



THE CABLE TOW

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



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**MW Suan attends 2019
California AnCom**
**NCR holds 2019
Multi-DisCon**
**MW Suan visits
the Big Apple**



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ABOUT THE COVER: This issue's cover features a newly-refurbished version of Aguinaldo Hall of Plaridel Masonic Temple---just one of the many developments in the GLP Grounds under the direction of the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. through the efforts of GLP Temple and Grounds Administrator VW Teodorico G. Castor.

EDITOR'S NOTES

BY VW MARLON M. CASTOR, PGO

Here we go again

Two years removed from the editorship of *The Cable Tow* and once again I find myself back pushing pens and pouring over articles and page layouts. But I'm sure everybody loves a comeback story (*but try telling that to my Ateng and you'll have a lengthy discussion about time management*).

As you have may noticed, I've brought back the publication to its usual pocket size format for the benefit of our brethren who enjoys collecting copies of **The Cable Tow** and placing them neatly against each other in the confines of their personal masonic libraries.

Truly, **The Cable Tow** continues to be the repository of the contemporary history of the Grand Lodge and of the Grand Masters that at one time or another occupied the Grand Oriental Chair of this jurisdiction.

Within the pages of this humble publication you will find stories and compelling images of the never-ending saga of Philippine Masonry and the brethren who makes up the characters within. In every article published, we find nuggets of wisdom of the Craft as well as testimonies of the achievements and milestones of every subordinate lodge and craftsmen who made their mark in our fraternity.

As the chief steward of our 96 year-

old publication, it is my hope that every member of this jurisdiction would eventually find their own story published in **The Cable Tow**.

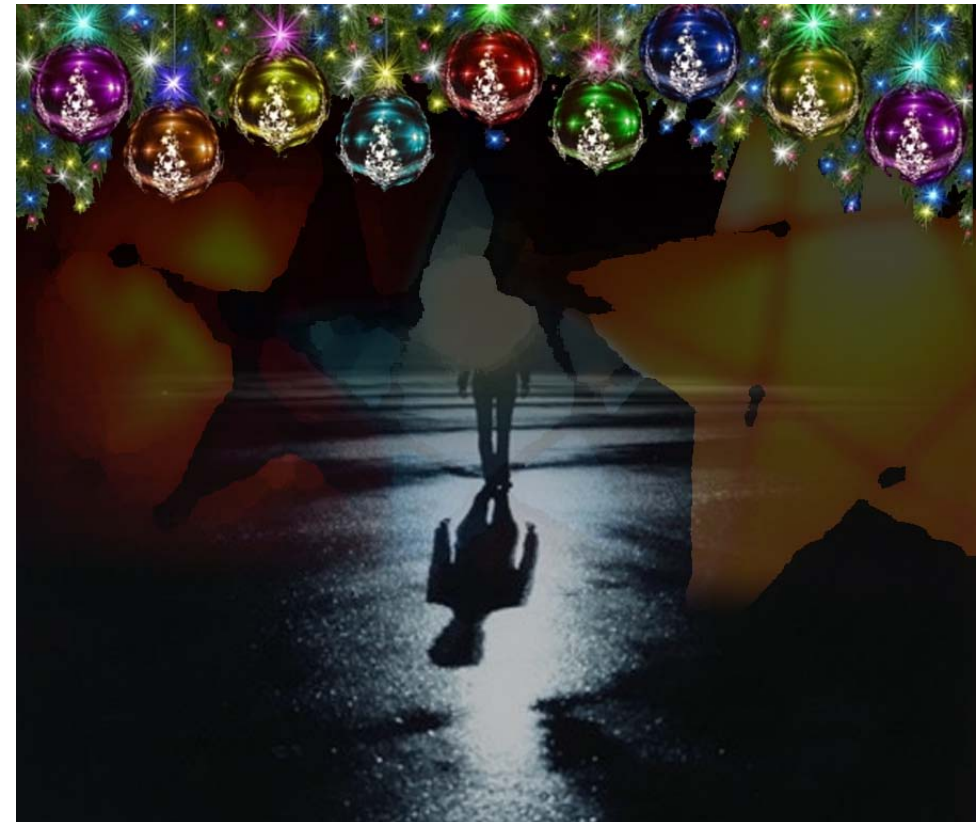
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In a few more days, the **Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines** will once more celebrate its founding anniversary (read: 19 December 2019) and as of press time, I am merely finalizing the small details of this issue.

Since we are now in the age of the digital revolution, the Editorial Desk of **The Cable Tow** will now publish the digital copy of the publication prior to sending out to the printed version of each issue to ensure that the copies though in PDF-form, are dissipated and received "fresh off the press" so to speak.

* * *

And before I forget, allow me to greet you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



By VW EDGAR BENTULAN, DGL

Christmas

A never-ending story of a ruffian in every man

The nativity of Jesus Christ is undeniably the most spectacular event of rejoicing and merriment in all of human history. In our innocence as kids, even in down Muslim south, we relished the most spirited glee at this, as our green apples and candies and new toys as gifts from friends of our parents, amid the gaiety and fun of the sounds of the Season's "Jingle

Bells," "Dashing through the Snow," "White Christmas," "Silent Night," and others. What is not so much minded by ordinary adult thinking, however, is that despite the spectacle of his prophesied coming that brought with it unparalleled joys to the world, it also carries unspeakable grieving, gruesome stories presaging the bitterest and most mournful

of human tragedies. And, its significance for Freemasons can be best exemplified in the martyrdom of Hiram Abiff at the building of King Solomon's temple.

He came to the light of life through a very humble breadth of a manger in a country that was flourishing in commerce and culture but menaced by a leadership terribly insecure of his birth. He had to be extricated out of Bethlehem in hasty flight to the East, land of

The Pharisees, one prominent religious sect that Jesus had mostly engaged with in his ministry, were so rigid in their legalism and interpretations of the laws of God according to Judaism. This group of priests that Christ angrily indicted as "poisonous snakes" believed in following Jewish tradition and religious laws blindly to their letters and had no regard for the ordinary citizens and their views.

A significant facet in the personality

In ceremonial imitation of Hiram Abiff, the candidate, anon, is caused to take a perambulation laden with the cross of human wickedness represented by the three 'J' ruffians besetting his travels through the Calvary of the three gates of the unfinished temple.

Egypt, temporarily away from a tyrannical king who in his avarice for power became oversuspicious and paranoid of getting replaced by him.

The world in Jesus' time in Judea was a social quagmire of complex "divergent" political and religious ideologies, however a burgeoning economy controlled by wealthy lay-nobles, priests and aristocrats who retained their wealth and power by collaborating with the pagan Roman Empire. Religion and politics then were accordingly "deeply intertwined."

of Christ which must have developed in revolt, out of such milieu of too much pedantic religiosity, was his conviction and strong abhorrence to hypocrisy and bigotry from religious leaders. In one among many of his confrontations with these sanctimonious Jewish priests, he was driven to make this strong statement:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also

outwardly appear righteous unto men, but inwardly ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity." [23: 26-28 (ASV)]

In our mundane realm we see an infant crying either because he is hungry or soaking in his own body wastes, but we never can tell what he will be like when he grows up. But unlike us, the couple Joseph and Mary from whom Jesus sprang out of an immaculate conception, knew who he was, that albeit his extra-human persona he was in for rough and tough times in the mortal madness of material individualism. The missing years of his life unchronicled in the New Testament remain an enigma, a mystery, immersed in that travesty of time. Indeed.

