



# *The Bedan* **ALUMNUS**

The Official Publication of the  
San Beda College Alumni Association  
Third Epoch • Founded 1962 by Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB

*Adios y muchisimas gracias*

**Padre Benigno Benabarre, OSB**

1915 - 2017



It has been a sad day in the San Beda Community ever since **Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB** passed away last Friday, February 3, 2017, the eve of the Grand Alumni Homecoming. Since he came back to San Beda on April 1, 2004, after many years of stay in Spain, Fr. BB, as he was fondly called by loving Bedans, would religiously make his presence felt during all alumni homecoming celebrations every first Saturday of February.

During our almost daily candid talks with Fr. BB at the Alumni Office, where he served as Assistant Moderator, he would always express to me his happiness being back at the Alumni Office which he considered his second home. This **Bedan Alumnus** magazine which he founded in 1962 would be his lasting legacy to many generations of Bedans.

In his pensive moments, he would share with me his final wishes to just have one simple wake, with only one rose stem on his traditional Benedictine white coffin, and with the SBC Alumni Association establishing a **Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB Scholarship Program** so the underprivileged youth of today will experience Bedan education at its finest. Till the end, Fr. BB knew how to give much of himself to the San Beda College community.

*ADIOS Y MUCHISIMAS GRACIAS, PADRE BENIGNO BENABARRE, OSB!*







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# Till We Meet Again, Fr. Benigno!

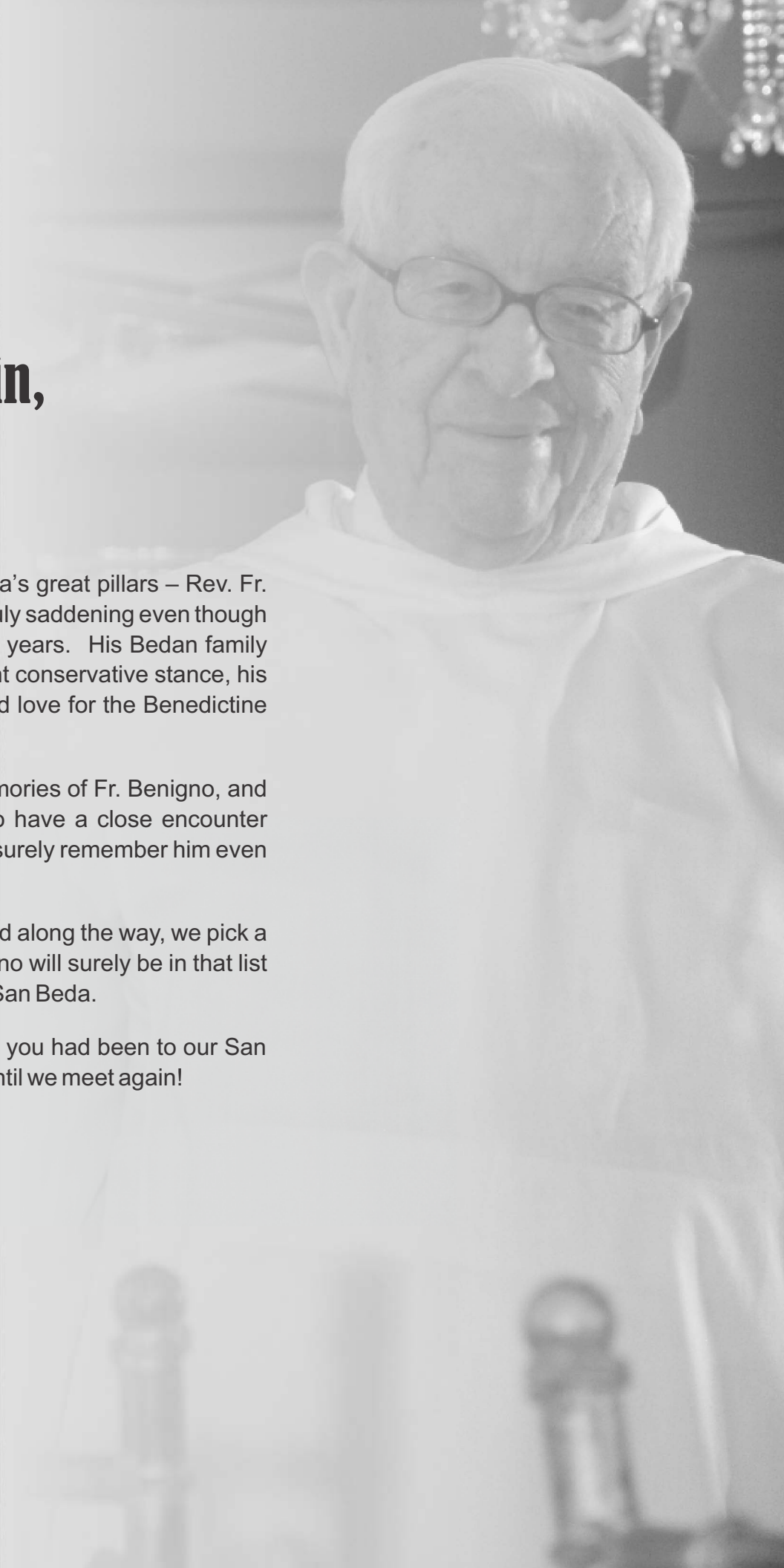
*By Atty. Dominador D. Buhain, Jr.  
President  
San Beda College Alumni Association*

