



ECTOPIC MURMURS

Volume 23

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Opinions and articles published herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect that of the FEUDNSM Alumni Foundation

HF Nicodemus MD⁶² is 2012 Dr Nicanor Reyes Jr memorial lecturer

The 17th annual Dr Nicanor Reyes Jr memorial lecturer at our 33rd summer reunion in Los Angeles has a colorful career. After retiring from the United States Navy 20 years earlier, he is still active in clinical practice and serves as professor of anesthesiology at Georgetown University in Washington DC.



HONORATO F NICODEMUS MD

Honorato F Nicodemus MD ---also a researcher, activist in medical politics, and hobbyist, has several firsts in his portfolio.

Dr Nicodemus is one of the first Pilipinos to attain senior rank in medical corps in any of the military services, or United States Public Health Service.

He is the first medical officer of Pilipino heritage to chair an academic department in the United States Navy's premier training hospital, the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda MD.

He is the first Pilipino to anesthetize a US president (President Ronald Reagan) while in office.

He is the first Pilipino to
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Message from the CHAIRMAN

Another journey in my life travels will be ending this month. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve as president and chairman of the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation.



PEPITO C RIVERA MD

When I started my time in office, my highest priorities were to support the alumni, encourage growth and change, and to eventually hand off a strong, active alumni association to my successor.

As I look back over the last few years, I feel I have accomplished these goals.

It would not have been possible for me to accomplish these goals without the steadfast support and encouragement of those around me. There are so many people I would like to thank, but it would probably cause Cesar to expand the ECTOPIC MURMURS twofold if I spoke of everyone.

However, I feel I must mention a select few because of their unceasing work on my
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Final notice: SEARCH for Outstanding Alumni Deadline July 31st

The FEU 85th founding anniversary outstanding alumni award seeks to give due recognition to *Tamaraws* for their extraordinary contributions to the growth and development of the Philippines and whose
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FAITH CORNER

REVEREND MELVIN ANTONIO MD⁶⁵

In a recent issue of



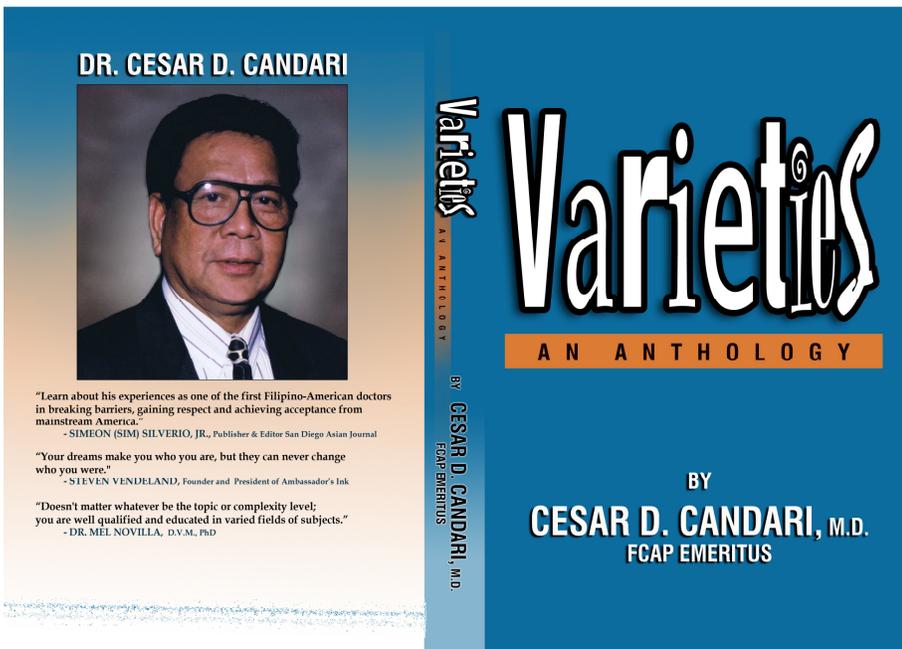
REV MELVIN ANTONIO MD

ECTOPIC MURMUR S, (or is it **FEUMAA NI News**) I got a glimpse of a bible text written by someone

citing how Jesus looked at the issue of paying taxes. As a matter of fact, this issue was addressed by Jesus in the Gospels of Mathew (22: 15-22), Mark (12:13-17) and Luke (20:20-26.) In these gospel accounts, Jesus finds himself caught between a rock and a hard place. He is again being entrapped by his enemies into making a statement that will be used to indict him of a crime
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BOOK LAUNCHED VARIETIES AN ANTHOLOGY

This is a book launch announcement by **CESAR D CANDARI MD⁶¹** to take place at the JW Marriott Hotel Downtown



Los Angeles during the 33rd Annual Reunion and Scientific Convention of the FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation on July 25 - 28, 2012

I am indeed very grateful to Dr Pepito Rivera, Chairman of the Foundation to allow the book launch in this FEU Alumni reunion. The book is a compilation of my writings that emphasized the values that played a very important role in my life. It is an omnibus. These writings are my own, a variety of subjects, essays, history, politics, humanitarian, activism, editorials, speeches, commentaries, and my life, expressing my voice to be appreciated and learned from the values I have religiously followed. I choose my subjects to wish and share my views and opinions on issues of daily events with no hesitation. To choose what printed words to use, I generally write in the first person.

A variety of subject is always an inspiration; it spurs me to dig over the theme realize the interest lies within the confines of reason. To offer the readers in terms of my viewpoint, I analyze how to provide decent food for thought, genuine deep thought. If these writings I have selected will touch or

influence the course of someone's life, then I will have the boldness to say that the mission of this book has been accomplished. It is 350 pages composed of roughly 100 variety of subjects.