In the antiquity of our Craft's rituals, we may now see emblematically through this child Jesus a characterization of a good man -- let alone his holiness -- barefooted, neither naked nor clad, being initiated as candidate from darkness, bearing his internal qualifications in his heart. Eventually in the ritual he is then mentally trained (initiated), and by heart in the inner architectural system of King Solomon's Temple, which is his allegorical, spiritual temple matrix in himself and character, to be passed, discharging his duties to God and manifesting his intentions to serve his Brethren and the Craft, until he

will progress to moral manhood and become accountable for his deeds as he is raised to be master.

In ceremonial imitation of Hiram Abiff, the candidate, anon, is caused to take a perambulation laden with the cross of human wickedness represented by the three 'J' ruffians besetting his travels through the Calvary of the three gates of the unfinished temple. The Pharisees and Roman authorities in their stupid, insatiable lust for power remained unconvinced of his heavenly Kingship. The ruffians persist to demand for the master's secret. He is molested, maligned and bludgeoned, to be doomed on the similar yoke of cross Christ was carrying and nailed to death.

Unsuccessful to get the information from him, they finally cast. Then the die is cast, he is buried in his own Golgotha at the hill near Mt. Moriah. He dies to demonstrate the mortality of man. Then, he resurrects to metaphorize the immortality of the soul: the Brother is raised!

He is led, as what Arthur Edward Waite and W.L. Wilmshurst describe, as through a "path of life" higher than other men normally tread, "an inner world where the ancient mysteries of our being are to be learned." The man, the 20th Landmark of Albert G. Mackey instructs, is resurrected to a future life . . .

The integrity of the Christmas story is not whole from that nativity to this world, without that long, agonizing trek to Mt. Calvary that ultimately became the tragedy depicted in the life of Christ for man's permanent injunction of discernment and contemplation -- the Mason's tribulation that brought him as a lifeless body to the proximity of Mt. Moriah and be raised to the sublime degree, continuously mastering his own self -- in never-ending story of man's transformation.

The super-distinct nuance of this paradox is that, even in his extreme agony and exhaustion, public ridicule and blaspheming, till his death, Jesus remained in extraordinary supplication for his Father's forgiveness for those who counted themselves his enemies. In the excruciating circumstance of so much torment and ignominy, this was a supernatural declaration of peace and love. A condescending poetic justice served for the good of humanity.

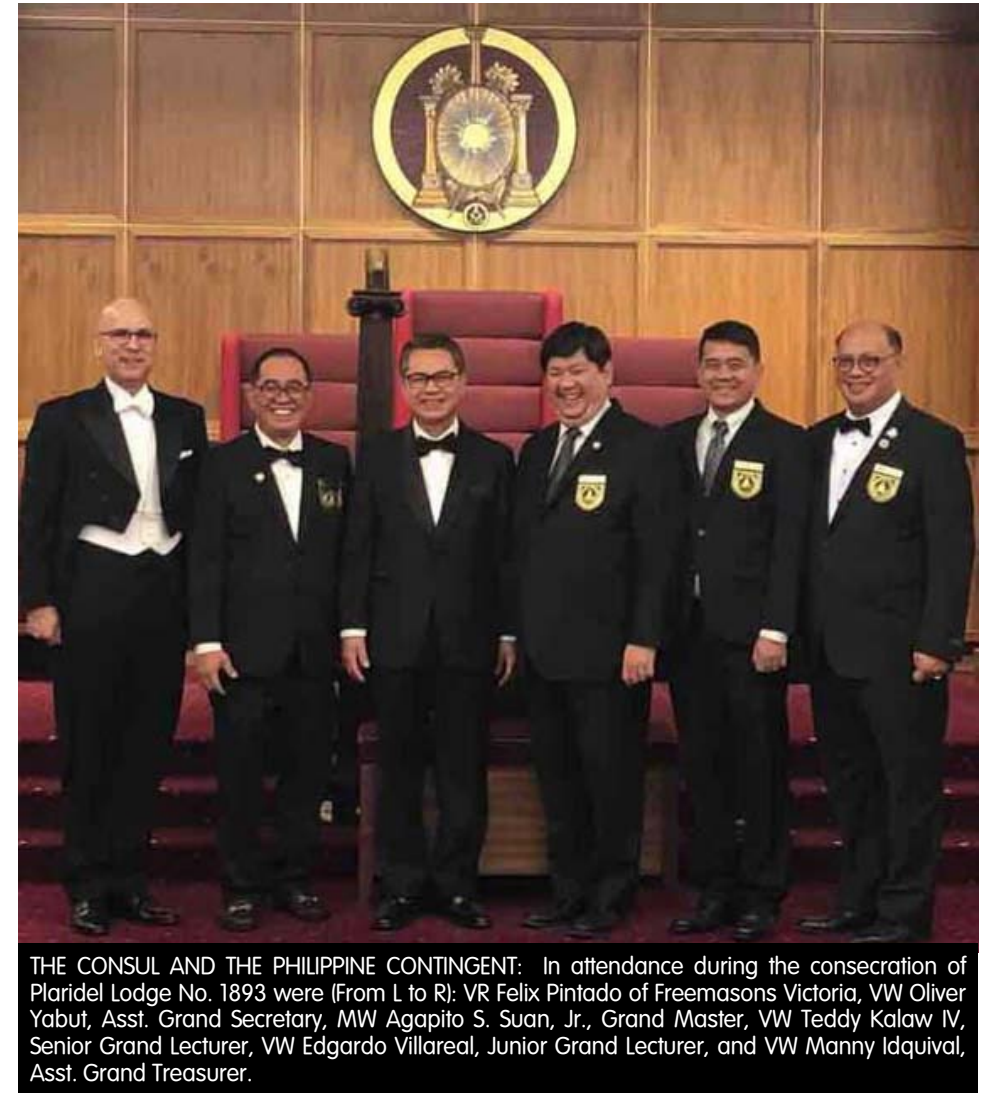
Masonically, the story of the coming of Christ is a story about the ruffian in all men, about the good and evil that are constantly at war in our hearts and minds, about Hiram Abiff and ruffians in the cruel jungle of human frailties. About fortitude against greed and lust for earthly power and religious arrogance. About humility and charity against hypocrisy! About

pain and forgiveness and love.

Today, every 25th of December His birth anniversary reverberates in the whole of Christendom beckoning faithfuls to rejoice in all triumphant joys and carols. In fact, not until the spring of Islamic fundamentalism to pervade in this here part of the country, Mindanao, this spirit of the Season was a tradition well welcomed in everyone's home more than the jingling of bells. In Sulu and Tawitawi it used to be celebrated with kids and adults, even natives of the place, caroling of houses whose religious conviction never discriminated against the display of Christmas lights and trees and observance of Misa de Gallo and Noche Buena masses.

Virtually, the immense drama of human festivities is yearly expressed fully in this one long particular event that hopes to draw the best in man to be happy in however he can, wherever in this globe he is. The norm does not allow succumbing to worries and stresses that only spoil the theme and spirit of the season -- the glorious coming of a Savior, actually man's spiritual liberation from his weak self.

This is our Christmas story bringing the resolutions of truth, fortitude and embracing forgiveness. And, yes, immortal love.



THE CONSUL AND THE PHILIPPINE CONTINGENT: In attendance during the consecration of Plaridel Lodge No. 1893 were (From L to R): VR Felix Pintado of Freemasons Victoria, VW Oliver Yabut, Asst. Grand Secretary, MW Agapito S. Suan, Jr., Grand Master, VW Teddy Kalaw IV, Senior Grand Lecturer, VW Edgardo Villareal, Junior Grand Lecturer, and VW Manny Idquival, Asst. Grand Treasurer.