We say goodbye to one of San Beda's great pillars – Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB. This is truly saddening even though Fr. BB was already in his advanced years. His Bedan family will surely miss him for his consistent conservative stance, his sense of humor, love for school, and love for the Benedictine community he truly belongs.

A number of Bedans have fond memories of Fr. Benigno, and every Bedan who was privileged to have a close encounter with this well-loved Benedictine will surely remember him even after his death.

In our lives, people come and go, and along the way, we pick a few who are truly special. Fr. Benigno will surely be in that list of special people in our lives here in San Beda.

Our million thanks Fr. BB for all that you had been to our San Beda College Alumni Association. Until we meet again!







# Tribute to Fr. BB

By Avelino V. Cruz, Chairman, SBLAA

We in the San Beda Law Alumni Association (SBLAA) are all saddened and in mourning with the passing away of **Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB**. At the same time, we can only exalt that he has finally received his just reward in God's heaven.

Fr. BB, as he was fondly called, left a legacy of long and faithful service to the Benedictine Order, especially to the San Beda College that he loved so much. Having served up to more than one hundred and one years of age, both God and his adopted country, Fr. BB will be long remembered by all San Beda students who faced his stern discipline, and for his acts of charity and his endless dedication to impart Benedictine values to all Bedans, most especially to all Bedan lawyers whether in the private sector or in public service.

As a Spiritual Adviser of SBLAA, we have looked up to him for guidance in upholding always the stated mission of our Law School, which is *"to produce good Christian and highly principled lawyers, mentally and spiritually equipped to take their places among real apostles of justice"*.

Personally, I feel I have lost both a mentor and a father, having worked very closely with him particularly in the final decades of his life, and in promoting as well, his literary output. The evening before he passed away, our own **Dr/Prof Joffre Alajar** called me to report that Fr. BB's nurse in UST heard him mention my name twice even while already in semi-coma. I had planned to visit him the day after, but he passed away the following morning. I have no doubt however that one last wish he would have articulated was something he had expressed to me earlier - for the Law Alumni to support his works of charity for law students who are in need of financial support. I and the members of our Board of Trustees will make sure that this would be fulfilled through a scholarship program for needy law students to be established in his name and honor.

As we all say one last farewell to Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB, let me paraphrase this tribute: *"Here was once a Fr. Benigno Benabarre. When comes such another?"*

*"Ut In Omnibus Glorificetur Deus"*. That In All Things God May Be Glorified.