The book is listed in the Library of Congress (LCCN) 2012910747. It is a self-published book, printed by CreatSpace, associated with Amazon.Com, therefore, I am the author and publisher, Print On Demand (POD), the new style in publishing. Under POD, this book will never be out of print. It is for posterity, the best legacy to future generations.

All royalties on the sale purchased at this dates or online www.amazon.com will be donated to the Alumni Foundation. Book signing will be done.

To order the book call Tel: (702) 269.6490 or www.amazon.com

CANNONBALLS

EDGAR A BORDA MD⁷²

Forty years after graduating



EDGAR BORDA MD

from the Institute of Medicine is a long time. In fact, many of our classmates have seen their makers

expectedly and unexpectedly.

Why is that? Well some have died of natural causes, some with sudden heart attack, some from lingering cancers and some from bullet wounds. In short, our lives could be cut short anytime the Almighty would call us.

For now, of the 154 regulars and 139 Octoberian graduates of 1972 from the Great Halls of the Far Eastern University Dr Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation, I know of 14 people who died. I supposed there maybe more which I am not aware of at the moment.

On July 25 to 28, 2012, the Class⁷² will celebrate its 40th RUBY Jubilee at the Marriott Hotel Downtown Los Angeles, California. I hope that we could recognize each other at this time as ravages of time can change our looks and physical features, different from what we look before.

**IF THEY COULD COME,
THE WOMEN MUST WEAR
RUBY OR RED COLOR
GOWN OR KIMONO AND
THE MEN IN BARONG
TAGALOG WITH THE
INSIDE SHIRT IN RED
COLOR.**

I was able to contact and communicate with our

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FROM CONDEMNATION TO COMMENDATION

ULYSSES M CARBAJAL MD

**An Unfinished Project
Condemned by the City**

Hall! Stern warning written on



ULYSSES M
CARBAJAL MD

numerous placards posted all around the unfinished construction of the Central Filipino Church, located at 777

Colorado Boulevard, Los Angeles. That was one Sunday morning in May 1987.

Why, my Lord? I kept muttering to myself. *What a waste!*

Apparently, the Los Angeles City Hall had finally responded to the persistent complaints of the community that our unfinished project had become an eye sore.

Failure to Count the Cost.

Almost a decade earlier, leaders of the Central Filipino Church (CFC) had jubilantly gathered at Dr Miguelito Fernando's residence to finalize the blueprints. These included an 800-seat sanctuary, whose steeples would be seen miles away on Freeway 134. Adjacent to this was a multipurpose pavilion that would seat over a thousand. The late Dr George Atiga, then serving as senior pastor, and the late Dr Eliseo M. Bautista, head elder, appeared highly optimistic that the project could be completed within 5 years. Unfortunately, unforeseen financial setbacks forced the

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MY KIND OF TOWN

(PANDAN IS)
ECO-TOURISM
DESTINATION

Almost all of us Filipino



CESAR
CANDARI MD

Americans are nostalgic about our hometown in the Philippines. It's hard to be nostalgic when you can't remember

anything. Well, I do remember a multitude about my hometown.

At this very time when Philippine Tourism is much promoted, the department's new slogan, *It's more fun in the Philippines* is going places. *More than 100,000 British tourists traveled to the Philippines in 2011—an all-time high*, the DFA said. Tourists from the United Kingdom lead the European visitor traffic to the Philippines and rank 10th overall. With the DOT-Manila who promoted the country worldwide through CNN International, and in the UK, it is expected to jump-start the government's bid to draw 10 million tourist arrivals by 2016.

This is not my ad.

Nostalgia is the right word.

The name of my town is Pandan. It was used to be one of the impecunious towns in the province of Antique located in the island of Panay of the Philippine Archipelago (Visayan region).

The first time I visited my town was in 1978, eighteen

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LAUGHTER, TEARS and PRAYER

CELSO DEL MUNDO MD⁶²

Human emotion and feelings are so complex.



CELSO
DEL MUNDO MD

For behind our laughter and tears hidden are our true emotion. We smile to please someone and cry from pain or joy,

But deep within our heart, lie the true meaning of our expression.

A heartfelt smile is infectious, for another smile respond you back,
Laugh and somebody will laugh with all their heart contents,
If you lament and cry, sometimes, you mourn and cry alone,
But if your feelings is honest and genuine, somebody will always care.

Tears can be a silent raindrop of joy or a murky stream of sorrow,
To erase the sorrow, return a smile even your heart is aching with pain
Laugh with someone and your heart will overflow with love,
For a joyous laughter will melt the bitterness in your life,

When your heart aches and your body feel those unpleasantness,
When you're bewildered from all those trials and tribulations,
When you feel despondent on times of failure and despair,
Smile, open your heart with prayer and God is always there.

TRAVEL IMAGES by ROLANDO M SOLIS MD⁶³



ROLANDO M SOLIS MD⁶³ *The iconic mermaid of Copenhagen*

Douro River, Porto, Portugal



Sweden King's Guards Band

Stockholm changing of King's guards

JULY IMAGES



*Father of the bride:
Dr Manuel Malicay*



A Class⁷² and ⁷³ group picture at the recent Tran Malicay wedding

MY KIND OF

continued from page 3

years after I left for America.



CESAR
CANDARI MD

There was no electricity. The streets were pitch-dark after six pm. Now, it has changed to a progressive town with places of

ecotourism's Paradise. Great water supply. The system was built through a joint undertaking of the Japan Asian Friendship Society and the Local Government of Pandan. The Aklan Electric Cooperative (AKELCO) supplies electricity to the municipality. Pandan Beach Resort's computer and wireless Internet Services are in place- the Wonder of Cyberspace, cell phones are everywhere.

It is about 13 miles from the well renowned white beach Boracay Resort Island. Unique about the location of Pandan, it is geographically a *voca calle* (junction) to travelers, tourists and traders to and from Mindoro, Aklan, Capiz, Iloilo and Boracay Island. This geographical advantage plays a role in trade, commerce, industry and tourism.