The GLP-Victorian Connection

By VW FELIX PINTADO

The idea of establishing a lodge affiliated with the United Grand Lodge of Victoria to work Filipino Ritual has been in discussion among Victorian brethren for quite some time.

The idea became more of a reality in

2016-2017 through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines and the United Grand Lodge of Victoria (Freemasons Victoria), which ushered a new era of free thinking, closer collaboration and strategic direction.

The determined leadership of MWGM, MWBro Keith Thomas Murray and the governance of the Board of General Purposes led to the approval to establish a new UGLV lodge - Plaridel Lodge No.1893.

We are fortunate to have among our Foundation Members, brethren who in one way or another initiated and supported this historic endeavour. Their sacrifice of time and effort, freely committed to this significant project and often behind the scenes, to bring this unique Lodge into fruition cannot be underestimated. We are indebted to their selfless servant leadership.

The warrant presented to the petitioners acknowledges the Resolutions of the new lodge to work Craft Ritual of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines by dispensation.

The name of the lodge - "Plaridel" - honours the pen name of Bro. Marcelo H. Del Pilar and the lodge number - 1893 - commemorates the year in which Bro Marcelo H Del Pilar organised the first National Organisation of Masons in the Philippines.

For his untiring efforts in promoting the principles and tenets of Freemasonry to promote a universal brotherhood and the autonomy or sovereignty of the individual during the revolutionary origins of the Filipino nation, Bro Marcelo H Del Pilar is considered the "Father of Philippine Freemasonry".

Remarkably, Plaridel Lodge is the first of its kind in Victoria, and indeed in the whole of Australia. As such, it will be a very welcome addition to the rich Masonic history of both



TWO JURISDICTIONS, ONE CRAFT: MW Keith Murray, Grand Master of Freemasons Victoria and MW Agapito Suan, Jr. of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines are flanked by their respective entourage and the founding members of Plaridel Lodge No. 1893.

Australia and the Philippines. Well received among our brethren, at the time of its Consecration Plaridel Lodge has a total of 70 foundation members.

The Lodge will function as a 'Dining Lodge' that will feature largely Filipino cuisine with dinner after each meeting. It also encourages members' wives, partners, spouses, family members and friends, specifically non-masons, to partake in the festive boards after each lodge meeting. Lodge meetings will be held at least five (5) times a year on the first Saturday of even months. The Lodge will convene at Freemasons Sunshine, 121 Callaway Blvd, Sunshine West VIC 3020.

The foundation members are most grateful for all the support they have received, particularly from:

- Freemasons Victoria and the Robbie Burns Phoenix Lodge No.88, our sponsoring lodge,
- MWBro Agapito Suan Jr, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines, and his accompanying delegation of Grand Lodge Officers who travelled from the Philippines to support, participate in the Consecration of the lodge and the Installation of our Foundation Worshipful Master and Investiture of Lodge Officers. They honour us by their presence and are now witnesses of a significant and unfolding event

in Masonic history.

Our hope is that Plaridel Lodge, No.1893 in the register of the UGLV, will live by and promote the universal principles and tenets of Freemasonry, and that it will continue to grow to provide support and ensure harmony among our brethren, our families and the community. Most importantly, we are committed to making the world a better place, one man at a time.

Thank you and *Mabuhay Tayong Lahat!*



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: VW Felix Pintado is the Grand Chaplain of Freemasons Victoria. He is also the Chief Executive Officer of Royal Freemasons, Ltd.--a long-standing, well-respected aged care and senior living provider in Victoria, Australia. Apart from this, he also serves as Philippine Honorary Consul in Melbourne, Australia.

Filipino Workings, Victorian Constitution



In furtherance of the special ties it has with the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines, the Freemasons of Victoria, led by its Grand Master MW Bro. Keith Murray, held the consecration of Plaridel Lodge No. 1893 right in the heart of Melbourne, Australia last 18 September 2019.

The consecration of Plaridel Lodge, named in honor of Philippine hero and Father of Philippine Freemasonry Marcelo H. del Pilar, was attended by a delegation from the GLP led by the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. The number 1893 commemorates the year when lodges of native Filipinos were first organized in the Philippines.

A total of 68 Victorian Freemasons of Filipino ancestry constituted the first members of this lodge.

Existing under the constitution of Freemasons Victoria, Plaridel Lodge No. 1893 and its members has been permitted to, subject to appropriate conditions, work the rituals and ceremonies of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

In establishing Plaridel Lodge No. 1893, both Victorian and Philippine jurisdictions hope to strengthen their fraternal relations considering the growing number of Filipino brethren joining the ranks of Freemasonry in Australia.

THE FIRST BRETHREN of Plaridel Lodge No. 1893.



Freemasons Victoria meets the GLP contingent.



TWO GRAND MASTERS: MW Keith Murray of Freemasons Victoria welcomes MW Agapito Suan, Jr. of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

The Grand Master, MW Agapito Suan, Jr. of the Grand Lodge of the Philippines pays his respects to the newly-installed Grand Master, MW John E. Trauner of the Grand Lodge of California during the 2019 Annual Communications of the GL of California held last October 2019 in San Francisco City.



GM Suan attends 2019 California AnCom

conduct visits GLP overseas brethren

To foster and strengthen fraternal ties with the “mother” jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines (GLP), Grand Master MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr., along with several GLP officers and members attended the 170th Annual





The Grand Master's entourage poses for a picture at the AnCom site.

Communication (AnCom) of the Grand Lodge of California, U.S.A.

The annual event, which ran from a Friday (18 October 2019) until Sunday (20 October 2019) was held at the Grand Lodge of California Temple at 1111 California St. in the city of San Francisco, California.

This year's AnCom saw the election of MW Bro. John E. Trauner as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of California last 20 October 2019. A second-generation Master Mason, MW Trauner was initiated, passed, and raised in Madison Lodge No. 23



THE PHILIPPINE MASONIC DELEGATION ATTENDING THE 2019 CALIFORNIA ANCOM.

of Grass Valley, California more than two decades ago. His theme is "California Masonry: Rooted in the Gold Country, Forged in Ideals."

The newly-minted Grand Master aims to promote a renewal of the obligations of the Craft during his term. In an interview posted at the California Freemason website retrieved last 4 December 2019, MW Trauner said that "one of my great priorities is the obligation renewal ceremony. I want brothers to remember why they're Masons, to remember their obligation."

MW Suan joins Filipino brethren in fellowship Prior to attending the 2019 Grand Lodge of California AnCom, MW Bro. Agapito Suan, Jr. attended a fellowship hosted by the Filipino

brethren of Pacific Rim Lodge No. 567 of Long Beach, California. On 19 October 2019, MW Bro. Agapito Suan, Jr. joined several California-based Filipino brethren in fraternal fellowship in the Bay Area.

MW Suan visits Masonic Home in Union City, California After attending the 2019 Grand Lodge of California AnCom, MW Bro. Agapito Suan, Jr. traveled to Union City to visit the beautifully-



HOW GOOD AND PLEASANT IT IS: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. is flanked by the U.S.-based Filipino brethren on the occasion of the 2019 Grand Lodge of California AnCom.





GRACIOUS HOSTS: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. is given a warm welcome through a fellowship hosted the U.S.-based Filipino brethren.

RIGHT: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. poses a picture with Illus. George So, Past Sovereign Grand Commander of the Supreme Council of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of the Philippines.

RIGHT BELOW: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. gamely renders a song number for the brethren during the fellowship held in his honor.



adorned Masonic Home last 22 October 2019 along with a handful of brethren.

