to pick stones to bring inside. He would amuse the audience on that moment when St. Peter would convert their loads into bread. So those who took lighter loads had smaller bread. So St. Peter would send them back again each to pick two stones, and those who had previously picked lighter loads would then pick one big stone together with another small one, in case St. Peter would become naughty. His punch line was when St. Peter converts them into one's own balls. I myself had to feel mine, which one was bigger. Of course, he was tight-lipped in the presence of Dra.

But my most unforgettable experience with him was about his penchant for “wang-wang”. October 10, 2002, was the South Mindanao Regional Masonic Convention. The venue was in Kidapawan, North Cotabato. The Brethren of Cotabato City welcomed us at the airport. He was not impressed with the “wang-wang”. But that was more than made up with the sumptuous brunch at Casablanca Restaurant, courtesy of VW Gerry Tan. The brunch was heavy, everyone didn't notice that the lead car had taken to turn towards the MILF's Camp Abubakar. As soon as we were back on track, GM ESL reminded me once more about the escort, that was still 2 hours away.

The “wang-wang” met us at Amas, the Provincial Capitol, about 5 kilometers from the venue. Their sirens were loud and roused the GM from his slumber. Upon reaching the central district, an ambulance whose siren was much louder than our own, almost frantic, and got MW very excited and happy. The ambulance was frenzied with sirens ablaze. Our hotel happened to be next to a hospital where the ambulance was headed. As we got off, we all realized the ambulance was rushing in victims of a bomb that exploded at the Kidapawan bus terminal. All 6 victims for whom the sirens blew were declared DOA. On his address the following morning, he could not joke about St. Peter... 📷



May 26, 2020

FAREWELL, MW EUGENIO S. LABITORIA (PAST GRAND MASTER, 2002)

Today, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines announces and mourns with deep sorrow the passing of its esteemed Past Grand Master, MW Eugenio S. Labitoria.

A noted law professor, academician, jurist, a true civil servant, and a proud son of Nueva Vizcaya, MW Justice Labitoria was at heart a foremost lover of the masonic fraternity. He was a Past Grand Royal Patron of the Grand Court of the Philippines, International Order of the Amaranth, he became Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council, 33°, and ably served the Grand Lodge of the Philippines as its Grand Master in Masonic Year 2002.

Many fine words and praises would be uttered for his outstanding achievements in all his various fields of endeavor and for the many beautiful memories of his life and times in this temporal world. In his later years, the brethren shall always fondly remember him as the wise,



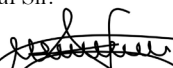
kind but fiery old pillar of the fraternity, always active in various Masonic affairs, always attentive, ever ready to lend his wisdom, and will never hesitate to say his piece and colorful dictums for what he believed was best for his beloved fraternity.

But our grief is all the more made graver by the present quarantine caused by the pandemic, where we find ourselves unable to assemble one last time in his behalf and pay him the last and final rite of Freemasonry which he so greatly deserves. But in his ascent to the Celestial Lodge above, our dear Past Grand Master will surely know that his ultimate travel will be ushered by the sincere prayers of all his brethren, and bolstered by our silent accolade for the many good deeds done by this truly distinguished mason.

We extend to his wife, Sister Juliet

and the bereaved family, relatives, and friends of our departed Past Grand Master Eugenio Labitoria our sincere sympathy in this hour of sorrow, and we pray that "He who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb" will give them His divine comfort and consolation, and that they may be brought to realize that the spirit of our brother is happy in his Father's House where "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain, for the former things are passed away."

Farewell, Most Worshipful Sir.


Agapito S. Suan, Jr.
Grand Master

THE JURIS DICTUM

By VW Edgardo M. Villareal II, JGL

The Spirit of the Law

A few years back, this writer was privileged to have served at the Committee on Jurisprudence. Among the important duties of this standing committee of the Grand Lodge is to render written opinion on any masonic legal matter referred to it by the Grand Master and to act on inquiries involving the interpretation and application of the Grand Lodge Constitution, Ordinances, Rules and Regulations. (Part I, Art. VII, Sec. 1-c) Worth stressing is that these opinions, once adapted by the Grand Master and approved in the Ancom guide the brethren in understanding various provisions of our Masonic Law Book (MLB) and other rules and regulations of freemasonry as applied to a given situation.

One novel issue that was referred to the Committee was the case of a brother who had served as a warden in one lodge and later became a worshipful master in his mother lodge. However, years after completing his term as a master of his lodge, a decision was rendered by the trial commission, duly approved by the Grand Master, nullifying his dual membership in the lodge where he previously served as Junior Warden. At this point, it would be helpful to revisit relevant provisions of our MLB on the qualifications of officers of a lodge. Pursuant to our MLB, for one to be a warden of a lodge, he must be a member of that lodge (Part II, Art. X, Sec. 11). On the other hand, it is enough that he had served as warden of a lodge before he becomes eligible to a seat in the East. (Part II, Art. X, Sec. 3 MLB). In other words, it is not required that one should be a warden in the very same lodge where he would be serving

as its worshipful master. With the nullification of his dual membership, a written inquiry was thereafter filed asking for clarification on the effect thereof to his term as Worshipful Master. It was argued that by not being a valid member of such lodge, his election and assumption as Warden could not also be a valid one; consequently, by not having validly assumed office as Warden of a lodge, he was never qualified to assume the office of a Worshipful Master.

In the interest of justice and fairness, the Committee on Jurisprudence reviewed the subject decision of the trial commission and found out that the said brother was not even a party to the case; that the nullification of his dual membership was due to non-compliance with the procedure laid down in our MLB, a matter that is clearly the responsibility of the concerned lodge officers. In other words, he became a collateral damage to the irregularity committed by some officers of that lodge, of which he had no involvement thereof. The Committee had also noted that the subject decision was rendered long after this brother had assumed the office and completed his term as Worshipful Master of his Lodge.

In giving its opinion, the Committee on Jurisprudence applied the so-called "Operative Fact Doctrine". The Committee discussed that a law (Edict in masonic parlance) or an executive act, prior to its nullification, is an operative fact that may have consequences which cannot be justly ignored. The past cannot always be erased by a new judicial declaration.



The effect of a subsequent ruling as to invalidity may have to be considered in various aspects, especially with respect to particular relations, particular conduct and individuals. Under the doctrine, the effects of an act or law, prior to its declaration of nullity, may be left undisturbed as a matter of equity and fair play. The doctrine is applicable when a declaration of a nullity will impose an undue burden on those who have relied thereon "in good faith". It may also be applied to a case when the declaration of invalidity would put in limbo the acts done by a lodge in reliance upon a given condition prior to the declaration of invalidity of a certain act. It must be pointed out though, that in operative fact, the law or act remains invalid. It merely erases the effects of its nullity before it is judicially declared as void.

The Committee opined that by holding void and without any effect this brother's assumption of office as Master of his lodge will result to a far-reaching repercussion and a chain of unjust consequences to the brethren of the lodge and to the lodge itself. Nullifying his term as Worshipful Master will also lead to the nullification of all relevant acts done during his term as Worshipful Master simply because it was made, done, performed or executed by a person with no valid authority to do so. Certainly, the Trial Commission could not have intended such a situation when it nullified the plural membership of this brother. Besides, even if

his plural membership was declared a nullity by the Trial Commission, there is no authority that declared his election as Junior Warden null and void. At the very least, the said brother, as Junior Warden of a lodge and thereafter as Worshipful Master of his mother lodge may rightly be considered as a "de facto" officer because he clearly assumed the office under the color of right and in good faith. As such, it is only just and proper that he be given his "wages" by recognizing that he "served a term of office."

The said opinion of the Jurisprudence Committee was adapted in toto by the Grand Master and approved by the brethren during the ensuing Annual Communication for that masonic year.

This is a clear example of the application of the maxim, "interpret the law by the spirit that giveth life, not by the letter that killeth." ❖

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kuyang Gary is a practicing Lawyer, a professor of Law, and a Bar Review Lecturer. He is currently serving as one of the Junior Grand Lecturers for NCR and is an IMES Instructor on Masonic Jurisprudence.