In the 2000 census, it had a population of 27,647 people in 5,534 households with 34 barangay. A native of Pandan, I am proud of the beauty and nature's lavishness, the aura and ambience of a wonderful place for ecotourism. There is the creation of the Bugang River Nature, Cultural and Adventure

Tour, a collaborative effort of the Tourism Office of Pandan with the barangays of Sto. Rosario, Guia, Candari and Zaldivar.

Pandan town is a mixture of flat and hilly terrain. The central and northwestern coastal area is level, the rest of the northern part from slightly to strongly rolling. The Northeastern part is hilly to mountainous. Innumerable creeks and seven major rivers criss-cross the land surface.

Every tourist will be amazed and impressed of Malumpati Spring, which leads to Bugang River, a favored place. I will brag - not like a braggadocio - that I feel proud of the beauty of the Bugang River of my hometown Pandan, Antique, Philippines. This river won in 2006 the President's Award for Environment *Gawad Pangulo sa Kapaligiran* as the cleanest inland body of water in the Philippines. In Latin, a *paradisiacus rivulet* of water in a desert of sand. It has been a Gold Winner in the International Green Apple Environment Awards for Environmental Best Practice, Local Authorities and Ecotourism category in London. The Bugang River, with its blue clear, tranquil flow of water that illuminates purity along the barrio Candari (my ancestry) and the barrio Zaldivar, the former governor and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, cousin of my dad. The people of Pandan, Antique are very proud of the cleanest river in the Philippines. Add to this is the Malumpati Resort, again with a nature

made swimming pool of fresh spring water with jumping board enjoyed by visitors who flock to the Malumpati Health Resort. The place have an invigorating and overwhelming freshness, the blue waters from turquoise blue to sapphire blue are inviting and the surrounding milieu of lush green trees and other vegetations hugging the edge of the nature's swimming pool is a paradise to behold. It will energize your soul – rouse your senses. It is said the pool possesses a *healing phenomenon*. Its depth remains a mysterious puzzle to everyone. There are headsprings and caves and are absolutely ideal place for those who would like to commune with nature and for adventure lovers. Trekking is a wondrous thing around Malumpati Spring, its height and beauty with endemic species of its flora and fauna.

For ecotourism --- the buzzword term applied to tourism and travel that pays special attention to environmental concerns, Pandan have it. This destination is the best in the province of Antique. This is enriching personal experiences and environmental awareness. This is the getaway body and soul experience at Malumpati Resort. A place to enjoy, to relax, unwind, relieve tension, bring balance to the entire body, compliment your health, and consequently create calming and healing responses for the body and soul. This is to provide a soothing, healing vacation care atmosphere on the cool water pool.

Here's a slogan, *It's more fun in the Philippines*. It has gone viral.

OTHER RESORTS IN PANDAN

Pandan Beach Resort with Marquessa's Bar in Dionela is only 5 minutes from town - a waterfront retreat and restaurant with a serene atmosphere owned and managed by a good friend Gigi. You will experience a heartfelt service where tropical living is at its finest. It is the ideal destination for guests whether it is for business or pleasure. Enjoy incredible sunsets, breathtaking nature, pristine waters, hear the sound of the sea as the waves lap against the shore and the tide rises; the beach is infinite, quiet, tranquil surroundings. The gourmet foods are fantastic- a cultural ideal associated with the culinary arts of fine food and drink a selection of cocktails, mixes and wines.

For accommodation, Pandan Beach Resort has eight air-conditioned rooms with toilet and bath with hot and cold shower, television and refrigerator. It has one dormitory-type fan room with toilet and bath, which could accommodate at least ten persons.

Pandan Resorts that meet international standard with first class facilities and amenities are:

Pandan Beach Resort in Dionela,

Rosepoint Beach in Mag-Aba,

Le Palme Beach Resort in Zaldivar, and
Standard category resort and inn: Green Park Hotel in Centro Sur with Olympic-size swimming pool;
Bunny's Beach Resort in Mag-Aba;
Unterpertinger Place in Jinalinan ;
Rovel's Inn in Dionela ;
Mico's in Baybay;
Bulod de Saresan Farm Resort in Callan; and
Sta Cruz Farm Resort and Family Retreat.

If you like the Golden Beaches, visit Duyong and Tingib, excellent for beach lovers and sports enthusiasts.

How to get to Pandan: International visitors can reach Pandan through various international airports located in the country.

Most accessible is the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila. From there, anybody can choose to take air transportation going to either Iloilo City, Roxas City, Caticlan or Kalibo. Kalibo Airport is approximately fifty-five (55) km from Pandan and serves three (3) commercial flights daily.

From Caticlan town, Aklan, a jump-off point to Boracay is only about thirty (30) km to Pandan.

Our town is a neighbor of Boracay.

To those who will visit Boracay, stop over in Pandan to see its beauty --- the ecotourism wonder.

FAITH CORNER

continued from page 1
either against God or against the



REV MELVIN
ANTONIO MD

Roman government. Either way, the punishment would be death. At issue is whether it is lawful to

pay taxes to the Roman emperor or not. If he were to say *yes* then he would be seen as a traitor by other Jews who believed in complete non-cooperation with a pagan government imposing their will on the people of God. If he says *no*, *don't pay taxes to this pagan government*, then he would be reported to the Roman officials as a subversive who is inciting the people to revolt. This is where we can now bring out our bracelets or show off our bumper stickers with the letters – WWJD – What Would Jesus Do?

What does Jesus do? He knows full well what the intentions of his enemies are, and so he tells them to bring him a Roman coin and then asks, *whose portrait is this and what does the inscription say?* His enemies bring him a coin that shows the portrait of the current Roman emperor with the inscription: *Tiberius Caesar, august son of the divine Augustus, high priest*. Then he delivers that famous line, *Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's*.

