



the Living Stone



The Official Newsletter of
Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27, F. & A. M.

October 16, 2009

Jacobo Zobel Masonic Temple, Sacred Heart Street,
San Antonio Village, Makati City, Philippines



Message from the East

WM Antonio J. Limpoco, III

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

More than a decade ago, we witnessed one of the most compelling stories of WWII captured on film. “Saving Private Ryan” directed by the phenomenal film-maker Steven Spielberg, narrates a less known human drama about the cruelties of conflict set against the backdrop of the liberation of Nazi held Europe.

Masterfully told with stunning photages of the almost catastrophic amphibious assault at Omaha Beach in Normandy; it was well received by audiences and garnered considerable critical acclaim, winning several awards. Yet, were I to summarize the entire movie in two words, it would be this – Earn It.

And so it is with us masons. Our claim to glory, in fact, the very essence of what Freemasonry is today – is the product of men far greater than ourselves who dreamt and believed that there is more to life than merely eking a living. That honor and virtue are not just empty words but should hold special meaning. Men who had a vision to create one of the greatest forces for good humanity have ever known.

Their quest was never easy. Wrought by hardships, persecution (even excommunication), and a growing public resentment for things they did not understand. These men persevered, believing in that utopia that is a world free from oppression and tyranny, free to exercise one’s belief as he sees fit, and a world where men consider themselves brothers, care for one another’s welfare, and uphold the principles of Truth.

This month, we commemorate and pay tribute to such men. Brothers, who not only have come before us, but have paid their dues and carried their share of the burdens in this endless Masonic procession of life. We honor their memories and those that survive them, and in so doing perpetuate for eternity, the ideals they lived and died for.

Very often, we forget and neglect these legacies. We eat of the fruit unmindful of the countless sacrifices of those that toiled before us. The greatest injustice we can inflict upon the fraternity (and ourselves) is failing to live up to our solemn promises and vows.

We walk upon the ashes of these great men. We benefit from their legacy. The world is a better place because of them. Perhaps, their only wish is for us, present day masons, to use this birthright wisely. They have given us their hopes and dreams and we can only hope to – Earn it.



Message from the West

Bro. Xerxez S. Coronado

SENIOR WARDEN

Congratulations to Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 for bagging the major award in the recently concluded District NCR-G Sports Fest. This was held on that memorable day of September 26th 2009. We placed 1st in the Darts room, 2nd in the Bowling lanes and 3rd in the Billiards hall to claim the Overall Champion Trophy.

Representing our Lodge in this campaign were: Bros Xerxez Coronado, Ian Lantoria, Erich Somera, WM James Olayvar, VW Ric Misa, VW Jun San Luis. VW Sim Cañonero, the DDGM joined us as a member of the Bowling Team.

It was a day to remember, for while the games are steaming hot inside Makati Sports Club, the rainy weather outside went on to wreck havoc in the metropolis. Those in attendance barely noticed the seriousness of the condition outside until water started to flood the offices just outside the bowling alley. Several Brethren got messages from those who were still trying to attend the event that they can no longer do so due to the storm.

The Brethren calmly held on to their nerves in spite of worrying for their families and friends. We continued playing and managed to keep our composure in this trying moment for we got word that we have no way back to our homes due to heavy flooding. Thanks to those brave brothers who badly needed to return to their houses to attend to their families but instead stayed behind to continue participating in the different games. They still kept constant warnings and updates to the Brethren so we get informed of the perils of traversing back home.

Even power interruptions did not dampen the spirits of the players but as soon as electric supply stabilized, everyone is back on the play area. It was a well attended event and minus the worries outside, everyone had a great time during the games.

Cheers!



Message from the South
Bro. Tito Cuenco
JUNIOR WARDEN

Greetings from the South! Just as the saying goes, parting is such sweet sorrow. It is with a sad note that I inform the Brethren of Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27, that my job here at PAL Headquarters has ended and will therefore be returning to my domicile by end of this month. That being said this will be the last stated meeting I will be able to attend with all of you. My only regret is that I have to leave with just barely two months to go ending this Masonic year. I am sure our able brethren will be able to fill in the shoes of my station for the remaining months.