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COVID-19 aka SARS-COV 2

Lodge Secretarial

by VW Anthony Tan, PDGL



At the installation of a Secretary, he is instructed as to his duties, which are as follows:

“In investing you with your official jewel, the Pens, I am persuaded that they will make an endearing record, not only to your praise, but also to the welfare of this Lodge. It is your duty to observe the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master, to keep a faithful record of all things proper to be written, transmit monthly a copy of the same to the Grand Lodge as required by our Laws, receive all moneys from the Brethren, pay the same to the Treasurer, and take his receipt therefore.”

These are the charges given to the Secretary at the time of being installed into office. If this was the total extent of the duties of a Secretary, that office would be one of very little work and never-ending pleasure. Such, however, is not the case.

The well-being of a Lodge largely depends upon its Secretary. The Secretary occupies a vital role in the Lodge. He has a unique position in it, with a multitude of responsibilities and duties, which he has to undertake continuously throughout the year. In the past many Secretaries were permanent officers of the Lodges, with the benefits that an experienced Secretary would manage the affairs of the Lodge smoothly, but current thinking is that no one should serve for more than two years so that junior members can more quickly find

a role in Lodges.

In the event that I will relinquish my office as Lodge

Secretary of Isagani Masonic Lodge No. 96, F. & A. M. in the near future, I made a promise to myself to endeavor to publish a handbook, which may serve as a friendly guide for all Masons in this jurisdiction, who have just been elected to the office of the Secretary; or, for those who are merely contemplating to serve as one in the future. Newcomers to this office often lack experience, hence this handbook is written to aid those new to the Secretary's position: to provide guidance and practical advice.

This handbook would offer a variety of general information for a year-round sound operation of the Secretary's office. This, however, is not a substitute for the Lodge Management Manual of the Grand lodge or IMES Lecture on Lodge Management; but rather, a compilation of hands-on experiences while I am in the office and also from close collaboration with other Past and Incumbent Lodge Secretaries particularly from the handbook 2005 Edition of VW Lyndel C. Canda, PDDGM.

Through this column I will regularly share some of the contents of the proposed handbook which would be called Lodge Secretarial 101.

Of all the officers of a Masonic Lodge, the Secretary is burdened by the heaviest and most vital tasks. Although he



is outranked by the Master, Wardens and Treasurer; the importance of his work is second to none.

The Worshipful Master must attend to all the minute details, which help insure the success of the Master's tenure in the East.

If the Secretary is competent in handling the details of his office, does not shirk his duties and remembers that he is the servant and not the Master of the Lodge, his Brethren may rejoice in having chosen him to occupy this important position.

The new Secretary would soon discover that to merit the esteem and applause of his Brethren, it is necessary that he devotes himself to a seemingly never-ending list of duties. Some of the general duties, which pertain to all Lodges, are listed herein.

Welcome to the office where I enjoyed to labor more than wielding the gavel on the Oriental chair.

Considered as one of the preoccupied office in the lodge, the office in which you are about to assume requires time and exceptional coordination talent from the one who is about to wear the jewel of a crossed pen.

Your office serves as the nerve center for communications. Therefore, it is imperative on your part to have access to all current and updated contact numbers and mailing addresses of all the members of your lodge, their birthdays, and the dates of their conferrals of degrees in the symbolic lodge.

At the beginning of the term of the Newly Installed Grand Master, He will distribute a Manual for Grand Lodge Officers, through the District Deputy Grand Master, which include a List of current Grand Lodge Officers, indicating the names and designations; together with a list of Subordinate Lodges, Incumbent Three Lights and their locations. You may request a soft copy and keep them in a separate file for future reference.

THE DUTIES OF THE
LODGE SECRETARY
ARTICLE XIV, PART II OF THE
CONSTITUTION, THE SECRETARY
(source: page 125-127 Masonic Law Book
2019 Edition)

Sec. 1. It shall be the duty of the Secretary:

- a. To record the proceedings of each meeting proper to be written in a Minutes Book and submit the record of the Lodge at its next stated meeting for approval;
- b. To submit monthly a copy of the approved minutes to the Grand Lodge;
- c. To collect and receive all moneys due the Lodge, deliver them to the Treasurer as soon as possible and obtain his receipt therefore. If the treasurer is not available, moneys received must be deposited to the established Lodge Bank account on the first banking day after receipt and the deposit slip turned over to the Treasurer who will issue a receipt;
- d. To keep and affix the seal of the Lodge on all papers issued under its authority;
- e. To transmit to the Grand Secretary immediately after each election a Certification of elective and appointive officers;
- f. To prepare on the prescribed form each month the Financial Report of his Lodge and to submit it to the Grand Secretary before the next stated meeting;
- g. To transmit to the Grand Secretary the Annual Report of the Lodge on the prescribed form;
- h. To report immediately to the Grand Secretary all demits, suspensions, expulsions, affiliations, deaths, restorations and rejections of petitions for degrees, on the prescribed Monthly Membership Report form;

i. To keep a complete file of the Cable Tow in his Lodge records;

j. To read all Grand Lodge Circulars, Edicts and other official communications in open Lodge at the stated meeting next following their receipt and to so state in the minutes;

k. To provide a certified listing of all regular members present inside the lodge that are to participate in the **BALLOTING OF CANDIDATE/S OR AFFILIATION/S** or **ELECTION OF LODGE OFFICERS** and to make an attestation and certification below said listing that “he has verified the minutes of previous meetings and tyler’s book of the lodge, and had personally ascertained from other documents, record and other means that all brethren listed therein possess all the qualifications prescribed (Edict No. 276 MW Rentoy);

l. To keep and maintain a copy of the said attested/certified listing of qualified brethren to cast **BALLOT** upon petitioner/s or affiliation/s or **VOTE** for lodge officers to form part of the record of the lodge (Edict No. 276 MW Rentoy); and

m. To provide the Worshipful Master a copy of his attested/certified listing of qualified brethren and personally advise him of the presence of a brother or brethren, if any, who do not possess the qualifications as provided under Section 16, Art VI, Part II-Ordinances for his appropriate action (Edict No. 276 MW Rentoy).

n. To perform all such duties as may properly pertain to his office.

Sec. 2. He shall keep the following books of the Lodge on the prescribed form:

a. Minutes Book – where all the approved minutes of transactions of the Lodge, legible handwritten or typewritten, shall be filed and kept.

b. Book of Constitution, Installation Book, Funeral and Memorial Service Book, and a volume of the Sacred Law.

c. Book of By-Laws -- signed by each member with his name in full.

d. Account Book -- where he shall record the account of each member.

e. Tyler’s Register -- where each attending officer, member and visitor, shall record his name in ink before entering the Lodge and in case of a visitor, also the name, member and location of his lodge.

f. Roll Book -- to be maintained in the following prescribed form: (see illustration on pages 127-129 of The Constitution-Masonic Law Book 2019 Edition)

In addition to your immediate role, that is: to serve at the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master, you have to coordinate with the several lodge Committee Chairmen for any publication of programs and activities they may require the office for proper dissemination among the brethren. Likewise, you may be required to attend District Council meetings to be in attendance with your key lodge officers for any programs of the District that may be of importance to your lodge’s direct participation. You may also use this venue to seek from the DDGM, any request for a Dispensation, should occasion requires.

To the general membership, you ought to preserve the integrity of their personal Masonic history by having a current updated record on their development and stature.

THE HANDOVER

After your acceptance to the office immediately after the annual election in the month of December, it is highly recommended to arrange with your predecessor all matters pertaining handover of the

office. There is enough time for transition, that is: from the election to installation. Our laws provide that all Installations of officers be had not later than March 31 of the ensuing year, of which, to conduct this important act of handover and orientation.

A thorough briefing from your predecessor would be vital to your operations. So, it is highly recommended that you ask from him the nitty-gritty information you need to ensure that you won't miss a single thing.

Among the important things to receive and learn to prepare personally, are the following archived folders containing:

- **Minutes of Stated and Special Meetings**
- **Secretary's Financial Reports**
- **Treasurer's Reports**
- **Monthly Membership Report**
- **GLP Transmittals**
(return copies of monthly reports to GLP)
- **Out-going Lodge Communications**
- **In-coming Lodge Communications**
- **Receipts of Bank Transactions**
- **Disbursement Vouchers**
- **Members' Statement of Account**
- **Membership History (updated Member's File)**
- **GLP Edicts**
- **GLP Circulars No. 12**
- **GM's Circulars**
- **Lodge Resolutions**

You will also receive the following materials:

- **GLP Standard Forms**
- **Official Receipts**
- **Bank Book**
- **By-Laws of the Lodge**
- **Tyler's Book**
- **Dry Seal of the Lodge**
- **Stock of Monitors, Pamphlets & Other Books**

During the handover, you will receive a copy of the list of what has been handed over to you from your predecessor. After going through all the documents presented, sign the acknowledgement copy and ask for a copy for your file.