This statement may seem harmless and sensible to the

average reader of the Gospel in Jesus' time but it hits right into the hearts of his enemies who are well-educated in secular and religious law. To put it into context, this confrontation happens in the vicinity of the Temple in Jerusalem. It is implied that bearing a coin with the image of one who claims to be divine into the Temple is tantamount to idolatry and is a clear violation of the first two commandments. To bring such an icon into the Temple amounts to desecrating the holy place. With the statement, *Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's*, Jesus is conceding that payment of the Roman tax is the thing to do so as not to bring the emperor's heavy hand among the people. At the same time, it raises the question, *what belongs to God?*

The question could go a long way. God created the heavens and the earth and all that is in it. He owns everything. We belong to him. All that we own ultimately belongs to our Creator. So where does that leave us? Is Jesus saying that we owe nothing to false gods like Caesar and should reserve all things for God? Or is he inviting us to recognize that while we may, in fact, owe the emperors of this world some things, like taxes, we owe God other things – like ourselves, our time, our talents and whatever else we can spare from our possessions to do God's work in the world?

This encounter with the Pharisees and the Herodians is a matter of allegiance. Jesus is defining the fine line between secular and religious law, or in our modern world, the lines

between separation of church and state. His answer to the Pharisees and the Herodians places the issue into the larger framework of worship, idolatry and loyalty. The true meaning is clear for those reading between the lines - Caesar's place is determined by God. God's place is not determined by Caesar. Jesus' statement, "Render unto Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's," is often quoted by those who misinterpret the separation of church and state. St. Paul's statement about being subject to governing authorities (Romans 13:1-2) is another piece that feeds into this alleged separation. Submission to civil authority refers to recognizing that authority's standing in God's plan, not simple, blind obedience. Submission to authority may sometimes require disobedience when civil authority goes beyond the boundaries of justice – when obeying civil authority means disobeying God. That too can take a life of its own when people disobey the laws of the land out of anger, self-promotion, revenge, bitterness or a misplaced sense of justice. Our duly constituted government has to have the means to maintain good order and discipline for its people, to be used to educate the masses, provide basic health care, protect and defend the country from threats in and outside its borders, to build and maintain infrastructure for transportation and communication. It is part of our Christian responsibility to live justly in relation to the government. The government, in turn is to act as God's servant for the good of the people. I

don't know about you, but that is what separation of church and state means to me. Of course, the way things are going in our world today, the government does not seem to recognize its God-given role in governing. Where is Abraham Lincoln when you need him?

Jesus is not advocating a full-scale retreat from the economic and political dimensions of our lives but instead is helping us to recognize that all of these things are part of God's divine economy. I believe Jesus invites us to be thinking regularly about how all of our decisions – what we buy, who we vote for, how we spend our time, how we use our talents – should be shaped by the confession that the whole world and everything in it is God's, including us. We must be conscious of how our faith shapes our daily decisions – our buying, our saving, our giving. We must be able to connect our faith to our daily life. Finally, the things that belong to God are not just the material things in our lives. To him also belong love, justice, truth and righteousness. Render these things to God by loving him with all your heart, with all your mind, with all your soul, with all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself.

JULY QUOTE

Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?

[Matthew 6:25](#)

85TH FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Search for Outstanding Alumni Award

continued from page 1

achievements in their professions or vocations have substantially brought honor and prestige to Far Eastern University.

By recognizing the exemplary achievements of the alumni, Far Eastern University seeks to hold them up for emulation by others even as it seeks to extend its appreciation for what they have done.

Categories of the Awards

Nominations for the outstanding alumni may be made by any person or group of persons or by an organization/ institution/ company/ association for any and/ or several of the following categories:

- Business/Industry
- Arts and Culture
- Education
- Mass Communication
- Law
- Nursing
- Architecture and Fine Arts
- Movies and Television
- Public/Government Service
- Spiritual Leadership
- Science and Technology
- Finance
- Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Sports Advocacy/Leadership
- Medicine and Allied Health Services
- Engineering
- Statesmanship/Diplomacy
- Military Leadership
- Other Fields

Guidelines &

Qualifications for Nomination

- Must be a graduate of any program from Far Eastern

University: elementary, high school, college, and graduate school level, • Must be of good moral character, and • Must be recognized by his/ her peers for his/ her outstanding performance.

Awards Criteria and Numerical Equivalence

Personal. 20 points for good moral character (10) and continuing identification with Far Eastern University (10);

professional achievements 40 points, position held (7), performance/ achievements (12), membership in professional and related organizations (4), recognition/ awards (10), and professional development (7); **community and social service 40 points** position held (2), standing and reputation of organization served/ affiliated (5), projects undertaken on a

The 85th Founding Anniversary Outstanding Alumni Award seeks to give due recognition to Tamaraws for their extraordinary contributions to the growth and development of the Philippines and whose achievements in their professions or vocations have substantially brought honor and prestige to Far Eastern University.

By recognizing the exemplary achievements of the Alumni, Far Eastern University seeks to hold them up for emulation by others even as it seeks to extend its appreciation for what they have done.

Categories of the Awards

Nominations for the Outstanding Alumni may be made by any person or group of persons or by an organization/institution/company/association for any and/or several of the following categories:

- Business/Industry
- Arts and Culture
- Education
- Mass Communication
- Law
- Nursing
- Architecture and Fine Arts
- Movies and Television
- Public/Government Service
- Spiritual Leadership
- Science and Technology
- Finance
- Entrepreneurial Leadership
- Sports Advocacy/Leadership
- Medicine and Allied Health Services
- Engineering
- Statesmanship/Diplomacy
- Military Leadership
- Other Fields

For information, you can visit us:

Far Eastern University
 Alumni Affairs Office
 2nd floor Administration Building
 Trunkline: (+632) 7355621 loc. 283
 Direct line: (+632) 735-8683
 Email: alumni@feu.edu.ph

Alumni Facebook page:
<http://www.facebook.com/FEUalumni>

Deadline of Submission
July 31, 2012

You can download the forms at
www.feu.edu.ph or
<http://www.feu.edu.ph/alumni/85-outstanding>

community/organization level (10), impact of projects undertaken (17), and recognition and awards received for service (6) to **total points of 100 points.**

Procedures for nomination

- Any person or group of persons or an organization/ institution/company/ association of good standing may submit names of qualified nominees together with all the requirements to: The Search & Screening Committee Search for Most Outstanding Alumni Alumni Affairs Office 2nd Floor, Administration Building, Far Eastern University, Nicanor Reyes Sr. Street, Sampaloc, Manila, Philippines.

