THE CABLE TOW

Vol. 96, No. 5, March - April 2020

The Official Publication of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines

Inside:
MW Suan attends Overseas DisCon

Masonry in the time of the Coronavirus

MW Suan visits Marinduque

GLP backstops Anti-COVID-19 frontliners

In response to the crisis, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines through the Disaster Relief Committee chaired by MW Bro. Voltaire Gazmin, PGM, and VW Bro. Benito K.Tan as Vice-Chairman, donated 4000 pcs of N95 face masks to the PNP through Bro. Guillermo Eleazar for use by the PNP manning the check points.

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ABOUT THE COVER: This issue's cover features the great luminary of nature of Nature rising in the East over the Plaridel Masonic Temple during one of the flag-raising ceremonies being conducted at the GLP Complex in Malate, Manila.

THE CABLE TOW

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

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Editor's Notes

By VW Marlon M. Castor, PGO

The madness of March 2020

START STRONG. FINISH STRONGER.

Seems like a good way to end another Masonic term. Alas! This is it for Volume 96 and Issue No. 5 caps most of the events that occured during the term of MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr.

As of press time, the number of those confirmed cases infected with the dreaded COVID-19 has breached the 1 Million mark worldwide with over 3,000 cases here in the Philippines.

While ost of Metro Manila is entering the fourth week of the ECQ, I am helpless and constrained to be confined within the comfort and safety of my home. I can't complain though as I have a bubbly 1-year old daughter and a pregnant wife keeping me company during these days of lockdown.

Putting this issue wasn't easy as I have to do it via "remote control" sourcing most of my materials from prolific writing brethren, friends, and of course, the internet and social media.

Yet despite the obstacles, Vol. 96 No. 5 of **The Cable Tow** was able to come out with 104 interesting pages, which this humble writer hopes will reach a considerable number of brethren while the paper printout has yet to be sent out.

Once again, allow me to thank those who were kind enough to contribute, namely: Bro. Joey Villegas, WBro. Harold Santiago, WBro. Mark Eric Castor, VW Bro. Ronnie Del Birut, VW Bro. Bong Maghirang, Bro. Edwin Lee Cervantes, VW Bro. Benito Tan, and Sis. Pang Forlones.

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In this issue, we will again follow the travels and adventures of our Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. as he keep in touch and communicate with lodges and brethren of this grand jurisdiction.

Thus, we will post pictures of institutions (yes! more lodges!), installations, and temple dedications to which our Grand Master along with members of his team, have graced, attended, and presided over.

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This issue will also feature the installation of officers of some lodges who have been kind enough to send us their photos and write-ups of their events.

*****

The recent enforcement of the Enhanced Community Quarantine in most parts of the archipelago has indeed changed the way Filipinos live in recent days.

As we gradually cease to make contact with the rest of society towards a more sedentary-type of lifestyle to avoid the threat of contamination, people tend to focus more internally: towards family, towards home, and towards our spiritual and emotional well-being---aspects that we often take for granted when we conduct our respective professions.

Nowadays, contact becomes taboo---so our tokens and passes takes a back seat and we, as a jurisdiction, would find ways of acknowledging each other.

*****

It is indeed sad and tragic that this virus would also take its toll on the Craft.

Apart from the considerable number of worthy brethren and friends that this pandemic has claimed, we also see some of our Craft businesses come to a slowdown with the possibility of holding our Annual Communication on a date and venue that circumstances would allow.

*****

As I write the final words on Volume 96 of **The Cable Tow**, I offer a prayer to the GAOTU that His Divine Protection would cover the world and may He allow us never to lose faith in others as well as in ourselves.

*****

To the brethren, I hope that most of you enjoy reading this issue as much as I enjoy making it.

God bless, brethren!

VW MARLON M. CASTOR, PGO
Editor In Chief, Volume 96
The Cable Tow

WHEN MASONS MEET AT THE SLOPES OF MT. SAN CRISTOBAL: THE GRAND MASTER MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.LED THE LAGUNA BRETHREN IN THE CORNERSTONE-LAYING OF A MASONIC OBELISK LAST FEBRUARY 16, 2020.

1st Masonic Eco-Tourism Park breaks ground

By VW Bro. Joselito Maghirang, Jr., PDDGM

Last February 16, 2020, the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. together with the District Deputy Grand Master of RIV-Laguna, DDGM Najie B. Gapangada, Jr. led the brethren of Laguna in the cornerstone-laying and ground-breaking of the tallest Masonic Obelisk in the Philippines which will be erected out of the rocks and stones of Mt. San Cristobal.

The Masonic Landmark, nestled at 320 meters above sea level at the eastern slope of the majestic mountain of San Cristobal in the City of San Pablo, overlooks the provinces of Laguna, Quezon, Cavite, Rizal, Batangas and Mindoro. It is bounded on the east by Mt. Banahaw and Mt. San Cristobal, on the west by Mt. Makiling and Mt. Malarayat.

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The ambitious project sits on a 5,000 square meter land donated by the Gapangada, Monzones. and Nocon families. Kuyang Najie G. Gapangada, Jr. and Kuyang Benjie Monzones are members of Malinaw Masonic Lodge No. 25 while Kuyang Andrew O. Nocon and sons, Noel Teofilo and Neil Andrew are members of Makiling Masonic Lodge No. 72 while the other son, Noah, is member of Nilad Masonic Lodge No. 12.

The Masonic Eco-Tourism Park, which is a first in the Philippine Masonic jurisdiction of the will comprise of a District Multi-Purpose Hall, which can accommodate 1,000 guests and will also serve as a venue for masonic and public special events in the CALABARZON and Bicol Regions.

The Masonic Museum & Library will be the repository of the 108 years of Masonry in the Province of Laguna. It will be open to the public and will showcase the contributions of Masons from Laguna in shaping the destiny not only of the province but of the nation in general. The Library will be open to schools and scholars from around the country and will archive and digitize the masonic books, materials, issues of The Cable Tow, magazines, installation souvenirs and other materials, from the ten (10) lodges within the District.

The DDGM has made representations

THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. AND DDGM, VW BRO. NAJIE GAPANGADA, JR. WITH THE BRETHREN OF MASONIC DISTRICT R-IV LAGUNA AT THE EASTERN SLOPES OF BRGY. SAN CRISTOBAL IN SAN PABLO CITY, LAGUNA.

PHOTO OF DDGM VW BRO. NAJIE GAPANGADA, JR. COORDINATION MEETING WITH MS. CELIA DIAZ-LAUREL, UPLB-CAS DSS PROFESSORS: PROF. ZOILO D. BELANO, CHAIR, PROF. MIGUEL ENRICO G. AYSON, PROF. EUGENE P. CRUDO; JZML 202 (MOTHER LODGE OF EAM BRO. DOY LAUREL): WME BADO SILVA, JZML 202, SWE JAKE FORSUELO; SHL MUSEUM & LIBRARY, CURATOR & WRITER: CHRIS D. BONOAN; FROM THE DOY LAUREL FOUNDATION: ATTY BUNZ ARRIETA; AND SPECIAL ASST. TO CDL: MS. MIRIAM CASTILLO

for institutional linkages with the University of the Philippines at Los Baños and the Salvador H. Laurel Museum and Library. Further, an organizing committee headed by Dr. Elvis Bedia, Atty. Roy Rebanal, Engr. Aaron Cabrera, Toti Del Rosari,o and District Secretary Bong Maghirang was formed to pursue the construction of the obelisk as well as conduct fund raising activities to ensure the success of the project.

The Grand Master, in his speech during the groundbreaking event lauded the trail-blazing and visionary leadership of Kuyang Najie in bringing together the brethren of Masonic District RIV Laguna in building the tallest masonic obelisk made of stones in the Philippines, the District Multi-Purpose Hall, Museum, and Library. He reminded the brethren that the cornerstone of the success of any masonic activity are grounded on 3 important virtues: Humility, Humility and Humility.

The project will benefit not only the brethren of Laguna but will serve as a convergent point for all Masons from the other Masonic Districts. It is hoped that the Masonic Obelisk shall serve as the beacon that would reach out and bring together all Masons even from far flung districts.

WE GOT YOUR BACK ... ER, FACE: BRO. MICHAEL GEOVIL ROVERO, SENIOR WARDEN OF AKLAN LODGE NO. 207, TOGETHER WITH HIS FAMILY, CREATES MUCH-NEEDED FACE SHIELDS FOR THE HEALTH WORKERS OF PANAY HEALTH CARE MPC HOSPITAL AS ADDED PROTECTION AGAINST POSSIBLE COVID-19 CONTAMINATION.

Aklan Masonic Lodge No. 207, Masonic family rally behind health workers

Face shields for frontliners

Aklan Masonic Lodge No. 207, led by its Worshipful Master, WM Opet Mayor and its Senior Warden, Bro. Michael Geovil Rovero and his family, backstopped efforts againts the spread of the dreaded COVID-19 virus by fabricating and distributing homemade face shields for health workers of Panay.

THE GRAND MASTER MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR., LED IN THE TEMPLE DEDICATION OF THE JOSE ABAD SANTOS MASONIC LODGE NO. 333 IN MABALACAT CITY, PAMPANGA LAST AUGUST 10, 2019.

MW Suan dedicates new Pampanga Temple

By WBro Harold W. Santiago, PM

Jose Abad Santos Masonic Lodge No.333 under the leadership of WB Allan S. Gozun, PM finished their first Temple at Brgy. Mawaque, Mabalacat City, Pampanga. The said edifice was dedicated by MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr. last 10 August Anno Lucis 6019, Anno Domini 2019.

Constituted in July 1, 2000 during the term of then MW Oscar V. Bunyi with VW Virgilio E. Bunao as Charter Master, JASML No.333 was the 3rd Masonic Lodge in this jurisdiction to be located in Pampanga.

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ABOVE: MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR., UNVEILING THE TEMPLE MARKER OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS MASONIC LODGE NO. 333.

It was named in honor of Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos – Past Grand Master, World War II Martyr and the most celebrated son of Pampanga.

It was during the 2nd term of WB Gozun (Past Master of Magalang 391) that the lodge have finally realized its dream of a having a temple of its own.

THE BRETHREN OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS MASONIC LODGE NO. 333.

Mayon Lodge No. 61 brethren sojourns to Scotland

By VW Bro. Benito K. Tan

Last February 11, 2020, a delegation composed of eleven brethren from Mayon Lodge No. 61, F. & A.M. traveled to the Scotland to attend and visit a lodge meeting of The Lodge of Edinburg No. 1 at the Lodge Temple Building along 19 Hill St., Edinburg, Scotland. Mayon Lodge No. 61 is the very first official visitation by a lodge hailing from the Philippine Masonic jurisdiction.

The Filipino delegation of Mayon Lodge No. 61 composed of the following brethren: Bro. Noel E. Rosal, PJGL, Bro. Eugene C. Cua, PJGL, Bro. Jerome C. Lee, PDDGM, Bro. Dennis A. Sy-Reyes, PM, Bro. Rene Waldo B. Moran, PM, Bro. Julius D. Ovilla, Bro. Francis N. Alisago, Bro. Jonathan June S. Peralta, Bro. Karlo D. Jacob, Bro. Antonio Gari L. Zamora, and Bro. Benito K. Tan (Honorary Member).

THE SCOTLAND VISTITATION TEAM OF MAYON LODGE NO. 1: 11 MEMBERS OF MAYON LODGE NO. 61 VISITED OUR BRETHREN IN SCOTLAND LAST FEBRUARY 11, 2020.

During their visit, the Filipino brethren were fortunate to have witnessed a proficient 3rd Degre Working under the able leadership of RWM Scott Harrison. After the meeting, the Filipino brethren were treated to a sumptuous dinner by the Scottish brethren. In token of their appreciation, the brethren presented their host with a token.

On February 13, 2020, the delegation along with their better halves were treated to a tour of the Grand Lodge of Scotland building where they were welcomed by no less than the Grand Master himself, MW Bro. William Ramsey McGhee, who himself recently visted the Philippines a few weeks before. The delegation was eleated to have visited the hallowed grounds of Scottish Freemasonry. To commemorate the occasion, a token was also presented to the Grand Master himself, MW Bro. William Ramsey McGhee

ALWAYS A TREAT: AFTER ATTENDING THE MEETING OF THE LODGE OF EDINBURG NO.1, THE BRETHREN OF MAYON LODGE NO. 61 WERE TREATED TO A SUMPTUOUS DINNER BY THEIR GRACIOUS HOSTS.

AT THE GRAND LODGE OF SCOTLAND.

In the search for light...

By
Bro. Erwin Lee Cervantes
MA-BU-TI Masonic Lodge No. 329
City of Masbate, Masbate

Light has fascinated the human race since time immemorial. To the pious, light has significant part during creation for it was then the earth was without form and darkness was upon the face of the deep. (Gen 1:2). For the Psalmist, light is a manifestation of the Almighty Father, salvation, and strength (Psalm 27:1). As to its nature, it baffled the early men of science of what light really consists of. Some say it is made of particles while some said it was a wave, and light can be a particles and it can be a wave.

But that was not the end of the story, because behind the science, a veil of mysticism set apart those who only see the temporal nature of light from those who see it beyond the confine of spatial perception. To the adept, initiate and philosophers light is not merely limited to a thing that illuminates our material surroundings but likewise to that on the height of the struggle for intellectual independence during the renaissance period it was discovered that the spectrum of light is made up of eight (8) colors by Isaac Newton, Father of Classical Physics. Then lately, it was found out that light has a dual nature depending on the medium it was passing through, illuminates every corners of the human mind.

During degree conferral, a candidate is in the journey of seeking further light, a kind of light that Mason's believed can never be found in the temporal realm of this world, but rather in the thorough contemplation of the lessons learned in the degrees. Masons are thought that a brother is a traveller upon this world, he learned that what is seen is temporal and the unseen is eternal, for whatever he do for himself will die with him but whatever he do for the sake of others shall remain and immortal. Hence, armed with symbols, every mason endeavors to square his action by square of righteousness and circumscribed his passion towards all mankind until finally living a life where wealth, pleasure, power and prestige are no longer his desires but enlightenment. As Masons, we long for eternal peace and contentment, believing that it can only be achieved in unity with the Supreme Grand Master in the celestial lodge above where there is no room for tears, suffering and tyranny.

The light received by the candidate while kneeling before the altar is not for everyone who desires for it. The candidate must be worthy and qualified, properly vouch for, of his own free will and accord, and sincerely well prepared to receive the light of illumination. Similarly, we are forewarned of those candidates driven by mercenary motives and those who are faint hearted who feared most for self-change commitment. It should be the tried and proven who is privileged to receive it. However, due to personal motive of some brethren whose eyes were blinded by glitters of earthly wealth and conceived personal gains have failed to guard the west gate, thus, many unworthy have entered in the hallowed ground of the masonic lodge. Hence, those unworthy who have been conferred with the degrees ultimately mingled with those worthy brethren like wolves within the flock of sheep not easily recognize. Those unworthy whose hearts and minds were not in conformity with Masonic teachings, but rather filled with misleading principles, lovers of vices, vanities, and greedy for prestige and connections. Those unworthy perniciously sow faction and disharmony among the brethren until such time unnoticed the lodge become polluted with corrupt minds.

Indeed, the conferral was solemn with veneration to the great architect of the universe, but it seems some brethren receive a different kind of light…received from whom?. We all masons should know that there is an imitated light, promising some kind of enlightenment, not knowing it beguile us leading to abyss of infamy. It behoves like the one that a candidate or regular mason is seeking for, however, said light did not come from God, but rather from God's greatest nemeses- the Devil. As it is written in the Bible in 2 Corinthians 11:14 "And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into angel of light " thus, it is incumbent upon us regular and worthy mason to be steadfast in our obligation to guard our hollowed portal from unworthy, and likewise we should be always vigilant to keep our hearts and minds from the baneful wickedness permeated by our brothers who are indeed failed to be enlightened

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ABOVE AND BELOW: THE BRETHREN OF SAN LEONARDO MASONIC LODGE NO. 386 WERE HAPPY WHEN THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. LED THE CORNERSTONE-LAYING OF THEIR UPCOMING MASONIC HOME.

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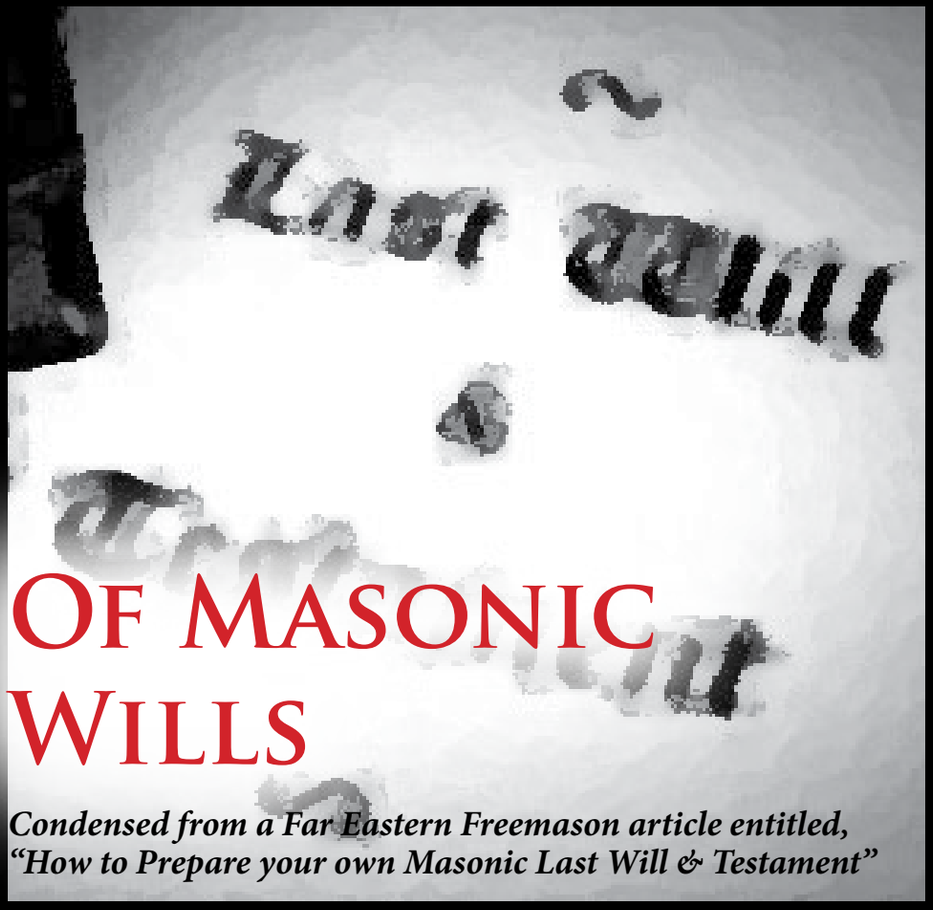
MW Suan leads N. Ecija brethren in cornerstone-laying rites

Last February 26, 2020, the Grand Master, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., led the brethren of San Leonardo Masonic Lodge No. 386 of San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija in the Cornerstone-Laying Rites of their new home. Aside from the Grand Master's entourage, also in attendance was MW Bro. Juanito P. Abergas, PGM who was born in the said town. He is also an honorary member of the lodge.



Of Masonic Wills

Condensed from a Far Eastern Freemason article entitled, "How to Prepare your own Masonic Last Will & Testament"

Before joining the Masonic Fraternity, you were asked whether you had already made adequate provisions for your family in case of your death. Therefore, the making of a Last Will & Testament is an experience familiar to many Masons. Although the purpose was supposedly philosophical in nature, this article is more on the functional and practical use to you as a man and Mason. If you worry that your last wishes and instructions would be neglected, disregarded, or even forgotten, then it is high time to formally put them all in writing. Doing so will also ease the stress of your beloved family, when a number of difficult decisions have to be made, during that very painful eventuality in their lives – mourning over your passing,

A typical Last Will & Testament mainly contains details on bequeathing your assets and expressing your last wishes, although the details of the latter are elaborated optionally on a separate document called a Letter of Instructions, which is like the appendix for your Will, containing informal directives that clarify aspects such as the location of important documents, bank accounts, investment papers, memorial plans, insurance policies, recurring bills, passwords to online accounts, and the like. It should also contain your updated vital statistics for a ready and hassle-free reference, especially when applying for your Death Certificate, where certain fill-out forms require such details. Other directives include guardianship of children, organizations to be notified, personal messages to friends and family, etc.