THE QUALIFICATIONS OF A LODGE SECRETARY:

A Lodge Secretary must possess a complete understanding of how the Lodge functions. Because of their past leader-

ship, Past Masters who achieved a measure of success in the East make the best Lodge Secretaries. They are familiar with the Lodge functions and their tenure in the East assures them of a wider acquaintance among the members, which is an asset to the Secretary who must act as Liaison officer between the Lodge and the Brethren. They also possess a greater spirit of loyalty and helpfulness.

In addition to the above, the Lodge Secretary is traditionally expected to guide and advise the Worshipful Master in the proper administration of the Lodge in the needed coordination with the Grand Lodge, as well as in the interpretation, and execution of the provisions of the Constitution of Masonry and By-Laws of the Lodge;

The above functions and duties of the Secretary necessitate adequate knowledge and experience in the proper administration of Lodges which a Past Master, by virtue of their past experiences and acquired proficiency, can be fairly presumed to possess as opposed to non-past masters.

This may be the reason why our Grand Master MW Agapito Suan Jr., in the best interest of Masonry in this Jurisdiction, endeavoured to require that the position of a Secretary of a subordinate lodge, including a lodge under dispensation, be occupied only by a Past Master in order to secure a desired level of proficiency in all his assigned duties, hence the issuance of Edict no. 330 - requiring all Elected Lodge Secretaries to be Past Masters, which will take effect at the election of officers of subordinate lodges in December 2020. This is in addition to other requirements as may be provided for under existing Edicts.

Provided, however, that a non-past master who has served as Secretary of the same lodge for a cumulative period of not less than five (5) years, shall be exempted from this Edict and shall be deemed qualified to be elected as such.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 90



Looking @ Luzon



Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 distributes Milk & Bread on its 34th Anniversary By Bro. Noel T. Patelo Head News Correspondent - Luzon

Talavera, Nueva Eija

Last June 20 at 9 AM – the brethren of Talavera 273 led by their WM Alfred L. Domingo, travelled through the outer and inner roads of Brgy. La Torre – home of their Masonic Lodge to distribute nutrition to the “young ones” and “once young” members of the community.

The Outreach Project with the event slogan “GATAS NA MASUSTANSIYA, PANLABAN SA PANDEMYA” was done in humble celebration of the lodge’s 34th Charter Anniversary. It benefited 1,620 individuals. 1,100 children below 7 years old each received 100 mL Nefedco Carabao’s Milk – a locally produced brand and Nutribun Bread – a product of Talavera Cooperative. While 520 Senior Citizens received 300 gms of Bear Brand Sterilized Milk

each. The milk was procured through a special fund raised by the Brethren for the event while the bread was donated by Ateng Mayor Nerivi Santos-Martinez.

Beneficiaries were identified in coordination with Chairman Erwin Chioco and other Barangay Officials. Distribution of goods was done in accordance with established Social Distancing procedures, whereby would be recipients stay inside their homes, Gift Stubs posted on monoblock chairs in front of their gates or houses, where bread and milk are generously placed by the passing Brethren. In return, Talavera 273’s neighbors expressed their gratitude by clapping, waving and saying “maraming salamat po mga Kuyang”.

The Master of the Lodge was grateful of the full support of the Brethren with the lodge’s undertaking during the COVID-19 Pandemic. “The smiles of the senior elders and young kids of Barangay La Torre, Talavera, Nueva Ecija benefiting from our activity is a gauge of the successful celebration of our 34th Anniversary” He added.

The SW Nerito Santos, Jr., echoed WM Alfred’s sentiments and encourage everyone to continue supporting the Lodge’s future undertakings.

JW Bro Esteban Nicanor Domingo,

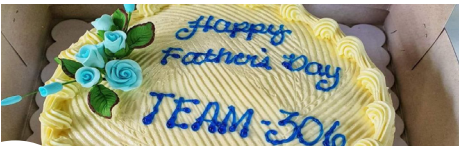


for his part, being the “silent listener” but the “action man on the block” bowed to keep the brethren “up their feet” in every activity of Talavera 273.

Of the Lodge and its Officers

The Lodge was constituted in 21 June 1986 by MW Reynold S. Fajardo after the Grand lodge granted its charter during the Annual Communications 3 months earlier. This 2020, the brethren chose to celebrate a day before. The 3rd Saturday being the schedule of their Regular Stated Meetings.

Ateng Mayor Nerivi Santos-Martinez is the widow to the late Brother Marvin Martinez – the lodge’s past SW who dropped his working tools last March 14. She is also the sibling of the incumbent Senior Warden and the Brother-In-Law of the Junior Warden. Both Worshipful Master and JW are also Siblings.



Looking @ Luzon

Mario S. Garcia Masonic Lodge No.306 celebrates Father’s Day with Outreach Program By WB Melvin Sandoval Lodge Secretary

Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija

June 21 – 3rd Sunday, amidst the threat of COVID-19, selected Brethren of MARIO S. GARCIA MASONIC LODGE No.306 led by WM Noel Llao Dayao met at the De Luxe Hotel & Restaurant at 10:00 in the morning to assist in repacking personal hygiene kits for DSWD beneficiaries.

Team 306 then headed to the DSWD Home for Girls in Palayan City, arriving at the shelter after a 30 minute drive. There they were met at the gate by Ms. Lay Dee, Assistant in Charge of the Department who informed them that as safety protocols in light of the current health crisis, the children are no longer allowed to meet and thank their benefactors.

Ms. Dee received the Lodge’s Donation, expressing appreciation on behalf of the children and department employees for the assistance. The shelter currently houses 88 girls who were victims of abuse. Their age ranging from 10 to 18 years. Donations in cash or in kind are most welcome.

The small party then proceeded to the residence of VW Simeon Bueno, PDDGM and MSGML 306 dual member who prepared a Father’s Day Lunch for the Brethren.



Looking @ Luzon

St. John the Baptist Masonic Lodge No.362 busy as a beehive for the last 5 months By WB Harold Santiago

Boacaue, Bulacan

One of the Lodges dedicated to the Holy St. John is a-buzz with labors since the Installation of its Worshipful Master Bro. Henry Kok Yee Hing last February 7.

In February 25, the Brethren of the 362nd Lodge in this jurisdiction visited the Shelter Orphanage & Day Care Center at San Rafael, Bulacan for a Gift-giving & Feeding Program. The facility is owned and managed by Bro Gil SP Garcia, a lodge member.

In his first Stated Meeting as sitting Master last March 6 – WM Henry Kok presented his plans & programs, appointing chairmen for various committees.

As the world was plunged into the Health Crisis that is the COVID-19 Pandemic, lodge activities were suspended and the entire Luzon was placed in Extended Community Quarantine in March. During these trying times, St. John the Baptist Masonic Lodge No.362 embarked on a series of charity projects that benefited various members of the community.