Located 40 miles east of the city of San Francisco, the Masonic Home at Union City offers independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, memory care, and on-site

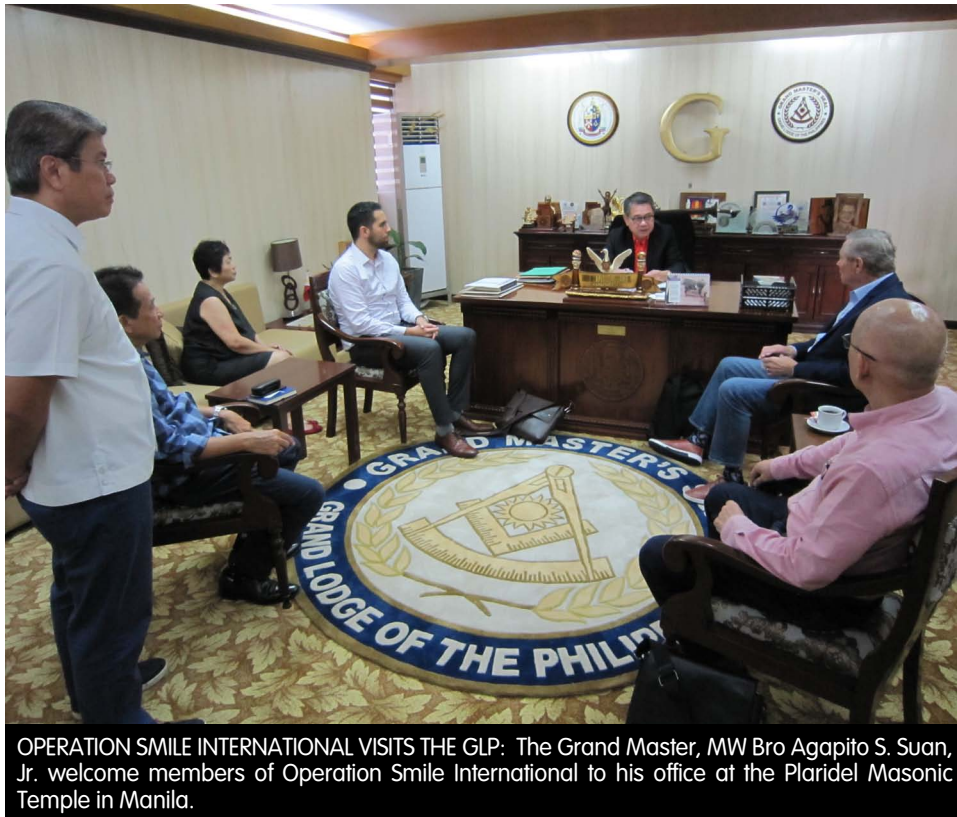
post-surgical rehabilitation for people particularly in the advanced years of their lives.

TOP RIGHT: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. greets one of the residents of the Masonic Homes in Union City, California.

RIGHT: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. is given a tour of the Masonic Homes by one of the California brethren during his visit to one of their facilities in Union City, California.

BELOW: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. poses a souvenir photo with one of the staff of the Masonic Homes in Union City together his entourage and escorts.





OPERATION SMILE INTERNATIONAL VISITS THE GLP: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. welcome members of Operation Smile International to his office at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in Manila.

Operation Smile International visits the GLP

By MABUHAY SHRINERS

Last October, 3, 2019 Dr. William Magee Jr., Founder of Operation Smile International paid a courtesy visit to our MWGM Jun Suan. With him in the delegates are Mr. Roberto Manzano, Country Director of Operation Smile, Alma Ajero, Admin Officer, Mr. Frederick Brindopke, Associate Director, Dr. Angel Mojica, Executive Director.

productive one, as the head of the operation smile relates to our grand master their willingness to partner with the GLP thru the Masonic Charity For Crippled Children Inc. (MCCCI) with regard to our charity work. The first cooperation we had with operation smile was the cleft operation in Dasmariñas, Cavite with 65 patients operated on—majority of which are children ages 4 to 15. There to represent the GLP

The visit was a successful and



TOP LEFT: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. is shown photos of some of the beneficiaries of Operation Smile International-is an international medical charity that has provided hundreds of thousands of free surgeries for children and young adults in developing countries who are born with cleft lip, cleft palate or other dental and facial conditions. It is one of the oldest and largest volunteer-based organizations dedicated to improving the health and lives of children worldwide through access to surgical care.

LEFT: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. presents Operation Smile International Founder, Dr. William Magee, Jr. with a GLP pin.

BELOW: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. poses a souvenir photo with the members of the Operation Smile International contingent during their visit to the GLP.



was VW Rayner Lorenzo, District Deputy Grand Master of Cavite with the lodges under his area.

The talk with Dr. Magee centered on how the 2 organizations can cooperate with each other to eradicate cleft cases in manila. We were also told that they will have a meeting with Manila Mayor Isko Moreno and they will discuss this endeavor in cooperation with the GLP. Operation Smile was founded in 1982 by Dr. Magee Jr.

and his son Dr. William Magee III and it was in the Philippines particularly in Naga, Camarines Sur where this organization was first conceptualized.

Come November, Operation Smile with the MCCCCI and other non-government organizations will conduct a Cleft Palate Mission in Tacloban, Leyte and once again, the mason in that part of the Visayas will represent our Grand Lodge in the noble endeavor.

BRINGING SMILES AND HAPPINESS TO THE LESS FORTUNATE: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. is shown photos of some of the beneficiaries of Operation Smile International Founder Dr. William Magee, Jr., Since 1982, Operation Smile has developed expertise in mobilizing volunteer medical teams to conduct surgical missions in resource-poor environments while adhering to the highest standards of care and safety. Operation Smile helps to fill the gap in providing access to safe, well-timed surgeries by partnering with hospitals, governments and ministries of health, training local medical personnel, and donating much-needed supplies and equipment to surgical sites around the world.



MOLA conducts 2019 Bar Ops

During the months of November each year, brethren belonging to the Masons' Order of Law Association (MOLA), conducts its yearly Bar Operations (Bar Ops) for the benefit of brethren, friends and families of masons taking the gruelling Bar Examinations for aspiring lawyers by the Supreme Court of the Philippines.



The Bar Ops includes conduct of review sessions for bar candidates, logistical and moral support for its beneficiaries.

The Bar Exams are annually held at the University of Santo Tomas all the four Sundays of November.





**Katarungan ML, UD
July 29, 2019**



**South Palawan ML, UD
September 11, 2019**



**Morong ML, UD
August 5, 2019**



**Green City ML, UD
September 12, 2019**



MW Suan institute new lodges

AN EVER-GROWING JURISDICTION: Over the past several months, the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. has instituted several new lodges across this grand jurisdiction--spreading further the message of Freemasonry to more areas in the country.



**Master Builder ML, UD
September 12, 2019**



**Allium Cepa ML, UD
November 11, 2019**



**Ang Bagong Bayan ML, UD
November 11, 2019**



**Carmona Sorteo ML, UD
November 12, 2019**





**Pres. Diosdado Macapagal
ML, UD
November 19, 2019**



**Capital Masonic Temple
August 31, 2019
Diliman, Quezon City**



MW Suan leads cornerstone-laying



**Villaverde ML No. 206
August 8, 2019
Villaverde, Nueva Vizcaya**



**Calasiao ML No. 449
October 10, 2019
Calasiao, Pangasinan**



MW Suan graces 2019 GL of China AnCom

Last 25 October 2019, the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr., led the Philippine contingent to attend the 66th Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of China in Taiwan.

