

February - May 2017



# *The Bedan* **ALUMNUS**

The Official Publication of the  
San Beda Alumni Association

Third Epoch • Founded 1962 by Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB

**70** Years  
of Living to the  
Fullness of Life

**Justice Francisco "Nick" P. Acosta (AB Philo '67, Law '71)**  
President, SBC Law Alumni Association



# San Beda College Alumni Association, Inc.

## Officers & Trustees A.Y. 2016-2017



**Atty. Dominador D. Buhain**  
*President*



**Atty. Jones L. Cabochan**  
*Vice President*



**Atty. Alexander G. Flores**  
*Secretary*



**Michael John M. Rubio**  
*Treasurer*



**John Lino G. Alindogan III**  
*Trustee*



**Edmundo R. Badolato**  
*Trustee*



**Atty. Cleveland Z. Buela**  
*Trustee*



**Christian Bryan S. Bustamante**  
*Trustee*



**Atty. Winston M. Ginez**  
*Trustee*



**Catalino Rey M. Figueroa, Jr.**  
*Trustee*



**Rufino H. Abad**  
*Trustee*



**Richard John D. Guevara**  
*Trustee*



**Renato R. Reinoso**  
*Trustee*



**Jose Mari V. Lacson**  
*Trustee*



**Justice Jose C. Reyes, Jr.**  
*Trustee*



**Rev. Fr. Austin P. Cadiz, OSB**  
*Moderator*



**Dr. Joffre M. Alajar**  
*Executive Director*



**Wilma B. Abellanosa**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**Juvelyn B. Fabro**  
*Staff*



**Archie A. Armelligas**  
*Staff*



**Alvin Y. Jose**  
*Staff*





# San Beda College Alumni Foundation

## Officers & Trustees A.Y. 2016-2017



**Dr. Jaime Z. Galvez Tan**  
*President*



**Gabriel P. Mathay**  
*Vice President*



**Geoffrey L. Go**  
*Secretary*



**Edgardo B. Favila**  
*Treasurer*



**Jose Marie V. Lacson**  
*Auditor*



**Tomas P. Africa**  
*Trustee*



**Atty. Dominador D. Buhain, Jr.**  
*Trustee*



**Atty. Jonas L. Cabochan**  
*Trustee*



**Enrico U. Dee**  
*Trustee*



**Liberato P. Laus**  
*Trustee*



**Atty. Constantino L. Navarro**  
*Trustee*



**Dr. Conrado F. Oca**  
*Trustee*



**Dr. Edgardo C. Paras, Jr.**  
*Trustee*



**Kishu D. Sehwan**  
*Senior Adviser*



**Roman Felipe S. Reyes**  
*Trustee*



**Dr. Joffre M. Alajar**  
*Executive Director*



**Wilma B. Abellanosa**  
*Administrative Assistant*



**Juvelyn B. Fabro**  
*Staff*



## EDITOR'S Greetings

**Dr. Joffre M. Alajar**  
(GS '72, HS '76, CAS '80)

An outstanding Bedan truly worthy of the San Beda Community's esteem and emulation is **Justice Francisco Paredes Acosta** (AB Philosophy '67, Law '71), President of the San Beda Law Alumni Association.

Year 2017 must be a significant one for this revered Associate Justice of the Court of Appeals for last March 31, he retired from the Judiciary and last April 2, he marked his 70th milestone birthday.

And as a fitting tribute to this remarkable Bedan, the Editorial Board in cooperation with the San Beda Law Alumni Association is dedicating this latest volume issue of The Bedan Alumnus magazine to Justice Nick.

It is hoped that through this special issue, we will be able to pay tribute to another legendary Bedan whom today's millennial students can emulate.

On his 70th birthday, we wish him more years of blessings and love to make him more steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in his leadership of the San Beda Law Alumni Association.

Let the succeeding pages of **The Bedan Alumnus** magazine serve as a token of our esteem and gratitude to **Justice Nick Acosta**.

Cheers!!!