It is best at this point to professionally consult your lawyer in order to ensure that your Will becomes legally binding. Philippine laws require certain formalities on the preparation and execution of notarized Wills so as not to render them invalid. Note, however, that a non-notarized Will, even that which does not follow any legal format, can still be made valid as a Holographic Will, provided it is entirely written, dated, and signed by the testator's own handwriting.

Let us now proceed to preparing a Masonic Last Will & Testament, which is actually the same as any other Will, but with added clauses specific to your Masonic life. The following will guide you in making those additions and appendices.

Contacting your Lodge

Widows and orphans oftentimes have no idea what to do or who to notify in the event of your death. One of the first things they should actually do is to inform your Lodge because it is possible that your lawyer, banker, and accountant are also members of the same Lodge and may readily offer your family much needed assistance, perhaps in terms of expediting paper works and the like. Your Will should therefore include in its Letter of Instructions specific directions to call a particular person or phone number to announce your recent passing to the rest of the Masonic community. It is always a good idea to include more than just one contact person and to likewise provide each of them a copy of your Will while you are still alive. This would make things easier for your Lodge officers as well.

Masonic Funeral

As a Mason, you are entitled to a Masonic Funeral service during your wake or interment, but not without the permission and consent of your immediate family. You should therefore specify in your Will if you desire to have such service given to your remains. It is important to note, though, that your family should also be informed that a Masonic Funeral service could be viewed by some religious denominations

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as having conflicts with theirs and that there's a possibility that your church or congregation could withhold performing its last rites on your remains upon learning of your Masonic association. If you sense any indication whatsoever that this could happen in your case, then perhaps it is best not to request for a Masonic Funeral, after all, in order to spare your family the trauma, frustration and humiliation that such a public denial could cause them, more so during their time of grief. Remember that the welfare of your family is your foremost concern and should supersede all others.

Personal Masonic Record

It is possible that your Brethren may want to pay tribute to your legacy by highlighting your Masonic achievements. In is therefore handy to always have an updated list of your Masonic autobiographical portfolio attached to your Will. Such list would include the dates when you were initiated, passed, and raised, the Lodges and other Masonic bodies to which you belong, and your designation in such bodies. Always include specifics such as exact dates, names, ranks, degrees, and awards. If properly presented, such a list can be a source of great inspiration, pride, and healing for your Brethren, friends, and family. It could also be a great resource for those drafting your eulogy or preparing your obituary and headstone.

Masonic Inheritance

The giving away of your Masonic belongings such as rings, pins, aprons, jewels, and ritual books, should be one of the main inclusions of your Masonic Will. If you likewise own Masonic books and other collectibles, you may specify to have them donated, perhaps to your Lodge library where they would be kept and treasured in the same manner you did. Alternatively, you may decide to have them sold or auctioned among Brother Masons, with specific instructions of using the proceeds for the benefit of your bereaved family. Just remember that, however you wish to dispose of your Masonic heirlooms, it is important to state them clearly in your Will, for it would be unfortunate if such items would end up neglected somewhere or sold to strangers for far less than what they are really worth, whether intrinsically or sentimentally.

It is worth mentioning at this point that although the Blue Lodge and most other appendant organizations are not too keen on the bequeathal of your Masonic belongings, such is not the case with the Scottish Rite, where strict instructions are given to the family of its members to return their ritual books to the Supreme Council upon the death of the owner. The Scottish Rite is likewise meticulous on the bequeathal of their deceased member's 14th degree and 33rd degree rings, which can be entrusted to anyone but never to be worn unless also a member of the Rite.

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Drafting Your Own

There was once a locally-available product called Masonic Planner, which had its own built-in Masonic Last Will & Testament, complete with supplemental forms for listing Masonic Records, Letter of Instructions, and Last Wishes. Unfortunately the said product went out of print. However, based on the guides provided in this article, you can now come up with your own customized Masonic Will. The following is an example of how one can be modeled into a legal or Notarial Will that conforms to Philippine standards.

I, Juan Santos, Filipino citizen, of legal age, married to Minerva Santos, born on the 26th day of January 1971, a resident of Ermita, Manila, being of sound and disposing mind and memory, and not acting under undue influence or intimidation from anyone, do hereby declare and proclaim this instrument to be my Last Will & Testament, in English, the language which I am well conversant; and I hereby declare that:

- I desire that should I die, it is my wish to be buried according to the Rites of the Roman Catholic Church if permitted, with Masonic Funeral service given by the Lodge of which I am a member, and interred at our family mausoleum in Manila, Philippines;

- To my beloved wife, Minerva Santos, I give and bequeath the following property to wit [enumerate here];

- To my esteemed and only child, Amanda Santos, I give and bequeath the following properties to wit: [enumerate here];

- To my mother Lodge [state name, number, and jurisdiction] I entrust the safekeeping of the following of my Masonic belongings [enumerate here and state their corresponding locations];

- I hereby designate Jessie Aguas the Executor and Administrator of this Last Will & Testament, and in his incapacity, I name and designate Arthur Lauria as his substitute;

- I hereby direct that the

Executor and Administrator of this Last Will & Testament, or his substitute, need not present any bond;

- I hereby revoke, set aside, and annul any and all of my other Will(s) or testamentary dispositions made, executed, signed or published preceding this Last Will & Testament.

Another working example of a Masonic Will is the following. Even if not notarized, it can still be considered legally valid as a Holographic Will, as long as it is handwritten in full, duly dated, and personally signed by the testator.

In the Name of God, Amen! I, Juan Santos, being of sound mind and memory, but knowing the uncertainty of human life, do now make and publish in my own handwriting, my Last Will & Testament, that is to say:

- I hereby declare that, upon my death, all my properties currently named or may be named under me and my possession shall be distributed to my wife, Minerva Santos and to my only child, Amanda Santos, share and share alike; that my Masonic belongings be donated to the custody of my mother Lodge [state name, number, and jurisdiction] and, if deemed necessary, to be auctioned among Brethren, so that any money made may be used to aid and assist my bereaved family.

- It is my wish that, upon my death, interment and memorial services be made in accordance to the will and pleasure of my family, which includes primarily my wife, child, father, and mother; that my remains be clad with my Masonic Lambskin Apron and given the humble honor of Masonic Funeral Rites by the Lodge and other Masonic bodies to which I belong; that my earthly remains be not cremated, but rather entombed above ground, and properly sealed from violating forces; that I be given my Last Sacraments as permitted by the Roman Catholic Church to which I had been baptized.

- Furthermore, it is my wish that, the custody of my one and only child, my beloved daughter, Amanda Santos, if still not of legal age upon my death, be entrusted to the care and guardianship of my beloved wife, Minerva Santos; that such custody and care be shared with my beloved parents, Jose Santos and Maria Santos, who all equally love her as I do; and that circumstances must not deny each of them that shared custody and care at any time whenever requested to the other.

- Finally, it is my wish that my beloved daughter, Amanda Santos, finishes her formal and higher education; that she be granted and accorded personal care and physical protection by my Masonic Brothers wherever located, so that her honor and chastity be not violated; and that such care and protection be likewise given to her future children and children's children, most especially in times of distress and financial difficulty.

Try outlining your own initial draft. You will be surprised at how easily it can be organized, and how the experience can somehow recreate that intended initiatic experience in Masonry, when you were asked if you had already made adequate provisions for your family in case of your death, helping you discover and realize the things that truly matter in your life, thus ultimately improving how you live and making you a better man. In addition, the making of a Masonic Last Will & Testament is practically an obligation, enabling you to better support your family even beyond your own death. Let it therefore become your Masonic legacy to make such plans and preparations – all for the love and benefit of your would-be widow and orphans.

The giving away of your Masonic belongings such as rings, pins, aprons, jewels, and ritual books, should be one of the main inclusions of your Masonic Will. If you likewise own Masonic books and other collectibles, you may specify to have them donated, perhaps to your Lodge library where they would be kept and treasured in the same manner you did.

THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. EXPERIENCED THE TRADITIONAL "PUTUNGAN" OR CROWNING OF ISLAND GUESTS. BESIDE HIM IS BRO. TONTON UY, M.D., INCUMBENT MAYOR OF STA. ANA, MARINDUQUE.

MW Suan visits the land of the Moriones

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MAROONED WITH THE GRAND MASTER IN MARINDUQUE: (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT) MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOGETHER WITH HIS ENTOURAGE,VISITED THE VARIOUS SPOTS IN THE ISLAND ON THE OCCASION OF HIS VISIT DURING MORIONES LODGE NO. 399 INSTALLATION LAST MARCH 9, 2020.

MW Suan grace blue lodge installations

MASONIC INSTALLATIONS, OFTEN HELD IN PUBLIC VIEW, SOMETIMES INVITE THE GRAND MASTER AS GUEST OF HONOR AND SPEAKER. HERE ARE SOME OF THE RECENT INSTALLATIONS THAT MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. HAVE ATTENDED.

PANGARAP LODGE NO. 448
MARCH 12, 2020
J. ABAD SANTOS HALL,
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE,
MANILA

LABONG LODGE NO. 59
FEBRUARY 14, 2020
J. ABAD SANTOS HALL,
PLARIDEL MASONIC TEMPLE,
MANILA

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DON ANTONIO COSIN LODGE NO. 303
FEBRUARY 29, 2020
MACAJALAR MASONIC TEMPLE,
CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

NASUGBU LODGE NO. 407
MARCH 7, 2020
BATANGAS CITY CONVENTION
CENTER
BATANGAS CITY, BATANGAS

The Grand Master's Visitors

IMPERIAL POTENTATE - JANUARY 25, 2020

JOB'S DAUGHTERS BETHEL NO. 2 - FEBRUARY 7, 2020

VALENZUELA CITY LODGE, U.D. - FEBRUARY 7, 2020

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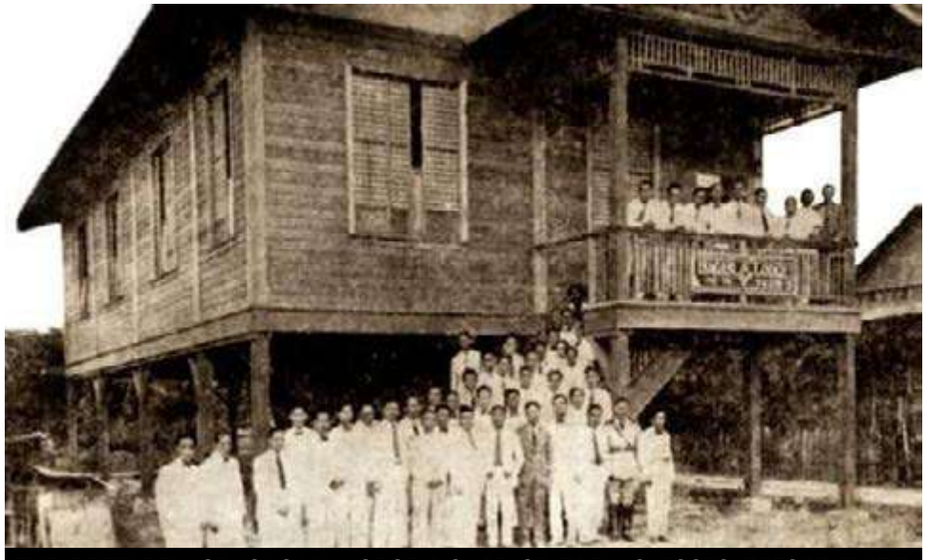
TOGETHER BRETHREN: LAST JANUARY 4, 2020, THE BRETHREN OF NAGA CITY TOGETHER WITH DEMOLAYS FROM THE BICOL CHAPTER AND THE JOB'S DAUGHTERS OF BETHEL NO. 31 JOINED WITH THE REST OF THE BICOLANOS IN THE 123RD YEAR COMMEMORATION OF THE MARTYRDOM OF THE 15 BICOL MARTYRS IN NAGA CITY. THE QUINCE MARTIREZ DEL BICOLANDIA WERE FILIPINO PATRIOTS IN BICOL WHO WERE EXECUTED BY FIRING SQUAD ON JANUARY 4, 1897 FOR COOPERATING WITH THE KATIPUNAN DURING THE PHILIPPINE REVOLUTION AGAINST SPAIN. EIGHT OF THE 15 BICOL MARTYRS WERE FREEMASONS.

Bicol Masonic Community join Quince Martirez Del Bicolandia rites

PHOTOS COURTESY OF POLICE STATION 2, NAGA CPO FB PAGE



THE BRETHREN OF ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96 OF TARLAC POSES BEFORE THIEIR TEMPLE DURING EARLY TIMES.

Towards a century of Tarlac Freemasonry

Isagani Lodge No. 96

By VW Bro. Anthony Tan, PDGL

The lodge was named after the poet ISAGANI, a character in Jose P. Rizal's novel, "El Filibusterismo". The name initially chosen for the lodge by the organizers was "Central Luzon", it being located in Tarlac which is a part of Central Luzon, however, due to unknown reason, they finally settled to name it "ISAGANI".

Under date of May 07, 1924, Grand Master Wenceslao Trinidad signed a dispensation to form and open a new Lodge, Central Luzon U.D in the municipality of Paniqui, Province of Tarlac. The founders of this new Lodge are 14 Master Masons all of La Regeneracion Lodge No. 36, Tarlac, Tarlac led by Sisenando Palarca, Roman Domantay, Procorpio Espiritu, Jose E. Licup, Sixto Guiang, Esteban Alberto, Juan Obillo, Eliseo Marques, Francisco Urrutia, Francisco F. Blanco, Arcadio Evangelista, Silvino Isla, Luis Morales and Go Chuy King.

On January 27, 1925, having complied with all the requirements of the Grand Lodge, the lodge was a granted a charter, but under the name Isagani Lodge No. 96.

On April 18, 1925, at 8:00 pm, Grand

Master Christian C. Rosenstock constituted the lodge after which the officers were installed. The ceremonies took place in Paniqui. They were in Public and attendance was large.

In January 1926, the meeting place of Isagani Lodge No. 96 was transferred from Paniqui to Moncada, Tarlac. A suitable building near the railroad station was secured for this purpose. In the middle of 1937, Isagani Lodge No. 96 transferred its stated meetings to Tarlac, Tarlac. It was also during this year under Worshipful Master Francisco M. Alejo, that the Isagani Masonic Temple was constructed to its present site. The lot was donated by the late General Servillano Aquino of the defunct La Regeneracion.

In 1974, the members had to tear down their dilapidated Temple and construct a new one. Construction started under the term of Worhsipful Master Miguel Fontanilla, with the concerted efforts of the lodge members notably the so-called "Magnificent 11", composed of brothers Cosmo P. Antonio, Jose Y. Chua, Benjamin G. Chua, Benigno Ng Chua, Co Ting Chu, Juan Chia, Benito Chua, Po Kim Hong, Que Teng, Que Kang, and Chua Giok. The new Temple was consecrated on April 5, 1975, it was also during this year that the Lodge organized the Tarlac Chapter of the Order of De Molay. For more than 3 decades, it was only in the early years of the new millennium that Isagani Lodge Masonic Temple was rehabilitated. At present, the temple still undergoes major improvements for the temple's

Constitución de la Logia Isagani No. 96

Acordada oficialmente la constitución de la Logia Isagani No. 96, M. L. y A., en Paniqui, Tarlac, el Muy Ilustre Gran Maestre Hnmo. W. C. Rosenstock, con numerosa comitiva, salió de Manila en un coche especial del Ferrocarril a las 12 del día 18 de Marl de 1925, llegando en Paniqui, a las 5:40 p. m. del mismo día. En la estación ferroviaria, los Miembros de la nueva Logia con su Venerable Maestro, acompañados de una banda de música, salieron al encuentro del Muy Ilustre Gran Maestre y comitiva.

La constitución de la nueva Logia y la instalación de sus Oficiales fueron públicas y una numerosa concurrencia estuvo presente en el acto. Exactamente a las 8:00 p. m. del referido día 18 de Abril, se dió comienzo a las ceremonias de la constitución. Estuvieron representadas todas las Logias de las provincias vecinas y muchas de las Logias establecidas en Manila.

Se pronunciaron discursos alusivos al acto en inglés y castellano, todos los cuales fueron aplaudidos, especialmente el pronunciado por el Muy Ilustre Gran Maestre.

Inmediatamente después de la constitución e instalación de los Oficiales de la Logia Isagani, se dió un banquete seguido de baile en la casa del Venerable Maestro, Hnmo. Sisenando Palarca.

La Gran Comitiva procedente de Manila estaba compuesta del Muy Ilustre Hnmo. W. C. Rosenstock, del Muy Venerable Hnmo. Fred Damman, de los Venerables Hnmos. Antonio Gonzales, Aurelio Leynes Concepcion, Ramón Mendoza, Enrique Legarda Koh, Honorio R. Cuevas y otros más. Después de cumplida su misión y pasar algunas horas de solaz al lado de los Hermanos allí reunidos, la comitiva emprendió su marcha de retorno a Manila, saliendo de Paniqui a las 5:00 a. m. en el mismo coche especial.

A NEWS ITEM PUBLISHED IN SPANISH FEATURING THE CONSTITUTION OF ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96.

facilities to become an icon for a Masonic charity center of the region. In the year 2012 under the leadership of WB Tsoi Tin Chu, Isagani Lodge Masonic Temple undergoes another major improvements of its façade.

Through the years, Isagani Lodge No. 96 has been engaged in charitable and benevolent activities. In 1986, it started its Scholarship Program, and in 1995, it launched its annual medical and dental outreach program for the depressed communities of Tarlac Province and other towns of neighboring provinces. Coincidentally, it was also during the same year that the lodge conferred unto VW Cosmo P. Antonio, the "Hiram Award", which is the highest award a Blue Lodge can confer to anyone. Isagani Lodge

THE HISTORIC ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96 MASONIC TEMPLE.

No. 96 never fails to extend a helping hand to victims of calamities, like the great floods that swept Central Luzon in 1972, and the eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991. During the typhoon season of 2009, our country experienced two unusual weather disturbances namely Typhoon Ondoy and Typhoon Pepeng whereby putting the entire nation under a state of calamity which caused millions of Filipinos to lose their homes and livelihood due to heavy rains and flooding. Province of Tarlac was spared with these two destructive typhoons which called the members of Isagani Lodge no. 96 to carry out numerous relief operations for the province of Tarlac and for the more severely affected provinces of Pampanga, Pangasinan and Rizal.

Isagani Lodge No. 96 main existence today relies on the support of its members and wisdom of its Past Masters and Senior members of the lodge. During the Year 2001-2004, Reforms were initiated and implemented by 4 energetic Masters namely VW Jaisu Mariposa, PDGL, VW Christopher Florencio Gococo, PJGL, VW Armando T. Uy, PDDGM and VW Andy T. Po, PDDGM which brought back Isagani Lodge No. 96 to its glory days. As Isagani Masonic Lodge No. 96 continuously makes

June, 1924

New Lodge in Paniqui, Tarlac

Under date of May 7, 1924, M. W. Grand Master Wenceslao Trinidad signed a dispensation to form and open a new Lodge, U. D., in the municipality of Paniqui, province of Tarlac. The founders of this new Lodge are the following Brethren, all of La Regeneracion Lodge No. 36, Tarlac, Tarlac: Simeon Palarca, Roman Domantay, Procopio Espiritu, José E. Llcup, Sixto Gulang, Esteban Alberto, Juan Ofilio, Eliseo Marquez, Francisco Urrutia, Francisco F. Blanco, Arsadio Evangelista, Silvino Isla, Luis Morales, and Go Chee King.

The following have been appointed as the first three officers of the new Lodge: Wor Master, Simeon Palarca; Senior Warden, Roman Domantay; Junior Warden, Procopio Espiritu.

Congratulations and best wishes from the editors of the CABLETOW to this our newest Lodge.

A NEWS ITEM IN THE JUNE 1924 ISSUE OF THE CABLE TOW ANNOUNCING THE INSTITUTION OF ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96 DURING THE TERM OF THEN GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. WENCESLAO TRINIDAD.

good men better in our district obligated with our foundation of values of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth and ever remembering that there should always be Faith, Hope and Charity in all our endeavors, the members are joined together in serving our community for a more progressive and developed nation towards the next century.

THE OFFICIAL CENTENNARY LOGO OF ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96, F. & A.M.

FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS AS LODGE HOUSE, A MODERN MULTI-LEVEL BUILDING NOW HOUSES ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96, F. & A.M. AND ITS BRETHREN.