Accompanying the Grand Master are present and past officers of the GLP as well as officers and members of subsubordinate lodges of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

This year's Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge of China saw the election and installation to the Grand Oriental Chair of Grand Master MW Bro. Goshen Tsao. MW Tsao hopes to emphasize on progressing our Masonic rituals and educations, practicing Masonic spirits and its precepts, promoting brotherhood, cooperation, and harmony in our fraternal institution, and improving the quality, service, and efficiency of the Grand Lodge.





TOP: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. is formally received into the lodge by the members of the Grand Lodge of China during their 66th Annual Communication held in Taiwan last October 2019.



TOP: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. poses for a photo with newly-installed Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of China, MW Bro Gashen Tsao together with other Philippine masonic dignitaries.



LEFT (L-R): MW Danilo Angeles, PGM, VW Teddy Kalaw IV, SGL, and MW Peter Lim Lo Suy, PGM shares a light moment with Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr.

BOTTOM PHOTO: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. thanks the host jurisdiction for the warm reception accorded to the members of his delegation.



PAST GRAND MASTER'S ROW (L-R): MW Pablo Ko, Jr., PGM, Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr., MW Danilo Angeles, PGM and Grand Secretary, MW Peter Lim Lo Suy presents immediate PGM, MW Jackson Cheng of the Grand Lodge for China with a token.

Last November 9, 2019, all seven masonic districts based in the National Capital Region (NCR) or Metro Manila, gathered for the 2019 NCR Multi-District Convention held at the Jose Abad Santos Hall of the Plaridel Masonic Temple in Malate, Manila.

The whole-day event was hosted by MD NCR-B with Nilad Masonic Lodge No. 12 taking charge of the opening of the lodge and of the convention.

No less than the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. graced the occasion as the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

The morning session kicked off with the lead district, MD NCR-B receiving the dignitaries starting with the different District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGMs) hailing from Masonic Districts A, C, D, E, F, and G in full attendance. The reception of the Grand Master as well as his entourage necessarily followed.

Next came the reading of the minutes



NCR holds 2019 Multi-District Convention

By BRO. MARK ERIC M. CASTOR

TOP: The Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. poses for a photo with the delegates of the 2019 NCR Multi-District Convention held last November 2019 at the Plaridel Masonic Temple in Manila.

RIGHT: The voting delegates of the 2019 NCR Multi-District Convention queue for the registration.





OFFICIAL NCR JGW NOMINEE: VW Sixto S. Esquivias, IV, PSGL.



OFFICIAL NCR JGW NOMINEE: VW Gerard Ceballos, PDDGM.



OFFICIAL NCR JGW NOMINEE: VW Ariel Cayanah, PDDGM.



PRESENT AND ACCOUNTED FOR: All seven masonic districts of the National Capital Region were aptly represented during the 2019 NCR Multi-District Convention.

of the previous multi-district convention and the presentation reports of the various districts followed.

The afternoon session tackled the various resolutions that the NCR lodges has passed.

Thereafter, the elections for the three official nominees for the position of Junior Grand Warden followed where each candidate from the various districts were allotted time to present to the brethren their respective plans and programs. After casting their ballots, the three

official nominees are as follows: VW Sixto S. Esquivias, PSGL, VW Ariel S. Cayanah, DDGM, and VW Gerard A. Ceballos, PDDGM were chosen by the brethren.

After the elections, the brethren were treated to fellowship.



**Tree-Planting at Ipo Dam
Norzagaray, Bulacan
July 27, 2019**



Apart from its responsibility for the welfare of its fellowmen, members of the Craft are also called upon to care for the environment. which after all, affects the future and welfare of all, most particularly the succeeding generations. Thus, masonic lodges as well as members therein are called upon to engage themselves in ecologically-responsive and environmentally-sustainable projects and undertakings to ensure

that our children and the children of our children, would still enjoy the benefits and beauty of Mother Nature are the GAOTU has bestowed upon us all.

In line with this, the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr., led the brethren in conducting several tree-planting and coastal clean up activities in choice parts of this grand jurisdiction.

The Craft cares Masons rally for the environment



**Coastal Clean-Up
Puerto Prinsesa, Palawan
August 16, 2019**



**Tree-Planting at Sitio Ysiro
Antipolo, Rizal
August 26, 2019**





On The Feminine Level:
The Law of Attraction

*Where the mind goes, the man follows.
 What you think about, you bring about.*

-Joyce Meyer

By SIS. GIRLIE G. SUAN

Ever since Freemasonry opened its magnificent doors to Jun, he became a devout apostle of the fraternity. It is not farfetched to say that the thoughts he thinks, the words he speaks, and even the air he breaths is about Freemasonry.

As an entered apprentice, the tattered little blue book was never out of his sight. He was always studying and memorizing it. His closest friends came from the ranks of his brother masons. They have lived up to the name brother, and have become

Jun's brothers in the true sense of its meaning.

The word "No" is nonexistent in Jun's vocabulary for the masons. At every masonic event and invitation, in sickness & in health, through the fire and rain, you can count on Jun to be ever present.

I myself have been happily dragged along and became friends with the wives of the masons. I was a very visible and active presence in parties and social activities. We, the

ladies, would energetically practice the dances and presentations at the fraternal gatherings. The sisters, as well as the brothers, became wonderful members of my family.

When Jun first became a mason, he and I were lowly bank employees, earning minimum wage salary. We didn't own a vehicle then, and had to take the Motorela. Since Jun plays a mean game of tennis, some brothers would kindly go to the house to pick him up for a tennis match and bring

word has evolved into an affectionate term of endearment for them.

After 8 years of diligent duties performed, Jun became Worshipful Master of Macajalar Lodge # 184 in 1992. During his term, he eventually won the coveted Most Outstanding Worshipful Master award and Most Outstanding Lodge Award---the highest badge of excellence for a masonic Lodge. It was the brilliant result of the combined efforts of all the officers and members of this elite

We attract who we are. What we focus on expands. In his quiet and dedicated work for Masonry, without expectation of remuneration, Jun slowly and steadfastly developed in his character the splendid virtues that propel an ordinary mason to occupy the extraordinary chair of a Grand Master.

him home after.

and energetic Lodge.

Our sons Lordan and Aga (now masons and shriners) were incorrigible little boys then. When they see the brethren at the gate, they would scream: "Jubela! Jubela!" The brothers would gamely answer: "Jubela!". The boys would then run to their dad Jun and inform him Jubela is here. All masons had the same name---Jubela. The ruffian

As Jun continued his ardent devotion to Freemasonry, the positions entrusted to him followed the natural order of sequence. As District Grand Lecturer, Junior Grand Lecturer, and DDGM in 2001-2002. But the transcendent Grand Master's Chair was not even a speck or a twinkling star in his wide masonic horizon.

However, unbeknownst to Jun, the universal Law of Attraction was already working its trajectory in his destiny. The more Jun concentrated his talents and energies in serving Freemasonry to the fullest, the more he attracted the magnanimous gifts that Freemasonry could bestow.

We attract who we are. What we focus on expands. In his quiet and dedicated work for Masonry, without expectation of remuneration, Jun slowly and steadfastly developed in his character the splendid virtues

grand aspiration will inevitably melt and dissolve into the concrete. They did not reckon with the immutable forces at work in the universe.

The universe is not designed to give us what we want. It is not even designed to give us what we need. The universe is designed to give us what we deserve!

After devoting 35 robust years of his life in faithful & vigorous service to the fraternity that he loves, Jun has unerringly set his course in the path of the Grand Oriental Chair. He

The universe is not designed to give us what we want. It is not even designed to give us what we need. The universe is designed to give us what we deserve!

that propel an ordinary mason to occupy the extraordinary chair of a Grand Master.