SAN BEDA COLLEGE  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.  
Officers & Trustees AY 2016-2017



**ATTY. DOMINADOR D. BUHAIN, JR.**  
**ATTY. JONAS L. CABOCHAN**  
**ATTY. ALEXANDER G. FLORES**  
**PROF. MICHAEL JOHN Y. RUBIO**

*President*  
*Vice-President*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*

*Trustees*  
Rufino H. Abad, John Lino G. Alindogan III, Edmundo R. Badolato  
Atty. Cleveland Z. Buela, Dr. Christian Bryan S. Bustamante  
Catalino Rey M. Figueroa, Jr., Atty. Winston M. Ginez  
Richard John G. Guevara, Jose Mari V. Lacson  
Renato R. Reinoso and Justice Jose C. Reyes, Jr.

*Council of Advisers*  
Engr. Eriberto H. Gomez, Albert R. Imperial and Joaquin C. Loyzaga  
Comm. Rene V. Sarmiento

Rev. Fr. Austin P. Cadiz, OSB *Moderator*  
Dr. Joffre M. Alajar *Executive Director*

SAN BEDA COLLEGE  
ALUMNI FOUNDATION, INC.  
Officers & Trustees AY 2016-2017



**DR. JAIME Z. GALVEZ TAN**  
**GABRIEL P. MATHAY**  
**GEOFFREY L. GO**  
**EDGARDO B. FAVILA**  
**JOSE MARI V. LACSON**

*President*  
*Vice President*  
*Secretary*  
*Treasurer*  
*Auditor*

*Trustees*  
Tomas P. Africa, Arch. Edgardo A. Aguila, Atty. Dominador D. Buhain, Jr., Atty. Jonas L. Cabochan, Enrico U. Dee, Jose Mari L. Lacson, Levy P. Laus, Dr. Conrado F. Oca, Dr. Edgardo C. Paras, Jr., Roman Felipe S. Reyes, and Comm. Rene V. Sarmiento  
*Senior Adviser*  
Kishu D. Sehswani

SAN BEDA LAW  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Officers & Trustees AY 2016-2017



**ATTY. AVELINO V. CRUZ**  
*Chairman Emeritus*  
**JUSTICE FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA**  
*President*  
**ATTY. RODOLFO A. SALALIMA**  
*Vice Chairman*

**ATTY. ROBERTO F. DE LEON**  
*Vice President*  
**ATTY. JEREMY Z. PARULAN**  
*Treasurer*  
**ATTY. FRANCESCA LOURDES M. SENG**  
*Corporate Secretary*

*Trustees*  
Atty. Edna Herrera-Batacan,  
Comm. Sixto S. Brillantes, Jr., Atty. Jonas L. Cabochan,  
Atty. Solomon M. Hermosura,  
Atty. Alfredo C. Lim, Atty. Norberto P. Manzano,  
Atty. Salvador C. Medialdea,  
Justice Pablito A. Perez, and Atty. Alfredo R. Rosal

*Board of Advisers*  
Atty. Spanky Perez, Atty. Larry Mendoza, Dean Virgilio Jara,  
Comm. Jose Ong, Justice Antonio Eduardo Nachura,  
and Justice Jose Vitug  
*Executive Council*  
Atty. Jonas Cabochan, Vice-Dean Rocky Delson  
and Class Representatives

*The Bedan*  
**ALUMNUS**

Published quarterly by the  
San Beda College Alumni Association

**DR. JOFFRE M. ALAJAR**  
*Editor in Chief*  
**Rev. Fr. BENIGNO BENABARRE, OSB**  
*Associate Editor*

Wilma B. Abellanosa, Archie A. Armelligas,  
Juvelyn B. Fabro & Alvin Y. Jose (Staff)

All manuscripts and photographs should be addressed to  
The Bedan Alumnus, San Beda College Alumni Association,  
San Beda College, Mendiola St., Manila 1005  
Tel/Fax No. 735-5995; Trunk line No. 735-6011-15 loc. 2740  
Cell No. : 0917-807-2222

[www.sanbedaalumni.org](http://www.sanbedaalumni.org) / [secretariat@sanbedaalumni.org](mailto:secretariat@sanbedaalumni.org)  
[sanbedacollegealumni@yahoo.com](mailto:sanbedacollegealumni@yahoo.com)