THE BRETHREN OF ISAGANI LODGE NO. 96, F. & A.M. OF PRESENT DAY WITH THE SENIOR GRAND WARDEN OF THE GRAND LODGE OF THE PHILIPPINES, RW BRO. JOHNNY T. PIMENTEL.

Masonry In The Time Of The Coronavirus

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2020

By
Bro. Giovanni A. Villegas

This is a chronicle of the progress and impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the Masonic community as the events unfold – a global crisis unprecedented since World War II. It is now March 17, 2020 as I write this down. If you are reading this at a much later date, there's a chance I may have already contracted the virus myself, and may no longer be around. Let's face it: our country and many other countries for that matter are not that equipped to test every single person for the virus, and the contagion is getting worse. But whether or not I am still alive by the time of your reading this chronicle is not important. What is important is that these logs be made known, as a record of this era in our Masonic history, when different Masonic jurisdictions around the world are currently, probably for the first time, simultaneously going dark as a result of a global health crisis. Should the crisis turn for the worse, let the following logs serve as a reference for future generation of surviving Masons on what went on during these very trying times in the history of our Fraternity and of the whole world.

It all began New Year's Day of 2020, when a rapid spread of pneumonia was already causing alarm in Wuhan, China before it was reported to the World Health Organization (WHO). It was later identified to be a novel (new) strain of the Coronavirus that affects the respiratory system. China had been known in the past to be the source and hub of other world-threatening diseases such as SARS (SARS-COV), Bird Flu (H5N1 Avian Influenza), and possibly even, according to some studies, the Spanish Flu (H1N1-subtype Influenza A). Now, Wuhan, China just became the epicenter of this new outbreak. City lockdowns were placed but did not stop the virus from spreading across

BRO. GREG MACASAET III WAS ONE OF THE FIRST MEDICAL FRONTLINERS WHO FELL PREY TO COVID-19.

neighboring countries. By the end of February, the virus had already infected thousands across Asia and Europe. The WHO, on March 11, 2020, declared the new outbreak to be a global pandemic, with China, Iran, and Italy being most affected.

Here in the Philippines, schools were immediately suspended for a month as a precaution. Many Masonic events such as monthly stated meetings were likewise individually postponed, both in the Blue Lodges and in the Appendant Bodies. The Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite of the Philippines was among the first to suspend its activities, particularly its Annual Session slated for March 12-14, 2020.

When the first cases of community infections began to appear in the country, the local government attempted to counter the threat by imposing a lockdown or quarantine on Metro Manila, and eventually the whole of Luzon, causing many people to go on panic-buying. Supplies of facemasks and alcohols became scarce. And despite the lockdown, reports of new cases and deaths kept rising, possibly attributed to the fact that travelers from China were still permitted entry in the Philippines, for political reasons, and that some infected people were actually asymptomatic and therefore undetected, thus further spreading the virus unaware. News also started to appear that the virus might actually have been airborne, though still unconfirmed. In this age of fake news, it becomes hard to identify which news are real and which are not. This chronicle therefore will not claim to be a complete or authoritative account, but merely a micro level perspective of the socio-economic impact the pandemic has wrought upon modern society, particularly upon the Masonic community, with special focus on Philippine Masonry.

IMPACT ON FREEMASONRY

Since March 5, 2020, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) started sending updated guidelines to its members and provincial jurisdictions, warning of the looming threat of the Coronavirus to its territories. Masons were advised to

minimize physical contacts such as handshakes. The Grand Lodge of Ireland later advised the same to its members.

This posed a particular problem for Masonic works that do involve physical contacts and close distance communications, such as the exchange or signs and tokens, for instance. That is why, given the tactile nature of many Masonic ceremonies, lodges were advised to consider postponing initiation ceremonies until the situation has improved.[1]

The Coronavirus seems to target the elderly, and a great percentage of Freemasons belong to this age group. In the days following, the UGLE began advising their elderly members and those with health problems – such as hypertension, diabetes, heart disease, and lung disease, who are the most prone to infection – to refrain from attending Masonic functions. It also advised lodges to start limiting the number of their attendees during such gatherings. At this point, there were no general suspensions made yet for their jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, other countries around the world, including the Masonic jurisdictions therein, developed their own ways of minimizing physical contact during gatherings, such as replacing them with friendly hand waves, fist bumps, elbow bumps, and the like. On March 9, 2020, MW Agapito Suan Jr., Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines (GLP) issued a circular outlining the local Masonic guidelines to help prevent the spread of the virus, in line with the country's own campaign

LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVES LIKE BROS. EMENG PASCUAL, MAYOR OF GAPAN, NUEVA ECIJA (ABOVE) AND BRO. ROLEN C. PAULINO, JR., MAYOR OF OLONGAPO, ZAMBALES (BELOW) RESPONDED IMMEDIATELY TO THE PLIGHT OF HIS CONSTITUENTS DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN.

1 Bill Gardner, "Cut out ceremonial handshakes to fight Coronavirus", The Telegraph (The Telegraph, March 5, 2020), www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/03/05/cut-ceremonial-handshakes-fight-coronavirus-freemasons-told.

for social distancing. The circular advised local Masons to avoid handshakes and welcome embraces, and to instead use non-contact means of exchanging greetings, such as employing the sign of fidelity. It also advised officers involved in the opening and closing of lodges during regular stated meetings to wear facemasks and gloves.[2]

In the days that followed, the virus began spreading rapidly across different countries, with cases of infection rising by the day, reaching 167,000+ reported cases and 6,000+ confirmed deaths worldwide in just a matter of two months.[3] While Asia and Europe were the ones badly hit, the US was not spared by the contagion. As a result, the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts cancelled their Quarterly meeting to help prevent further spread of the virus in their State, while the Grand Lodge of Kansas downsized the number of attendees for their upcoming Annual Communication.

Though many of the other Grand Lodges in the US, such as those of New Jersey, Michigan, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Colorado, and Illinois, have eventually suspended the activities of their respective subordinate lodges, some Grand Lodges, like those of Florida, Arizona, Tennessee, and California for instance, left the decision to each of their subordinate lodges whether or not to postpone their respective meetings. Meanwhile, by this time, Masonic activities have already been suspended in Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, France, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, and Italy.

To my knowledge, no other episode in Masonic history has such a simultaneous global postponement of Masonic labors occurred as a result of a common health crisis, with the exception of the 1918 Spanish Flu that killed about 40-50 million people out of possibly 500 million infected worldwide. It was considered the deadliest and most devastating epidemic in recorded history, wiping out about 1% of the population of the entire world. Today's Coronavirus outbreak does not even come close to such a magnitude – not yet. Though contagion is very rapid, the death rate is still relatively low at this point. It should be noted though that those who do recover from a Coronavirus infection can still possibly be left with permanent lung damage that causes difficulty in breathing.[4]

2 Agapito Suan Jr., GM, Circular No. 34: "Urgent protocol on Coronavirus" (Grand Lodge of the Philippines, March 9, 2020).

3 "Coronavirus disease (COVID-2019) situation reports," WHO (World Health Organization, March 16, 2020), www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports.

4 Bill Bostock, "Some people who recover from the coronavirus might be left with 20-30% less lung function," Business Insider (Business Insider, March 13, 2020),

BRETHREN LIKE BRO. BRYAN DY HAD THE WELFARE OF THE FRONTLINERS IN MIND WHEN HE HELPED IN THE PRODUCTION OF FACE SHIELDS.

As of March 17, 2020, Freemasons Hall in England has already been closed to the public. Many Masonic Grand bodies have also issued official directives on the cancellation of meetings of their respective subordinate bodies until further notice. Among such directives found circulated online are those of the Grand Lodge of Ohio cancelling all activities until May 10; the Grand Lodge of Louisiana suspending all activities until April 5; the Grand Lodge of New Zealand suspending all activities until May 31; the Grand Lodge of Virginia suspending all activities until April 30; the Grand Lodge of Maryland suspending all activities until May 1; the Grand Lodge of Nebraska suspending all activities until May 1; the Grand Lodge of Washington DC, including all DC Scottish Rite bodies, postponing their respective works indefinitely; the Grand Lodge of Scotland suspending all activities including those of its Provinces and Districts; and many others. A more complete and updated list of Masonic jurisdictions that have suspended activities due to the pandemic can be found in the Forthright webpage entitled "Freemasonry & COVID-19 Updates."[5]

Incidentally, I was the one who contributed to the said webpage the status of the GLP, which just issued its circular announcing the general suspension of all its activities and events, and those of its subordinate lodges, including the postponement of the scheduled Annual Communication (AnCom) slated for April 23-25 in Olongapo City, and tentatively moved to May 28, 2020.[6] Prior to this circular, the offices of the Grand York Rite bodies of the Philippines[7] and the Supreme Council A&ASR[8] of the Philippines have likewise already suspended all their activities until April 14, 2020.

By the end of the day, the UGLE finally issued its own general suspension of all the meetings for both lodges and chapters within England and Wales for four straight months, while the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons announced the same for all the Masonic orders administered from Mark Masons Hall. The Grand Lodge of Florida, which previously left the prerogative on the suspension of activities to its subordinate lodges, now likewise took matters into its own hands by finally issuing the directive of general suspension up to May 4, 2020.

Despite these global Masonic efforts to help prevent the spread of the virus, through avoidance of physical contacts and suspension of gatherings, Masonry in the Philippines did not stop there. In this time of crisis, lockdowns, and government-imposed self-quarantine measures, some local lodges stepped up, owing to Masonic teachings on charity, by donating much needed materials for the medical frontliners in charge of treating Coronavirus patients. The Masons of Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334, for instance, have gathered surgical facemasks and chlorine disinfectant solutions for donation to such facilities as the Ospital ng Maynila, Sta. Ana Hospital in Manila, Jose Abad Santos Hospital, Manila Medical Center, Jose Reyes Memorial Hospital, Delos Santos Medical Center, San Lorenzo Ruiz General Hospital, Philippine Heart Center, Philippine General Hospital, Rizal Medical Center, and Zone 1 of the Philippine Nursing Association, and to be delivered by Masons who happen to be in the Philippine Army and the Philippine National Police (PNP). The GLP also, through its Disaster Relief Committee, headed by MW Voltaire Gazmin and VW Benito Tan, would later donate, through Bro. Guilor

ON THE OTHER HAND, SOME BRETHREN LIKE BRO. CHRIS MATIC OF BULACAN, PROVIDED THE FRONTLINERS WITH FOOD.

5 "Freemasonry & COVID-19 Updates," Forthright (Forthright powered by WordPress.com, March 16, 2020), www.forthright.space/2020/03/13/freemasonry-covid-19-updates-march-13-2020 and www.twitter.com/forthrighter.

6 Agapito Suan Jr., GM, Circular No. 36: "General suspension of all Masonic activities nationwide and temporary cancellation of AnCom 2020" (Grand Lodge of the Philippines, March 17, 2020).

7 Abergas, Bravo, Lim, Circular: "Urgent national measures on Coronavirus" (Grand York Rite of the Philippines, March 16, 2020).

8 Edilberto Carabbacan, SGC, Circular No. 7, S 2020-EPC: "Urgent national orders for the containment of the Coronavirus" (Supreme Council A&ASR of the Philippines, March 15, 2020).

Eleazar, 4,000 pieces of facemasks to the PNP personnel assigned at quarantine check points. With the growing number of infections in the Philippines, local Masons recognize the need to assist and safeguard the health of the medical and military frontliners risking their lives and those of their families to counter the threat of this virus. It is unfortunate though that as of writing of this log, I have received news that a dear brother Mason in the frontlines, Bro. Dr. Romeo Gregorio "Greg" Macasaet III, Past Master of Keystone Lodge No. 100, and his wife, Dr. Evalyn Macasaet, are now symptomatic of the Coronavirus infection, and are currently in separate isolation rooms at the Manila Doctors Hospital. They were among the first responders to the outbreak in the Philippines and contracted the virus after refusing to leave and abandon their patients and their duties as physicians. They are indeed actual modern-day heroes, and we pray for their immediate recovery. Elsewhere around the world, a Filipino Mason, Bro. Michael Duque, Past Master of Con Amore Lodge No. 3633 of the UGLE, and himself a nurse by profession, has been helping his fellow frontline nurses in the UK. (For a rough list of other Philippine Masons in the frontlines, refer to Appendix 1 of this article, found elsewhere in this issue.)

RIDING IT OUT

This pandemic is theoretically controllable, for as long as people do their part and stay at home as mandated by their governments, and wait until the contagion slowly flattens. In the meantime, the pandemic has actually given everyone a very important gift that many people claim not to have anymore: time – time to spend quality moments with family; to catch up on correspondences; to clean the house; to play with the kids and to tutor them while school is out. Here in the Philippines, our basic communication networks are still operational. There is still cable TV, cellphones, wi-fi, Netflix, and home delivery services for food and grocery items, albeit observing social distancing. Getting through this crisis should be as easy as just staying home.

As Masons, we have likewise been given the gift of time to do other things Masonic in the comfort of our own homes. We could finally open that Masonic book we bought but never found the chance to read. We could brush up on our ritual monitors, and start memorizing those hard lines. We could check up on our elderly brethren over the phone to see if they are still doing well. We could help disseminate all urgent calls for help from distressed brethren to the entire Masonic community in order to expedite assistances, being wary of course not to spread fake news. We could use the current technologies we have to organize some sort of teleconferencing/videoconferencing among brethren, like a virtual lodge meeting or "fellowship," using such platforms as Zoom Cloud Meetings, Google Hangouts, and Facebook Messenger's Group Video Chat. We could enroll in online Masonic courses, listen to Masonic podcasts, watch Masonic videos, or read updates through Masonic periodicals online.

There are many other suggestions from fellow Masons themselves on how to make good use of this time. Bro. Christopher Hodapp, in his blogs "Traveling without Moving: Masonic Improvement during the COVID Panic"[9] and "The COVID Lull: What is your lodge doing;"[10] and MW Michael Nichols, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Washington DC, in his notice of suspending activities in his jurisdiction,[11] both offered excellent ways to make use of this time for Masonry. The Masonic Roundtable episode, "Coronovirus Blues," also offered other suggestions on how to still learn and practice Masonry without having to step foot in lodge.[12] We could even have virtual online Toasts to our absent brethren every 9:00 p.m., as traditional in most Agapes, Table Lodges, and Festive Boards, and most fitting during these times when whole lodges are in fact absent. Bro. Darin Lahner's motivational article, "It's our time to shine," also discussed how our Masonic principles can guide our acts during these dark hours.[13]

For those among us so inclined, we could try our hand in writing – about our thoughts on Masonry – bringing out our contemplative side, and then sharing whatever wisdom in social media. For those among us who are still fit and young could deliver groceries to the elderly, or assemble for them "rescue packs," containing essential medicines, facemasks, soap, and alcohol. Capable brethren could go help the medical frontliners by donating food, medical supplies, protective gear, or even just a ride

9 Christopher Hodapp, "Traveling Without Moving: Masonic Improvement During the COVID Panic," Freemasons for Dummies (Blogger.com, March 15, 2020), www.freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/2020/03/traveling-without-moving-masonic.html.

10 Christopher Hodapp, "The COVID Lull: What Is Your Lodge Doing," Freemasons for Dummies (Blogger.com, March 20, 2020), www.freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/2020/03/the-covid-lull-what-is-your-lodge-doing.html.

11 "Masonry Never Stops," Freemasons for Dummies (Blogger.com, March 16, 2020), www.freemasonsfordummies.blogspot.com/2020/03/masonry-never-stops.html.

12 "Coronavirus Blues," The Masonic Roundtable (YouTube, March 20, 2020), www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQy9XwU2uro.

13 Darin Lahners, "It's Our Time to Shine," The Midnight Freemasons (Blogger.com, March 18, 2020), www.midnightfreemasons.org/2020/03/its-our-time-to-shine.html

home (as many local health workers were reportedly unable to go to work or go back home due to the ban on public utility transportations during the lockdowns), while of course still observing necessary precautions so as not to get infected ourselves, thereby consequently infecting our own families. Some of us could even do cash donations online without having to leave home, with most local banks already equipped with cellphone apps capable of transferring funds wherever and whenever.

It is important to remember that while Masonic gatherings have stopped for a while, Masonry itself does not and will not stop. Through all the wars, epidemics, and economic collapses in recent history, Masonry has persisted as a constant beacon of light and hope. The Masonic tenets of Brotherly Love, Relief, and Truth are applicable now more than ever. Let us practice them, apply them, and contribute in getting society out of the darkness. For the greater majority of us Masons, however, the best way we can do that is by staying home and staying healthy. We cannot effectively help others if we do not help ourselves first.

Keeping our distance will help prevent the spread of the virus and save lives. Israeli Defense Minister Naftali Bennett even suggested a simple yet effective way of containing and surviving this pandemic, i.e., by segregating the elderly from younger people for the time being, allowing the young to ride the storm until it's over, thus protecting the elderly from fatal infection and eventually minimizing the cases of deaths. The young still needs to take care of the elderly, but from afar, by bringing them food in their homes, while still observing social distancing. By this manner, theoretically, the majority of the population would eventually develop immunity to the virus, thus ending the epidemic.[14]

There is no telling how bad this situation is going to get in the coming days, which is why I will continue to monitor and log the events herewith. I only ask for your pardon if ever this chronicle may turn out haphazardly written, for I jot things down as they happen. In the meantime, I advise everyone to follow the regulations set by our respective local government units. In the event that you need to go out to buy food and other necessities, observe proper precautions like maintaining distance with other people, wearing proper facemasks, washing of hands regularly with soap, and disinfecting your clothes immediately when you get back home to avoid accidentally contaminating

14 "Bennett: Isolating the elderly as nation develops immunity is key to defeating virus," i24News (TVi Media LLC, March 21, 2020), www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/1584727140-bennett-isolating-the-elderly-as-nation-develops-herd-immunity-is-key-to-defeating-virus.

the rest of your household. And please do not go on panic-buying. Other people need food to survive too. And when they start running out of food, it will bring forth a threat much worse than the virus itself – hunger – driving people to possible mass lootings, as food becomes increasingly scarcer than ever before. Stocking up in excess also deprives the elderly who cannot possibly compete with the rest of us for what limited resources remain. Buying excess alcohols and facemasks likewise deprives our medical frontliners who need them more than we do in effectively doing their job and in protecting themselves from infection. If anything happens to them, God help us all. Let us all think and act rationally, and look out for each other. These are extraordinary times that require extraordinary measures in order to survive. Precaution is the key, not panic.

IN THE HOURS OF DARKNESS

It's been days now since the entire country was placed under a state of calamity. By this time, everything is closed, except hospitals, banks, drug stores, grocery stores, and other vital establishments. Some restaurants are open, but only for take-out and home deliveries. Some companies are now implementing work-from-home methods for their employees. Some church and religious services have also been suspended.

Here in our community, municipal vehicles have been roaming around with megaphones, telling people to just stay home to help prevent the spread of the virus. No one could leave their houses without quarantine passes, and only one person per household is allowed to have one. Checkpoints exist in certain community entrances, taking the temperatures of those coming in. The rest of the city is a virtual ghost town. What were once busy streets jammed in traffic are now empty and eerily silent. Store shelves are empty all the time even amidst frequent restocking. And when local government units start distributing relief good, a swarm of people, many of whom don't even have quarantine passes, begin to tussle among themselves for food, no longer mindful of regulations and social distancing protocols. News, whether fake or not, are already circulating across various social media platforms, like Viber and Facebook, about certain well-off homes being looted, causing some private and gated communities to start setting up barbed wires around their perimeters. It's like an apocalypse movie come to life.

On the global scale. major economies[15] and financial markets

15 Jim Tankersley, "US shuts down its economy; What needs to happen to restart," The New York Times (The New York Times Company, March 22, 2020), www.nytimes.com/2020/03/22/us/politics/coronavirus-economy-shutdown.html.

have already plunged.[16] The Bank of America has already officially declared their economy fallen into recession and expected to collapse by the second quarter of the year.[17] Even currencies such as the US dollar are being hoarded, upsetting world currency exchange. Indeed, this pandemic has already exceeded the gravity of the 2008 financial crisis and is now approaching the severity of the Great Depression.