Feeding Programs

From March 26 to June 15, 2020, Pandemic Food packs were being sent to various Health Workers & Police Frontliners. It started with a small act of charity initiated by the WM distributing a one course meal for the Frontliners. Other members soon followed – Bro. Nelson Bangayan in lieu of a Birthday Blowout

sponsored another meal, WB David Magbanua donated 50 packs of bihon to be cooked for food packs, even EAM Carlo Militante prepared rice meals while the Family of Bro Richard Loo prepared the merienda. More members supported through cash pledges. To ensure everyone's safety and in compliance to the Health Reminder to stay at home – the meals were sent to their respective recipients thru delivery services like Grab or Lalamove. The 2 month long project amounting to 75,000 php was able to sponsor 17 meals for the following frontline institutions:

1. 1st Provincial Mobile Force Company (Bocau, Bulacan)
2. Chinese Gen Hospital
3. Juan Luna-Divisoria PCP (MPD PS- 11)
4. Malolos Police Station
5. Marilao Police Station
6. Moriones Tondo Police Station (MPD PS-2)
7. Meisic Police Station (MPD PS-11)
8. National Center for Mental Health
9. Ospital ng Maynila
10. PGH – 2 meals
11. PNP Gen Hospital – 2 meals
12. Pritil Juan Luna PCP (MPD PS-1)
13. Quirino Memorial Medical Center
14. Rizal Medical Center
15. Sta Ana Hospital

Joint Project with the PNP

While the Brethren were preparing meals, the Lodge through the coordination of the Senior Warden PCapt Michael R. Udal & Bro PSSgt Marvin Mijares partnered wit PNP Rektang Bayanihan “ Adopt a Family Program” whereby relief goods were distributed to the poorest of the poor in various Barangays. On April 3, 4 & 7, some 115 packs of relief goods amounting to 90,000 php were distributed to the lodge's adopted families in the Barangays Batia, Bunducan & Duhat in Bocau, Bulacan; in Brgy. Taliptip, Bulakan, Bulacan as well in different barangays in Marilao, Bulacan.

Outreach in Sta. Maria, Bulacan

On April 14, 2020 St. John the Baptist No.362 thru the coordination of WB Augusto Roxas donated 120 packs of relief goods to Families of SPED (School for PWD Kids) at Brgy. San Jose Patag, Sta. Maria, Bulacan. 85,000 php were spent for the project.

Other acts of Charity

During the Pandemic Period, VW Elmer Pinili & WM Henry Kok distributed 200 Face Shields and 10,000 Reusable Face Masks



to different frontliners: PNP Personnels, Security Guards, Grab Drivers, BJMP & BFP Personnels, Traffic Enforcers, Trike Drivers, etc. WB Baljinder K. Singh distributed Rice & Instant Milk Powder to various Barangays in Quezon City & Personal Protective Equipments to Bulacan Provincial Police Station.

Lodge Improvements on its Lodge Anniversary

June 24 - Feast of St. John the Baptist, as the initial plans for the Lodge Anniversary was canceled, the Brethren decided to focus on their temple to see if any improvements can be made whether for strength or ornament. The scope of work includes the cementing of driveway & parking lot, repainting and repair of various breakages and defects.

Junior Warden Pedro D. Gonzales, Jr. was appointed as Lodge Improvement Chairman to oversee the work. The Lodge Temple located in Brgy. Batia, Bocaue, Bulacan have recorded cash pledges amounting to 200,000 php. Other members, visiting Brethren and friends of Masons have also pledged to donate landfill, gravel & sand.

"Small ways and humble deeds can define our values as a Lodge" Said the Brother sitting in the East. "May St. John the Baptist Masonic Lodge No.362 serve as a shining star in these trying times".





Looking @ Luzon

Magtagumpay 410 triumphs in the south: Reach Out to Cavite & Batangas Provinces By VW Roy Castronuevo

Maragondon, Cavite

The Brethren of Magtagumpay Lodge No.410 conducted Relief Operations in the Provinces of Cavite and Batangas on the first-half of the Year 2020.

Last January 21, WM Heroico S. Olivar led the Lodge in the distribution of Relief Goods to Victims of the Taal Volcanic Eruption. The catastrophe has greatly affected Southern Luzon especially the Caviteños and Batangueños alike who suffered much due to the



close proximity of their provinces to the Philippine's second most active volcano.

The 2 provinces suffered once again, when the entire Luzon was placed on Extended Community Quarantine on March 17 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, prompting the Brethren to reach out once again to their countrymen.

On April, the lodge extended relief to the following beneficiaries:

- 500 sacks (25 kg) Rice Sundry Barangays in Maragondon, Cavite and Taal, Batangas
- 1000 php worth groceries COVID-19 Positive Patients / Municipality of Maragondon
- 1000 php worth groceries Patient Under Investigation (PU)'s in Ternate, Naic, and Trece Martires, Cavite
- 1000 php worth groceries adopted Elementary Students from Layong Mabilog Elementary School, Maragondon, Cavite
- 1000 php worth groceries less fortunate individuals as identified by DSWD
- Personal Protective Equipment Maragondon Rural Health Unit Frontliners (PPEs), masks, face shield and gloves

“We can give HOPE to others, if we extend CHARITY to those in need.” said the Master of the Lodge. Adding that once HOPE is realized, FAITH is sure to follow.

Like the meaning of their lodge name, the Brethren of Magtagumpay 410 are optimistic that amidst the disaster and other trials being encountered by their kababayans, the FILIPINO People shall OVERCOME! Especially with FREEMASONRY bringing out Charity & Humility from the foundations of true Masons.





Looking @ Luzon

Tarlac Masons extend Care to local communities

By VW Anthony A. Tan
Head News Correspondent – Luzon

In response to the crisis that is crippling the country in the face of the COVID-19 Pandemic and in answer to the inevitable call for Masons to extend help, assistance and charity to society and the community in general, Masonic District RIII Tarlac in partnership with Magiting Shrine Club, on March 30 embarked on a RELIEF/FUND RAISING OPERATION dubbed as “MASONS CARE”. Per district circular, donations may come in the form of: Cash, Rice, Canned Goods, and Items for Frontliners like: Alcohol, Lysol, N95 masks, Face Masks, Gloves, Food, Dispensable Gowns, and Safety glasses. The outreach received much support from the brethren, greatly benefiting its intended beneficiaries.

A Cash Donation of 75,000 php was donated to the Provincial Government for the purchase of Rapid Test Kits. Rice was distributed to the City Government (20 Sacks) and Brgy. Matatalaib, Tarlac City (6 Sacks). Face Shields and Boxes of Fruits (for the Immune System) were distributed to the following front-lines:

- Concepcion District Hospital
- Enrique Henry M. Cojuangco District Hospital
- Gilbert Teodoro Emergency Hospital
- Ospital Ning Capas
- Paniqui General Hospital
- Rural Health Unit (Ramos, Tarlac)
- Tarlac City Health Office
- Tarlac Police Provincial Office
- Tarlac Provincial Hospital

Not to forget its own, the MCP Committee collated a list of Masons in the District who are in the Front Lines. Some 200 Sets of Personal Protective Equipments (PPEs) were given to the Brethren in the said list. Sacks of Rice & Groceries were also distributed to brothers severely affected by the Extended Commu-

nity Quarantine (ECQ).

“All that has been done under the MASONS CARE Project: the Organization, Collection and Distribution is the result of GOOD Companionship”. Said VW REX D. KIOK – DDGM for RIII TARLAC. “The Brethren in the District together with ALL 12 subordinate lodges have shown full cooperation and willingness to help in our cause” The Grand Master’s District Deputy added.

MASONS CARE Project Committee

- VW REX D. KIOK, DDGM - Chairman
- VW LESTER DE RAMA JR. - Vice Chairman
- BRO RAUL ALBERTO HIPOLITO - President, Magiting Shrine Club
- VW REY CHRISTOPHER FAJARDO - Legal & Auditor
- BRO JONATHAN APOSTOL - Secretary
- BRO DEXTER DUNGCA - Assistant Secretary
- VW JAMES TUAZON
- VW ISABELITO TANTAN
- VW RICHARD CO
- VW WARLITO ANTONIO
- VW KENNETH YAMBABO
- VW ARSENIO REYES
- VW JESUS DUQUE I
- VW RAMPAL LUIS DE GUZMAN
- VW CHRISTOPHER TAYAG
- WB RED CABANIZAS
- WB FIDEL VALEROSO
- BRO GLEN SANTIAGO B
- RO ROLLY SAGUM
- BRO ALEX RAMOS

ALL WORSHIPFUL MASTERS of the Lodges of MD R-3 Tarlac





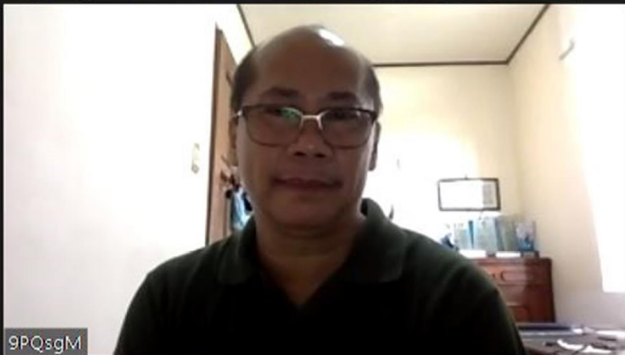
Lloyd Llaga . .