# San Beda Law Alumni Association

## *Officers & Trustees A.Y. 2016-2017*



**Avellino V. Cruz**  
*Chairman*



**Francisco P. Acosta**  
*President*



**Rodolfo A. Salalima**  
*Vice-Chairman*



**Roberto F. de Leon**  
*Vice-President*



**Jeremy Z. Parulan**  
*Treasurer*



**Francesca Lourdes M. Senga**  
*Corporate Secretary*



**Edna Herrera-Batacan**  
*Trustee*



**Sixto S. Brillantes, Jr.**  
*Trustee*



**Atty. Jonas L. Cabochan**  
*Trustee*



**Solomon M. Hermosura**  
*Trustee*



**Alfredo C. Lim**  
*Trustee*



**Norberto P. Manzano**  
*Trustee*



**Salvador C. Medialdea**  
*Trustee*



**Pablito A. Perez**  
*Trustee*



**Alfredo R. Rosal, Jr.**  
*Trustee*



**Dr. Joffre M. Alajar**  
*Executive Director*



**San Beda Law Alumni Association, Inc.**  
(SBLAA)  
Manila, Philippines



*parangal* **at** *pasasalamat*

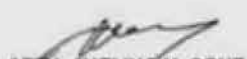
On the occasion of his 70th Birthday and Retirement from the Judiciary, the SBLAA Board of Trustees salutes

# **JUSTICE FRANCISCO “NICK” P. ACOSTA**

## *President, San Beda Law Alumni Association*

In grateful recognition of his inspiring example of vision, leadership, perseverance and a meaningful life, we present this Silver Sculpture as a token of our esteem and gratitude.

Given this 2nd day of April in the year of our Lord Twenty Seventeen at a Thanksgiving Dinner held at Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan City.

  
ATTY. AVELINO V. CRUZ  
Chairman

  
SECRETARY RODOLFO A. SALALIMA  
Vice Chairman

  
ATTY. ROBERTO F. DE LEON  
Vice-President

  
ATTY. JEREMY Z. PARULAN  
Trustee-Treasurer

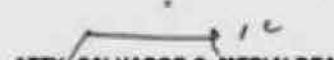
  
ATTY. ALFREDO C. LIM  
Trustee

  
ATTY. EDNA HERRERA-BATACAN  
Trustee

  
ATTY. JONAS L. CABOCHAN  
Trustee

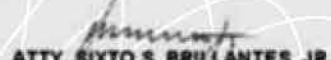
  
ATTY. SOLOMON M. HERMOSURA  
Trustee

  
ATTY. NORBERTO P. MANZANO  
Trustee

  
ATTY. SALVADOR C. MEDIALDEA  
Trustee

  
ATTY. ALFREDO R. ROSAL  
Trustee

  
ATTY. DOMINADOR D. BUHAIN, JR.  
Trustee

  
ATTY. SIXTO S. BRILLANTES, JR.  
Trustee

  
JUSTICE PABLITO A. PEREZ  
Trustee

  
DR. JOFFRE M. ALAJAR  
Executive Director





Greetings from Atty. Avelino V. Cruz,  
Chairman of the San Beda  
Law Alumni Association,  
President of the ASEAN Law  
Association, & Founding Partner  
of the ACCRA Law Firm



It is a privilege and delight for me to join the many voices of Bedans and many other well-wishers of Justice Francisco “Nick” Acosta in greeting him a blissful yet truly reflective birthday.

Turning 70, euphemistically referred to as “late adulthood,” or what one Chief Justice calls “the new fifties”, certainly should be a cause for your great rejoicing. It is my fond wish that this milestone will make you more loving, peaceful, trusting and grateful for the amazing mystery and abundance of life, and that you would continue to celebrate it with much gusto in the bosom of your family, friends and loved ones.

The many tributes already given to you especially during your retirement ceremony at the Court of Appeals and your well-attended birthday bash at Club Filipino, should be enough to assure you that 70 is such a great place to be. I earnestly hope that you would find each succeeding day thereafter unfold, with less constraints, but with an enduring series of turns, lessons and surprises as well, so that your life at this stage remains at once colorful and meaningful.