*Fr. BCB's Beautiful*











# BENIGNO BENABARRE, OSB

## The Monk of a Hundred and One Stories

By Fr. Ranhillo Callangan Aquino

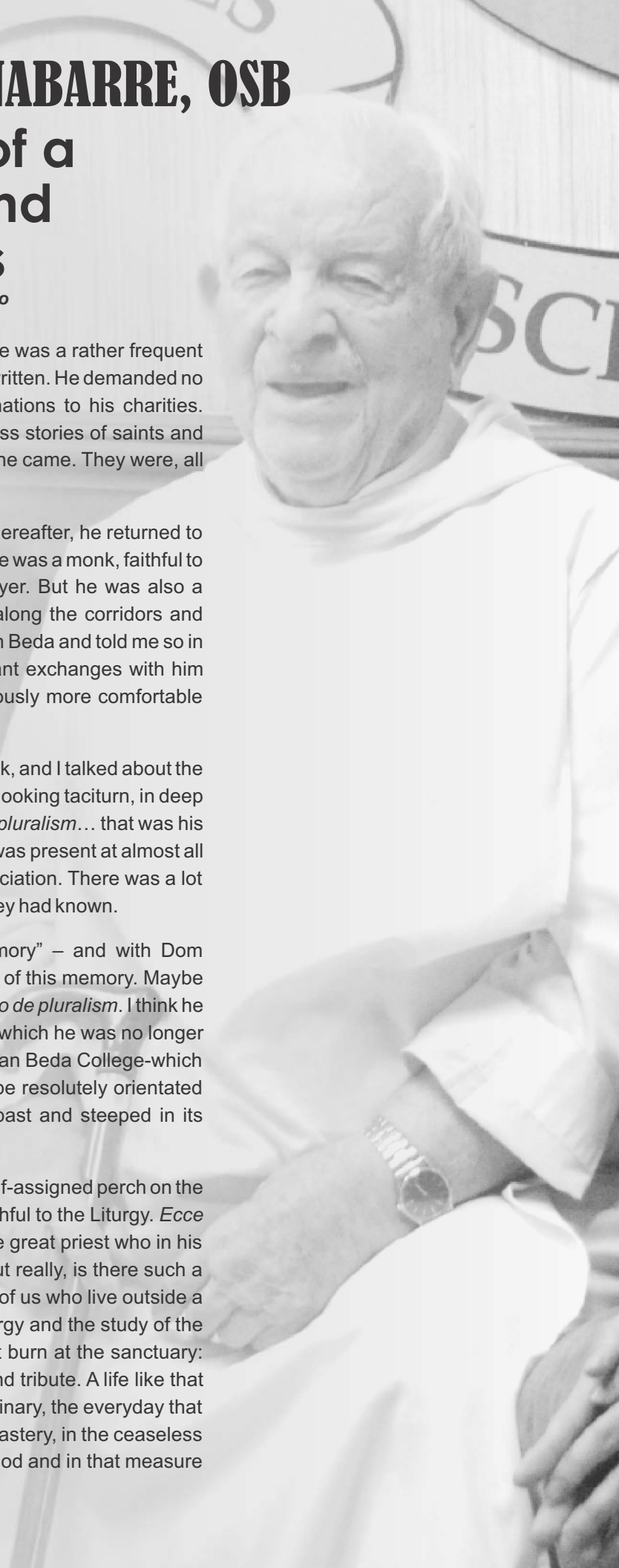
When he could still amble along with just a cane, he was a rather frequent visitor to my office, and almost always, with books that he had written. He demanded no pay for the books but was also clear about welcoming donations to his charities. Written in not-too-perfect English, the books were nevertheless stories of saints and martyrs, of his own life, and the province of Spain from which he came. They were, all together, a journal of a soul.

He was here in San Beda's earlier days, and for some time, thereafter, he returned to Spain-and then chose to come back. It is here where he died. He was a monk, faithful to his vows, faithful to his habit, faithful to a monk's life of prayer. But he was also a welcoming presence at San Beda College. He would walk along the corridors and almost everyone stopped to greet him. He cared deeply for San Beda and told me so in many of our conversations. I looked forward to these pleasant exchanges with him because I could use my Spanish with him, and he was obviously more comfortable speaking in his own language.

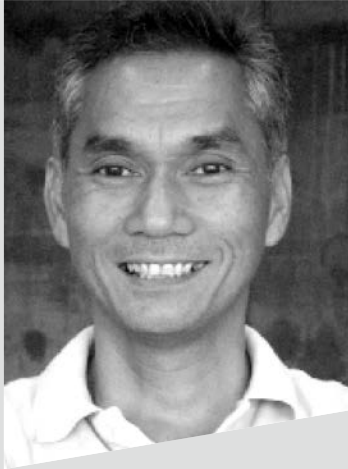
I was once invited by then Fr. Abbot Tarci to give the monks a talk, and I talked about the challenge of pluralism to religion. After that, I saw Fr. Benigno, looking taciturn, in deep thought, and I asked him what the matter was: *Demasiado de pluralism...* that was his reply. But he was no ambulant fossil. He knew the alumni and was present at almost all alumni activities. He was in fact the darling of the alumni association. There was a lot about him that reminded San Beda's alumni of the San Beda they had known.