Then there are the never ending reports of new infections and reinfections all over the world, while many hospitals, local ones especially, have already reached full capacity and could no longer take in new patients. Testing kits for Coronavirus infection are sorely lacking, with those made in China having 70% false results rate. In Europe, the lack of respirators prompted hospitals to remove them from Coronavirus patients over the age of 65, just so they can be used instead on others who may have better chances of surviving. Funeral homes too have started rejecting bodies especially those coming from hospitals. To make things worse, there is news that a potentially more dangerous virus, the Bird Flu (H5N6), has likewise emerged in Central Luzon[18], and the Hantavirus emerging as well in China.[19]

In the Masonic front, some doctors who are Masons are already reaching out to their brethren for help in replenishing their quickly depleting supply of facemasks and other protective gear. I cannot stress enough how important it is that we make sure our medical frontliners are themselves protected. We need them now more than ever for civilization itself to endure. Sadly, just now, we received the tragic news that our dear brother Mason in the frontlines, Bro. Dr. Greg Macasaet, has passed away due to complications arising from the Coronavirus infection, while his wife continues to fight for her life. Before Bro. Greg died, he wrote a final letter of instruction, dated March 16, 2020,

16 Yun Li, "Wall Street's fear gauge closes at highest level ever, surpassing even financial crisis peak," CNBC LLC (NBC Universal, March 16, 2020), www.cnbc.com/2020/03/16/wall-streets-fear-gauge-hits-highest-level-ever.html.

17 Pippa Stevens, "Bank of America says the recession is already here: Jobs will be lost, wealth will be destroyed," CNBC LLC (NBC Universal, March 19, 2020), www.cnbc.com/2020/03/19/bank-of-america-says-the-recession-is-already-here-jobs-will-be-lost-wealth-will-be-destroyed.html.

18 "Bird flu detected in Nueva Ecija quail farm, can affect humans," CNN Philippines (Nine Media Corp. and Cable News Network,March 16, 2020), www.cnnphilippines.com/news/2020/3/16/Bird-flu-H5N6-avian-influenza-Nueva-Ecija.html.

19 Grace Macrae, "Man in China dies of new deadly virus ahead of coronavirus lockdown being lifted in Wuhan," Express (Express, March 25, 2020), www.express.co.uk/news/world/1259862/hantavirus-news-coronavirus-lockdown-lifted-Wuhan-china-boris-johnson-latest-updates-death.

that he be accorded his last rites, Masonic or otherwise, in the event of his death. His bravery, selflessness, heroism, and composure throughout his ordeal made us all proud. If we could only immediately accord him the highest honors we could possibly bestow, but unfortunately, such would have to wait until the crisis is over. Bro. Greg also expressed – through a text message to Bro. Renato Paraiso, his godson – his last wishes that his wife and child be accorded financial assistance. Almost immediately, pledges came forth, as many people knew Bro. Greg to be a generous and selfless person. Also, his letter of instruction and last wishes gave the rest of us another valuable lesson during this time of uncertainty – that we ourselves should likewise start preparing and setting our own affairs in order, preferably through a Last Will and Testament. Details and instructions on how to make one that is specific to Masons can be found in an article in the Far Eastern Freemason magazine, entitled "How to prepare your own Masonic Last Will and Testament." Bro. Greg's last wishes[20] also inspired VW Teodoro Kalaw IV, Senior Grand Lecturer of the GLP, to organize a drive called the "WB Greg Macasaet Special Memorial Fund," meant to help the families of departed Masons due to the Coronavirus.

Incidentally, three other Masons, considered persons under investigation (PUI) for Coronavirus infection, have also passed away – Bros. Gerardo Ibasco of Manuel C. Ibasco Lodge 432, Virgilio Gesmundo of Malinaw Lodge 25, and Maximino Valiente of Malolos Lodge 48.

When there's no telling how many more of our brethren would succumb to the virus, Bro. Harold Santiago, Past Master of Pampanga Lodge No. 48 volunteered to assist the lodges with departed members by preparing for them the Scroll of Remembrance and the Certificate for the Benefit of the Family, which would be sent via email. Though not official, it would for now help in the preparation of Masonic funeral rites once already possible to do so.[21]

Meanwhile, we have received reports that the former Circulations Manager of The Cable Tow, VW Jose Avelino Magbanua, is currently in quarantine in New Jersey after testing positive for the Coronavirus. Bro. Senator Sonny Angara has likewise tested positive and started exhibiting symptoms. Let us all pray for their speedy recovery.

The situation right now seems grim and bleak. We feel helpless and

20 Giovanni Villegas, "How to prepare your own Masonic Last Will & Testament," The Far Eastern Freemason (1st Quarter Issue, The Supreme Council 33° Philippines, March 2016), 29-38.

21 Contact Bro. Joseph Harold Santiago at +639209093194, +639228816755, or jhsantiago48@gmail.com.

powerless. We miss our friends, our relatives, and our Masonic brethren at lodge. Some Masons, in small isolated groups, have already started using videoconferencing to see each other virtually, to check up on each other, and conduct "fellowship" even when physically apart. It is an inspiring example of the bond that exists among Masons, especially during these dark times. The UGLE also has started inviting Masons, and eventually the general public, to partake, whether alone or online, in what is known as the Masonic Nine O'Clock Toast, (London time, apparently) not only "to our absent brethren", as traditional in the said Toast, but to all absent friends and loves ones, especially those in quarantine and those in the frontlines.[22]

Despite the desolation that befell the world at large, good news and other inspiring examples can still be found if you look for them. For instance, Ang Tipolo Lodge, after its successful delivery of facemasks and chlorine disinfectant solutions to frontliners a few days ago, is now currently in the process of developing and producing face shields, through the factory of Bro. Bryan Dy II. Isagani Masonic Lodge No. 96, through the leadership of its Master, Worshipful Bro. Janus Rommel Lim, and as facilitated by Bro. Dr. Restituto Balmaceda, just donated face shields, facemasks, and chlorine disinfectant solutions to 10 health centers around Tarlac City. Meanwhile, Bro. Mayor Emerson Pascual of nearby Gapan City, Nueva Ecija, has been doing an outstanding service in his municipality, personally carrying the heavy sacks of food himself for distribution, and even donating much of his own personal savings because of the city's lack of funds.[23]

Even more good news, let us not forget the fact that, though the number of deaths continue to rise, the number of recovering cases are still higher. There are reports, even, of an experimental set of medications (chloroquin/hydroxychloroquin, azithromycin, and zinc sulfate) that have elsewhere been proven effective as treatment and cure,[24] although awaiting official comments from the WHO, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Philippine Department of Health (DOH).

22 Chantal Da Silva, "Freemasons call on public to join centuries-old tradition to remind them they are not alone admidst Coronavirus outtbreak," Newsweek (Newsweek, March 23, 2020), https://www.newsweek.com/freemasons-call-public-join-centuries-old-tradition-remind-them-they-are-not-alone-amid-1493807.

23 Arniel Serato, "Superman Mayor lifts sacks of rice and delivers them to 34,000 households," Esquire (EsquireMag, March 26, 2020), www.esquiremag.ph.

24 "A Coronavirus Cure - Trials in France show generic drugs have 100% COVID-19 treatment success," Glen Beck Channel (YouTube, March 19, 2020), www.youtube.com/watch?v=bM6vNRSKT4Y.

For now, let us stay put and follow the directives of our local governments and Grand Lodges. They have been designed for our own safety and for that of our communities. For reference, below is a current update per area of the general suspensions still in effect on record across Masonic jurisdictions worldwide:

In Europe, Masonic activities are still suspended in the jurisdictions of Belgium, Denmark, England, Finland, France (all major French Masonic obediences), Greece (for confirmation), Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Romania (for confirmation), Scotland, and Sweden. In the US, suspensions are still in effect in the jurisdictions of Arkansas, California, Delaware, Washington DC, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming. In Canada, general suspensions were reported for Alberta, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan. In South America, general suspensions were reported for Argentina, and the Federal District of Brazil. In Asia, suspensions are still in effect in the jurisdictions of the Philippines, India, Korea, Turkey, and Singapore (Irish Constitution). In Australia and New Zealand, suspensions are still in effect in the jurisdictions of Victoria and South Australia.

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE

We are now approaching the end of March. China, Japan, and South Korea seem to be starting to do well in controlling the spread of virus. The same cannot be said however for the rest of the world. Immunity and immunization to the virus are still nowhere in sight. Cases of reinfections abound and vaccines are still under development and testing. This means that even if we get through this particular pandemic, either by the natural decline of its cycle or by the successful management of its spread, it only takes another community infection from a surviving carrier to trigger a second wave of contagion, and restart the outbreak all over again.

As of now, March 27, 2020, the approximate number of cases worldwide has risen to 532,000+, with 24,000+ deaths and 124,000+ recovered. In the Philippines, the number of confirmed cases increased to 707, with 45 deaths, and 28 recovered.[25]

It is important to remember that

25 "COVID-19 Coronavirus Pandemic," Worldometer (Dadax, March 26, 2020), www.worldometers.info/coronavirus.

while it is necessary to stay in touch with the latest updates, even amidst our current state of helplessness during lockdowns and quarantines, I would advise, for your own mental and psychological well-being, to not watch too much news than necessary, as I have. As you can see from the above, it can be quite terrifying.

However, for all we know, this may now truly be our permanent condition and lifestyle for the coming years: always mindful of social distancing, always wearing facemasks, always frequently washing hands, and always avoiding public gatherings. If this indeed shall become of us, how do we move on and adapt to this new conformity in order to go on with our lives? That remains to be seen in the coming days, months, even years; and the possibilities are endless. An article in the Manila Times, entitled "COVID new world, a game changer", gives us an idea of how society and our way of life will be changed forever.[26] For now, our primary concern as Masons is how to keep Masonry going should things indeed turn out for the worst.

Firstly, maintaining the status quo is still most likely to occur. Lodges will eventually re-open, and their labors will resume, but with precautions set it place. For instance, gloves and facemasks might become mandatory; meetings might be reduced to quarterly instead monthly; voluntary absences among brethren may no longer be subject to penalties as before; lodge rooms might be made to equip themselves with disinfectants and hand sanitizers; and attendees might need to pass thermal scanners, sanitation tents, and other disinfection procedures before entering the building or the room. Everything else, however, would remain unchanged, including the close and physical contacts inherent in Masonic meetings and degree works. All these might be good ideas, if only such measures could address the detection of those already infected with the Coronavirus, or any virus for that matter, while being asymptomatic. Remember that just one infected Mason could endanger the entire lodge and consequently their respective families.

There is one alternative yet drastic measure that comes to mind, however, that many conservative Masons might find disconcerting – innovation. Perhaps the time has indeed come for Masonry to evolve and acclimatize itself, for it is no longer a matter of convenience but of survival. No longer will it seem feasible to exchange grips and tokens through close and physical contact among Masons, knowing fully well now the potential contagion it may cause. Perhaps the manner by which meetings are conducted and the corresponding rituals they follow should now be significantly revised, for never in our lifetime did we have this kind of challenge presented to us as Masons. It is but natural to adapt to the changing times. Just some ideas of innovation are: using visual aids to demonstrate grips and the five points of fellowship to initiates instead of actually performing them; revising the opening and closing rituals to make do without the communication of the substitute for the Ancient Master's Word; and making a short-form version of the rituals for degree works that eliminates the need for close and physical contact, maybe going as far as returning to the earliest days of Masonry when the degrees were conferred merely by the recitation and memorization of catechisms. Other innovations that do not tamper on our ancient traditions but rather make use of present technologies include, for example, adopting digital videoconferencing. One lodge in France and another in New York have already tried such videoconferencing as alternative to their regular stated meetings for this month, while others in the UK have done the same as an informal "harmony" or social chat with Toasts.

All these ideas, like I said, are drastic, and I myself frown upon some of them, especially those that require a departure from our traditions and ceremonies. But these innovations may eventually become the only ways to safely perpetuate Masonry during this new era of dangerous pathogens, whether viral or bacterial, many of which have already rendered most vaccines and antibiotics ineffective.

ABOVE: BRO. RONALD DELA ROSA ENSURED AGAINST POSSIBLE SPREAD OF COVID-19 CONTAMINATION IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD IN TAYTAY, RIZAL BY HELPING OUT IN THE DISINFECTATION DRIVE.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED

The pandemic continues and the world continues to ride it out. This episode in our history under the time of the coronavirus is a story that is still unfolding to this day. Worst case scenarios aside, hope still looms. This too, they say, shall pass. The world, in the meantime, has been given the time and the opportunity to stop, regroup, and maybe start over with a clean slate. If such is the case, be calm and be at peace.

26 George Siy, "COVID new world, a game changer," The Manila Times (The Manila Times, March 22, 2020), www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/22/opinion/columnists/covid-new-world-a-game-changer/704952.

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Recognize that there are things we can control and things we cannot. For those things we can control, labor to make a positive change and impact. For those we cannot, accept them as reality, knowing that everything will eventually turn out for the best in the long run. In fact, one would notice that during the course of this pandemic, it was as if the invisible hand of the Almighty swept throughout the world, not to punish it, but to put everything in place and in perspective. Think about it: almost everything we had been praying for has just been given to us – no more traffic, lesser pollution, lowered gas prices, and an abundance of time at home to spend with family – so much time, in fact, that we no longer know what to do with it. Suddenly, work was no longer the priority. Travel, leisure, and social lives are also no longer on our agenda. We began to see and realize what truly matters most in life: family, togetherness, love, compassion, empathy, hope. The lack of food and other resources made us beholden to a great leveler, as money no longer matters. Whether rich or poor, we are all in this together – suffering and enduring the same hardships. And then we begin to help each other, knowing fully well that it is the only way for us to survive as a society, as a civilization, and as a human race.

A SURGEON BY PROFESSION, BRO. HAROLD NANQUIL BRAVES THE RISK TO SERVE HIS PATIENTS AMIDST THE THREAT OF COVID-19.

Needless to say, this pandemic also gave the Earth a much needed break and a chance to heal. There are now less cars, less planes, and less pollution. The air is much cleaner. In fact, a friend of my wife just texted her, saying that the air became so clear that they could now actually see the skyline of Metro Manila from their bedroom window in nearby Antipolo City – a view previously clouded by smog. Even the landscape of faraway Sierra Madre could now be seen from Shaw Boulevard. The water as viewed from Manila Bay is now blue instead of gray. And another friend, a brother Mason, also texted me, telling how he has learned so much about Masonry

ICU NURSE BRO. PAOLO RODIRGUEZ OF KALIBO, AKLAN HAS BEEN GETTING SOLID SUPPORT FROM THE BRETHREN AS WELL AS PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS.

in recent days because of all the free time he had spent reading and studying about it at home.

It is true after all that there is no such thing as a bad situation, only learning experiences that herald good situations from coming forth, like an organism adapting and strengthening itself against changes in its environment. We Masons also have been given an opportunity to realize what truly matters most in Masonry: It's not about the gatherings, social events, or the reading of the minutes. Masonry is about the inner work[27] – through learning and contemplation, even when thus alone – the better to enable us to serve society to which we belong. It is about caring for our brethren and all of humanity even from afar, doing what we believe is best in accordance with our own individual capacities – whether braving the outside in the frontlines or just staying home to prevent contaminating ourselves and others. It is about keeping in touch – with family, friends, and brethren – though not necessarily through physical means. It is about aiding and assisting a brother in need. For instance, amidst my worries for my elderly parents – who are far away, living by themselves just the two of them, and whom I cannot visit or look after because of the lockdowns, and are now quickly running out of food – a kind and helpful brother, VW Anthony Tan of Isagani Masonic Lodge, graciously offered to check up on them on my behalf. Masonry is indeed about applying the tenets and teachings of Masonry for the benefit of our brethren and of all mankind. You don't need to have a meeting to learn and serve Masonry. It was never about going through the chairs, collecting degrees, or aspiring for positions and awards. It was, and always has been, about Brotherly Love (caring), Relief (helping), and Truth (learning). It is just unfortunate that it took a global pandemic for many of us to start realizing that.

27 "COVID-19: Teaching Freemasons they've been Doing It Wrong," From Darkness to Light (Wix.com, March 15, 2020), www.fromdarknesstolightblog.com/post/covid-19-teaching-freemasons-they-ve-been-doing-it-wrong

BRETHREN AT THE FRONTLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC OF 2020

MEDICAL

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Dr. Romeo Gregorio Macasaet III +	Keystone Lodge No. 100	MD
Dr. Michael Perez	Kasilawan Lodge No. 77/LPDO 1034 SC	MD, St. Patrick's Hospital, Batangas
Dr. Frederick Enrile	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	MD
Dr. Harold Nanquil	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	MD
Dr. George Cheng	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	MD
Bryan Dy II	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	manufacturer, facemasks, etc.
Dr. Melanio Lazaro	San Mateo Lodge No. 319	MD, media
Dr. Restituto Balmaceda	Isagani Lodge No. 96	MD
Dr. Benedicto Benin	Isagani Lodge No. 96	MD
Dr. Grig Misiona	Jacques DeMolay Mem. Lodge No. 305	MD, Metropolitan Medical Center
Mark Angelo Rodriguez	Frank Reed Horton Lodge No. 379	RN, hemodialysis
Dr. Elvis Lacdan Bedia	Dr. Jose P. Rizal Lodge No. 270	MD
Dr. Anner A. Marquez	Perpetual Lodge No. 425	MD
Dr. Roy Alan Malolos	Perpetual Lodge No. 426	MD
Dr. Ralph Joseph B. Comia	San Pedro Lodge No. 292	MD
Filemon I. Sibulo	San Pedro Lodge No. 292	
Jessie Villareal	San Pedro Lodge No. 292	
Dr. Antonio Vertido	Trece Martires City ML 350	NBI
Dr. Roberto San Diego	Trece Martires City ML 350	NBI
Dr. Joey Ancheta	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Baguio General Hospital
Dr. Banny Bay Genuino	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Baguio General Hospital
Dr. Denish Talavera	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Baguio General Hospital
Dr. Antonio Tactay	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Baguio General Hospital
Dr. James Paggao	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Baguio General Hospital
Dr. Robert Capuyan	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Baguio General Hospital
Dr. William Occidental	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD
Dr. Dwight Black	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Baguio General Hospital
Alger Estillorre	Baguio Lodge No. 67	RN, Baguio General Hospital
Dr. Kristoffer Batino	Baguio Lodge No. 67	MD, Diego Silang
Dr. Wax Guillermo	Tabak Lodge No. 436	MD
Louie Castro	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	MD
Dr. Rommel Japson	High Twelve Lodge No. 82	MD, Sorsogon
Dr. Mario Aquino	High Twelve Lodge No. 82	PNP
Dr. Rolly Chiu	Beacon Masonic Lodge No. 213	Surgeon
Kent Garzon	Iligan Lodge No. 207	RN
Dr. Jehrome Pascual	Apayao Lodge No. 396	MD

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Exact names, lodges, and descriptions are as provided by their sources and may thus contain inaccuracies. Compiled by Bro. Giovanni A. Villegas. In no particular order. For reference only.