Submission may also be made through Telefax No. (632) 735-86-83 or at e-mail address: alumni@feu.edu.ph

- All nominations shall be pre-screened by the Search and Screening Committee as to their qualifications, merits and compliance with the basic requirements.

- Nominees who shall pre-qualify shall undergo a background check for validation and confirmation of qualifications.

- After validation, the Search and Screening Committee shall come up with a list of Final Nominees for submission to the Selection Committee.

Requirements for

Nomination • Duly accomplished nomination form

- Personal data sheet of the nominee

- Short description of nominee's outstanding achievement(s)/ contribution(s)

in his/ her field/ vocation (in outline form)

- Two (2) pieces 3 x 5 colored picture (half-body)

- Attach supporting documents, testimonials, pictures:

(Description of the nominee's career including personal and work background especially the scope of his/ her work/ activity and his/ her resources in achieving his/ her goals)

(Description of nominee's outstanding/ exceptional achievements/ contributions in His /her field/ vocation)

- Reasons or basis why nominee should be selected as an outstanding alumnus/ alumna. The final launching of search for outstanding alumni December 10, 2011; **deadline of submission July 31, 2012;** preliminary screening July 31, 2012; **final screening** August 31, 2012; **selection** September 28, 2012; confirmation of acceptance October 30, 2012; and awarding of outstanding alumni January 26, 2013.

The 85th Founding Anniversary Outstanding Alumni Awards

Search and Screening

Committee: Alumni Institute

Associations led by their

Presidents: Institute of Accounts, Business and Finance, Institute of Architecture and Fine Arts, Institute of Arts and Sciences, Institute of Education, Institute of Tourism and Hotel Management, Institute of Technology, Institute of Graduate Studies, Institute of Law, Institute of Medicine, and Institute of Nursing,

Final Selection Committee:

Chairman, President, Corporate Secretary, VPAA, President of Alumni Foundation Inc, Director of Alumni Affairs Office, and Marketing Consultant.

FROM CONDEMNATION

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construction to a jarring stop.

The multipurpose building was

almost

completed,

but the

sanctuary

had nothing

to show

except what

would later

serve as the

floor, now



ULYSSES M
CARBAJAL MD

covered with gravel. At the basement, countless studs of wood or steel marked the walls of various rooms. On one corner was a spacious storage room where boxes overflowed with knobs, hinges, screws, and other building materials. Other boxes contained fluorescent bulbs. Close by were piles of ready-made doors. Outside, the huge steel bars for the sanctuary steeples now lay idly by the fence along the Freeway, and were half-covered by wild weeds and layers of dust.

Appeal to the City Hall

Something must be done soon to save this project! I silently concluded. Having been recently appointed as chair the church building committee (following Dr George Atiga), I shuddered at the thought of working with Pastor Simeon Rosete (who also recently replaced Dr Atiga) to lead a delegation to the City Hall in order to bid for time to make the construction site more presentable.

Fortunately, Efren Mamaril, the Pilipino adviser of Mayor Tom Bradley, understood our

predicament and promptly arranged for us to be heard by the City Council and later by the City Hall Building Commission. What a relief we heaved when we found a member of the said Commission, who was sympathetic with our cause! Velcy Abracosa would later be prevailed upon to accept our offer to employ her as our architect. We had had two architects before her, but both did not have much to offer. To make the unfinished structures look more pleasing to the complainants, Velcy promptly advised that the bare walls, with protruding steel bars, be covered with plywood and then painted pink. Meanwhile, a work bee was soon organized to clear away the weeds and gravel piled behind the building.

What proved to be the most difficult for the committee members to swallow were the radical changes she recommended: The 800-seat sanctuary was scraped off; instead, the multipurpose pavilion was expanded to include a lobby; and the huge auditorium was revised to look more like a decent church. More importantly, the new building codes, especially those pertaining to the handicapped, had to be strictly followed. As expected, CFC was soon granted by the City Hall the go-signal.

Suggestion to Sell the Property. Nevertheless, the Southern California Conference (SCC) of Seventh-day Adventists, judging from CFC's tract record, doubted the capacity of CFC members to further support the project. It suggested that we sell the

property and relocate, or better yet, purchase an already existing church building which we could afford. The sale price suggested by SCC was two million. (We found out later that our neighbors, the De Pietro brothers, were prepared with this amount.)

Reluctantly, we sent a team to scout for a possible site where a smaller sanctuary could be constructed or for an existing building that could be renovated. A large property in San Dimas, with existing structures, was found but quickly dismissed. Other areas were considered in Burbank, in La Crescenta, and in Glendale — the Scientist Hall, in particular. None was found to suit our needs. Moreover, we still toyed with the thought of having a church by the Freeway to silently witness to the world that Jesus saves.

By now, a number of our congregation were getting frustrated and stealthily were being won over by SCC to relocate. This was demonstrated when a business meeting was held to consider what option to take. It is noteworthy that SCC was bent on selling the property for it sent 15 officers to attend the said meeting. Pastor Rosete, Dr Bautista, and I declared our strong desire to continue the building project in 777 Colorado. The oppositionists vehemently disagreed. The vote was taken, and the motion to sell the property won by a slim margin. Greatly embarrassed and disappointed, I sadly announced my impending resignation as chair of the building committee.