Immensely valuable to any institutions is "institutional memory" – and with Dom Benigno's passing, we have lost just one more spokesperson of this memory. Maybe there was something prophetic about his complaint. *Demasiado de pluralism*. I think he worried too that San Beda was morphing into something with which he was no longer familiar. That, of course, is the life of a vibrant institution like San Beda College-which we pray will soon be a university, but an institution can only be resolutely orientated towards its future in the measure that it is anchored in its past and steeped in its traditions, and Dom Benigno embodied these.

He participated in choir till the end of his days, occupying his self-assigned perch on the top rung of the choir stalls, but faithful to the Divine Office, faithful to the Liturgy. *Ecce sacerdos, magnus qui in diebus suis placuit Deo...* Behold the great priest who in his days pleased God. Perhaps he was just an ordinary monk, but really, is there such a thing as an "ordinary monk"? After all a monk lives a life none of us who live outside a monastery's walls can ever imagine. Given to prayer, the liturgy and the study of the sacred page, a monk's life is best likened to the candles that burn at the sanctuary: consuming themselves in perpetual adoration and worship and tribute. A life like that cannot be ordinary. But it is precisely in one's fidelity to the ordinary, the everyday that one must live his spirituality. It is in the daily silence of the Monastery, in the ceaseless chanting and in the humility of labour that one gives glory to God and in that measure becomes great. And that was **Dom Benigno's life**.







# Goodbye Fr BB

*By Jojo Hautea  
Former SBCAA President*

Even all good things come to pass. The last time I saw Fr BB, I could clearly see how mother time had withered him. Yet with all the signals of advanced aging - his drooping shoulder, thinned face and slower gesturing, one who knows him

would conclude that the loving heart has remained what it had always been. Yes, fr BB was God sent to create in Bedans a lasting reminder of HIS love and guidance.

I learned that he had a will that only a single rose would be placed on his coffin, that his body should be donated for medical study purposes and that a foundation to educate poor children should be set up in his name. Even at his death, fr BB continues to inspire and instruct.

Fr BB. What does it mean? Aside from his name, it may as well mean Fr. Bedanly Brother! If there then would be a good way to immortalize our friend, it may be by living out his legacies. I am confident this would bring out that not-too-often seen big smile of his. What he was all about?