Success is something you attract, by the person you become. In learning and assimilating the distinctive characteristics of the strongest leader of masons, Jun irresistibly attracted the Grand Master position to be conferred to him.

Many scoffed that he couldn't win it. Like ice cream under the heat of the sun, they expected that Jun's

manifested that he is indeed Grand Master material, deserving to perform his duties from that highest office.

Ultimately, the universe responded favorably. With affection and gratitude, Freemasonry opened its arms to its worthy son, and rewarded him with its most brilliant crown of honor. The calling.. The mission.. The name... of Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in the Philippine jurisdiction!

Humility forms the basis of this.



DREAM COME TRUE: For several years, Midsayap, North Cotabato has been dreaming of having its own bethel of Job's Daughters International. This year, through the concerned efforts of several parties, that dream has finally come to fruition.

Job's Daughters open Bethel No. 38 in Midsayap, North Cotabato

By SIS. PANG REY-FORNOLES

It was on October 26, 2019 that all roads led to Midsayap, North Cotabato for the institution of a new Bethel of Job's Daughters International--the 38th bethel in the Philippines. It was a long time dream come true for the late Bro. Alphonse Kaizan L. Moralde, a Senior Demolay and a member of Midsayap Masonic Lodge No. 267 to have a Bethel instituted in their place. After four (4) months of planning,

rehearsals, fund raising, the institution came to a reality through the concerted efforts of the Grand Guardian Council of the Phillipines of Job's Daughters International, members of Midsayap Masonic Lodge No. 267 and members of the Order of the Amaranth Cotabato Court No. 29. The paraphernalia for the bethel were donated by the Capuno's of Virginia, USA, Bethel No.5, Virginia USA and Bethel No.

16 Fredericksburg, Virginia, USA.

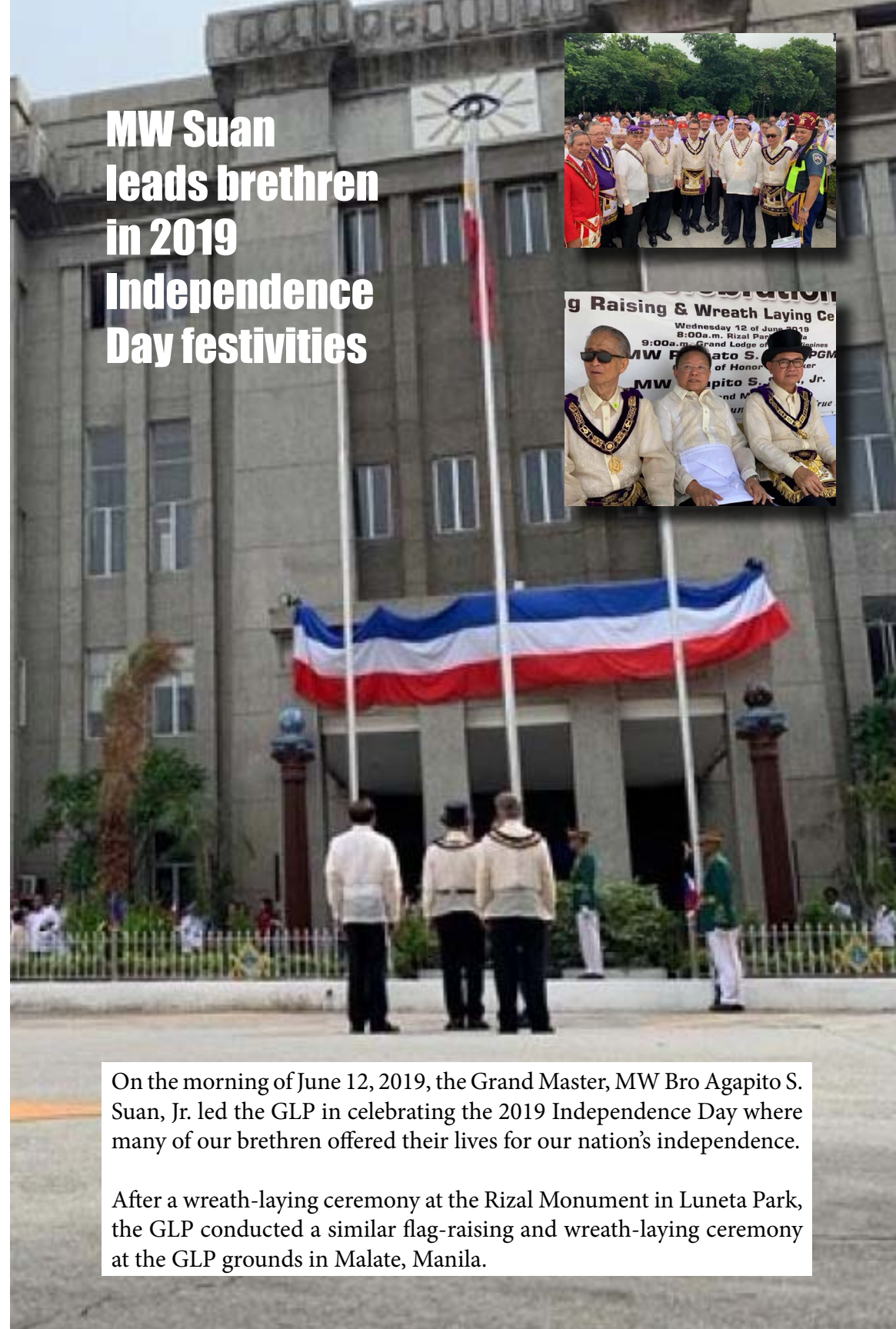
The institution was led by Mom Ma. Rita Francia R. Fornoles, Grand Guardian, as Instituting Officer and Dad Norman Perdido Rabang as Associate Installing Officer. Fourteen (14) new daughters were initiated led by the Grand Bethel Honored Queen, Oshin Bien Requerme and the other members of the composite team who came from Bethel 21-Cotabato City, Bethel 33-Kabacan and Bethel 37-Gensan, Also part of the team was Miss Philippines Job's Daughter 2019-2020, Samantha Angeles Mati.

In the afternoon, the Public Installation of Bethel Officers took place. Remarks were given by WB Joker Ibay, Worshipful Master of Kutang Bato Lodge No. 110, WB Vincent Anthony D. Domingo, Worshipful Master of Midsayap Lodge No. 267, HL Azucena D.

Villanueva from the Order of the Amaranth, MPJD Samantha Angeles Mati, GBHQ Oshin Bien Requerme, AGG Norman Rabang and GG Mom Ma. Rita Francia R. Fornoles.

Others present during the Institution, Initiation and Installation of Bethel Midsayap UD were Mom Elizabeth G. Cabangis, Grand Deputy for Luzon A, Mom Venus S. Agravante, Grand Deputy for Luzon B, Mom Alma May Tayo, Deputy for Mindanao A, Rowena M. Padolina, Deputy for Mindanao B, Dad Masons from nearby lodges, Senior Demolays, Demolays from the Apolinario A. Corpuz Chapter who served as Honor Guards, Jobies from Bethel 23-Malaybalay, members of the Order of the Amaranth from Cotabato Court No. 29, members of the Bethel Guardian Council of nearby Bethels and Past Grand Officers of the GGC of Job's Daughters International.

THE LADIES OF BETHEL NO. 38: Members of the newly-established Bethel No. 38 of Midsayap, North Cotabato pose for a souvenir photo on the occasion of the creation of their very own bethel of Job's Daughters International which is a Masonic-affiliated youth organization for girls and young women aged 10 to 20. The organization is commonly referred to as simply Job's Daughters, and sometimes abbreviated as JDI.