Erlinda A. Fernandez



Joseph Harold Santiago



9PQsgM



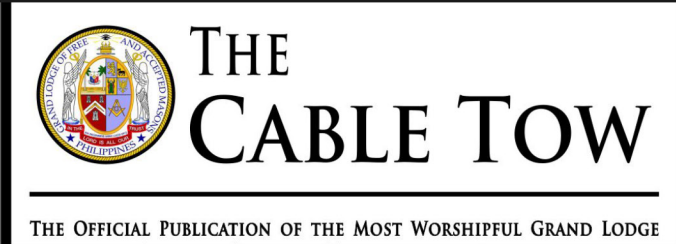
Joey Ville



Alberto Dumlaog



owensingson



The Ties That Bind A 97 Year Old Connection By WB Alberto C. Dumlaog

The Cable Tow (TCT), the official publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, and The Far Eastern Freemason (FEF), the official publication of the Supreme Council, 33 Ancient & Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, is set to make another milestone in each other's almost century-long existence with plans of collaborative work.

In an Online Meeting held last July 3, 2020 via Zoom, jointly presided by TCT Editor-in-Chief WB Joseph Harold W. Santiago and FEF Editor-in-chief Lloyd Llaga, the editorial boards of both publications agreed to formalize the long standing relationship of the two institutions with a Memorandum of Understanding that will see them doing joint activities leading up to their centennial volumes.

Also representing the TCT Editorial team in the meeting were WB Alberto C. Dumlaog, Managing Editor, VW Samuel Fernandez, TCT-Adviser and Bro. Giovanni Villegas. VW Sam and Bro. Joey are also ac-

tive contributors to the FEF, with VW Sam also serving as Editor-In-Chief of both TCT and FEF in different years. The FEF Editorial Team was represented by Bro. Eric Owen Singson and Bro. Lito Frial.

The Cable Tow was first published on June 1, 1923, while the first issue of The Far Eastern Freemason came out 5 months earlier.

To be considered under the proposed MOU, is for both publications to produce special feature articles on the partnership which may be written by a single author or may be two different renditions of the same topic by two different authors, offering unique liter-

ary perspectives. Such articles may appear in their respective issues. This article is the initial manifestation of the agreement.

Aside from the sharing of courtesy copies of the Issues that will be produced by the two Editorial Teams, another proposal is the co-sponsorship of a Masonic Essay-Writing contests, with the winning entries to be published in both TCT and the FEF.

Before adjourning, both parties agreed to invite the Editorial Team of The Mark - the official publication of the Grand York Rite of the Philippines, hoping to involve another official Masonic publication to the endeavor. ☞

In summation, here is a list of qualifications that a good Secretary must possess:

- 1) He must be a member in good standing and not be delinquent in his dues.
- 2) He must possess administrative ability, loyalty and integrity and be morally, mentally and physically able to perform the duties required of him.
- 3) He must be trustworthy, scrupulously honest and prompt in the remission to the Treasurer of all the monies he collects.
- 4) He must be efficient, possess a knowledge of the proper procedures of his office and always maintain his books and records in order and up-to-date. His minutes should be processed carefully and accurately.
- 5) He must refrain from committing to paper, or bringing before the Lodge, anything which is improper, which does not have the approval of the Master or which might run contrary to the principles and landmarks of the Fraternity.
- 6) He should possess initiative; do the right thing in the right way without having to be told.
- 7) He should be modest in his demeanor and not falling to the habit of continually usurping the floor. Fewer words and more action are hallmarks of a good Secretary plus the ability to think and to learn and profit by experience.
- 8) He should always be dignified, especially when speaking or reading the minutes. Undue levity on the part of the Secretary detracts from the decorum of a Masonic gathering. His voice should be well modu-

lated, never too low to be heard in the rear part of the Lodge or so loud his voice can be heard outside.

- 9) He should be neat, not only in his attire but also in the typing or writing of the minutes or other records. Future historians will appreciate this.
- 10) He should be conscientious in the performance of all his duties.
- 11) He should be prompt. This is one of the most desirable attributes of a good Secretary, first in his place and last to leave the Lodge room. Punctuality in attendance and promptness in attending to the business of the Lodge is an essential attribute; procrastination and tardiness go hand in hand in making a poor Secretary.
- 12) He must be thoroughly familiar with Masonic Forms and documents and know when to use them.
- 13) A pleasing personality and a friendly disposition are indispensable assets, plus a character beyond reproach and the possession of a full and complete sense of personal responsibility to the Lodge and to the Brethren in general.
- 14) He must be familiar with the Lodge By-Laws and the Grand Lodge Book of Constitution (Masonic Law Book) which was recently updated with the 2019 Edition.
- 15) He must be a good Mason and live up to its highest ideals. He must be slow to anger, quick to lend a helping hand and ever ready to visit the sick and or aid and comfort the bereaved.

Inquiries, comments, clarifications or suggestions on this column can be sent to: isagani96.tarlac@yahoo.com

doctor in the temple

By Bro. Louie A. Castro, MD



The Pandemic

What is COVID-19?

It is a type of a viral disease; a new strain of coronavirus previously not identified in humans which primarily affects the respiratory tract. It has previously been called the NCoV or the novel coronavirus. 'Novel' means 'new' therefore it is basically a 'new' coronavirus. After its proper naming last February 12, 2020, the novel Coronavirus is officially called SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome - Coronavirus - 2) and the disease it cause is called Covid - 19.

What are coronaviruses?

Coronaviruses involve a large family of viruses. Others give serious diseases such as the likes of MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV while others only cause mild cold or flu-like symptoms. So called because of their crown-like appearance resembling a 'Corona', the Latin for crown.

Where did it come from?

On the 31st of December 2019, Chinese authorities reported an outbreak to the World Health Organization of a viral illness causing severe respiratory symptoms of unknown etiology. The epicenter of the outbreak is in Wuhan, China where wild animals are commonly sold for their meats. The first four cases were identified among people linked to the Huanan seafood market. Further investigations of early detected cases had some history of

interaction with the wet market. Further testing yielded a new coronavirus not previously identified in humans.

Theories suggest that the virus is of zoonotic in origin, meaning the virus is of animal in origin. Animal to human transmission became possible due to viral mutation. One theory states that the original hosts are bats as the virus is 96% similar to bat virus and there are some evidences that Malaysian pangolins are the intermediate hosts. Other deadly coronavirus which include MERS-Cov and SARS-CoV came from dromedary camels and Civet cats, respectively. However, the exact source of this virus is still unclear.

What is its epidemiology?

Data as reported on June 30, 2020, SARS-CoV-2 has been responsible for

Top Regions

Total Cases

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| NCR | 18,308 |
| Region VII: Central Visayas | 7,585 |
| Region IV-A: CALABARZON | 2,694 |
| Region III: Central Luzon | 944 |
| Region XI: Davao Region | 532 |

Top Provinces / Cities

Total Cases

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| CEBU CITY | 4,746 |
| QUEZON CITY | 3,269 |
| CITY OF MANILA | 2,295 |
| CEBU | 1,176 |
| CALOOCAN CITY | 980 |

(Top Regions and Provinces as of June 30, 2020, DOH Covid tracker)

10,360,822 confirmed cases worldwide. In the Philippines, as of the above date, a total of 37,514 confirmed cases, 1,266 deaths, 10,233 recoveries and 26,015 active cases were noted.

According to WHO, 82% will only have mild symptoms, 15% will have severe and only 3% will be critically ill. People of all ages can be infected by the novel coronavirus. Older people and people with pre-existing medical conditions (such as asthma, diabetes, and heart disease) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus. As of June 2020, the estimated worldwide mortality rate is at around 5%. Males are more likely to contract the disease than females.

The incubation period of the virus is around 2 – 14 days, but some data report up until 24 days. This is the period between exposure to an infection and the appearance of the first symptom. This is why the imposed quarantine period for COVID-19 is 14 days.

What are its symptoms?

The symptoms usually constitute Flu-like symptoms, but the most common symptoms are FEVER, DRY COUGH, and TIREDNESS. Sometimes it may constitute other symptoms such as aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose sore throat and diarrhea. It usually constitutes mild symptoms that appear gradually. Patients usually recover without any special treatment. Only around 1 of 6 patients manifests severe symptoms such as difficulty of breathing.