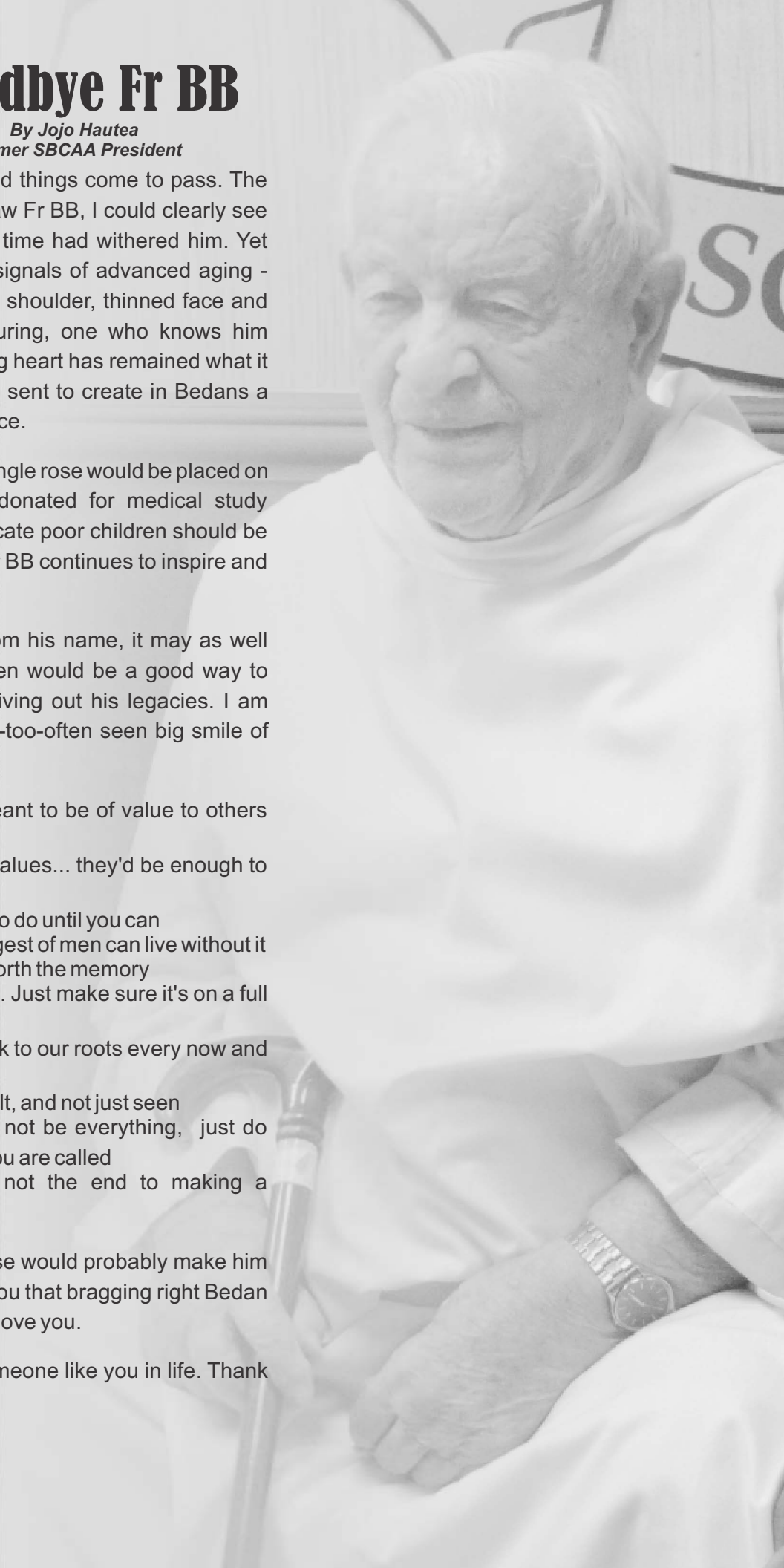
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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Simplicity</b>         | - no frills. Life is meant to be of value to others and not just to self |
| <b>Discipline</b>         | - stick to enduring values... they'd be enough to live a good life       |
| <b>Hardwork</b>           | - do what you have to do until you can                                   |
| <b>Prayer</b>             | - not even the strongest of men can live without it                      |
| <b>Humor</b>              | - keep it clean yet worth the memory                                     |
| <b>Enjoying life</b>      | - some wine is good. Just make sure it's on a full stomach               |
| <b>Family</b>             | - we need to go back to our roots every now and then                     |
| <b>Love for others</b>    | - make it strikingly felt, and not just seen                             |
| <b>Pursuit of quality</b> | - you need not be everything, just do your best where you are called     |
| <b>Leaving a legacy</b>   | - death is not the end to making a difference                            |

Us doing and somewhat being like these would probably make him say he's had the last laugh. We'll give you that bragging right Bedan Brother because you deserve it and we love you.

it is not often to be blessed to have someone like you in life. Thank you...

We will miss you.

So long, for now.





# Adios y Gracias, Fr. BB

*By Atty. Rene Saguisag*

I got word Friday evening last from Krip Yuson HS'60, on Father Benigno Benabarre's passage to the Promised Land. And I responded thusly:

"Sigue, Kamandag Krip, magkita ta in his wake.

"Krip, Fr. BB is 101, as you know. You have to help me kill the rumor that I go back that far. I am `only' 77. Not my contempo, he was not.

"In fact, I happen to have class tomorrow at eight am, grad school, law, Mendiola. I'll ask around. [I have asked, Mass Sat. evening. Tough, I have a human rights class in Alabang, and traffic is hellish. But, will try.]

"He wrote Public Funds for Private Schools in a Democracy. He had gravitas.