MEDICAL

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Dr. Jeraldy Garcia	Apayao Lodge No. 396	MD
Dr. Oliver Lacambra	Apayao Lodge No. 396	MD, Gov't medical specialist
Gregory Bangon	Apayao Lodge No. 396	RN
Dr. Leandro Quiming	Magat Lodge No. 68.	MD, La Union Medical Center
Roy Claudio	Kapatiran Lodge No. 228	Nurse, Talavera General Hospital
Sergio Parocha Jr.	Kapatiran Lodge No. 228	Nurse, Talavera General Hospital
Roy Gumban	Red Mountain Lodge No. 241	
Dr. Remer Pugeda	Molino Lodge No. 352	MD
Dr. Bojo Salazar	Maharlika Lodge No. 180	MD
Dr. Lawrence Caramat	Maharlika Lodge No. 180	MD
Dr. Dean Paggao	Maharlika Lodge No. 180	MD
Dr. Harold Bañez	Maharlika Lodge No. 180	MD
Dr. Bernardine Reyes	Maharlika Lodge No. 180	MD, City health officer
Dr. Angel Garcia	Timpuyog Lodge No. 343	MD
Dr. Emmanuel Salamanca	Timpuyog Lodge No. 343	MD
Dr. Salvador Ramones	San Mateo Lodge No. 319	MD
Dr. Adrian Bragat	Ormoc Masonic Lodge No. 534	Dentist, Border team leader
Dr. Roger Baguioen	RS Roque Memorial Lodge No. 289	MD, Director Quirino Prov. Hospital
Dr. Sherwin Banan	RS Roque Memorial Lodge No. 289	MD
Dr. Henry Ratag	Fairway Lodge No. 415	MD
Dr. Joseph Magkasi	Manuel Ibasco Lodge No. 432	MD
Dr. Oliver Arenas	Marcelo H. Del Pilar Lodge No. 272	MD
Dr. Romelo Vergara	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	MD, Chief of Hospital
Dr. Valentino Tiu	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	MD
Dr. Serafin Uy	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	MD
Dr. Ronnie Gurdiel	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	MD
Normal Villanueva	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	RN
Dr. Lemuel Uy	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	MD
Dr. Lester Leocadio	Makahambus Lodge No. 315	MD
Dr. Eric Montesclaros	Red Mountain Lodge No. 241	Prov'l Health Officer
Dr. Roy Gumban	Red Mountain Lodge No. 241	MD, ASTMC Hospital
James Goffort	Red Mountain Lodge No. 241	PD Sur. del Sur
Armand Martizano	Red Mountain Lodge No. 241	COP Lingig PS
Isagani Ybañez	Red Mountain Lodge No. 241	COP Hinatuan PS
Dr. Vladymir Enriquez	Kasiguruhan Lodge No. 423	Chief Med. Offr, Aurora Mem. Hosp.
Dr. Luis Teodoro De Castro	Kalilayan Masonic Lodge No. 37	DOH dentist and nurse

BRETHREN AT THE FRONTLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC OF 2020

MEDICAL

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Edmund Suba	Anchor Lodge No. 159	RN, CLDH Tarlac
Paolo Rodriguez	Aklan Memorial Lodge No. 205	RN, Kalibo Aklan
Karl Raymond Oquendo	Aklan Memorial Lodge No. 205	Central Supply Officer, Kalibo Aklan
Dr. Eduuardo Calpito	Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279	MD, Mt. Province
Dr. Rey Raymond Del Rosario	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	MD
Christopher Valenzuela	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	RN
RJ Cavas	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	Rad. Tech.
Benjie Nuñez	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	Dentist
Jojo Viterbo	Zapote Lodge No. 29	Emergy medical services and rescue
Dr. Roger Peralta II	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	MD, Tayug Gen. Hosp
Dr. Charles Paragas	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	MD
Dr. Ray Soriano	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	dentist
Armand Lloyd Valdez	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	AFP, military nurse
Dr. Greg Macero	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	MD
Dr. Angel Albert Lamban	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	MD
Roger Braceros	Laoag Lodge No. 71	Chief of Roque Ablan Hosp; Governor
John Jowell Jose	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	RN, ER, Medical Center Imus
Karl Panganiban	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	Respiratory Therapist, UST Hosp.
Dr. Edgardo. Armendi	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	MD
Dr. Rafael Vasquez	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	MD
Augusto Gonzales	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	Emergency Medical services rescue
Dexter Solis	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	Emergency Medical services rescue
Manuel Jaldon	Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390	RN, NMMC
Dr. Joselito Yulo	Mt. Huraw Lodge No. 98	MD, Samar Prov. Hosp.
Carlo De Guzman	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	medical
Leo Marco De Guzman	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	medical
Jet Francis Ramos	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	RN
Tristan Sanidad	RS Roque Memorial Lodge No. 289	pharmacist
Dr. Felipe Salvador	Ganano Lodge No. 313	MD
Dr. Gilbert Layon	Northern Samar Lodge No. 211	MD
Glenn Mathew Baggao	Isabela Lodge No. 60	Chief, Cagayan Valley Med. Ctr
Michael Agustin	Itawes Lodge No. 215	MedTech CJMC
Dr. Emmanuel Loyola	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	MD
Dr. Buddy Ciabal	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	MD
Dr. Raul Ciabal	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	MD
Dr. Michael Galicia	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	MD

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MEDICAL

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Dr. Michael Galicia	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	MD
Leonel Mario Barte	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	pharmacy owner
Carlo Niño Garcia	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	Medtech
Arnel Ceriola	Jacobo Zobel Mem. Lodge No. 202	SLMC head of security
Frankie Candelario	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	police health services
Ibrahim Pangato Jr.	Bantungan Lodge No. 223	MD, Chief of Cotabato Sanitarium
Michael Sevilla	Manila-Mt. Lebanon Lodge No. 1	RN, MD (Huston, Texas)
Gil Razalan	Masonic Lodge Ferndale 506 (Michigan)	RN Detroit Medical Center
Michael Duque	Con Amore Lodge 3633 (UGLE)	RN

ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Guillermo Eleazar	Labong Lodge No. 59	PNP Deputy Chief of Operations
Herminio Tadeo Jr.	Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279	PNP Director for Health Services
Benjamin Sembrano	Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279	Police City Director, Olongapo
Chevalier Iringan	Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279	PRO2, Tuguegarao
Dan Kwajao	Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279	Philippine Army
Jonel Topino	Ari-Tau Lodge No. 279	Police officer
Adir Quiocho	Laoag Lodge No. 71	Chief of Police, Laoag City
Jonathan Cuntapay	Mt. Huraw Lodge No. 98	Chief of Police, Daram Samar
Randy Anito	Glicerio Lim Lodge No. 222	Chief of Police, El Salvador, Mis. Or.
Jaime Datuin	Isagani Lodge No. 96	Philippine Army
Ritchie Capulong	Isagani Lodge No. 96	Philippine Army
Edward Jun Evora	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	PNP
Eduard Untalan	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	PNP
Jojo De Jesus	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	PNP
Marlon Canlapan	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	PNP
Rommel Condez	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	PNP
Wille Espineli	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	PNP
FCM Geo Colibao	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	PNP
Chester Gans II	Trece Martires City ML 350	NBI
Arnel Bacud	Trece Martires City ML 350	NBI
Josseler Bangit	Trece Martires City ML 350	NBI
Henry Austria	Trece Martires City ML 350	PNP
Alvin Marquez	Trece Martires City ML 350	PNP

BRETHREN AT THE FRONTLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC OF 2020

ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Glen Guyuran	Trece Martires City ML 350	PNP
Col. Reynam Patam	Trece Martires City ML 350	PNP
Kithy Boy Costelo	Trece Martires City ML 350	PNP
Romel Dacanay	Trece Martires City ML 350	Army
Rommel Pereña	Trece Martires City ML 350	Navy
Lorenzo Detran,Jr.	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	PNP
Roderick Mining	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	PNP
Ferdinand Navarro	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	PNP
Julito Rabena II	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	PNP
Randy Tibayan	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
Allaine Oliver Palasigue	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
Elias Nacaytuna	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
Jonathan Panes	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
Jessie Boy Passion	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
Orville T Dizon	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
Ammer Adviento	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
PJ Malano	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Air Force
Manuel Canipas Jr.	Apayao Lodge No. 396	PNP
Henry Villagonzalo	Cabuyao City Lodge No. 442	PNP
Alejandro Aragon	Cabuyao City Lodge No. 442	PNP
Reynaldo Samson	Molino Lodge No. 352	PNP, San Pedro Police Station
Guiseppe Tamayo	Molino Lodge No. 352	PNP, Calamba Police Station
Geejay EA Cruz	Molino Lodge No. 352	PNP, Bulacan Provincial Officer
Harinawa Niel Cruzado	Molino Lodge No. 352	CIDG
Emerson Custodio	Molino Lodge No. 352	HPG PRO4A
Jerson Mapola	Molino Lodge No. 352	MIMAROPA
Armand Mapola	Molino Lodge No. 352	BJMP
Michael Aquino	San Jose City Lodge No. 309	PNP
Julius Abon	San Mateo Lodge No. 319	PNP
Reynard Ricardo	San Mateo Lodge No. 319	PNP
Ronald Odchimar	Ormoc Lodge No. 534	AFP
John Batusbatusan	Joseph Schon Memorial Lodge No. 186	PNP
Jerwin Battung	Kagitingan Lodge No. 286	San Pedro Police Station
Alexander Fazon Jr.	Agusan Valley Lodge No. 160	PNP EOD Technician
Randolf Asunsion	Marcelo H. Del Pilar Lodge No. 272	SWAT
Jear Diaz	Marcelo H. Del Pilar Lodge No. 272	Police officer

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ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Freddie Colico	Marcelo H. Del Pilar Lodge No. 272	Police officer
Erson Digal	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Dennis Tano	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Jingle Esik	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Rolang Flores IV	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Jhonova Palma	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Dennis Acosta	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Dennis Resurecion	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Dennis Arrado	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Dodge Aranggo	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
George Sabado	Gregorio Calit Memorial Lodge No. 154	military
Joseph Ortega	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	PNP Personnel
Edison Alviar	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	PNP Personnel
Rolando Guerrero	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	PNP Personnel
Jefferson Balindan	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	PNP Personnel
Romeo Awit	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	PNP Personnel
Don Richard Conag	Mt. Kaladias Lodge No. 91	PNP
Bayani Balbuena	Manuel Quezon Mem.Lodge No. 262	PNP
Rhandy Santos	Manuel Quezon Mem. Lodge No. 262	PNP
Leandro Novilla	Manuel Quezon Mem. Lodge No. 262	PNP DPDO NE
Zaldy Tangdol	Manuel Quezon Mem. Lodge No. 262	PNP
Kenneth Ladaga	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	AFP
Darwin Monteron	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	AFP
Ricky Praferosa	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	PNP
Josephus Ramos	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	PNP
Norman Fabi	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	PNP
Quintin Tusara, Jr.	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	PNP
Geric Yuson	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	PNP
Erwin Rebellon	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	HPG
Andy Rosero	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	PNP
Elmer Azurez	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	PNP
Lemuel Tatlonghari	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	PNP
Vladimir Figura	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	PNP
Napoleon Pabon	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	PA
Karl Guardacasa	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	PA
Rey Paguirigan	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	BJMP

BRETHREN AT THE FRONTLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC OF 2020

ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Roderick Rojas	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	BJMP
Rey Pajarillo	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	Prov. Warden
Neil Subibi	Jose Abad Santos Lodge No. 333	Bataan Dst. Jail, COVID team leader
Stephen Parreño	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	AFP
Loumer Bernabe	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	AFP
Eisen Perdido	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	AFP
Rocky Carreon	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	AFP
Rommel Bognalbal	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	AFP
Noel Tiu	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	AFP
Bryan Bacit	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	AFP
Christian Valenzuela	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	PNP
Paolo Mellona	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	PNP
Christtobal Valenzuela	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	PNP
Albert Balasbas	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	PNP
Mark Angelo Raras	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	PNP
Regenaldo Celada	Tacloban Lodge No. 221	AFP, Camsur checkpoint
Romulo Albacea	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	PNP
Romel B Caparros	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	PNP
Jun Villarosa	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	HPG
Dandy Aguilar	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	PNP
Michael Layosa	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	Philippine Army
Elchor Caralian	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	
Gerry Balaba	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	PNP
Anthony Abundo	Bagong Buhay Lodge No. 17	PNP, border checkpoint
Isaias Bacurnay	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Ernesto John Montañez Jr.	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Bryan Callanta	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Alberto Buaya	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Gary Mangubat	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Linoraldo Torres	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Marvin Enciso	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Nathaniel Postrano	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	PNP checkpoints/chokepoints
Mark Gladys Segundo	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	Phil. Navy, Cavite
Rodolfo Castil Jr.	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	PNP AKG
John Paolo Sayas	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	AFP
Arvin Jacob	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	PNP COP Binalonan

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ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Domingo Soriano	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	PNP
Feddie Caballero II	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	BJMP
Joseph Abel Jarabejo	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	PNP
Josefino Titung	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	PNP
Paul Abay	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	PNP
Rodelio Samson	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Leyte Police office
Froilan Lopez	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Zamboanga Police Office
Buenaventura Benavidez	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	NHQ Camp Crame
Jacinto Lopez	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Mapandan PS
Patrick Guba	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Manaoag PS
Stephen Decano	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Sual PS
Gabriel Tayko	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Camp Aquinaldo
Clarence Mayangao	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Olongapo Dist Jail
EAM Rodel Gabatin	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	Umingan PS
Rannie Lumactod	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	PNP AKG
Josefhus Trecho	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	PNP-CBRNE
George Meneses	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	PNP
Cesar Cañazares	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	AFP
Erwin Coronado	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	AFP
Captain Silvestre Castro	Juan Sumulong Lodge No. 169	AFP
Melfin Ian Burlat	Bernardi Neri Lodge No. 214	OIC Oroq City PS
Jigger Noceda	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	PNP
Michael Batoctoy	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	PNP
Ernesto Jay Caparas	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	PNP
Philip Lainez	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	PNP
Lyndon Hererra	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	PNP
Adam Ezzard Delariarte	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Wilson Galera	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Jaymar Singson	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Reynaldo Rabadon	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Jerry Rotazo	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Jerson Rotazo	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Adriano Reginales Jr.	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Marlon Yapbuan	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Joseph Peñolar	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Glenn Aleman	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP

BRETHREN AT THE FRONTLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC OF 2020

ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Clemente Fabi	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Dondon Salazar	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	AFP
Marlon Bagara	Timberland Lodge No. 219	AFP
Kenneth Ives Maneja	Aliaga Lodge No. 404	PNP
Patrick Bayudan	Aliaga Lodge No. 404	PNP
JR Lumbre	Aliaga Lodge No. 404	PNP
Dennis Hernandez	Aliaga Lodge No. 404	PNP
Ryan Retotar	Laoag Lodge No. 71	PNP Ilocos Norte
Dennis Cabagat	Laoag Lodge No. 71	PNP Ilocos Norte
Nelson Cortez	Laoag Lodge No. 71	PNP Ilocos Norte
Joseph Dela Cruz	Laoag Lodge No. 71	PNP Ilocos Norte
Lenax Navarro	Saigon Lodge No. 188	PNP
Nhesty Buenviaje	Saigon Lodge No. 188	PNP
Dexter Paje	Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390	PNP
Vic Ryan Palconit	Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390	PNP
Exyllo Alcantara	Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390	PNP
Mark Allan Dungca	Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390	PNP
Pedro Gorre	Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390	PNP
Joel Tan	Seven Cardinal Virtues Lodge No. 390	BJMP
Rendo Tomas	Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No. 202	Navotas CPS
Ronaldo Genaro Ylagan	Tayabas Lodge No. 43	Dist. Director, Northern Police District
Eliseo DC Cruz	Mariano Garcia Memorial Lodge No. 306	HPG, Director
Benjamin Silo	Jose Reyes Lodge No. 224	DDDA, NPD
Allan Nobleza	Bagumbayan Lodge No. 4	DDDA, NPD
Dennis Wenceslao	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Benedict Lagmay	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Ferdinand Galang	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Ronnel Cruz	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Karl Elisito Subere	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Pablo Ocampo Jr.	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Eric Rosario	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Meduard Suitos	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Ronaldo Reyes	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Hervey Tagle	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Darwin Decano	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP
Moris Espiritu	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	PNP

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ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Ernesto Sanchez	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Ernesto Daeng	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Raynard Delute	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Gerry Gonzalez	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Alwin Baclao	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Enrico Engreso	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Alfredo Ortiz	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Moises Pecayo	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Philippine Army
Ron Cariaga	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Mark Anthony Solero	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Mel Unos	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Ericson Sabanal	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Hur-Hajrain Sampulna	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Mario Mantala	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Demver Vergara	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Enzo Lorenzo	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Gar Manguera	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Gerardo Gonzalez	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
James Gaylan	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	PNP
Christian Emar Amameda	Magalang Lodge No. 391	PNP
Jeston Del Castillo	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Army
Romeo Pasicolan	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Army
William Mendoza	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Army
Jay-Ar Alupit	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Army
Felmax Lodriguito	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Army
Reynaldo Maglasang	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Army
Romeluck Flores	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Navy
Bernard Sabado	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Philippine Navy
Regino Sta Ana III	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP
Edwin Acuña	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP
Efren Fernandez II	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP
Harry Sucayre	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP
Pierre Paul Carpio	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP
Melvin Laguros	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP
Rey Defante	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP
Ronel De Guzman	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	PNP

BRETHREN AT THE FRONTLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC OF 2020

ARMED FORCES AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Robert Aspiras	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	AFP V Luna Hosp.
Arvin Creencia	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	Police Officer
Fernando Ortega	Mendez-Nunez Lodge No. 316	Chief of Police, Valenzuela
Rolando Balasabas	Araw Lodge No. 18	Chief of Police, Navotas
Roger Simon		Chief of Police, Makati
Orlando Yebra		DDDA, EPD
Juan Anonuevo		DDDO, SPD
Victor Allan Feliciano		Navotas CPS
Jonathan Perillo		DSOU
Dexter Magno		DSOU
Carl Aragon		DSOU
Andrin Matining		Caloocan CPS
Amor Pestejo		Caloocan CPS
Allyson Tanoja		Caloocan CPS
Toto Sarabia		Caloocan CPS
Nestor Gonzales		Malabon CPS
Kenneth Pacheco		Valenzuela CPS
John Pete Diza		Valenzuela CPS
Juan Carlos De Ramos		DHQ NPD
Ryan Sanchez		DHQ NPD
Felipe Woo		ANCAR
Joel Zanoria	Juan Alano Lodge No. 137	Admin. of Isabela, Basilan, BJMP

OTHERS

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Jose Alquizar	Sagrada Familia Lodge No. 375	Zambales COVID-19 Taskforce
Richie Rodriguez	Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No. 202	Head, Makati Disaster Risk Reduction
Benhur Cruz	Jacobo Zobel Memorial Lodge No. 202	Bgy. Poblacion, Makati
Marquin Sapuras	Apolinario Mabini Lodge No. 235	DRRM, NE
Leonito Agosila	Nasugbu Masonic Lodge No. 407	Phil. Ports Authority
Emerson Pascual	Mario Garcia Lodge No. 306	Mayor, Gapan NE
Reynaldo Rillo	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	Mayor
Junio C. Dualan	Mount Mainam Lodge No. 49	Mayor
Peter Cua	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	Mayor, San Andres, Catanduanes
Joseph Cua	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	Governor. Catanduanes
Gabriel Tejerero	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	Phil. Red Cross, chairman

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OTHERS

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Bayani Ibones	Catanduanes Island Lodge No. 291	media
Raul Villegas	Digos Masonic Lodge No. 198	Head, Trafic Safety Mgmt.
Raul Cannon	Primera Luz Filipina Lodge No. 69	NFA, Asst to Admin'r
Piolito Santos	Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133	NFA, Regional Director CLRO
Lito Co	Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133	NFA, Regional Director NCR
Oliver Cambas	Aklan Lodge No. 205	NFA, Asst to Regional Dir. Iloilo
Miguel Tecson	Cagayan Valley Lodge No. 133	NFA, Asst Regional Dir R4
Jeffrey Baluyot	Labong Lodge No. 59	NFA, Asst Prov Mgr NCR
Paolo Cruz	Malolos Lodge No. 46	NFA, Asst Prov Mgr NE
Sonny Sopmac	Saigon Lodge No. 188	BOC
Eric Alvin Gayon	Agusan Valley Lodge No. 160	Bureau of Fire Protection
Elias Baguio III	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	Bureau of Fire Protection
Joel Rodriguez	Antonio Lim Lodge No. 162	Bureau of Fire Protection
Oliver Gaoat	Apolonario Mabini Lodge No. 235	Bureau of Fire Protection
Mike Jacinto	Marcelo H. Del Pilar Lodge No. 272	fireman
Valerio Binayog	Marcelo H. Del Pilar Lodge No. 272	fireman
Judge Boyet Mapili	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	Government employee
Gabo Ignacio	Perdona Y Abraza Lodge No. 441	Government employee
Donald Ronquillo	Cosmos Lodge #8	Batangas Harbor Pilots
Herbert Delos Santos Jr.	Moriones Lodge #399	Batangas Harbor Pilots
Benjamin Privado Jr.	Macario R. Ramos Lodge #355	Batangas Harbor Pilots
Ian Salongsongan	Macario R. Ramos Lodge #355	Batangas Harbor Pilots
Bro. Marsolito Cruz	Macario R. Ramos Lodge #355	Quezon Pilot
Jose Cerrudo, Jr.	Pampanga Lodge No. 48	Power / utilities
Flynnjose Barrameda	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bureau of Fire Protection
Emmanuel Cacho, II	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bureau of Fire Protection
Achilles Santiago	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bureau of Fire Protection
Raymond Zuela	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bureau of Fire Protection
Rodante Laureles	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bureau of Fire Protection
Don Aureo Pomposo, Jr.	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bureau of Fire Protection
Ronald Tumbado	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bureau of Fire Protection
Byronjose Barrameda	Camarines Sur Lodge No. 382	Bank manager
Jefferson Uy	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	DRRMO, Quezon
FCM Joey Francisco	Balintawak Lodge No. 28	Bureau of Fire Protection
Roy Castronuevo	Matagumpay Lodge No. 410	City Disaster Office, Imus
Romeo Miranda	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	Bureau of Fire Protection

BRETHREN AT THE FRONTLINES OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC OF 2020

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OTHERS

NAME	LODGE	DESCRIPTION
Merlito T Rulida	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	Bureau of Fire Protection
Matrix Noveno	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	Bureau of Fire Protection
Edsel Salvania	Laureano Ledres Lodge No. 271	Bureau of Fire Protection
Rex Infante	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	PPO
Garie Noel Pascua	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	PPO
Roderick Mina	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	Municipal Planning,Villasis
Ramil San Juan	Urdaneta Lodge No. 302	V-SB Sec. Urdaneta City
Gil Canicon	Nilad Lodge No. 12	sanitation/disinfection of workplaces
Mike Agcaoile	Jose Yuchongtian Mem. Lodge No. 354	East West Bank
Rene Baysa	Siete Martires Lodge No. 177	OIC Phil Economic Zone Auth.
Jemar Ojeda	Opol Lodge No. 425	Bureau of Fire Protection, fire marshal
Randy Villo	Aliaga Lodge No. 404	Bureau of Fire Protection
Edron Dagupan	Escudo Lodge No. 371	Bureau of Fire Protection
Leonilo De Guzman	Nueva Ecija Lodge No. 73	Mun. Admin NE
Derrold Aves	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Department of Education
Lindy Lauzon	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Bureau of Fire Protection
Sam Velarde	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Bureau of Fire Protection
Randy Obsioma	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Bureau of Fire Protection
Richars Dorado	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Bureau of Fire Protection
Harold Cabasan	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Bureau of Fire Protection
Cristino Banac	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Bureau of Fire Protection
Richie Fabre	Benjamin Go Memorial Lodge No. 303	Bureau of Fire Protection
Vencer Guerrero	Camarines Norte Lodge No. 107	DILG
Cesar Arjay Reyes	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Bureau of Fire Protection
Edilardo Viterbo	Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334	Rescue
Gerry Valbuena	Malinaw Lodge No. 25	Manufacturing
Dave Dumbrique	Talavera Lodge No. 273	Cal. Energy Int'l. Phil. Operations
Jorell Montes	Magalang Lodge No. 391	International Photographer
Juleous Cruz	Victory Masonic Lodge No. 116	Punong Barangay

CAVEAT: THE LIST INCLUDES ONLY THOSE SUBMITTED TO THE AUTHOR AS OF PRESS TIME.