Desperately seeking for comfort, some 50 members

(avid Lakers fans) converged the following day at Dr Bautista's residence, which (being on a higher level) had a good command of the SCC headquarters. While others were busy cheering for the Lakers, Dr Atiga sauntered towards me and whispered: *Do you think our church members really like to sell the property?*

Action to Sell Is Rescinded.

Suddenly, I felt like a drowning person who had found a piece of wood to cling to. It swiftly flashed before my mind's eye that during the church business meeting, many of our members were attending the graduation exercises at Loma Linda University. Beyond my fondest expectation, the ensuing telephone survey revealed overwhelmingly that our members wanted to proceed with the project. When I conveyed the good news to Pastor Rosete, he asked me to draft a letter, which he would personally carry to SCC the following morning.

To cut the story short, another business meeting was convened the following weekend. The prior action to sell the property was rescinded by a large margin. A motion to make the vote unanimous was approved. The meeting was concluded with the singing of the doxology. Little did we then realize that some of the oppositionists would secede from CFC.

Another Obstacle

Shortly thereafter, the funding problem began to rear its ugly head. Because of the seceding of over a hundred members (the oppositionists), it had become more difficult to pay off the 450-thousand-dollar

loan from Pacific Union. But God was apparently on our side; for the remaining members buckled up, more determined than ever to pursue the project regardless of cost. When CFC was warned that it could not pursue the building program unless the 450 thousand loan be first taken care of, nine members dug deep into their resources and came up with 50 thousand each within 60 days. Thus, CFC was now allowed in pursuing its construction of the modified sanctuary.

Later, five families willingly placed their property on the line to secure the new loan to the tune of 1.8 million. Time and space do not allow the presentation of other obstacles that had to be surmounted before the completion of Phase I of the project (the modified sanctuary).

Completion of the Construction Project.

On April 12 1992, the modified sanctuary was inaugurated triumphantly. The 2-day celebration commenced with ribbon-cutting early Saturday morning and ended with a *Filipiniana* presentation on Sunday afternoon. A special Sabbath School program, an inspiring message during worship hour, great music, greetings, testimonies, slide-presentations—all of these made the event something to remember for many years to come. The invited guests included officers of Pacific Union (the lender) and SCC, as well as members of the City Council, Architect Velcy Abracosa, and even former members (who had left us) and the De Pietro brothers. By this time, our campaign song – *By*

Faith Begun, by Faith Done. Praise the Lord! – had become more meaningful.

No less dramatic was the completion of Phase II, which included the fellowship hall, kitchen, classrooms, court, and more parking spaces. This was spearheaded by Pastor Vic Louis Arreola, who had replaced Pastor Rosete, whose services were now directed to the Glendale Filipino Church. Dr Bautista personally took charge of the recognition of all who had helped in this stupendous venture, not knowing that this was to be his last year with CFC.

Climax of All Climaxes.

But the climax of all climaxes had yet to be experienced. The campaign to pay off the enormous indebtedness was soon started by Dr Bautista, whose sudden and unexpected demise in July 1995 left a deep void for a while. The succeeding head elder, Dr Alfonso Miguel, carried on the drive to pay off the mortgage, followed by Nelson Cometa and Nestor Ramos. At Dr Miguel's new home, the newly elected elders convened in summer, 2000, to study the recommendation of the committee, which was now known as Mortgage Pay-Off Plan (MPOP). This plan stipulated that every giving unit (140 in the church) would chip in 2,000 annually, by lump sum or installment, while 18-20 capable members would contribute 20 thousand each. In three years, the mortgage would be paid off. This was approved in the next church business meeting.

Again, the church failed rather miserably; reminiscent of

the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness. In December 2000, more than 700 thousand remained to be raised. Nelson Cometa and Nestor Ramos were giving up, with the latter eyeing at nurturing a new group of believers elsewhere. Then the unexpected took place. The job was unceremoniously hurled on to my lap. Vaguely, I surmised that because I was the only surviving leader of the original Wilmington church and because I was the chair of the committee that had led to the completion of Phase I, the church board members thought that I would readily accept the new task to chair the MPOP committee. But they were mistaken, for I graciously declined. I felt that the task was too nerve-wrecking for an aging doctor, now pursuing his studies at La Sierra University. However, because no one else was willing to take the job and because I love CFC, I finally relented, provided the church board and members would assure their wholehearted support. And the requested cooperation was assured.

Campaign Is Augmented.

During my first meeting with the committee members, we decided to *strike while the iron is hot*. This meant that instead of apportioning three years for the pay-off, we set two years. I was greatly inspired by the rousing response of the Board. To rally the members, several gimmicks or object lessons were used: pine cones painted gold to remind us of God's blessing; beautiful cards with a poem on Malachi 3:10; weekly letters of encouragement; even theme songs on CDs. But after about six months, the result was so disappointing that I asked my

co-chair to take over. I thought a younger leader and a woman at that would do better. Again the Board pleaded for me to try again.

Then a new idea popped up in my mind: The MPOP committee would organize the membership into 14 bands, each of which would be assigned 50 thousand for its goal. To constantly remind all church members of the MPOP goal, a 60 x 60-inch device would be posted on the front wall of the lobby, displaying a huge thermometer at the center and flanked on either side by seven imaginary thermometers. And this device worked. It was satisfying to see the mercury move upward in many thermometers every first Sabbath of the month.

Moreover, as suggested during the first meeting of the MPOP committee and band leaders at Marlene's place, an opportunity would be given every Sabbath for all, including guests, to drop a voluntary donation into designated baskets in front and on the center aisle. The campaign was now gaining momentum.

Another Interruption.