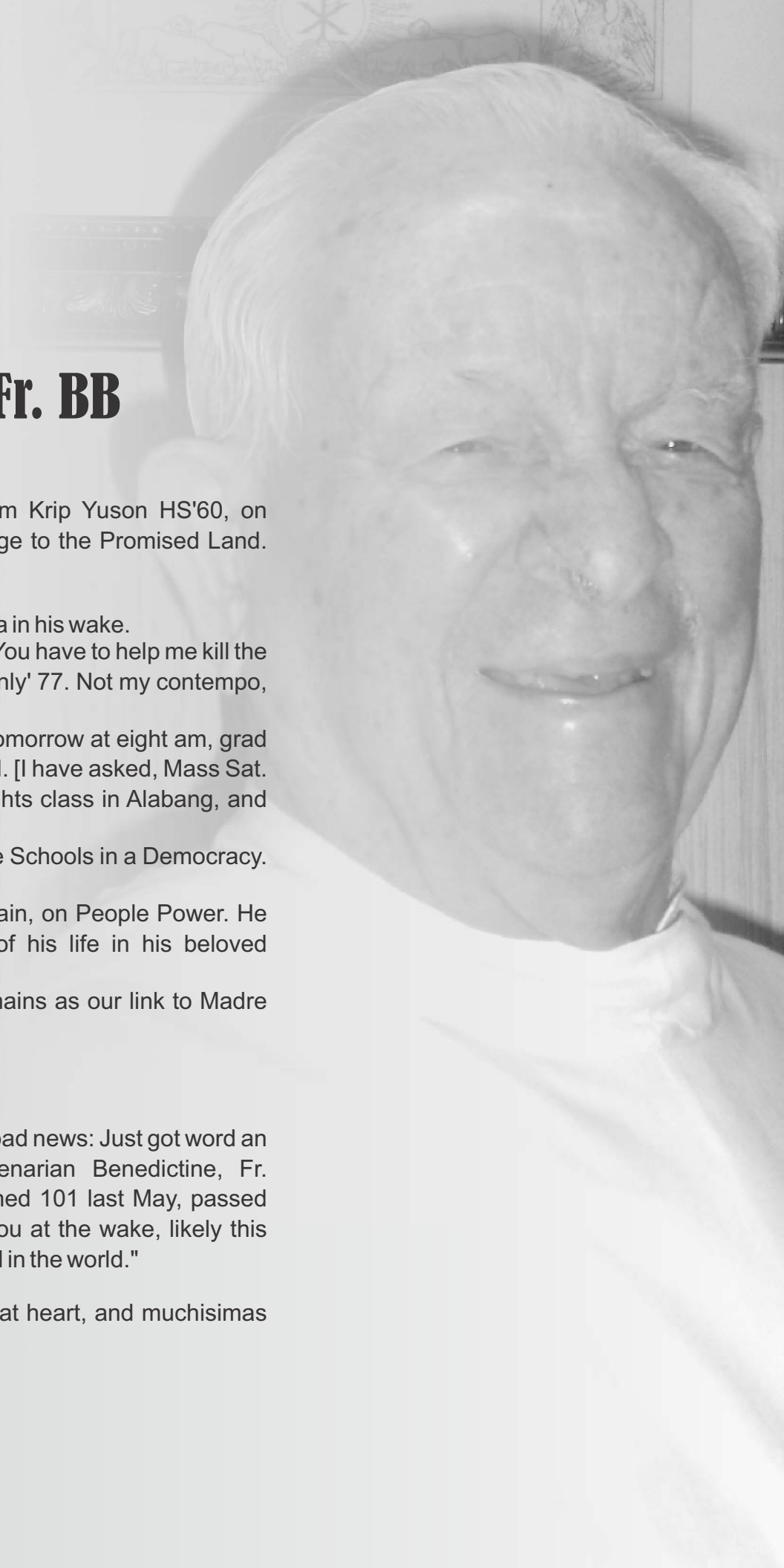
"In 1986, he wrote me, from Spain, on People Power. He later returned, to spend the rest of his life in his beloved adopted Motherland.

"Now, only Fr. Commeleran remains as our link to Madre Espana."

Below, the full text of Krip's email:

"...Now I'm sorry to be the bearer of bad news: Just got word an hour ago that our beloved centenarian Benedictine, Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB, who turned 101 last May, passed away earlier today. Hope to see you at the wake, likely this weekend in the most beautiful chapel in the world."

Adios, Fr. BB, a true Filipino at heart, and muchisimas gracias.