MW Suan leads brethren in 2019 Independence Day festivities



On the morning of June 12, 2019, the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. led the GLP in celebrating the 2019 Independence Day where many of our brethren offered their lives for our nation's independence.

After a wreath-laying ceremony at the Rizal Monument in Luneta Park, the GLP conducted a similar flag-raising and wreath-laying ceremony at the GLP grounds in Malate, Manila.



GM Suan attends A. Mabini Day festivities

During the 155th Birth Anniversary of National Hero and Freemason Brother Apolinario Mabini, our Grand Master, MW Agapito S

Suan, Jr., was invited to be the guest of honor and speaker during the commemoration event at the Mabini Shrine in Tanauan City, Batangas hosted by the City Mayor, Hon Mary Angeline Yson Halili and the City Government of Tanauan last July 23, 2019.

ABOVE AND BELOW: Brethren of RIV-Batangas shared a photo with the Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. during the celebration of the 155th Birth Anniversary of Bro. Apolinario Mabini.



The Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. with the officers of MD NCR-E.



The Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. actively participated in the festivities of the 2019 Quezon City Day in Quezon City.



GM Suan attends Quezon City Day festivities

Last 19 August 2019, the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. joined the brethren of Quezon City during the 2019 Quezon City Day activities held at the Quezon City Memorial Circle in Diliman, Quezon City.

The holiday is in commemoration of the birth anniversary of former Commonwealth President and Past Grand Master of the GLP, Manuel Quezon.

MW Suan joins 2019 M.H. Del Pilar Day

Last 30 August 2019, the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. traveled to Bulacan to join the brethren in celebrating M.H. Del Pilar Day.



Acknowledged as the Father of Philippine Masonry, Marcelo H. Del Pilar who is also known by the name "Plaridel" is among the stalwarts of Philippine masonic movement as well as Philippine movement for independence.



The Grand Master, MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan, Jr. with the brethren of Bulacan.



Northern Luzon Multi-District Convention September 13, 2019

GM Suan visits the brethren across the jurisdiction

Over the past several months, the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. joined the brethren during the various Multi-Districts Conventions held in different parts of the jurisdiction.

Multi-District Convention for the Overseas Districts remain as it is scheduled for early next year. During such conventions, the GrandMaster is usually the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

The travel kicked off on 13 September 2019 during the Northern Luzon Multi-District Convention all the way to the Mindanao Multi-District Conventions then ending at the Visayas Multi-District Convention last 22 November 2019. Only the

Other than attending Multi-District Conventions, the Grand Master likewise took time as his schedule permits to attend several special activities of subordinate lodges under the GLP such as temple dedications and lodge anniversaries.



**Central Luzon
Multi-District Convention
September 28, 2019**



**Visayas
Multi-District Convention
November 22, 2019**



**Southern Luzon
Multi-District Convention
October 12, 2019**



**Northern Mindanao
Multi-District Convention
November 16, 2019**





**Western Mindanao
Multi-District Convention
October 4, 2019**



**7 Cardinal Virtues ML No. 390
10th Lodge Anniversary
September 25, 2019**



**Southern Mindanao
Multi-District Convention
September 21, 2019**



**Pangasinan ML No. 56
100th Lodge Anniversary
October 10, 2019**





**San Jose Del Monte ML No. 357
Temple Dedication
October 11, 2019**



**Tolomeo Galarita ML No. 242
Temple Dedication
November 15, 2019**



MW Suan visits the Big Apple

Last 5 July 2019, the Grand Master, MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr. visited the city of New York, USA to grace the Public Installation of 2019-2020 Officers of Jose Rizal Lodge No. 1172, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York. To honor the Filipino hero to which the lodge was named after, the Installation Ceremonies was conducted using the Philippine Masonic Ritual.

In the days that followed, the Grand Master also visited several Filipino brethren and attended a Shriners' event as well.





Bukidnon-North Hosts 24th Northern Mindanao Multi-District Convention

By VW EDGAR BENTULAN, DGL

“We should all be ambassadors of kindness, charity and humility to our fellowmen.”

This was the fraternal admonition of MW Bro. Agapito S. Suan Jr., Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines in his opening statement as Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker in the 24th Northern Mindanao Multi-District Convention held at Valencia City, Bukidnon last November 16,

2019.

Wonders can indeed happen in reality -- right before your very eyes! Anterior to the main business of this event, the host Bukidnon North District was closed in all certainty to opening its business with serious whimper on Saturday morning of November 16, 2019 and wrapping up with a bang immediately after closing, to give precedence of importance to the convention proper. It was all planned for a one

day schedule.

But no! That Friday night, in what could be a last-minute change of plan to move earlier the Grand Master’s Night, it had to indeed happen. In deference to the GLP reps’ goading that it be held, as a matter of practice, on the eve of the convention proper. Just as well enjoyably reverberating in total madness through appropriate music provided by the ‘Sphinx Band’ suffusing through the convention/social hall of Hotel de Susana -- uniquely opened by surprise in the beautiful rendition of the “The Prayer” taking the part for Invocation, crooned by VW Neil Caballero himself--the convention host chairman, in duet with a lady member of the band -- the GM’s night blasted off breathtakingly with an impressive, unexpected attendance of brethren delegates pouring in and soaring in warm bodies as the fellowship progressed through the evening. And, yes, there was more than enough food and drinks to hold and while the crowd until “sawa” -- allowing just enough bed time for all for the following morning’s formal session.

By the following morning at the opening of business, the convention host Secretariat registered a total of 251 delegates in attendance from the five (5) Masonic districts in Northern Mindanao, surpassing several past multi-district conventions! The five

districts present were MD RX-A Misamis Oriental & Cagayan de Oro City, RX-B Misamis Oriental & Camiguin, RX Bukidnon North, RX Bukidnon South and RXIII Agusan & Surigao. All 31 subordinate lodges except one and one Mt. Kitanglad Lodge (U.D.) under Bukidnon North, were represented.

Also, at least six (6) lodges from outside Northern Mindanao jurisdiction were present: Luzon Masonic Lodge #57, Bagong Ilaw 97, Teodoro M. Kalaw 136, Frank Reed Horton 379, Justice Alejo Labrador 395, and the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the Philippines.

In his keynote speech, MW Jun Suan, who just that morning of same Friday graced the Reconsecration of the Temple and Unveiling of Obelisk of Tolomeo C. Galarita Lodge No. 242 in Alubijid, Misamis Oriental, made a report on the progress of his term’s programs and some issues and concerns that had to be addressed. Primary among others these concerns were: the pending requests of different Blue Lodges to lift the suspension of degree conferrals and depleting coffers to finance death assistance to members.

MW Suan indicated to address these issues in the immediate coming weeks and ensured to put them in the pipeline for implementation before his term ends. On the poor

funding status of the Grand Lodge, he intimated putting into motion the proposal to increase the annual per capita assessment. A joint venture with private contractor to develop the two-hectares GLP property for income-generating and productive uses, is also now being worked out.

GM Suan reported further on following accomplishments:

1. Repair and renovation of the GLP hostel to cater to the needs and comfort and convenience of traveling brethren from provinces.
2. Online-outlet for purchases of Masonic merchandise by brethren.
3. Internet-ready use of G-Cash in financial transactions with GLP and other projects for mobile application so certain services for members can be provided on-line.
4. Representation made in several visitations to foreign Masonic jurisdictions and those under GLP and visitations of local districts and Blue Lodges.