Emergency warning signs for COVID-19 include: difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion or inability to arouse, bluish lips or face. If these symptoms appear, please seek immediate medical assistance. It is also important to bear in mind that not all patients develop COVID-19 symptoms. Some become infected and are contagious but do not manifest any symptoms.

How is it transmitted?

It is transmitted thru person-to-person via respiratory droplets. A single cough can

produce up to 3,000 droplets. If these droplets from an infected person lands on the mouth, nose, or gets inhaled into the lungs of an uninfected person, the risk of infection is very high. People who are in close contact with one another are at greater risk. COVID-19 is mainly spread thru respiratory droplets but some research shows some other means of transmission. It can be spread from contact with contaminated surfaces or objects. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that is contaminated with the virus and touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. Though possible, these are not the main concern when it comes to transmission.

SARS-CoV-2 virus can last up to 2-3 days on plastic and stainless-steel surfaces and fine droplets between 1-5 micrometers in size – about 30 times smaller than the width of a human hair – can remain airborne for several hours in still air.

Although other mediums such as food, water and grocery store produce can be contaminated by improper handling of infected persons, transmission has not yet been recorded but safe practices should still be strictly followed.



(Airborne droplets, image owned by University of Colorado)

Data shows COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets coughed by an infected person. An infected person who does not cough will most likely not infect others and the risk of getting infected from an asymptomatic person is low. Even with this fact, solid precautions should still be properly observed and implemented.

Researches also revealed that SARS-Cov-2 can become airborne but only in hospital settings where aerosolized procedures are performed like intubation,

tracheostomy etc. Hence, this should not be a concern for the public but rather of healthcare providers.

How is it diagnosed?

In the Philippines, its diagnosis is based on signs and symptoms with a complete and detailed history coupled with laboratory COVID-19 tests. These tests include rapid antibody testing (RAT) and real-time reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (rRT-PCR) test.

Rapid antibody test detects the presence of antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in the blood. Therefore, a blood sample usually of venous origin is acquired and tested. Neither RAT can be used as a standalone test to definitely diagnose COVID-19 nor be used as a screening tool for COVID-19.

The gold standard for COVID-19 diagnosis is the COVID-19 rRT-PCR test. It involves inserting a 6-inch long swab into the cavity between the mouth and the nose to acquire a specimen to be examined. This test detects SARS-CoV-2 RNA present in respiratory specimens of infected individuals.

How is it treated?

Currently, there is no cure for COVID-19. Treatments are directed towards supportive care. Intensive efforts are made for the development of antiviral drugs and vaccines. Drugs under investigation include antivirals (protease inhibitors, influenza drugs, nucleoside analogs) anti-inflammatories and surface protein antagonists.

Some drugs are considered breakthroughs in severe COVID-19 management such as certain antibiotics, anti-parasitic drugs, and steroids which remarkably lessened the mortality from the disease.

There are several vaccines as of the moment which are at the forefront and are already in the human trial phase.

Nevertheless, most COVID-19 cases resolve on their own with no major medical intervention needed.

How can we prevent it?

To date, there is currently no vaccine available. The best prevention is to follow these 3 important measures:

- Social Distancing (at least 6 feet or 2 meters)
- Isolation (either a person or a community)
- Sheltering-in-place

In addition, individual observance of these simple general rules will go a long way:

- Hand washing is the most effective means of preventing viral infections including COVID-19. Hand wash for at least 20 seconds before a meal, after coughing or sneezing and after using the restroom. Sanitizers and alcohols can also be used if hand washing is not feasible.
- Avoid sick individuals especially those manifesting respiratory symptoms.
- Do not touch your face especially your nose, mouth and eyes.
- Stay at home if not feeling well.
- Practice the sneezing and cough etiquette and observe the respiratory hygiene.
- Disinfect objects that are frequently handled.

What should you do if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19?

Persons with symptoms and had a history of travel or exposure to a person with a travel history from a country with confirmed case of COVID-19 should seek immediate medical attention. Patients who are not exhibiting any symptoms on the other hand, are advised to undergo home quarantine for 14 days.

Additional Facts:

DOH and WHO recommendations do not suggest the use of facemasks. It is only reserved for healthcare providers and persons who are sick. But current government regulations in the Philippines have changed and imposed strict guidelines for the use of face mask among the general public as the burden of COVID-19 became difficult to contain.

Incorrect use of face masks will put a person to a higher risk in developing the disease. It serves as a barrier and a filter. It filters the air that we breathe against certain pathogens. It sequesters microorganism such as the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Thus, making it a very infectious medium if used improperly. Proper usage should always be observed.

Surgical Mask



Cloth Mask



The pores of cloths are too large to filter particulate matters such as viruses and should not be routinely used.

Valved Mask



Masks with exhalation valves are one way filters. They filter the inspired air but never the exhaled gasses. Its valve allows the exhaled air to bypass the filter causing the pathogens to escape. The mask protects the person wearing it but not the persons on the surroundings.

The Use of Gloves

Gloves cannot protect you. The virus can transfer to your gloves just like it could when you are not wearing any. Knowing the fact that you are wearing gloves and is somehow 'protected', it will make you unconsciously and unnecessarily touch more objects than when not wearing gloves, spreading the virus even more. Additionally, wearing gloves will prohibit you from doing hand washing. Gloves should never replace hand hygiene and improper use of gloves can predispose you to a higher risk of infection.

Disinfectants

Alcohol is very effective in eliminating viruses such as SARS-CoV-2 provided it is at least 60% solution. 40% alcohol is not effective in killing the virus. 40%, 60% and 70% are readily available on Philippine markets.

SARS-CoV-2 is very sensitive to common detergents and disinfectants. One way to disinfect cheaply involves household bleach. Household bleach is very effective in disinfecting objects. Use 1 tsp. of household bleach for every one gallon of lukewarm water. Using hot or cold water can minimize the effectiveness of the bleach mixture. Instead, use room-temperature water to keep chlorine loss to a minimum.

Vitamin C

Ascorbic Acid or Vitamin C has long been proven to boosts our immune system but it is not a treatment to any form of infection. There is no correlation between intake of Vitamin C and recovery from viral illness. It can strengthen your immune system to ward off the infection but it won't treat you. 500mg of Vitamin C daily will suffice to support our immune



system. High doses of Vitamin C may lead to kidney stones because vitamin C is excreted in the body as oxalate. ☒

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Introducing the TCT Team 2020-2021

When offered the chief position for our jurisdiction's official publication, we did not accept it right away but humbly asked for time to contemplate on the task at hand and ponder the consequences. Another important consideration is being granted permission by the Approving Traveler Executive for Negotiated Governance (ATENG) - most Masons have One (and only).

As a writer, The Cable Tow is to me a beloved Institution. From the time that we read its Maiden Issue from 1923, it created a deep impact in our masonic journey, guiding this student of History upon the Level of Time. It is indeed a rare privilege to have been given the opportunity to help plot the course of our 97-year old periodical.

Running a publishing enterprise requires teamwork, as such we gathered brethren across our jurisdiction who are known for getting things done while working well with others. They should also have the necessary ATENG clearance. Allow me to introduce the Team behind the pages that is and will be Volume 97 of The Cable Tow:

VW Edgar S. Bentulan - our Associate Editor is now on his 2nd Term while simultaneously serving as District Grand Lecturer for Masonic District RX - Bukidnon North. A seasoned writer, this Life Member of Don Camilo Osias Masonic Lodge No. 253 delivers his articles all the way from Mindanao.

WB Alberto C. Dumlao - the reliable Managing Editor is a pride of Logia Malolos No.46. This Architect's performance in the East in 2018 helped prepare the oldest Masonic Lodge in Bulacan for their centenary by organizing relevant events and

leaving behind a monumental edifice - the Malolos Masonic Center which was drawn from his Trestle Board. WB Albert's innovative ideas help extend TCT functions from print to online broadcast. His aesthetic taste can be seen in the pages of our issues.