*By Jose Araullo*

**“Padre Benigno,  
you will be endlessly  
remembered in the  
memory of time”**



*By Jorge Z. Ortoll*

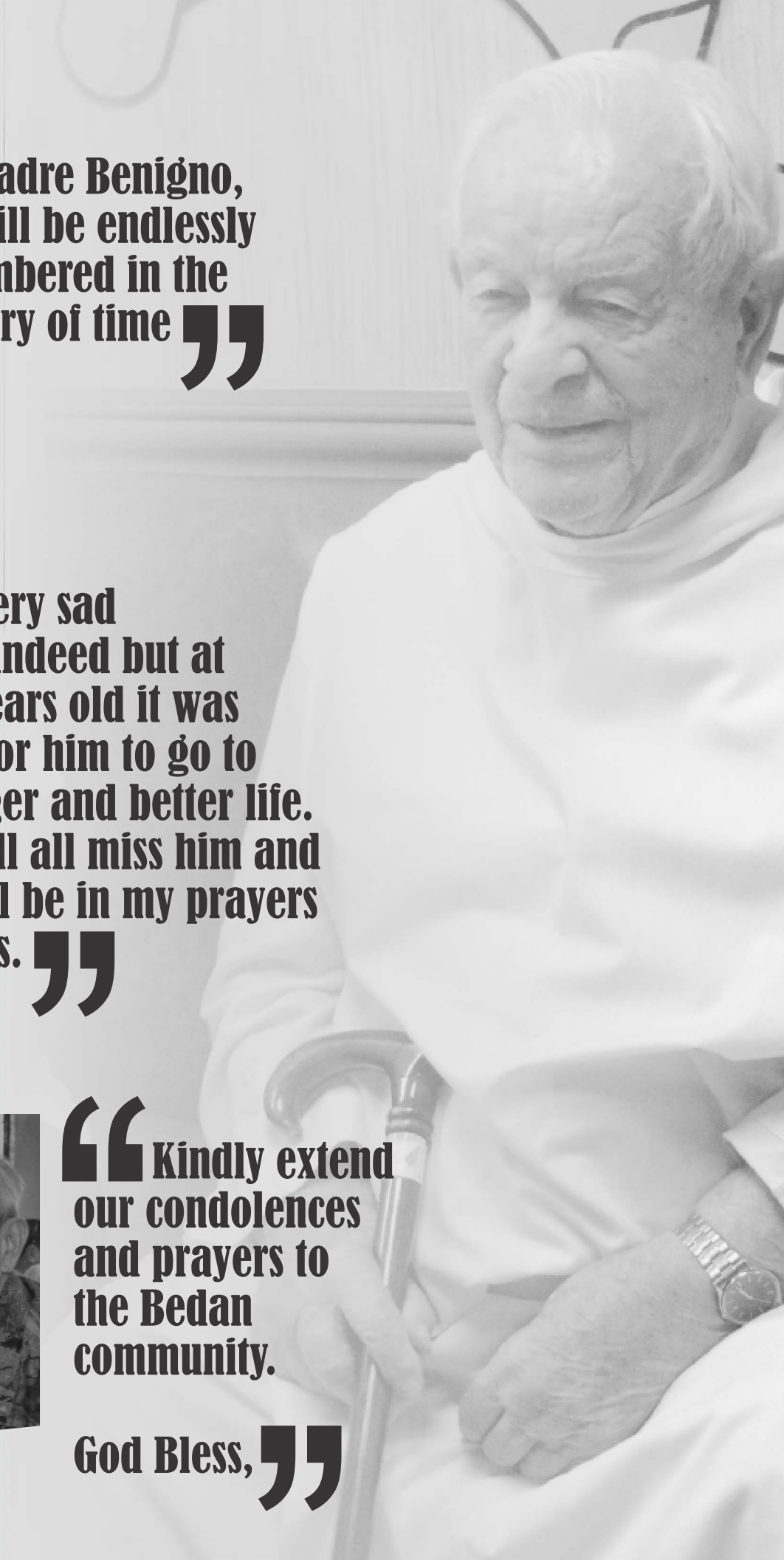
**“Very sad  
news indeed but at  
102 years old it was  
time for him to go to  
a bigger and better life.  
We will all miss him and  
he will be in my prayers  
always.”**



*By Gregorio Concon*

**“Kindly extend  
our condolences  
and prayers to  
the Bedan  
community.**

**God Bless,”**







*Will remember...*



*Fr. Benabarre*