I would like to thank the core officers, our council of elders as well as the members of Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27 for having given me your trust and confidence and the opportunity to serve the Lodge. I hope that I have done my job well and in my own way have contributed to the betterment of our Lodge in particular and masonry in general. I will cherish the wonderful learning experiences and fellowships I have had with all of you. That will remain sweet in my memories.

Again my thanks to each and everyone and it was a pleasure serving with all of you!!!

Mabuhay ang Batong Buhay Lodge No. 27!

THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

Pictorial

Lodge of Instruction





Secretary's Corner
Bro. Ruferick Somera
SECRETARY

Brethren, this month started slow for all of us, due to floods brought by the two recent typhoons. WB Rei Cedeño, WB Juanito Laohoo, Bro. Ben Reyes were among the victims. I would like to thank the Brethren who extended immediate relief to our less fortunate Brethren.

Brethren, on October 10, 2009, we will again visit the elderly & sisters of our adapted nursing home – “Bahay ni Maria” at Calamba, Laguna. I’m encouraging everyone to support this project. It is not only the financial support they cherish but the fellowship we share with them. We will donate ten thousand pesos (PHP 10,000.00) worth of groceries.

During our next Stated Meeting (October 16, 2009), we will ballot Mr. Christopher Manalo. Likewise the Lodge will decide on the appeal letter of Mr. Vincent Chua.

On October 24, we will conduct “The Lodge of Remembrance” and I appeal to each member to support this.

Lastly, the third degree conferral of Bro. Romeo Calooy, Jr. was deferred. We already received from our Bro. Senior Warden our roles in the conferral. Please memorize our lines and I’ll update you as soon as I receive the confirmed schedule.

Brethren, please exert extra effort to participate in all our forthcoming activities. Let's enjoy our Masonic life!

Trestle Board

Brethren, on our fellowship last stated meeting, our Knocker Mr. Marv Morales submitted his petition form. It will be read on the next stated meeting on October 16, 2009.

Petitioner:

Name	Date Presented
1. Mr. Clint Vincent A. Chua	May 15, 2009
2. Mr. Christopher Manalo	June 19, 2009
3. Mr. Jonathan Tagala	July 17, 2009
4. Mr. Marv Morales	October 16, 2009

Entered Apprentice Mason:

Name	Conferral Date
5. Bro. Anil R. Amarnani	June 20, 2009
6. Bro. Rixon Rey P. Ducusin	July 25, 2009

Fellow Craft Mason:

Name	Conferral Date
7. Bro. Romeo G. Calooy, Jr.	August 21, 2009

Birthday Celebrants

Brethren, this month two of our Past Masters will celebrate their birthday – WB John & WB Juanito together with our regular members Bro's. Ian, Gene, Dino & Oscar. Let us ask our Great Architect of the Universe to continue to bless and keep them in good health always.

1. Bro. Ian Lantoria	Oct. 6
2. Bro. Gene Asuncion	Oct. 15
3. Bro. Dino Maniquiz	Oct. 20
4. WB John Llamas	Oct. 24
5. WB Juanito Laohoo	Oct. 24
6. Bro. Oscar Hipolito	Oct. 27



Masonic Education

VW Lauro Garcia, Jr.

LECTURER

Freemasonry – the Unfinished Temple of King Solomon
By VW Lauro Garcia, Jr.

The building of King Solomon's Temple is central to our rites in the second section of the third degree. The true story of the temple is, it was finished in seven years of construction with a combination of slaves and paid workers supplied by both King Solomon and King Hiram of Tyre. King Solomon hired Hiram (Hiram Abif in our rituals), a metal craftsman to do all the metal furnishings of the temple including the two bronze columns named Boaz and Jachin. After all the works were done, Hiram went home alive and healthy. King Solomon paid King Hiram of Tyre for all the labor and materials he provided.

So, what is the meaning of this unfinished temple of King Solomon and the death and resurrection of Hiram Abif which is so important in our ritual? This, as a whole, is the beautiful symbol of what we are and what we have now – our Freemasonry.