The enemy of souls, however, would not let us proceed unchallenged. An anonymous letter was circulated in an attempt to divide the congregation. This finally resulted in Pastor Rosete's being called back to CFC and in Pastor Arreola's being moved back to Hawaii. Because Pastor Rosete had successfully led in the completion of Phase I, CFC members welcomed his return. But it took a few weeks for some members to recoup and for Pastor Rosete to adjust his

program to meet squarely the new challenge of paying off a church mortgage. When the MPOP bands met for the second time at Marlene Robertson's place, Pastor Ariel Roxas had to pitch in because Pastor Rosete had another speaking engagement. Nonetheless, the members in attendance were richly blest and inspired by Pastor Roxas' message.

The MPOP leaders became more fired up in leading the members to reach the goal by Christmas time 2002. T-shirts displaying this intention and pins with *I love CFC* helped in reducing the indebtedness to about 150 thousand by October 2002. Visitations and personal appeals, plus an unexpected source of income, further shrank the amount to be raised. We prayed hard while meeting with prospective big donors, but met disappointment. We rationalized that the Lord would like to teach us to be more compassionate. Instead of just a few bearing the burden, more should be given a chance to participate. The year ended, with CFC 100 thousand short of its goal.

Theme Is Revised.

The theme had to be reworded: *CFC Debt-free. 2003!* But it took sometime for the church to recover its former fervent enthusiasm. The next six months dragged on, yielding a little over 50 thousand, much less than what had been raised during an equivalent period in the past. But we allowed no room for discouragement. We had started the campaign by faith, and we would finish the project by faith. In July, the balance was reduced to less than 40 thousand. In the mean

time, a steering committee was formed to prepare for the November 27 Thanksgiving Celebration.

By September 30, the deficit was just 25 thousand. Much encouraged, I made an announcement from the pulpit, exhorting the members to keep on giving. A week later, Pastor Rosete happily reported that some donations had been received during the tour of Europe. As previously recommended in a recent church board meeting, he wrote an appealing letter and followed it up on Sabbath, October 11, with a stirring sermon on Malachi 3:10. Greatly inspired and motivated, an unusually large number from the congregation came forward with their special offering. The giving of donations continued at the fellowship hall. An atmosphere of suspense prevailed till 7 in the evening when the church board was to hold its regular monthly meeting. During this meeting, Pastor Rosete jubilantly announced that the goal had been surpassed. The heat of giving had passed the boiling point.

Three days later, nine members joined him to deliver the last payment to the Pacific Union office. Beaming with joy, we posed for a few snapshots with the Pacific Union officers, who commended us for a job well done.

What a Thanksgiving Day!

November 27 2003. CFC -- finally debt-free! It was time to give all the glory to God. In keeping with this concept, the Steering Committee had decided, in a previous meeting, to issue no award to any

individual during the celebration. Accordingly, all the greetings, messages, sermon, music, testimonies, prayer, litany were all to give glory to the Almighty God who had made the seemingly impossible, possible. But Pastor Rosete could not help but recount the past sacrificial giving of the members. In like manner, I could not restrain myself from doing something not printed in the program: asking Velcy Abracosa, the architect who had graciously helped salvage our project, to stand for recognition. Nor would I forget to ask members of the MPOP committee and Band Leaders also to be recognized for their wholehearted efforts in making this happy event possible

After leading out in the ceremony of mortgage-paper burning and as I watched the smoke curling upward, I could imagine our heavenly High Priest joyfully accepting our modest offering --- a sanctuary fully paid for. My eyes welled up with tears of gratitude to God while listening to the litany of thanksgiving and prayer of dedication. And while the Brown Brothers were expressively singing *Bless This Church* and while the massed choir, bell choir, and string ensemble were joyously rendering *We Are the Church*, I thought the angelic hosts were singing with them. I would never exchange this rare and ecstatic experience with anything in the world. Yes, from a hell of condemnation, our church has gloriously risen to a heaven of commendation because of faith.

By faith begun, by faith done!

Praise the Lord!

CANNONBALLS

continued from page 2

classmates and the following have said they will come:



EDGAR
BORDA MD

1. **Rolando B Alegado MD**, orthopedic surgery, Baltimore MD,
2. **Belle B Almojera MD**,

family medicine, Jacksonville FL,

3. **Juliet P Baduya MD**, family medicine, Quincy MA,

4. **Emmanuel E Bautista MD**, family medicine, Newtown CT,

5. **Arthur V Bermisa MD**, family medicine, Williams-burg VA,

6. **Salvacion R Bonete MD**, child adolescent sychiatry, Glen Cove, NY,

7. **Edgar A Borda MD**, Internal Medicine, Medinah IL,

8. **Rolando L Cayetano MD**, pediatrics, Pasco WA,

9. **Evangeline T Cayton MD**, physical medicine, Dallas TX,

10. **Paulina G Marquez de Quiroz MD**, pediatrics, Long Beach CA,

11. **Susana F Frilles MD**, family medicine, Bluffton IN,

12. **Remedios Tuzon-Habacon MD**, Dean, FEU-NRMF Institute of Medicine, Philippines,

13. **Augusto Cezar B Lastimosa MD**, neurology, Forth Worth TX,

14. **Thomas Sinpo Chin Leong MD**, obstetrics gynecology, Stockton CA,

15. **Dante E Mahinan MD**, general surgery, Beverly Hills CA,

16. **Manuel A Malicay MD**, internal medicine, Oak Brook IL,

17. **Leilanie Narcelles-Mon MD**, internal medicine, Burr Ridge IL,

18. **Yolanda Zapanta-Novero MD**, pediatrics, Paramount CA,

19. **Corazon J Nava-Paras MD**, internal medicine, Cypress CA,

20. **Gloria S Quirante MD**, pediatric psychiatry, West Seneca NY,

21. **Minerva M Concepcion-Rivera MD**, internal medicine, Brookfield MO,

22. **Merle N Tandoc MD**, anesthesiology, West Seneca NY,

23. **David J Villanueva Jr MD**, child psychiatry, Bloomfield Hills MI,

24. **Ethel Q Liganor-Villanueva MD**, pediatrics, Bloomfield Hills MI, and

25. **Ligaya Torres MD**,

There were several individuals who have said they might attend, but have not confirmed their coming as of this writing.