Infusing more substance to the multi-district convention was the Masonic Education lecture of VW Teodoro Alejandro Y. Kalaw IV, Senior Grand Lecturer, which delved the deeper meanings and philosophies of Freemasonry focused on the Obligations, laboring on following subjects: Context and

Role of our Masonic Obligations in our System of Degrees (1st, 2nd and 3rd); Origins and Purpose of Masonic Obligations; Three (3) Roles of Masonic Obligations Today; Primary Themes of Masonic Obligations (1st, 2nd and 3rd Degrees); Symmetry of Messaging Among the Masonic Obligations in the 3 Degrees.

The Senior Grand Lecturer in his own professorial method, showed the importance of what the Obligations teach and at the same time demonstrated the meanings of the due guard and sign. He said, "How we practice and protect the mysteries of our Craft best demonstrate our character," to emphasize the need and importance for vigilance in guarding the West gate.

He explained the origins and purpose and allegories of the penalties of the Obligations and urged to build "Masonic cathedrals in our hearts" and make "Freemasonry as a daily part of our lives."

In the tyled plenary session that immediately followed with VW Ramon G. Tabor, Junior Grand Lecturer for Northern Mindanao, as Moderator, and VW Edgar Bentulan, DGL, district secretary, presenter of approved resolutions from the districts, following resolutions were approved and adopted for

submission to the Grand Lodge for consideration:

1. Resolution Calling for the Repeal or Indefinite Suspension of Edict No. 297 Requiring the Opening and Closing of the Lodge in Due and Ancient Form in Pilipino in Commemoration of Buwan ng Wika (MW Tolentino).
2. Resolution Requesting the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge to Publish an Updated Edition of the Masonic Law Book, Integrating and Harmonizing Therewith All Edicts by the Different Grand Masters which were Approved During their Respective Annual Communications and Special Communication from the Year 2013 until Present.
3. Resolution Recommending to GLP for the Restoration and/or Reactivation of the 'IMES-on-Line' as an Option or Alternative to Existing IMES

4. Resolution in Supplement to Resolution No. 3, Recommending that the Grand Lodge thru the IMES Will Exempt Active Past Masters in Good Standing from the Requirement and Coverage by the IMES.
5. Resolution Recommending to the Grand Lodge the Prior Consultation of the District Officers and Brethren of the District Concerned in the Selection of District Deputy Grand Masters (DDGMs) and District Grand Lecturers (DGLs).

The sixth resolution called for the awarding of commendation to the host district for the laudable and successful hosting of the 24th Northern Mindanao multi-district convention.





IT IS BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE: Such was the case when the brethren of the Bureau of Internal Revenue Travellers' Haven (BIRTH), Muntinlupa Masonic Lodge No. 414, and the Ospital ng Muntinlupa in cooperation with the brethren of Kidapawan Lodge No. 170 conducted an outreach program for the victims of the earthquake that hit the Kidapawan City, Cotabato last 31 October 2019.

BIRTH, Muntinlupa brethren conduct joint outreach in Kidapawan City

The brethren of the Bureau of Internal Revenue Travellers' Haven (BIRTH), Muntinlupa Masonic Lodge No. 414, and the Ospital ng Muntinlupa in cooperation with the brethren of Kidapawan Lodge No. 170 conducted an outreach program for the victims of the earthquake that hit the Kidapawan City, Cotabato last 31 October 2019.

and then took a 2-hour land trip to arrive at the site. The outreach consisted of a medical mission and gift-giving to those affected by the calamity.



The contingent flew from Manila to Davao City last 23 November 2019



AID FROM AFAR: The outreach last 23 November 2019 consisted of giving out gift-bags and medical services for those who fell prey to the destructive effects of the recent earthquake that hit Kidapawan City.



In response to the catastrophe and devastation that the earthquake brought to the people of North Cotabato, Masonic District Sockssargen led by its District Deputy Grand Master, VW Bro. Ricardo F. Jalipa, Jr. and the Daguma Mt. Range Court together with Koronadal Court and Rajah Buayan Court of the Order of the Amaranth conducted a Medical Mission and Relief Operations at the town of Makilala, North Cotabato last 24 November 2019.

Volunteers composed of brethren in the area, members of the various Appendant Bodies, members of various masonic and socio-civic youth organizations, and a considerable number of volunteer doctors and nurses as well as members of the Philippine Army banded together to donate and participate in this charitable and humanitarian undertaking.

Apart from the medical mission and relief operations, the group also conducted an Operation Tuli for the boys and young men.

The Order of the Amaranth delegation was spearheaded by its DDGRM Marilyn Abantao and DDGRP Dindo Abantao. The Order of the Amaranth is a Masonic-affiliated organization composed of Master Masons and their properly qualified female relatives.



THE DOCTOR AND THE MASON: VW Bro. Ricardo F. Jalipa, Jr., District Deputy Grand Master of MD Sockssargen leads the brethren in conducting relief operations for the victims of the North Cotabato earthquake last October 2019. Seen here attending to one of his younger patients.

MD Sockssargen, Appendant Bodies conduct Joint Relief Operations for Earthquake Victims



WE LABOR AS ONE: Members of the different masonic, socio-civic, and youth organizations led VW Bro. Ricardo F. Jalipa, Jr., DDGM of MD Socsargen conducting relief operations for the victims of the North Cotabato earthquake last October 2019.



EARTHQUAKE MOVES BUKIDNON BROTHERS INTO ACTION: The devastation caused by the earthquake that hit North Cotabato and the plight of the victims thereof have moved the brethren of Bukidnon as well as other Appendant Bodies into conducting relief operations of their own.



CHARITY & HUMILITY: FOUNDATIONS OF A TRUE MASON



WM renew wedding vows in Masonic Temple

Here's another proof that there can be no better romantic than a dedicated member of the Craft.

Last 30 November 2019, WM Romy Joy Lasiste, Worshipful Master of Ang Tipolo Lodge No. 334 in the Province of Rizal conducted a renewal of wedding vows with his spouse, Ateng Chi Amandy Lasiste.

The event, which was held after the conduct of the lodge's stated meeting and within the lodge hall of Rizal Masonic Temple in Taytay, Rizal.

No less than members of the lodge, families and friends stood witness to this momentous occasion. After the renewal of their vows, the couple treated their guests to fellowship.

PHOTOS BY BRO. MEDARDO BOMBITA

The Paradise of Boracay

Pinjalo Villas

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Charity & Humility: Foundations of a True Mason

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

My brethren:

Fraternal Yuletide greetings to you all!

Once more, the Christmas season is upon us and at every turn we see places in the Philippines adorned with the trims and decors of the season—evoking a spirit of joy, merriment and prosperity.

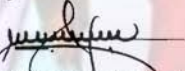
Yet, of all the symbols of the Christmas season, there is none so solemn and so moving as that of the Nativity scene where the young baby Jesus is portrayed as born of a poor couple in a manger in Bethlehem surrounded by Kings as well as shepherds who desire to pay their respects for the birth of the Christ.

For most, this scene symbolizes hope, peace and happiness. But for some—particularly the members of the Craft, it may be viewed as a perfect example of charity and humility.

Indeed, charity in the sense that we see kings and lowly shepherds offering gifts and tributes to the newborn Messiah and that by receiving guests from all walks of life, we realize that joy and happiness is meant to be shared to all, regardless of race, creed, and social status. The Nativity scene also teaches us humility—considering that Jesus Christ is finally born to this world not in castles or palaces but in a humble manger, amongst animals and friends. Thus, we are taught to celebrate the spirit of the season, not by the material manifestations of it but rather by the message it brings.

This is the message I share to you, my brethren—from my family to yours...

Merry Christmas to all!


MW Bro Agapito S. Suan, Jr.
Grand Master