The death of Hiram Abif is emblematic of the death of Jacques DeMolay, the last Grand Master of the Knights Templar and the demise of Knights Templar Order which Jacques DeMolay represents. The three ruffians – Jubelo, Jubela, and Jubelum who killed Hiram Abif are the personifications of the parties who caused Jacques DeMolay/the Templar Order's death, namely: the Hospitaler Knights of St. John, King Philippe IV of France, and Pope Clement V.

Hiram Abif as Jacques DeMolay was raised by King Solomon and King Hiram of Tyre in our ritual, with the strength and strong grip of the Lion's Paw – of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Lion of the Tribe of Judah is our Lord Jesus Christ.

When Hiram Abif as Jacques DeMolay, as the Knights Templar was raised his person was transformed into what we have now as our Freemasonry – an allegorical, imaginary, spiritual but unfinished (due to Hiram Abif's death) Temple of Solomon dedicated to the Almighty God; and we ourselves are the symbolic masons and the stones presently building this unfinished spiritual Temple of Solomon to glorify the God almighty.

This temple will remain "unfinished" to give other worthy and well-qualified others the golden privilege to help build.

In short, Freemasonry is an allegorical spiritual Temple of God Almighty – the unfinished Temple of Solomon in our ritual. This is an Arcanum, meaning, it is only known to us, a selected few who are initiated.

Question: Are we building this unfinished temple correctly and are we the perfect ashlar that we are supposed to be that this Temple of Solomon, dedicated to our Almighty God, need/

The Answer is within each of one of us.

Summer Raffle Bonanza Results

MAJOR PRIZES:

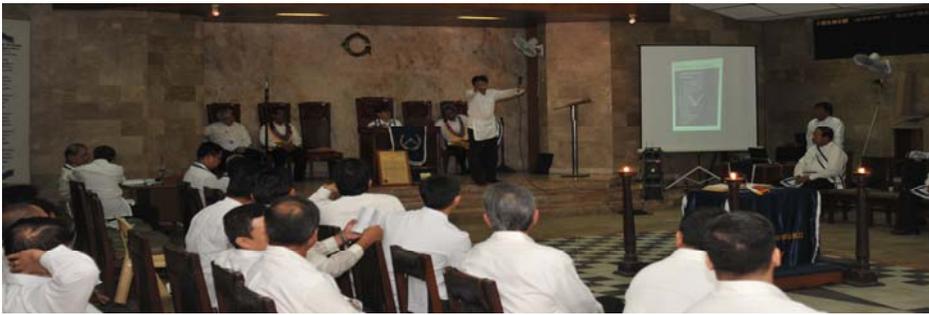
Prize	Ticket No.	Sold by
• First	2189	WB Keith Singian
• Second	1135	WM Tony Limpoco
• Third	0517	Bro. Romeo Calooy

MINOR PRIZES:

Consolation Prize	Ticket No.	Sold by
Oven Toaster	1846	JZML 202
Dinner Set	1149	WM Tony Limpoco
Dinner Set	2864	Ms. Rhuan Sibal
Miscellaneous	3949	WM Joel Porlares
Miscellaneous	2952	Ms. Portia Cantoria
Miscellaneous	1384	Dr. Joseph Cedeño
Miscellaneous	2770	WB Orlando Mabutas
Miscellaneous	3589	Bro. Charles Bañez
Miscellaneous	1316	Bro. Elmer Gamiao
Miscellaneous	2766	WB Orlando Mabutas
Miscellaneous	0010	Bro. Romeo Calooy

Victorial

Lodge of Instruction



Schedule of Activities

Oct. 16	Stated Meeting
Oct. 24	District NCR-G Annual Convention
Oct. 24	Lodge of Remembrance
Dec. 5	NCR Multi-District Convention

Masonic Quotes

“Freemasonry is a beautiful system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols.” --Hemming

Source: A Dictionary of Freemasonry
Compiled by: Robert Macoy

Editorial Board

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