VW Jose Eugenio B. Illenberger - This is the 4th opportunity that our Art Director lent his time and talents for the publication. Back in 2010 VW Gene won in the GLP Centennial Logo Design Contest. His work was adopted as the Grand Lodge Centennial Logo in 2012. During his watch as Worshipful Master in 2014, Frank Reed Horton Masonic Lodge No.379 was recognized by the GLP as an Outstanding Lodge (AnCom 2015). Our brother designs the coolest masonic shirts through his company - FRATSHIRT.

VW Charles G. Agar has served The Cable Tow before as Managing Editor and Circulation Manager. The advice of this 40-year Master Mason from High Twelve Lodge No.82 is always heeded by the Team. For years now VW Charles has been laboring in the sidelights of most GLP Events by "shooting" the Grand Masters with his lens as the publication's Photo-Journalist.

The Cable Tow Distribution Network

A year ago, MW Suan issued Circular 9 - appointing all district secretaries as News Correspondents in their respective clusters. To facilitate the collection of Masonic News from the NCs as well as disseminate the latest TCT Issues, the following brothers have been appointed as Head News Correspondents (HNC):

VW Anthony A. Tan leads our TCT Network as Circulation Manager. His efficient and systematic ways helped organized the network, dividing assignments between him and his 7 sub-team mem-

bers. This PDGL is one of the founders of the FB Group - Guild of Lodge Secretaries and shares his techniques in his column Lodge Secretarial 101.

The National Capital Region has 69 Lodges distributed into 8 Masonic Districts. News Coordination in the region is shared by two indefatigable Masonic figures of NCR namely:

WB Arnulfo Macatangay - one of the most charismatic Past Masters that have ever travelled from West to East. Kuya Pong's sincere and simple attitude has endeared him to many as manifested in 2017 during his Installation as Worshipful Master of Dapitan Lodge No. 21 which filled the GLP grounds to the last car (on a Monday afternoon).

Master-Elect Feliciano Narciso was raised in Island-Luz-Minerva No.5. He is a good coordinator. A medical condition which led to the amputation of one of his legs did not hinder Kuyang Jojo to walk side by side with brothers in distress through Square & Compass We Connect. He is an advocate of bloodletting and blood banking and is the founder of SCWC-based Dugong Mason Program. Yet to be installed as Worshipful Master of Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No. 430 due to our current situation, our Worthy Brother has already done much in the lodge that he was called to preside as well as the publication that he was requested to assist.

The Overseas Lodges

While we are looking for a Head News Correspondent that will coordinate with 7 of our Lodges in Japan, Korea, Guam and the Marianas Islands, Kuyangs Pong & Jojo shall coordinate with them as well.

Head News Correspondent for LUZON

With 199 Lodges and 28 Districts, LUZON has the widest distribution of area assignments. To manage a large area, it is shared among 2 Editors, the Circulation Manager and 3 Head News Correspondents:

Editors JHW Santiago and AC Dumlaog shall assist in coordinating for RIII Pampanga and RIII Bulacan East & West respectively, while the Circulation Manager will cover for the Cordillera Administrative Regions of Mt. Province, Kalinga

& Apayao; Benguet & La Union as well as Masonic Districts in Region I Pangasinan; Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur & Abra. Also under his scope are Masonic Districts in RIII - Bataan, Tarlac and Zambales.

Bro. Bryan Lawrence A. Dy is a former treasurer of Gen. Artemio Ricarte Masonic Lodge No. 322. With business acumen gained from I-Print Labels & Packaging Corp. - a family enterprise, we appointed Kuyang Bryan as TCT Business Manager - coordinating with potential TCT advertisers while doing News Correspondence with Masonic Districts in Region IV Rizal, Laguna, Batangas, Cavite West, Cavite East, Cavite Central, Quezon & Marinduque, and Mindoro.

Bro. Noel T. Patelo our enthusiastic HNC from Talavera Masonic Lodge No.273 can deliver the news as it happens and where it happened. His background as a Sports News Writer during his HS days explains his energetic work-ethic and light writing style which he applies to articles collected from five Districts of Region II Isabela North; Cagayan; Isabela South & Quirino; Nueva Vizcaya North & Ifugao; and Nueva Vizcaya South, as well as the four Masonic Districts of Nueva Ecija North, South, West, and Nueva Ecija East-Aurora.

VW Erick P. Roldan a PDDGM from Isarog Lodge No.33 has two notable traits: his humility and his poetry, both will come in handy within the circle of TCT. VW Butch readily accepted our request to coordinate for the entire Bicolandia which rolls out into the vast expanse of Region V - Camarines Norte, Camarines Sur, & Catanduanes unto neighboring Albay, Sorsogon & Masbate.

Head News Correspondent for VISAYAS

WB Jeff Edward L. Pintac was raised in Dr. Jose G. Hofilena, Sr. Masonic Lodge No. 153 in Pagadian City in 2011. He has recently earned his Past Masters Jewel & Apron from Leon Kilat Lodge No. 437 where he was also its Charter Senior Warden. An active DeMolay Alumni, WB Jedz follows the news beat from his home base in Cebu City and all throughout the 36 Lodges scattered in 5 Visayan Districts.

Head News Correspondent for MINDANAO

Bro. Assandas F. Menghrajani, Jr. our Indian-Filipino brother is an 8-Year Master Mason from Ka-

gay-an Masonic Lodge No. 385. Bro Goloo serves MW Suan as his Aide-de-Camp since 2017 and at the same time gathers news-worthy stories among the 85 Lodges and 14 Districts in the Mindanao Region which VW Bentulan edits for The Cable Tow. On the side, he assists Ateng in their pastry business in Cagayan De Oro City named SWIRLZ Desserts.

The Office of The Cable Tow is also indebted to its Team Support Group:

Bro. Louie Castro, MD – one of the new generation of Masons raised at Pampanga Masonic Lodge No. 48. Kuyang Doc Louie's timely and relevant inclusion to our TCT Team as a Medical Adviser prove invaluable as he shares through his articles, professional knowledge relevant during the Pandemic.

Bro. Don Reich S. De Dios is a multi-awarded Kapampangan Artist from Leonard Wood Lodge No.105. With his acceptance of our invitation for him to draw Masonic Cartoons for Volume 97 our TCT pages are now accentuated with Kuyang Don's Chess inspired concepts as well as his famous Pampanga Comic Strip – The Talibatab Chronicles.

The **Very Reverend Samuel P. Fernandez, PGC** has honored the Team in accepting the role of Adviser Extraordinaire. The Hiram Awardee from Noli Me Tangere Lodge No.42 offers years of experience as the perennial Editor-in-Chief for The Cable Tow and The Far Eastern Freemason. His Treasure Trove of insights will surely benefit not just the Team, The Cable Tow office, and the Grand Lodge of the Philippines but Philippine Freemasonry itself.

These Brethren are The Cable Tow Editorial Team for Masonic Year 2020 - 2021, their assignments have been duly placed in their GLP records and they are ready to fulfill their mandate. Kindly extend all courtesies and privileges needed in the performance of their duties and obligations to the publication and the fraternity. With Charity & Humility – we are here to serve.

WB J. Harold W. Santiago, PM
Editor-In-Chief, The Cable Tow



KUYANG'S MARKETPLACE

A Facebook and Viber Community Group exclusively for members of the Craft it was created for the primary purpose of giving support to brother Masons by marketing their business and services thru posting of Business Advertisements and related announcements. Kuyang Feliciano "Jojo" Narciso, Master-elect of Unang Sigaw Masonic Lodge No.430 is the project's Super Market Administrator.

Square & Compass We-Connect has gone a long way as it expands its horizons for the betterment of Humanity. In support of its advocacies, the current Editorship of The Cable Tow has offered some of the publication's pages in all five of its issues for this sublime Masonic Communications Group. May SCWC continue to aid & assist and inspire the Brethren to do same.

Paminggalan ni Kuya Pong

ni MK Arnulfo Macatangay, NMG

Hail Brethren! Para sa ating unang pasada, ibabahagi namin sa inyo ang mahiwagang formula ng isa sa mga paboritong ulam ni MW Jun Suan.



STEAMED WHITE POMPANO IN GINGER SAUCE

Ang isang white pompano ay karaniwang tumitimbang ng kalahating kilo. Eto ang ilang TIP sa pagpili ng sariwang isda: Dapat makintab ang balat. Mapula ang hasang, hindi yung mata. Matigas ang mga kalamnam. Linising maigi ang isda (pati tiyan) alisan ng dugo para mawala ang lansa.