I hope they could just pop in during the Jubilee and share with one another the exciting, golden moments of the past and the present.

Till we meet again.

JULY QUOTE

Out of the depth I have cried to you O LORD.

[Psalm 130:1](#)

Message from the CHAIRMAN

continued from page 1

behalf.

As I retire my chairmanship,



PEPITO C
RIVERA MD

I hold up the following:
President Dr Oscar Tuazon who has worked so tirelessly to make each meeting a success and

to keep the cogs of our association rolling along. Not only has he performed his own duties, but has also assisted others when they became bogged down.

I also recognize Dr Noli Guinigundo who works closely with Oscar, setting up venues and making sure that we have the best prices and accommodations that can be found.

Dr Cesar Reyes who has blessed us with a monthly newsletter filled not only with meeting minutes, but with poems, messages of faith, stories from the past, and updates on family and friends.

Cesar and Dr Celso del Mundo have spent many hours contacting contributors, making sure that articles were in on time and that the e-newsletter was both prompt and useful.

When I approached Cesar about accepting the challenge of the newsletter, I was sure that the results would be impressive, but Cesar and Celso have far exceeded my expectations.

I thank Dr Grace Rabadam, treasurer and friend. She has worked faithfully to make sure

that all our funds were used wisely and were documented appropriately.

Dr Minda Santangelo, secretary, continues to document our successes, ideas, plans, and occasional scuffles. We appreciate all her efforts and look often to her documentation when our own memories fail. I know that her husband misses her as she is often busy keeping track of all of us.

No officer can progress without a good compliment of advisors, people who can be trusted and who are held in high esteem. I thank my personal advisors Drs Amante and Jane Legaspi for always having the right answers or the vision to guide me to my own right answers. I value their friendship and lift them up as examples for others.

I also thank Drs Renato Ramos, Roger Cave and Virgilio Jonson for their assistance in keeping me on the right track. It takes a strong person to be able to listen and give guidance without taking over.

I also would like to recognize Dr Nida Hernaez for her leadership of the Chicago group. Many of us have been fortunate to attend meetings in Chicago and Nida's vision is always superb.

The Las Vegas group headed by Dr Linda Fabito was instrumental in making our Las Vegas Convention arousing success in June 2011 and I thank them for all their hard work.

I also thank the Southern California group for their many times to sponsor the association.

They go all out for every meeting and are masters at making each participant feel special.

I am sure I am forgetting someone important and ask your indulgence if I have failed to mention.

I applaud each of you for the great strengths and determination you demonstrate.

Each issue, meeting and convention has been taken care of with dignity, respect, efficiency and flair.

Each time the alumni met I was comfortable in the knowledge that the needs of the many were more than covered. Our association runs smoothly and efficiently because of the commitment of each one of you.

I have enjoyed my term in office and am glad to have served.

Now, I look to the next leg of my journey.

My lovely wife Minerva and I continue to discuss our plans for the future. We plan to return to our homeland and enjoy spending time with our children and grandchildren. We will remain active within the medical community through our work with the Asian Hospital and of course will continue to support the economy with shopping trips.

I do not see myself ever *slowing down*. There is too much out in the world left to see and do.

My final comments as FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation Chairman remain unchanged. Enjoy life, treat everyone with respect, support your alumni association, honor the great Alma Mater we all share and stay active.

I will see you around the world. Take care and God Bless.

PC RIVERA MD⁶⁷

HF NICODEMUS

continued from page 1

He is the first Pilipino to



HONORATO F
NICODEMUS MD

attain an academic rank of professor at the Uniformed Uniformed Services University of the Health

Sciences.

Dr Nicodemus also trained the second Pilipino (Captain Alvin Manalaysay, USN MC retired) to anesthetize a US president while in office (President Bill Clinton).

He was also a Vietnam Veteran and served with the RVN Honor Medal First Class, National Defense Unit.

He was a TOFA (Twenty Outstanding Filipino-Americans) in 1996.

And he retired from US Navy Medical Corp with a rank of captain.

Dr Nicodemus did not receive full recognition during the time that Pres. Reagan was operated on as he had to stay with the president in the recovery room while everyone went on to the press conference.

His bigger accomplishment he thought was his introduction to the world of the use of intraspinal morphine as a method of pain relief which up to that time, had only been used as a research tool in a few medical centers. He deemed this method (intrathecal morphine) the most appropriate one to use on the president who necessarily had to be conscious,

mostly pain free and in control of the reins of government at all times. The president was waving to reporters and comfortable on the third day after his operation. From then on, intrathecal morphine and variations of its applications became a standard method of pain relief after an operation.

Among his many hobbies, Japanese swords collection, knives collection, knife making, working out, jacking all trades, koi pond, gardening, and historic car enthusiast (mustang) stand out.

He is married to Rosvida S Nicodemus MD, a classmate in medical school, and blessed with three children: a nurse, a physician and an architect.

For his lecture during the 33rd FEUDNRSM Alumni Foundation scientific convention at Marriott in downtown Los Angeles, Dr Nicodemus will share his career experience entitled *A Lifetime of Anesthesiology*.

by **CESAR V REYES MD⁶⁸**

COMMENTS

Editorials, news releases, letters to the editor, column proposal and manuscripts are invited. Email submission, including figures or pictures, is preferred.

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Dates **Leave Manila**

early flight

Sunday January 27, 2013

for **Tacloban**

Return to **Manila**

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Please confirm if you can make either or both the missions as soon as you know the schedule. The earlier the better so we can start booking flights. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact via email

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