As you retire from active work service, but hopefully not as President of our San Beda Law Alumni Association, let me wish for you, in behalf of all Bedan Alumni, each succeeding day filled with God's grace and dreams yet to be explored.

Happy birthday, Nick! Your best is yet to be!



# Justice Francisco P. Acosta: A Man of Many Firsts

*By Honorable Noel G. Tijam  
Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the Philippines*

*(Delivered during the Special Session En Banc  
of the Court of Appeals on March 31, 2017  
on the occasion of Justice Francisco P. Acosta's  
Retirement from the Judiciary)*

**Justice Francisco P. Acosta** is a man of many firsts: He is the first born/eldest in their family; He is the first Court of Appeals Justice in their family; He is the first outgoing/retiring Court of Appeals Justice who has an incoming Court of Appeals Justice brother, Justice Louie Acosta, who was actually just recently appointed; He is the first in our batch, San Beda Law Class of 1971, to have a child who is a bar topnotcher; Second is J. Ponferrada.

Justice Acosta is the first Court of Appeals Justice who made possible the showcase of fireworks in a Court of Appeals Founding Anniversary such that he was able to make most of the CA employees, if not all, stay until the end of the program; He is the first President of San Beda Alumni Association, Inc. who is serving the Association the longest; He is the first Grand Judex of Lex Tallonis Fraternitas, founded in 1969; and most importantly, he is the first retiring Court of Appeals Justice who got a sitting Supreme Court Justice as his Master of Ceremonies.



Albert Camus once said: "Life is the sum of all your choices." Our honoree made all the right choices. He excelled in school.

He married a beautiful girl. He sired beautiful, caring, outstanding and brilliant children. He dedicated his life to God. He became a good lawyer. Then, he became a just and a fair magistrate.

Albert Einstein commented that: "The world is a dangerous place to live – not because of the people who are evil but because of the people who don't do anything about it." Our Honoree exemplified the motto of St. Benedict of Nursia of "*ora et labora*" - prayer and work. In all his endeavors, in all his sacrifices, he offered everything to God.

Aristotle said: "Between friends there is no need of justice." For goodness, fairness and rationality are innate and inherent in the bonds of friendship.

Arthur Schopenhauer said: "Every going to rest and sleep is a little death. But each day is a little life; every waking and rising is a little birth; and every fresh morning is a little youth." So my friend, enjoy your brief retirement while it





lasts. For I know that God has in store for you great, amazing and bigger things in the very, very near future.

Friends, allow me to welcome you to this memorable event. Today, we celebrate not only a milestone in Justice Acosta's career, we also celebrate the camaraderie and genuine friendship. Today is both a happy and sad day for Justice Acosta. Happy because the day-to-day grind, and fighting rush-hour traffic from his home in Fairview, Quezon City to the Court of Appeals is over. Sad because the daily camaraderie with his colleagues and office personnel is also over, or at least reduced. But retirement may also be a new beginning. It is for this reason that we celebrate, to extend our best wishes to the man, who genuinely worked hard in this institution and offered exemplary service over the years. Together, let us wish him well as he takes pleasure in the finer things that are awaiting him. After all, his retirement will be a time to enjoy all the things he never had time to do when he worked.

**Mahatma Gandhi** said, the best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others. Undeniably, Justice Acosta found himself in the service of other people. He is a true public servant. He served the Court of Appeals since 2006. Prior to his appointment as Associate Justice, he held various positions in the government. In 1992 to 1993, he was the Consultant of the Committee on Corporations and Franchises in the House of Representatives. From 1995 to 1998, he served as Consultant of the Office of the Mayor of the City of Taguig and at the same time, a Consultant of the Committee on Energy of the House of Representatives. In 1998 to 2000,



he was also a Consultant of the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Justice Acosta was awarded by the San Beda College as the Most Outstanding Bedan for 2007. He also was a recipient of the *Ulirang Ama* given in Manila Hotel, on July 15, 2014.