Rizal brethren joins CoVID warfront

Over the past few days, the brethren of Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334 together with MD RIV-Rizal organized a charity drive to provide our health frontliners some much-needed PPEs (Personal Protective Equipments). Through a cooperative effort, the brethren were able to supply several hospitals in and around Metro Manila with masks and face shields.

SUPPORT WAVES: ACCORDING TO ANG TIPOLO LODGE NO. 334 WORSHIPFUL MASTER, WM DON DAYANDAYAN, THE BRETHREN INTENDS TO DONATE IN FOUR WAVES WHEREIN WAVE 1 CONSISTED OF PURCHASING SURGICAL FACEMASKS FOR THE LODGE MEMBERS' FAMILIES. SOME OF THE MASKS WERE GIVEN TO BRETHREN IN THE MEDICAL FIELD WHILE THE THE REST WERE GIVEN TO THE UNIFORMED BRETHREN CHARGED WITH THE SECOND WAVE DISTRIBUTION. COMPRISED OF DISTRIBUTUTION OF SURGICAL FACEMASKS BOXES AND CHLORINE POWDER FOR HOSPITALS. WAVE 3 INVOLVES PRODUCTION OF FACESHIELDS WITH WASHABLE FACEMASKS AND INITIAL 4 ACRYLIC BOXES WHILE WAVE 4 INVOLVES A SOURCING STAGE FOR FOAM SUPPLIERS FOR THEIR REJECT FOAMS PARA SA FACESHIELDS BUILDING.

KUYANGS IN COVID-19 CRISIS: THE BRETHREN OF ANG TIPOLO LODGE NO.334 TOGETHER WITH THE MD RIV-RIZAL LEADERSHIP WAS QUICK TO ACT ON THE PLIGHT OF OUR MEDICAL FRONTLINERS AND SENT AID TO CONTRIBUTE AGAINST THE SCARCITY OF PPES, FABRICATING SOME OF THE ITEMS THEMSELVES SUCH AS FACE SHIELDS.

Pasig S & C Club provide relief to COVID frontlines

To help in the cause against the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic, the brethren of the Pasig Knights Square & Compasses Club led by its President WBro Robert Saluta, pooled together and came out with a donation of 1.000 pcs. of hairnet, 500 pcs. of gloves, 500 pcs. of N88 face masks, 100 pcs. of washable face masks, and 10 gals. of alcohol. These items arer set to be given to the medical frontliners of Pasig City.

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MW Suan attends Overseas District Convention in Saipan

Last February 22 to 23, 2020, the Grand Master MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. together with some of the officers of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines attended the District Convention of the Overseas Masonic Districts held at the Saipan World Resorts in Northern Marianas Islands, Saipan.

The event was hosted by the brethren of Emon Lodge No. 179, F. & A.M.

THE GRAND MASTER WITH THE GLP OFFICERS.

DURING HIS VISIT TO SAIPAN, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO MINGLE WITH THE BRETHREN OF THE OVERSEAS LODGES.

ABOVE: THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. DELIVERING HIS KEYNOTE ADDRESS TO THE DELEGATES OF THE OVERSEAS DISTRICT CONVENTION. BELOW: THE DELEGATES OF THE CONVENTION JOINING THE GRAND MASTER, MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR. AND HIS OFFICERS FOR A SOUVENIR PHOTOGRAPH.

ABOVE: THE OLD TEMPLE OF CHARLESTON LODGE NO. 44 (PHOTO WAS REDISCOVERED FROM THE EARLY ISSUE OF THE CABLE TOW NEWSLETTER - CIRCA 1924).

Guam: Where Light comes forth two hours ahead

Compiled by:
WBro. Joseph Harold W. Santiago, PM
and VWBro. Gregory B. Blas, CJGL

Masonic District Overseas - A GUAM is the official designation by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines to the cluster of subordinate lodges in the Island of the same name. The current composition of lodges and designated district were organized by virtue of Edict No. 287.[1]

There are currently 3 subordinate Lodges in the Island:

- Charleston Lodge No. 44 (Chartered 1919)[2]
- Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 123 (Chartered 1954)[3]
- Micronesia Lodge No. 177 (Chartered 1964)[4]

1 Edict 287 – Rentoy: Renaming of Masonic Districts in this jurisdiction (most recent)

2 AnCom Proceedings (7th – 1919) Committee on Charters, pp. 43 - 44

3 Philippine Blue Lodges (2017) Milton C. Marvin No.123, pp. 520

4 AnCom Proceedings (48th – 1964) Report of the Committee on Charters, pp. 64 - 65

Based on a 1920's article from **The Cable Tow** Newsletter, the first meeting of freemasons in Guam "under American Occupation" was in 1903 when some five members of the order met for dinner. The next meeting followed 3 years later with Morris O'Brien bringing the matter with the Grand Lodge of California in 1906. The GLC at that time doubted that the limited number of masons in the island could support a lodge.

In December 18, 1912, three lodges in the Philippine Islands under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of California created the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands giving birth to a new jurisdiction of Anglo-American Freemasonry in the Pacific Region.

In 1917, H.E. Marchant - a mason from California stationed in the island entertained Charles S. Lobingier (330) deputy of the Supreme Council of the Scottish Rite who was passing through Guam on his way to Shanghai. The possibility of bringing Freemasonry in the islands was discussed and Lobingier suggested the creation of a Masonic Sojourners Association as preliminary to petitioning the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands for a dispensation to form and open a lodge.

CHARTER MEMBERS		LODGE	LOCATION
First Master	H. R. Jackson	Blaney Lodge No. 271	Chicago, Illinois
Senior Warden	M. Hantschke	Cosmopolitan Lodge No.585	Brooklyn, New York
Junior Warden	H. W. Elliott	Liberty Lodge No.31	Liberty, Missouri
Treasurer	W. H. Wolford	Naval Lodge No.87	Vallejo, California
Secretary	H. E. Marchant	Mission Lodge No.169	San Francisco, California
Senior Deacon	(A certain W. F. Brown assumed the position of Senior Deacon)		
Junior Deacon	T. M. Dickson	Rice Lodge No.577	Rice, Texas
Chaplain	A. U. Logan	Ridgway Lodge No.816	Ridgway, Illinois
Senior Steward	J. F. Windiate	Century Lodge No.208	Seattle, Washington
Junior Steward	G. A. Jhonson	Bovill Lodge No.72	Bovill, Idaho
Tiler	H. A. Nagle	Lodge Perla del Oriente No.1034 (GSC)	Manila, Philippine Islands
	H. R. Bayler	Bremerton Lodge No.117	Bremerton, Washington
	H. W. Burden	Honolulu Lodge No.409	Honolulu, Hawaii
	J. J. Gannon	Verity Lodge No.59	Kent, Washington
	E. L. Gay	Tonica Lodge No.364	Tonica, Washington
	William Pimley	Ashler Lodge	Rockport, Massachusetts

ABOVE: THE CHARTER MEMBERS OF CHARLESTON LODGE NO. 44.

On February 4, 1918, Grand Master Manuel Quezon granted the dispensation requested by several Master Masons (see related table):[5]

Charleston Lodge was the name adopted, as the **CHARLESTON** was the American war-ship that captured the Island of Guam from Spain in June 21, 1898.

First lodge meeting was held March 4, 1918 at 497 Hernan Cortez St. That same month, the Master was called back to the U.S. mainland and Senior Warden M. Hantschke was elected in his stead. Succeeding meetings were held at No.1183 Dr. Hestler St., San Nicolas in the home of Bro. W. H. Wolford - the Lodge Treasurer. A number of petitions were received. Bro. W.W. Rowley became the first Mason to be raised. According to the Tabulated Membership of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands (GLPI) - Charleston, UD raised a Total of 6 Masons in 1918.[6]

In June 1918 the brethren purchased the lot and building at No.119 Hernan Cortez St., Santa Cruz. The edifice was remodeled to be suitable for a Masonic Hall.

During the 7th Annual Communications, Charleston, UD was among the 9 Lodges Under Dispensation to be granted a Charter on January 28, 1919.[7]

THE CONSTITUTION OF CHARLESTON LODGE NO. 44[8]

A Special Communication of the Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands was held on board the Transport SHERMAN at Agana, Guam, Marianas Islands at 1:30 pm on March 1, AL 5919, AD 1919, and the Grand Lodge was opened in DUE form with the following Brethren filling the offices:

- RAFAEL PALMA as Grand Master
- JOSEPH RUSS as Deputy Grand Master
- CONRADO BENITEZ as Senior Grand Warden
- RAFAEL ALUNAN as Junior Grand Warden
- S. F. KIMBLE as Grand Secretary
- R. E. NICHOLSON as Grand Chaplain
- R.W. DAVIS as Senior Grand Deacon
- QUINTIN PAREDES as Junior Grand Deacon
- EMILIANO T. TIRONA as Junior Grand Steward
- FILEMON PEREZ as Grand Pursuivant
- J. WEIKHART as Grand Tiler

5 From an old compilation of the early issues of **The Cable Tow** Newsletter (circa 1924) / Charleston Lodge No.44, Guam, M. I., pp. 298 - 299

6 AnCom Proceedings (7th – 1919) Tabulated Statement of Membership

7 AnCom Proceedings (7th – 1919) Committee on Charters, pp. 43 - 44

8 AnCom Proceedings (8th – 1920) Proceedings of Special Communication, Constitution of Charleston Lodge No. 44 pp. 292

The R.W. Deputy Grand Master, acting as Grand Master announced that the Grand Lodge had convened for the purpose of constituting Charleston Lodge which had been granted a charter. Owing to local conditions it was impossible to go ashore to constitute the Lodge so it was arranged prior to arrival for the brethren to come aboard the vessel and in one of the large cabins the lodge was duly constituted. The new officers were installed by WB Joseph Russ. Addresses were made by Brothers Rafael Palma, Joseph Russ, and Conrado Benitez, to which suitable reply was made by the Master of the Lodge, WM Hantschke.

The ceremony was an impressive one and the place and circumstances unique in the history of Freemasonry. The Grand Lodge was then duly closed at 2:50 pm in DUE form.

In fine, the first lodge in the Island, named after a boat was constituted in another boat and became the 44th Lodge chartered in the jurisdiction. Newly constituted Lodge was initially grouped under the Grand Lodge's First District in 1919.[9]

Comprising of: Manila 1, Cavite 2, Corregidor 3, Bagumbayan 4, Island 5, Southern Cross 6, Biak-Na-Bato 7, Cosmos 8, St. John's 9, Far East 10, Nilad 12, Walana 13, Dalisay 14, Sinukuan 16, Araw 18, Silanganan 19, Dapitan 21, Rizal 22, Solidaridad 23, Bagumbayan 27, Lincoln 34, Mabini 39, Minerva 41, Noli Me Tangere 42 and Charleston 44.

MW Milton Springer assigned Worshipful Brothers Joseph F. Bromfield (3) and Conrado Benitez (4) as District Inspectors for these 25 Lodges. Based on the Proceedings of the 7th Annual Communication there were only 52 lodges organized into 7 Districts within the Jurisdiction then.[10]

In 1921, Grand Master Edwin Elser re-organized Guam into a separate district with Past Master Harry

9 AnCom Proceedings (7th – 1919) Appointments, pp. 77 - 79

10 AnCom Proceedings (7th – 1919) Appointments, pp. 77 - 79

A. Nagle as acting Inspector.[11] The Island District will remain as such until the present. Among the longest serving District Inspector is WB Walter Rowley who served the Masonic District of Guam from the 1920's to the 1930's.

Between the years 1918 to 1941 the Island's lone lodge progressed steadily amidst one handicap – the American population in Guam was very fluid. As most Americans were in the naval or military service, their tour of duty in Guam was two years or less. By the time a man could be raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason he was due to leave, unless he was a permanent resident. About seventy-five percent of the lodge membership were non-residents.

WORLD WAR II AND POST-WAR FREEMASONRY[12]

The invasion of Guam by the Japanese in December 1941 forced the lodge into darkness until the island was again re-occupied by the U.S. Marines in July 1944. The reoccupation was preceded by a bombardment that leveled the city of Agana and completely demolished the Masonic lodge hall. Into the ruins came Bro. E.T. Jensen of Oakland, California and a member of the U.S. Landing Forces. His steps led to the demolished lodge hall and there, in the rubble, he found the charter of Charleston Lodge No. 44 still intact and undamaged. Jensen took the charter and brought it with him to the United States for safekeeping until such time as it would be propitious to return it to Guam.

Soon after the liberation of Guam, the usual "Square & Compass" Clubs were established on the island. One of these, the Masonic Club of Guam, eventually absorbed all the other clubs and laid the foundation for post-war Masonic activities on the island. It was also instrumental in the implementation of the decision of the Grand Master Michael Goldenberg to reactivate Charleston Lodge.

Early in March 1946, Worshipful Brother John Taitano, the first Chamorro to be made a Master Mason in Guam, recommended the resumption of the activities of Charleston Lodge. Bro. Col. Archibald Tanner transmitted the recommendation to Grand Master Goldenberg who directed Maj. Robert A. Burri, 33° to initiate the reactivation.

At about that same time, the Masonic Club of Guam received a letter from Jensen inquiring about the proper authority to whom he could return the charter. A reply to

11 AnCom Proceedings (9th – 1921) Appointment of Inspectors, pp. 86 - 88

12 Philippine Lodges (2003) Charleston Lodge No. 44, pp. 90 – 93

his letter resulted in the delivery of the charter by airmail on the very day the lodge held its first post-war regular meeting.

Four members of the lodge and a large number from other lodges attended the reactivation meeting. Twenty of the attendees filed petitions for dual membership. Moreover, the Masonic Club of Guam offered the use of a fully equipped lodge hall and regalia sufficient for a lodge of one hundred members!

With these resources on hand, Charleston Lodge was officially reactivated on April 6, 1946. In a matter of weeks its officers were elected and installed. The hall lent to the lodge, however, was for temporary use only. Due to the critical shortage of essential building materials and other factors, Charleston Lodge could not construct a permanent hall so it had to hold meetings in various temporary homes during the decade following its reactivation.

LODGES117 & 123[13]

After resuming its masonic labors, Charleston 44 strongly recommended the approval of a petition filed with the Grand Lodge by several masons in Guam for an authority to form another lodge in the island.

Named after a Mason who lost his life in the battle for Guam during the 2nd World War, Milton C. Marvin Lodge was issued a dispensation by MW Michael Goldenberg on November 25, 1946 and granted a charter the next year as the 117th Lodge in the Philippine Jurisdiction. It was constituted February 22, 1947. 18 months later, on July 16, 1948 Grand Master Albert Brazee issued a dispensation to several brethren

13 Philippine Lodges (2003) Marvin Lodge No. 117, pp. 209 / Milton C. Marvin Lodge No.123, pp. 217 – 218

THE GUAM SCOTTISH RITE MASONIC CENTER: THE MODERN DAY EDIFICE THAT IS HOME TO ALL LODGES AND APPENDANT BODIES IN THE ISLAND.

authorizing them to organize a lodge in or around Agana, to be known and designated as Armed Forces Masonic Lodge (having been organized by members of the U.S. Armed Forces in Guam), bringing the number of working lodges in the Island of Guam to three.

A charter was granted on January 26, 1949 – during the 33rd Annual Communications and Armed Forces Masonic Lodge was assigned the number 123. The lodge was constituted in due time with regular meetings held at Camp Edusa, Dededo, Guam.

It didn't take long however for the Guam Brethren to realize that the Island could not support the existence of three lodges. By 1951 – Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 117 and Armed Forces Lodge No. 123 agreed to merge. Grand Master Mauro Baradi granted it a new charter on April 26, 1954 and on the same year was constituted by MW Cenon Cervantes to become Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 123.

APPENDANT BODIES IN THE ISLAND[14]

The Post-War Growth of Guam Freemasonry was bolstered further with the establishment of several Appendant Bodies in the Island.

The Guam Scottish Rite was chartered in 1947 under the Southern

14 Data gathered from concerned Appendant Body c/o Guam District Secretary – VW Gregory B. Blas, CJGL

Jurisdiction of the Supreme Council of the United States of America. It will play an important role for the Craft in the Island.

Two years later, the General Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star in Washington, DC established Verona Chapter No. 1. Each state within the continental United States maintains its own Grand Chapter, while Hawaii, Alaska, Guam, Philippines, Mexico, Taiwan, South America and Europe are directly under the General Grand Chapter.

The Island also became home to Guam York Rite Bodies, the only overseas YRB in the Philippine Jurisdiction with the chartering of the Chapter of Royal Arch Masons No. 7 in 1951, Council of Royal & Select Masters No. 5 in 1954 and Commandery of Knights Templar No. 4 in 1956.

The Guam Shrine Club a subordinate club under Aloha Temple in Hawaii was chartered in 1957.

Youth Groups like the Order of DeMolay, Rainbow Girls, and Jobs Daughter have also been established but have ceased to thrive as the Island's population could not sustain their membership.

ENTER THE DEPUTIES[15]

15 AnCom Proceedings (1953 & 1958)

Based on various ANCOM Proceedings before & after the 2nd World War, the Island District has renumbered each Masonic Year in a list provided by incoming Grand Masters. An inspector is then assigned in each subordinate lodge to oversee that masonic rituals and lodge administration are done properly.

As the number of lodges in the jurisdiction increase, the appointment of Grand Master's local deputies with powers greater than that of Lodge Inspectors was deemed necessary. In 1952, MW Sidney Austin cautiously tested the new office on overseas districts like Guam and Okinawa, appointing WB William E. Harbor as the Grand Master's Deputy for the former but on the distinct understanding that it was a trial innovation only and that the results produced in holding such an office shall guide future recommendations. The Office slowly became a regular position in the Grand Lodge, with WB Leo Fisher appointed as Deputy for Guam in 1957.