Mga Sangkap:

- 1/2 kg White Pompano
- 2 tali Sibuyas na mura/Leaks
- 1 cube Luya/Ginger
(i-slice ng pahaba)
- 2 pcs Sibuyas / Onion
- 2 tbsp Tausi / Salted Black Beans
- 1 tbsp Olive Oil

1 tsp Asin / Salt

1 tsp Asukal na Pula / Browns Sugar
Aluminum Foil

Paraan ng Pagluluto:

Una, hiwain ng pahilis (diagonal) ang isda sa gitna. Lagyan ng olive oil, luya, sibuyas, at asin. Balutin ng foil at i-steam ng 30 minutes.

Para sa Ginger Sauce, mag-gisa ang bawang. Lagyan ng tausi, leaks, luya at kaunting brown sugar. Bahagyang tubigan at pakuluan ng mga 15 minutes.

Kapag na luto ng ang isda, ilipat sa pinggan at tanggalan ng foil. Ibuhos sa isda ang Ginger Sauce. Budburan ng leaks sa ibabaw para bumango.

Puede nang ihain ang inyong steamed white pompano para ma-enjoy.



3rd Wednesdays in the West:

The GLP Masonic Education Webinar Series for the 2019 - 2021 Extended Term

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines, through the Office of the Senior Grand Lecturer has scheduled a series of online Masonic Education sessions every third Wednesday of each month starting this July 2020. The Online Program will consist of 45-Minute Long Presentation followed by subsequent Q & A Portion. According to VW Teodoro Y. Kalaw IV, each session will be opened to the public via FB Live through The Cable Tow FB Page. The program intends to complement the Institute of Masonic Education and Studies and will cover the same Subjects being taught at IMES.



Coverage of Webinar Topics: Round 1 (July to Nov. 2020)

Masonic Jurisprudence: (July 15, 2020)

Topic: *The 2019 Masonic Law Book:*

An Orientation

- Where Should One Start ?
- Structure and rationale: A Guided Tour of the MLB's Components
- How the MLB is Amended and Updated
- Applying Masonic Law & Regulations : a 3-Way Test

Lodge Management: (August 19, 2020)

Topic: *Sponsoring & Recommending candidates to the Craft*

- Knocking on the 4 Doors Into Freemasonry
- The Significance and 3 Fundamental Roles of Candidates Proposers
- The Committee On Investigation: Purposes, Role & Functions

Masonic History: (September. 16, 2020)

Topic: *The Masonic Lecturer: His Role and Functions From Antiquity to Today*

- Origins & 3 Traditional Roles
- Grand Lecturers in the Philippine Masonic Jurisdiction
- The Role and Value of Masonic Lecturer Today

Masonic Philosophy: (October 21, 2020)

Topic: *The masonic Initiatic Experience:*

Concept & Rationale

- The REALLY, REALLY Big Picture: Free masonry as an Initiatic Tradition
- The Masonic Initiatic Experience: A Guided Tour
- Freemasonry as a Lifetime Journey

Masonic Liturgy: (November 18, 2020)

Topic: *The Roots and Genealogy of Philippine*

Masonic Ritual

- Craft Ritual Work in Regular Freemasonry & The Legend of Permanence
- Craft Ritual Work of Filipino Freemasons: Before and After the Fusion of 1917
- Craft Ritual Work in the GLP as a Regular Masonic Jurisdiction Origins & Development from Mother Grand Lodges.

Coverage of Webinar Topics: Round 2 (Dec 20 to Apr 21)

Masonic Jurisprudence (December 16, 2020)

Topic: *MW Suan's Edicts: A Guided Tour*

Petitioner's & Conferral's {Edicts 328}

- Lodge Management & Leadership {Edicts 326, 267-C, 330 & 331}
- Grand Lodge Administration {Edicts 327, 329, 233-T, & 332}
- Relief for Medically Distressed Freemasons {Edicts 325}

Lodge Management: (January 20, 2021)

Topic: *Masonic Harmony & Meditation Skills*

- The 7 Buildings Blocks of Lodge Harmony
- Resolving Conflicts Among Brethren
- Acting as masonic Mediator: Role, the Mediation Process & Practice Tips

Masonic History: (February 17, 2021)

Topic: *When Fake News Mask Masonic History: Addressing the Sources of False Obligation About the Craft*

- Freemasonry: Public Perception & Philippines Historical Reality
- Forces Influencing Error in Philippine Historical Works: 3 Cardinal Sins
- The Way Forward 3 Recommendations for All Historians, Masonic & Non- Masonic

Masonic Philosophy (March 17, 2021)

Topic: *Seeking Masonic Light: Pointers for Doing Personal Masonic Research*

- The rationale for Scholarship: 3 Perspectives to Consider
- Producing an Excellent masonic Paper: Approaches & Suggestion of 3 Contemporary Masonic Scholars
- Three Current Schools of Masonic Thought Leadership: Illustration from Each

Masonic Liturgy: (April 21, 2021)

Topic: *Deeper & Richer in Time: How the Ritual Systems of Appendant Bodies Enhance the Craft*

- The Role and Place of Appendant Bodies in Regular Masonic Jurisdictions
- The Descriptive Approach of the York Rite
- The Perspective Approach of the Scottish Rite
- More Paths Provided by Invitational & Specialized Bodies
- The Greater Masonic Family and Social Clubs for Brethren

GRAND MASTER'S MESSAGE

On the occasion of Dr. Jose Rizal's Birthday

June 19, 2020

Today we celebrate the 159th birth anniversary of our national hero Dr. Jose Rizal.

He was born on June 19, 1861 and after a century and a half since then, there is really not much to tell about him that you and I have not already read by now. Everyone knows that he was a multi-faceted man. A patriot, a physician, an artist, a man of science and letters, a devoted son, a political novelist, a poet, a romantic and so many more. But to us brethren of the mystic tie, we shall always identify with him as a fellow brother in the great institution we call Freemasonry.

He pursued the obligatory schooling required of his peers and went through the regular cycle of a man trying to make a better life of himself, and he did just that. Coming from a landed family, armed with education and blessed with extra-ordinary gifts as an individual, he could have led a happy and peaceful life like most of us. Instead of dying in his prime, he could have lived a long and very successful life. If only he was just a common man.

But there was nothing ordinary about him. Like his contemporaries, he tasted the life of a privileged Filipino ilustrado and could have cared little for the world around him. Yet the indulgences he enjoyed turned him into a passionate observer of injustice and inequality in the society he grew up in.

Far from being content, he was perennially moved with a profound desire and unyielding tenacity to see a world far better than what he found it. He saw that education was the best way to free man from the bondage of ignorance and pushed for schooling of the masses. He saw that undisputed religious dogma fostered by the church subverted the truth and he exposed the ills and abuses of the friars through his writings. Seeing great inequality, he questioned the subjugation of the Filipino by the Spanish rulers and demanded radical reforms unheard of before.

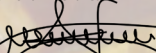
For all his actions, he was denounced by the church and the state for being a mason but maintained the ideals he learned from it to the very end. Ultimately, he stood by his cause and died for it. His belief was aptly encapsulated by his very words when he said and I quote:

"IT IS A USELESS LIFE NOT CONSECRATED TO A GREAT IDEAL. IT IS LIKE A STONE WASTED ON THE FIELD WITHOUT BECOMING PART OF ANY EDIFICE."

Truly, his aspirations reverberated through the ages, and far from being a stone wasted on the field, he has become an inseparable part of the great edifice that would later become our nation.

Brethren, my foremost thought as we observe the birthday of Brother Rizal, is for us to heed his words and strive for excellence in everything we do. I say to you that the greatest of all human follies is to leave this world without accomplishing something good and worthwhile. We need not do great things like Rizal in our lifetime. Let us just strive to be useful, helpful and relevant in whatever humble ways we can.

In short, let us not just exist and live a passive life. Rather, like Bro. Rizal, we should always employ our God-given talents to make our world a better place than before. As Freemasonry pointed our celebrated brother to the path of greatness, so should it give all of us the inspiration to take on all rough and rugged roads that will lead to a life of significance, and ultimately to fulfill our great aim - to become better men than before.



AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master