Justice Acosta is the son of Judge Eficlo P. Acosta and Porfiria J. Paredes. He is married to Alma Madayag Acosta, with whom he is blessed with four (4) children, namely: Dr. April Ma. Bernadete, Atty. Franchette, Earl Brian and Francis Nikolai. Justice Acosta is the grandfather of Alexandra Marie, Jose Andreas, Yuna Amara, and Yuri.

Justice Acosta, as a young boy then, was a member of Saint Louis School varsity basketball team. He became a PMT Battalion Commander, a PMT Adjutant, and a Commanding Officer of the Nueva Vizcaya Close Order Drill. This former member of the Columbian Squires of Pope Pius XII Circle, certainly, is a music-lover. From the information I gathered, he loves to sing along with the music from the Beatles, Elvis Presley, The Everly Brothers, John Denver, Rico J. Puno, and even of Fernando Poe, Jr., among others. During his high school years, he Championed in Declamation contests, which, undoubtedly, boosted his confidence in public speaking. He graduated *Magna Cum Laude* from San Beda College with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts Major in Philosophy.

Truly, we are shaped by our thoughts; we become what we think. When the mind is pure, joy follows like a shadow that never leaves (Buddha). During Justice Acosta's time in San Beda College of Law, he was a consistent full scholar. As a Silver Medalist, he ranked 5th in the class. His academic excellence paved the way to being a Faculty Member of PSBA from 1968 to 1974 and of the San Beda College of Law in Mendiola, from 2009 to present.



On a personal note, I am sure that Justice Acosta will be remembered by many whose lives he touched so deeply.

Over the past 10 years, Justice Acosta has penned numerous Decisions and Resolutions. Permit me to cite some of his significant decisions.

In *Avlsado V. Ombudsman*, he discussed in length the doctrine of condonation as interpreted and applied in jurisprudence. In *Municipality of Bangui, Ilocos Norte vs. Municipality of Dumalneg, Ilocos Norte*, he cleared that Congressional act and plebiscite are necessary only when a local government unit is created, divided, merged, abolished or its boundaries altered but not when there is only a correction of boundaries. Justice Acosta's Decision in *Nepomuceno vs. DOJ*, paved the way for the prosecution of a fraternity member accused to be the grenade thrower at the 2010 Bar Examinations, causing at least two law students to lose both their legs and causing multiple injuries to several other law students.

In *Stradcom Corp. vs. Judge Malabaguio*, Justice Acosta ruled that motion for production of documents is a permissible fishing expedition subject to the condition that the documents sought to be produced are not privileged, in possession of the party ordered to produce them and when material to any matter involved in the action. Roving inspection or blanket inspection are not allowed.

In *AIM Faculty Association vs. NLRC, Asian Institute of Management*, he stated that the provisions of P.D. No. 451 and R.A. No. 6728, particularly on the participation of faculty members and employees on tuition fee increases, are similarly applicable to AIM although the latter is recognized as an educational institution of international character. He ruled that AIM is not exempt from the regulatory legislation on private education; conferment by the State of international character to educational institutions does not exempt such institution from protective legislation to labor.

In *People and Peerless Products Manufacturing Corp. vs. Co, et al.*, Justice Acosta ruled that only the Solicitor General may bring or defend actions on behalf of the



Republic or represent the People or State in criminal proceedings; private offended party in a criminal case is without legal personality.

I mentioned only a little of Justice Acosta's significant Decisions, the list is too long to mention them one by one. With this, we are grateful for Justice Acosta's dedication towards the Court, and his contributions in dispensing justice, timely, efficiently, and effectively. We all wish you to have a great future ahead after your retirement.

As a saying goes, "You aren't your work, your accomplishments, your possessions, your home, your family.. your anything. You're a creation of your Source, dressed in a physical human body intended to experience and enjoy life on earth." (Wayne Dyer) Today, indeed, is a fitting occasion to be grateful about the blessings of life, family and friends.

*"Congratulations! Today is your day. You're off to Great Places! You're off and away!*

*You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the guy who'll decide where to go."*

\*\*\*

*"You'll be on your way up!  
You'll be seeing great sights!  
You'll join the high fliers who soar to high heights.*

*You won't lag behind,  
because you'll have the speed. You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead. Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best. Wherever you go, you will top all the rest."*

\*\*\*





**Special Session En Banc**  
of the  
**COURT OF APPEALS**  
in honor of  
**Mr. Justice Francisco P. Acosta**  
on the  
occasion of his retirement from the  
*Judiciary*  
on  
Friday, March 31, 2017  
Session En Banc  
at 9:00 a.m.