PRINCE HALL FREEMASONRY IN GUAM[16]

In 1965, a lodge from another jurisdiction was established in the

16 Blue Lodge Data provided by Guam District Secretary – VW Gregory B. Blas, CJGL

THE CHARLESTON LODGE NO. 44 CENTENNIAL COIN: THE OBVERSE SIDE (LEFT) BEARS THE LODGE LOGO AND THE CENTENNIAL YEAR WHILE THE REVERSE SIDE (RIGHT) CONTAINS AN ILLUSTRATION OF THE SHIP U.S.S. CHARLESTON.

island. Named Marianas Travelers Lodge No. 49 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Washington (with recognition from the GLP). Initially holding meetings in the various facilities on Andersen Air Force Base, the Lodge later moved into the Scottish Rite Masonic Center.

MASONIC HAVEN FOR MICRONESIA LODGE NO. 173[17]

In Saipan in the Northern Marianas islands was a lodge named Micronesia No. 173. Chartered in 1964 by the GLP, it is home to Masons who are contract workers in the United States working in Saipan during the era of U.S. Trusteeship. When Saipan voted for status as a U.S. Commonwealth in 1975, most of the members either relocated elsewhere or retired back to the U.S. mainland, while some found employment in Guam. All these factors contributed to the decline of Lodge Membership making it difficult to form a quorum for the conduct of meetings. By 1977, the remaining members decided to transfer the lodge to Guam.

To enable for the Lodge to retain its charter, some Guam Brethren from Charleston 44 and Milton Marvin 123 affiliated with Micronesia 173 infusing the lodge with renewed membership. On October 18, 1985 through the effort of WB Raulito Galgana and Lodge Secretary Casiano Bostre, the Lodge's Charter was permanently established making Guam as its permanent seat.

17 Philippine Lodges (2003) Micronesia Lodge No. 173, pp. 281 – 282

The revitalization of Micronesia Lodge No. 173 in its new Island home is one of the "success stories" of subordinate lodges under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

THE CRAFT IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES[18]

By the Year 2001 it has been 100 Years since the Revolutionary Masons Apolinario Mabini, Artemio Ricarte, Mariano Llanera and others from the Philippine Islands arrived as prisoners in Guam in consequence of their defiance to American Imperialism in the Philippines .

The Craft have evolved since then and in 2012, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines, an Anglo-American Version of Freemasonry commemorated its Centenary.

Freemasonry in the Island followed in 2018 with the celebration of the 100th Founding Anniversary of Charleston Lodge No. 44.

APPENDANT BODIES ALSO MADE SEVERAL CHANGES THAT SAME YEAR[19]

The Guam Conclave of the Red Cross of Constantine - merged with the Meridian Conclave in Davao City. Chartered by the United Grand Imperial Council in June 2, 1978, the order slowly declined in membership, making it necessary to consolidate with other conclaves and transferring the remaining membership. The current Intendant General for Asoka Conclave in Manila and Meridian Conclave in Davao City, is Gregory B. Blas.

In November, Illustrious Potentate Mark Leo on his visit to Guam presided at a special meeting of Aloha Temple to reactivate the club and created 15 new shriners. By September 2019, members of the Guam Shrine Club attended the Mabuhay Shriners initiation in La Union as observers to reacquaint the senior members on the ceremonial and allow new members to witness the conduct of a Shrine ceremony.

The Heroines of Jericho is the latest organization to join the Island's Masonic Family after being chartered in July 2019 through the sponsorship of the Prince Hall Masons.

On the 101st Year of the Craft in the Island on February 2020 - the Guam Brethren celebrated with the official visit of MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., the Grand Master of Free & Accepted Masons in the Jurisdiction of the Philippines was received with Grand Honors by his District Deputy - VW

18 Kindly refer to the related article in this issue of The Cable Tow.

19 Data gathered from concerned Appendant Body c/o Guam District Secretary – VW Gregory B. Blas, CJGL

Francisco A. Valencia together with VW Michael Jon C. Callang - District Grand Lecturer; VW Gregory Blas, CJGL - District Secretary, the Grand Lodge Inspectors, as well as the Officers and Members of the subordinate lodges.

The Overseas District of Guam currently has 178 Master Masons in Good Standing distributed as follows: Charleston Lodge No. 44 (36), Milton C. Marvin Lodge No. 123 (81) and Micronesia Lodge No. 173 (61).

With the Masonic Light shining brightly in this Overseas District in the Pacific, sunrise in the Philippine Jurisdiction will always be 2 hours earlier than usual[20] which brings up another question: Does GUAM Freemasonry add 2 parts more to our 24-Inch Gauge?

Based on a 1920's article from The Cable Tow Newsletter, the first meeting of freemasons in Guam "under American Occupation" was in 1903 when some five members of the order met for dinner. The next meeting followed 3 years later with Morris O'Brien bringing the matter with the Grand Lodge of California in 1906. The GLC at that time doubted that the limited number of masons in the island could support a lodge.

20 per Google Search, Guam is 2 hours ahead of the Philippines

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: The writers of this article acknowledge the following brethren for providing various literature, information and references, namely VW Francisco "Frank" Valencia, Bro. Dale Dennis David and Bro. JC Delos Santos.

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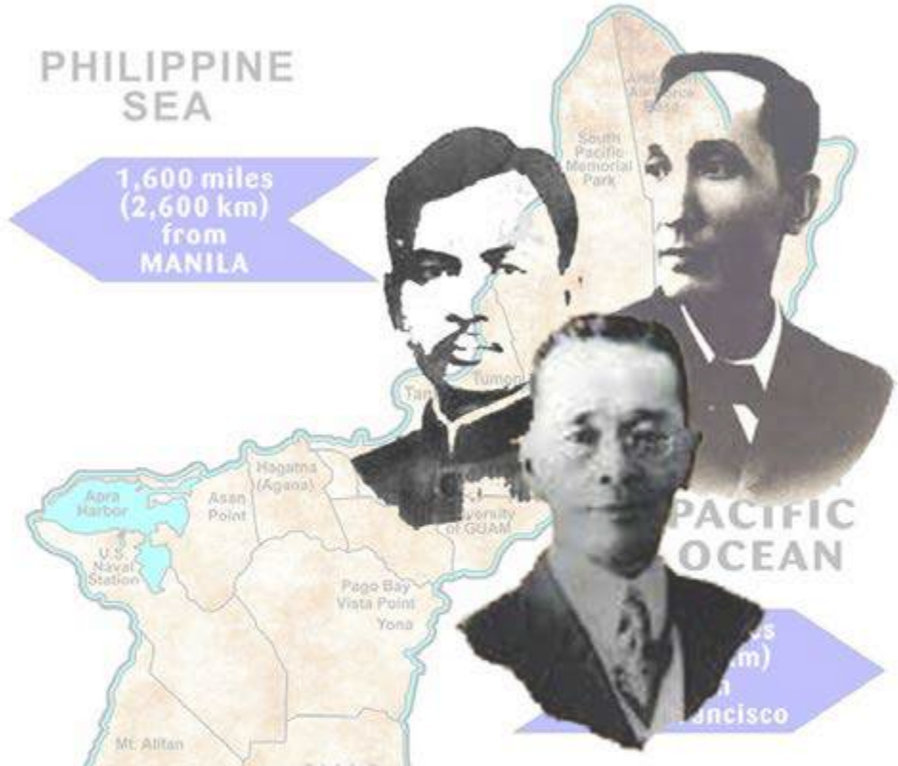

Once upon the Level of Time: Guam and the Endgame of the Philippine Revolution

By: WBro. Joseph Harold W. Santiago, PM

In the story of the Philippine Revolution, among the last and important questions to be raised is: Sinu-sino ba ang nagkita-kita sa Finals? (Who are those that met in the End Game?)

We have chosen this topic in our time-travelling column for 2 reasons: First, it complements the recent travel of the Grand Master last February 2020 in Guam and secondly, it will make a noteworthy side-trip from one of our previous OUTLOT article: **What happened after the Declaration of Philippine Independence?**

To address the question of who,

the details of when, what, why and where are needed to be satisfied as well.

The answer lies 2,600 kilometers east of Manila – in the island of Guam. Said to have been landed by Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, it remained a Spanish possession until 1898 when, in the course of the Spanish-American War, the U.S. warship Charleston steamed into Apra Harbor and bombarded the old fort. It was ceded to the United States via Treaty of Paris and from that time until 1950 (except for the period of Japanese occupation during World War II) the governor of the island was a naval officer appointed by the President of the United States.

Used as a place of exile even in Spanish times, the most famous prisoner of which was Melchora Aquino or Tandang Sora – an octogenarian who at the start of the Philippine Revolution succored Bonifacio and other Katipuneros and as a consequence suffered accordingly in the hands of the Spaniards. Shortly after the Cry of Balintawak, the old widow was taken to Bilibid Prison and aggressively interrogated under threat of imprisonment and death. As she did not give in to these pressures, Tandang Sora was exiled to Guam at the age of 84 and together with a woman named Segunda Puentes were placed under house arrest in the residence of Don Justo Dungca.

The Revolution raged through its First Phase from August 1896 to December 1897 changing leadership from the Supremo Andres Bonifacio (the Organizer) to El Presidente Emilio Aguinaldo (the military commander) both of whom were Freemasons. The Americans entering the picture as the Second Phase began in May 1898. This Revolutionary Generation fought for our freedom, WON, fought a new enemy, and sadly lost but EARNED us the right to be called FILIPINOS. On this particular level of time, heroes rise, many remain steadfast to the ideals of liberty & freedom. Some of them were members of the Craft.

APOLINARIO MABINI

Captured by the Americans at Cuyapo, Nueva Ecija on December 10, 1899. The former Prime Minister of the First Republic, despite being handicapped was held in high regard but have always been considered a serious threat to Uncle Sam.

General Otis thus describes him:

> *Mabini was the master spirit, able, radical, uncompromising. He furnished the brains which made Aguinaldo's cabinet formidable. He was brought before me recently, paralytic and a prisoner. I offered him his freedom on parole not to stir up trouble. He hesitated, and said, "I have not changed my convictions. I told him that I did not respect him the less on that account, and repeated the offer. I have no means of support. I cannot put my freedom to any use," he replied.*

In response to an inquiry of the Senate, when the news of his deportation reached the U.S., General MacArthur cabled:

> *"Mabini deported: a most active agitator; persistently and defiantly refusing amnesty, and maintaining correspondence with insurgents in the field while living in Manila, Luzon, under the protection of the United States; also, for offensive statement in regard to recent proclamation enforcing the laws of war. His deportation absolutely essential."*

ARTEMIO RICARTE

Known as El Vibora (the Viper) he is one of the earliest participants of the revolution. Was Chief of Operations of the Philippine forces in the second zone around Manila at the start of the Philippine–American War in 1899. Ricarte rose to become the first Chief of Staff of the Philippine Army. On July 1900, in an attempt to infiltrate American lines to enter Manila he was captured, locked up in the Bilibid Prisons for 6 months but stubbornly refused to swear allegiance to the United States.

MARIANO LLANERA

Another revolutionary veteran who at the start of the struggle for Philippine Independence led the patriots of Nueva Ecija against the Spaniards. Llanera was with General Luna's forces on February 1899 when the latter staged a counterattack in Caloocan to prevent the Americans from invading further north; although only partly successful due to the non-cooperation of the Kawit Battalion. After several defeats in battle in Pangasinan and the assassination of Antonio Luna, General Llanera proceeded to the North to join forces with fellow Nueva Ecijano General Manuel Tinio. From family accounts, it was in La Union that General Llanera was captured that same year. He was a threat to the Spanish forces before and the Americans are not comfortable with him either.

On January 7, 1901, General Arthur MacArthur issued an order stating that,

> *"In pursuance of authority obtained from the War Department by cable, under date of December 27, 1900, the following-named persons, whose overt act has clearly*

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revealed them as in aid of or in sympathy with the insurrection, the irregular guerrilla warfare by which it is being maintained, and whose continued residence in these islands would, in every essential regard, be inimical to the pacification thereof, will be deported at the earliest practicable date to the island of Guam, there to be in surveillance or in actual custody, as circumstance may require, during the further progress of hostilities, and until such time as the restoration of normal peace conditions in the Philippines has resulted in a public declaration of the termination of such hostilities."

The Guam Exiles on board the USS Rosecrans included more than a dozen officers (see related table below).

Listed as Civil Officials, Insurgent Agents, Sympathizers and Agitators

1. Apolinario Mabini
2. Anastacio Carmona
3. Pablo Ocampo
4. Manuel Roxas^
5. Mariano Sevilla^
6. Simon Tecson
7. Maximino Trias
8. Pio Varican

^*The names Manuel Roxas and Mariano Sevilla were both included per General Order No. 4 dated January 7, 1901.*

NAME	RANK
Artemio Ricarte	Captain General
Mariano Llanera	Major General
Pio Del Pilar	Brigadier General
Francisco Delos Santos	Brigadier General
Maximino Hizon*	Brigadier General (listed as Maximo Hizon)
Lucas Camerino	Colonel
Esteban Consortes	Colonel
Macario de Ocampo	Colonel
Julian Gerona	Colonel
Mariano Barruga	Lt. Colonel
Pedro Cubarrubias	Lt. Colonel
Hermogenes Plata	Lt. Colonel
Cornelio Requiestas	Lt. Colonel
Fabian Villaruel	Major
Jose Mata	Listed as Subordinate Insurgent Officer
Igmidio de Jesus	-do-
Alipio Tecson	-do-
Juan Leandro Villarino	-do-

THE GUAM EXILES ON BOARD THE USS ROSECRANS

Listed as Insurgent Agents, Organizers, Sympathizers, correspondents, collectors and officials were the following:

1. Jose Buenaventura
2. Bartolome Dela Rosa
3. Norberto Dimayuga
4. Doroteo Espina
5. Silvestre Legaspi
6. Juan Mauricio
7. Antonio Prisco Reyes
8. Lucino Almeida

Listed as Prisoners ^^

1. Joaquin Agramon
2. Euligio Gonzales

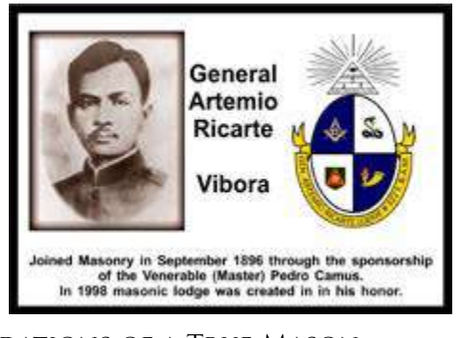
^^*Both Joaquin Agramon and Euligio Gonzales are not political prisoners*

Curiously, some brought their aides and menservants, namely *:

1. Vicente Antiquera
2. Maximiano Clamor
3. Benito de Nuya
4. Faustino delos Santos
5. Esequiel delo Santos
6. Aquilino Gandeza
7. Juan Guan
8. Juan Guasay
9. Jose Jabier
10. Prudencio Mabini
11. Adel Magcalas
12. Manuel Rivera
13. Antonio Brimo/ Bruno?

**Prudencio Mabini was the brother of Apolinario Mabini. The prisoner Francisco de los Santos brought his son with him and Pablo Ocampo had a brother-in-law in this group of assistants.*

According to Apolinario Mabini's Journal Entry, on January 15, 1901 – 34 of them boarded the Rosecrans that was anchored in Manila Bay at 11 am, it was a Tuesday. While waiting for the ship to sail, their only meal for the day was dinner. At 12 noon the next day, 12 more of their comrades were boarded. Raising anchor at 3:00pm, their boat sailed south toward the San Bernardino Straits. It took the ship nine days



of travel to reach their destination (January 16 - 24). Anchoring at Agana Bay, off Barrio Pili at 12:00 noon.

They have stayed inside the ship for 7 days when 11 more deportees arrived on February 1:

1. Faustino Adiarte
2. Pancracio Adiarte
3. Florencio Castro
4. Inocente Cayetano
5. Gavino Domingo
6. Pedro Erando
7. Leon Flores
8. Marcelo Guintos
9. Jayme Morales
10. Pancracio Palting
11. Roberto Salvante

Based on a separate General Order (No.12) by General Thomas Barry, the above persons were described as *"Insurgent prisoners, who were sent from Ilocos Norte, insurgent abettors, sympathizers and agitators, who belong to the Katipunan Society and took the oath of Allegiance to the Americans for the purpose of facilitating revolutionary operations and agitation, and whose continued residence in these islands is, in every essential regard, be inimical to the pacification thereof, will be delivered by the provost-marshal-general on board the USS Solace for deportation to the island of Guam".*

As the Americans have no place for the exiles yet, all of them continued to remain on board, cramped in their beds and quarters for 19 more days. They were allowed to go on deck for fresh air only during meals. Mabini because of his condition was able to come up only once during this time. On February 16, Colonel Lucas Camerino fell ill and died.

LIFE IN THE ISLAND

The prison camp is called the Presidio of Asan. Mabini's impression of the place can be found in a letter to his brother Alejandro:

"a place which used to be a hospital for lepers during the Spanish rule. This was burned when the Americans took over the island. Apparently, they are telling us that this place is just the most appropriate for us, for our mind is afflicted with a contagious illness forcing them therefore, to isolate us and prevent us from mingling with our own kind, just like the lepers. I hope our isolation contributes to the pacification of our beloved land, because notwithstanding my exile, I think not of myself, but of all of you out there, who are exposed to so much risk while the war is going on."

The exiles initially lived in tents for almost a month until more secured accommodations were made. They were placed under the charge of Major Henry Orwig, whose commands were to extend to the prisoners every liberty and consideration consistent with their safe keeping. The prisoners' letters were to be examined, and only such be permitted to pass as related exclusively to domestic affairs. Mabini's opinion of this arrangement was included in the same correspondence:

"The Prison's commanding officer has so far done everything possible that would give us embarrassment and unnecessary work. Since this letter has to pass through him, I don't want to praise him lest he thinks I'm flattering him. Besides he doesn't need praises from any of us."

On March 17, the prison commander ordered them to choose among themselves their group's leader. With Mabini designated as a presiding officer, the exiles elected Pio Del Pilar and Julian Gerona as President and Vice-President respectively. Leadership will be transferred to Mariano Llanera in latter times.

On April 26, the U.S. Army Transport Buford enroute from San Francisco to Manila came into harbor to deliver a telegram:

Boston, Mass – March 29, 1901
Mabini,
c/o Military Governor, Guam:
Aguinaldo Captured. I telegraphed to him in order that he may solicit from the American Authorities that he, together with you be brought here to America. I desire that you recur to the American Authorities there.
Sixto Lopez,
Young's Hotel, Boston

It was only then that the exiles learned of Aguinaldo's capture in Palanan,

Isabela in March 23. The former President of the Republic took his Oath of Allegiance to the United States on April 1st, appealing to all Filipinos to accept US Sovereignty. Mabini was asked if he wanted to go to the United States. Due to poor health and lack of knowledge of the English language, he answered in the negative. He also thought it better not to answer the telegram.

On April 30, another death occurred in the person of Vicente Antiquera – servant of Juan Mauricio.

On the report for the island of Guam the following month, Major Orwig states that the general sentiment of the prisoners is to be obedient to all regulations of the presidio, and hope for the termination of hostilities, that they may return to Manila. With the exception of Mabini, and possibly General Hizon and one or two other minor ones, they all express themselves as being glad of the capture of Aguinaldo **but knowing their character, I do not hesitate to say that I very much doubt their sincerity.**

In July 7 the exiles were shocked by the sudden death of their comrade Pio Varican due to heart ailment.

An article in The Sacred Heart Review (Volume 26, Number 2, July 13, 1901) on the Filipino Exiles in Guam gave the following description: The place where the prisoners are located is about three miles from Agana, or half-way between that town and Peti. All the old buildings have been torn down, and new ones erected for the exiles and the officers in charge. The grounds include one acre, and this is strongly enclosed with barbed wire. The prisoners are required to care for their grounds and quarters. This they do well, and they also punctiliously observe the rules of the colony, framed by themselves and approved by the United States officer in charge. No act has been committed calling for punishment.

The next to die in exile was Maximino Hizon of Pampanga in September 1 of the same year.

Ten months to their arrival, the prisoners started complaining about the food being served. Not only was it lacking in flavor, the menu was characterized by redundancy. Reaching the point that the great Mabini in his broken English would write a petition to the proper authorities.

The Philippines at this time have started its transition from a Military to a Civil Government although it is after Aguinaldo's capture that infamous American attritions like the Balangiga Massacre and Concentration Camp Policy were executed.

Developments of 1902

- April 16: Miguel Malvar the last Filipino General surrenders. 3,000 of his men followed.
- June 16: Military Rule gives way to Civil Government.
- July 1: the Philippine Organic Act the basic law for the Insular Government was passed by the United States Congress.
- July 4: U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt proclaims full and complete pardon and amnesty to all peoplein the Philippine archipelago who had participated in the conflict.

The exiles were offered to take the Oath of Allegiance. After pondering on the past events and realizing that many of their comrades have surrendered, been captured or defeated, the majority availed themselves of the amnesty. On September 21 – most of the deportees were placed on the boat that will send them home to the Philippines. Mabini and Ricarte were left behind, it was a sad farewell.

The impression that the American Authorities have of Mabini is that "there still seems to be an undercurrent of resistance and a determination to be a martyr".

The Sublime Paralytic recounts his life in the island as quiet and monotonous, without joys and anxieties. Seized sometimes by gloom and the thought of death, Mabini somehow spent a productive life writing his Memoirs of the Philippine Revolution. It was also said that he was taunted once by an American warden that there was no great literature of the Philippines that the Filipinos could be proud of. In response, the paraplegic wrote down from memory the entire awit epic of "Florante at Laura" composed by Francisco Balagtas.

The two revolutionary stalwarts were finally allowed to return to their Fatherland on February 23, 1903 on board the USAT Thomas.

Apolinario Mabini who was ill, took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States on February 26 before the Collector of Customs in Manila (per Mabini's request, his decision to sign will be made in Manila, he wanted first to be familiar with U.S. Laws passed in the Philippines, their plans for the future of the country and the state of public opinion regarding the same). He will die of cholera a few months later at the age of 38.

Artemio Ricarte stubbornly refused the Oath. Banned from the Philippines, he was moved to the transport Garlic and sailed to Hong Kong without even setting foot on

Philippine soil. Vibora nonetheless shall visit his country undercover later, before eventually settling down in Japan until his comeback during the Japanese Occupation.

On the same month of their departure, the Presidio of Asan was closed. Two of the former inmates chose to remain in the Island: Leon Flores, a teacher-lawyer and Pancracio Palting (a future judge). Both became prominent members of Guam society before the 2nd World War.

Decades later on the 4th of July 1961, the Filipino Community erected on the Asan Presidio Site a Memorial to the Filipino Patriots held prisoner in Guam. The invocation at the Ceremony was delivered by Monsignor Felixberto Camacho Flores – son of Leon Flores.

CONCLUSION

The History of the Exiles of the Philippine Revolution is a Story of Filipino Victory against all odds. The triumph of principles over brutal force. Their steadfastness to the ideals of liberty & freedom is proof that intangible elements like spirit, virtue and heart are more powerful than tangible components like money, arms and resources. For despite their initial capture, surrender and defeat, their "victorious" oponents still feel threatened by their mere presence deeming it necessary to isolate them like lepers from their country and countrymen.

When a captor sends its disabled captive away to a remote island thousands of kilometers away, the former's moral position is brought down low as the rights of the latter has been violated in so many different ways.

Our forefathers in exile who played the End Game in the Philippine Revolution have made their point and have set an example for all of us: Even if one maybe a man or a woman, young or old, able or disabled, a freemason or non-mason – it doesn't matter as long as one possess the spirit, as long as one acquires the virtue, and as long as one has the heart; our country's enemies shall always be deterred by its citizens that proudly call themselves FILIPINOS.

EPILOGUE:

After enduring seven years of exile, Tandang Sora was finally repatriated by the Americans on February 26, 1903 (three days after Mabini & Ricarte left). She was brought home by the steam freighter SS Uranus along with 76 other Filipino exiles. The return to her village was welcomed by her neighbors, children and grandchildren. She spent her last years living in the hills of Balintawak. Depending on her family for her means of living being too old to work. The American government offered monetary rewards for her sacrifices during the revolution but she declined them all, contented that she had contributed to the revolutionary cause.

The Grand Old Lady of Balintawak quietly passed away on February 20, 1919, at the age of 107, in the house of her daughter Saturnina in Banlat. Her remains were interred in the Mausoleo de los Veteranos de la Revolucion in Manila North Cemetery, where it remained until 1969. On the Bicentennial of her birth in 2012, it was transferred to Himlayang Pilipino where a shrine to Filipino heroes is erected.

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Apolinario Mabini's Memorial
Asan Point, Guam

The History of the Exiles of the Philippine Revolution is a Story of Filipino Victory against all odds. The triumph of principles over brutal force.

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THE BRETHREN OF PRIMERA REPUBLICA LODGE NO. 444.

Primera Republica Lodge No. 444 holds first Public Installation of Officers

Last March 5, 2020, the brethren of Primera Republica Lodge No. 444 held its very first Public Installation of Officers at The Cabanas Garden Pavilion in Malolos City, Bulacan.

Installed as Worshipful Master was WBro Ramil Catanghal with Bro. Manuelito Eugenio and Bro. Hannibal Reyes being installed as his Senior and Junior Wardens, respectively. VW Bro. Neil Valenzuela was the lodge's Charter Master.

Invited as the Guest of Honor and Speaker is none other than MW Bro. Pacifico B. Aniag, PGM. The DDGM, VW Bro. Elmer Vitug was also it attendance along with several of the district's officers.

LEFT: ABOUT TO BE INSTALLED, WBRO. RAMIL CATNAGHAL PREPS HIMSELF FOR ANOTHER TOUR OF DUTY ON THE ORIENTAL CHAIR OF PRIMERA REPUBLICA LODGE NO. 444 OF MALOLOS CITY, BULACAN.

ABOVE: THE BRETHREN OF PRIMERA REPUBLICA LODGE NO. 444 SHARING A LIGHT MOMENT.

ALL SMILES: THE BRETHREN DURING THE FELLOWSHIP THAT FOLLOWED. LEFT: THE EVER-SUPPORTIVE ATENGS PRIMERA REPUBLICA LODGE NO. 444.

THE MORE WORSHIPFUL ATENGS OF MD NCR-F: IN APPRECIATION FOR THEIR TIRELESS SUPPORT TO EVERY MASONIC ENDEAVOR OF THE BRETHREN, THE LOVELY ATENGS OF THE DISTRICT WERE TREATED TO A WONDERFUL NIGHT OUT BY THE KUYANGS LAST MARCH 5, 2020 AT THE CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB IN QUEZON CITY.

MD NCR-F holds district awards night

Atengs treated to Ladies' Night as well

In a night of appreciation and revelry, the brethren of Masonic District NCR-F, led by their District Deputy Grand Master, VW Bro. Gerald Alan A. Quebral celebrated their labors for the past Masonic Year in a fun-filled District Awards and Ladies Night held last March 5, 2020 at the Celebrity Sports Club in Quezon City. The DDGM gave out plaques to brethren who, in one way or another, contributed to the success of district events and projects. The event also comprised of a raffle wherein a grand prize consisted of a cash bounty of P500,000.

No less that Past Grand Master MW Bro. Voltaire T. Gazmin was invited as Guest of Honor and Speaker.

GLP "ROYALTIES" IN ATTENDANCE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOPLEFT): 1. THE DDGM WITH ASST. GRAND SECRETARY VW BRO. OLIVER V. YABUT AND SENIOR GRAND LECTURER, VW BRO. TEDDY KALAW IV; 2. MW BRO. VOLTAIRE T. GAZMIN, PGM AND HIS WIFE, ATENG RHODIE GAZMIN WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE, AND; 3. THE DDGM WITH ASST. GRAND TREASURER, VW BRO. MANNY P. IDQUIVAL AND THE CABLE TOW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, VW BRO. MARLON M. CASTOR. BELOW: THE DDGM, VW BRO. GERALD ALAN A. QUEBRAL HANDING OUT ONE OF THE AWARDS TO A DESERVING BROTHER OF MD NCR-F.

THE NEWLY-INSTALLED OFFICERS OF THE BETHEL TOGETHER WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE GRAND GUARDIAN COUNCIL AND BETHEL GUARDIANS.

JDI institutes new bethel in Tuguegarao

BY
Maria Rita Francia R. Fornoles
Grand Guardian, Grand Guardian Council of the Philippines
Job's Daughters International 2019-2020

It is once more a celebration of joy and hope for Job's Daughters International-Philippines as one (1) more Bethel is added to its thirty-eight (38) Bethels in the Philippines. Another milestone for JDI Philippines.

Bethel U.D. Tuguegarao was instituted on February 16, 2020. The Initiation of twenty-four (24) pilgrims, Installation of the Bethel Guardian Council, Bethel Officers and Bethel Choir also took place during the same day at the WBro. Fermin Macanaya Hall, Gonzaga Masonic Temple, Tuguegarao City.

Bethel U.D. Tuguegarao is sponsored by the Gonzaga Masonic Lodge No. 66 with Bro. Renato M. Taborada, PRP as Worshipful Master. The institution, initiation, installation were also made possible through the concerted efforts of the Brethren from other Masonic lodges in the area and most especially that of the members of the Tuguegarao Court No. 32, Order of the Amaranth. The Bethel was instituted by Mom Maria Rita Francia R. Fornoles, Grand Guardian and Bro. Norman Perdido Rabang as Associate Instituting Officer. They also installed the Bethel Guardian Council into office with Sis Marilou A. Pagaddu, PRM, GAC as Bethel Guardian and WM Renato M. Taborada, PRP as Associate Bethel Guardian. The pilgrims were initiated by Grand Bethel Honored Queen Oshin Bien Requerme, PHQ together with the composite team of Jobies coming from Bethels 9 Bayombong and 15 Santiago. Also with the initiating team was Miss Philippines Job's Daughter, Samantha Angeles Mati, PHQ. Jazmaine Yuri T. Matalang was installed as the Honored Queen of Bethel U.D. Tuguegarao by the Grand Bethel Honored Queen as well as the other Bethel Officers and Bethel Choir. Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Oshin Bien Requerme, PHQ ; Miss Philippines Job's Daughter, Samantha Angeles Mati, PHQ; Associate Grand Guardian Bro. Norman Perdido Rabang gave their

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THE BETHEL'S HONORED QUEEN WITH THE BETHEL GUARDIANS.

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remarks during the Installation Ceremony. Sis Edna C. Bacoling, HL, PRM, PGRM, Grand Trustee and Deputy Supreme Royal Matron to Japan, imparted her Inspirational Message to the Jobies while Grand Guardian Mom Maria Rita Francia R. Fornoles was Guest of Honor and Speaker. Members of the Tirso Gador Chapter Order of Demolay were present during the Installation Ceremonies and some of them served as Honor Guards.

Others present during the ceremonies were Brother Masons from nearby lodges, visiting Jobies from Bethels 15-Santiago and 9-Bayombong, Senior Demolays, members of the Order of Amaranth from Tuguegarao Court No. 32 and Santiago Court No. 2, sisters, members of the Bethel Guardian Council of nearby Bethels, Bethel Guardian of Bethel 15, Sis Jobette Asprec and the Associate Bethel Guardian, Bro. Gerry Galo and Sis Venus Agravante, Deputy for Luzon B and the Bethel Guardian of Bethel 9 Bayombong.

Fellowship followed at the Carmelita's Events Center, Tuguegarao City.

Founded in 1920 by Mrs. Ethel T. Wead Mick, Job's Daughters International is a masonically-affiliated organization of young women with members in the United States, Canada, Australia, the Philippines, and Brazil. Job's Daughters perform service projects to help their community and the less fortunate.

For ONE JDI PHILIPPINES!

THE NEWLY-INITIATED JOBIES OF THE BETHEL TOGETHER WITH THE MEMBERS OF THE BETHEL, THE GRAND GUARDIAN COUNCIL, AND BETHEL GUARDIANS.

Clark Freeport claims AnCom 2021 hosting

The Free & Accepted Masons of the Philippines will hold its Annual Communication 2021 (ANCOM) at Asean Convention Center at Claro M. Recto Highway, Clark Freeport Zone, Mabalacat City, Pampanga.

It was on April 2019 during the ANCOM 2019 held in Cagayan De Oro City, where the brethren of Masonic District R-3 Pampanga requested that the ANCOM 2021 will be held in Clark Pampanga. With the open-handedness of the Senior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines RW Bro. Johnny T. Pimentel, accepted and approved the proposed venue.

Clark Freeport Zone was proposed to be the venue of ANCOM 2021 for its strategic location. Brethren from Visayas and Mindanao can reach the event venue thru Clark International Airport, which is just a 6.1 Kms. or 14-minutes' drive. While Brethren from Luzon Areas may reach the venue via North Luzon Expressway (NLEX), Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEX) and Tarlac-Pangasinan Expressway (TPLEX).
Aside from the various Hotels, Casinos and Restaurants inside Clark Freeport Zone that provides international standard services and cuisines, Clark also is the home of the largest Water Theme Park in the country. More so the whole province of Pampanga offers a wide range of tourist spots to visit, activities to enjoy and cultures to experience. From trekking to Mt.Pinatubo, Heritage Tour of their old Spanish churches and structures up to trying to their local Kampangan Foods. Pampanga has so much in stores to offer.

Further, various national events were also conducted in the area like the recently concluded 30th SEA GAMES 2019, The 2nd Philippine National Halal Conference in 2019, The APEC summit of Senior leaders in 2015, the ASEAN Summit and the annual Hot Air Balloon festival among others.

Indeed, Clark Freeport Zone is the best venue for holding an enormous assembly like the ANCOM 2021.

Talavera Lodge No. 273 heeds Grand Master's call for support

Responding to the Grand Master MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr.'s appeal to the brethren dated March 23, 2020, for every Blue Lodges to take possible course of action to augment our frontliners needs in the current situation, WBro. Alfred Leonard B. Domingo, Worshipful Master of Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273, through the initiative of a brother, Dr. Peter Maquiran, with the full support of the Brethren, Kuya Alfred, personally ordered the purchase of eight (8) sets aerosol boxes for use of professional medical health frontliners, more particularly the doctors and physicians who attended hands on to patients during this most trying times, not only in local terms, but worldwide in nature.

The aerosol boxes fittingly addresses one of the primary needs of health workers, particularly the members of Nueva Ecija Medical Society at Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center (PJG) in Cabanatuan City, of whom Bro. Ravinar Austria, M.D. serves as Chief of the Medical Professional Staff who works in close coordination

MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: THE LODGE WAS ABLE TO PRODUCE AEROSOL BOXES FOR MEDICAL FRONTLINERS AGAINST THE COVID-19 WAR.

AEROSOL BOXES FOR FRONTLINERS.

with WM Alfred Leonard Domingo thru the efforts of Bro. Peter Maquiran, M.D. and other brethren at the Medical Center's Frontline operations.

However, due to circumstances at hand, the turn-over of the medical equipment was directly delivered by the supplier to the recipient's office at PJG Memorial Research and Medical Center in Cabanatuan City last March 26, 2020.

Moreover, starting at lunch time of March 26, 2020 until the next four days as scheduled by PJG Admin Staff, 500 packed lunches will also be delivered to various dates at PJG Hospital during lunch breaks to complement other food donations from other volunteer support groups coming from different jurisdictions of Nueva Ecija Masonic Districts.

Most importantly, as local partner in social development program, Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 shares part of their benevolence to the Talavera Local Government Unit in support of Ate Mayor Nerivi Santos-Martinez' ongoing thrust to support local frontliners in various government agencies within the locality, including Talavera General Hospital with three (3) sets of aerosol boxes.

In behalf of the brethren of Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273, our grateful thanks to all the brethren for their overwhelming support and to our WM, Bro. Alfred Leonard B. Domingo and Ate Ria for their generous hearts in this noble endeavor!

MABUHAY ang Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273 ! MABUHAY ang Masonerya! - ***with reports from Bro. Noel T. Patelo, Lodge Historian-Talavera Masonic Lodge No. 273***

Montalban Lodge No. 376 make its mark vs. COVID-19 efforts

Hoping to contribute to the eradication of the COVID-19 menance, the brethren of Montalban Masonic Lodge No. 376 were able to come together and purchased 400 pieces of face masks of which 226 that were distributed to various frontliners in Montalban, Marikina, and Quezon City last April 7, 2020.

The face masks were distributed as follows:

PNP Montalban

- Montalban-San Mateo (20 pcs)
- QC-Montalban (20 pcs)

PNP San Mateo

- Montalban-San Mateo (12 pcs)
- QC Batasan-San Mateo (25 pcs)
- Marikina-Banaba, San Mateo (17 pcs)
- Parang, Marikina-San Mateo (20 pcs)

PNP Marikina

- San Mateo-Nangka,

ABOVE: RIV-RIZAL DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER VW BRO. NICOLAS MANIPON TOOK CHARGE OF DISTRIBUTING THE FACE MASKS FOR MEDICAL AND POLICE FRONTLINERS. BELOW: THE MANIPON FAMILY AND BRO. RANDY CONTREVIDA LOAD THE FACE MASKS FOR DISTRIBUTION.

Marikina (35 pcs)

pcs)

PNP Rizal

- c/o Lt Col Bong Piquero (27 pcs) Ynares District Hospital
- Burgos, Montalban Rizal (50

RIV-Rizal District Deputy Grand Master, VW Bro. Nicolas Manipon took charge of the distribution of the face masks.

HARMONY IN CHARITY: THE BRETHREN OF SHANGRILA LODGE NO. 196 POSE FOR A MOMENT DURING THE CONDUCT OF THEIR CHARITY WORK AT DAVAO PENAL COLONY - CIW LAST JUNE 29, 2019.

Shangrila Lodge No. 196 writes stellar year

CRAFTSMEN FOR CONSERVATION: THE BRETHREN DURING THEIR TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITY LAST JUNE 22, 2019.

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RIGHT: BLOOD-LETTING ACTIVITY LAST MARCH 23, 2019. BELOW: AWARDING OF THE GOLDEN APRON ON VW BRO. SALVADOR G. DOCE LAST AUGUST 3, 2019.

SUPPORTING THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM: CHARITY WORK AT CATALAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LAST JUNE 5, 2019 IN CUAMBOGAN, TAGUM CITY.

LENTEN MESSAGE FROM THE GRAND MASTER

My dear brethren,

The Grand Lodge of the Philippines unites with our Christian brethren as we approach Holy Week beginning with the observance of Palm Sunday this April 5, 2020. For Christians, Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem is significant because it symbolizes the beginning of the greatest triumph the world had ever experienced: the ultimate defeat of sin and death. In the midst of the terrible disease wrought upon the entire world by COVID-19, Palm Sunday should signify to us that Divine Providence is at hand to carry us to victory in the fight against the dreadful illness which continues to plague mankind at this time.

As we are forced to observe quarantine, please remember that this concept has been known since biblical times. It comes from quaranteno meaning "forty days" of isolation and used in the 14th century as a means to avoid the Black Plague. Similarly, the Lenten Season is also known as "*Quaresma*" or forty days of fasting and reflection and to commune with God.

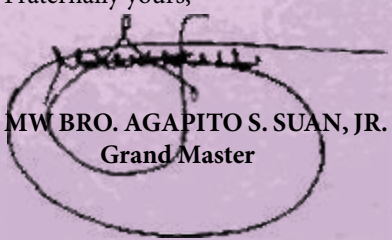
Let us therefore spend the Holy Wekk by reverently bringin to our consciousness the virtues of refelction, repentance, penance, and prayer. To reflect that in all hardships we face, we shold ever be thankful of the many blessings that God has given us nonetheless. To repent for our past mistakes and to vow to do whatever it takes to become a better person in the eyes of God and man. To appreciate God's precious gift of life and to bravely embrace hardships and misfortunes and realize that they are in theemselves blessings of the living. To empatise with the less fortunate, to learn how it is to live in want, and thereby to give charity and comfort the sick, for the greatest penance is to know what it is like for others who live in misery. And as we observe the season of Lent, we should receive in full confidence the power of prayer as the greatest refuge in our hour of need.

COVID-19 has claimed the lives of even the fit and strong. Truly, it has baffled great minds in finding a cure, no matter the modern advances in science and technology. But we in the Craft have always known that in the face of the hardest trials, the greatest sanctuary is reliance upon the Great Architect of the Universe. Our minds should be clear. When human strength and wisdom fail, we should ever remember that Divine Assistance is voushsafed us through the the medium of prayer.

Brethren, in this greatest challenge now before us, let us therefore pray with confidence, act with prudence, and face with fortitude the tribulations that now beset us and know that with God's Grace, this too shall pass.

A blessed Holy Week to all.

Fraternally yours,



MW BRO. AGAPITO S. SUAN, JR.
Grand Master