New Session Hall  
Court of Appeals, Centennial Building  
Manila, Philippines

This serves as your invitation

# A Celebration of MILESTONES



ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE JUDICIARY,

*Justice Francisco P. Acosta*

INVITES YOU TO

**A THANKSGIVING LUNCH**

Friday, March 31, 2017  
12 o'Clock Noon

**COURT OF APPEALS AUDITORIUM**

The favor of a reply will be much appreciated.

**Kindly Contact:**

Ms. Liel Vidal - 523.42.06

\*Attire: Barong or Coat and Tie

The pleasure of your company is requested  
in celebration of  
**Justice Francisco "Nick" P. Acosta's**  
70th birthday

at a Thanksgiving Dinner  
on April 2, 2017, at 6:00 PM  
Club Filipino, Eisenhower Street, Greenhills, San Juan City

RSVP by March 24, 2017  
Liet at 523 4206 or 0998-970 7285

Attire: Smart Casual

"I still find each day too short for all the thoughts I want to think, all the walks I want to take,  
all the books I want to read, and all the friends I want to see." - John Burroughs

So I hope to see you there! - Nick





Wishing you a 70th birthday filled with blessings, health and prosperity. And as you retire from public service, may our good Lord make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope and untiring in love all the days of your life.

May the Lord reward you abundantly for your generosity in spirit of service.

**-Executive Secretary Salvador C. Medialdea**  
*Office of the President, Malacañan Palace*



*"A rare breed of a friend. He is always there when help is needed most. Laughter is second nature to him. He is the livewire of every party, and he brings joy wherever he may be. Like a beloved brother, we have known so much and shared so much together. And that bond of love will never be cut. He is a man and a friend for all seasons!"*

**-Secretary Rudy A. Salalima**  
*Department of Information and Communications Technology*



At 70, you still have so much to give life, Nick! Let your retirement years be a joyful journey to be savoured each step of the way. More power!

**-Atty. Alfredo C. Lim**  
*President and COO, PAGCOR*



A little older in age? May be .... but definitely not in heart and spirit! May this day give you God's love and peace in a solid affirmation of people celebrating with you. With every good wish and special prayers for your continued good health and greater success.

**-Atty. Roberto F. De Leon**  
*Vice President, San Bida Law Alumni Association*



As you reach the age of grace, do stay in the course for the best is yet to be. For me, you will always remain the incomparable Justice and President of the San Bida Law Alumni Association. Happy birthday!

**-Atty. Sixto S. Brillantes, Jr.**  
*Former COMELEC Chairman*



Happy birthday, Nick! May you continue in your joyful journey to an even wider field of accomplishments not so much for your own glory, but more so for the good of the San Bida Law Alumni Association.

**- Atty. Jeremy Z. Parulan**  
*Treasurer, San Bida Law Alumni Association*



To my favourite Justice and President of the San Beda Law Alumni Association, may God bring to fulfilment the hope that you cherish in your heart; and may your star forever shine in the hearts of your family and friends.

All my best wishes are saved for you, compadre Nick. Happy birthday, in celebration of a most joyful time in your life.

- **Atty. Edna Herrera Batacan**

*Trustee, San Beda Law Alumni Association*

On your 70th birthday, may our Almighty Father continue to bless you with good health, peace of mind and fruitful years ahead. And may you, Justice Nick, always have a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love. Be forever young at heart and all times heed the Benedictine values of pax, ora et labora.

-**Atty. Jonas L. Cabochan**

*Trustee, San Beda Law Alumni Association*

*Vice President, San Beda College Alumni Association*

May you be blessed even more as you celebrate your 70th birthday and retirement from the Judiciary. Do keep the faith and continue enjoying the journey. All my best wishes for you, Justice Nick!

-**Atty. Alfredo R. Rosal**

*Trustee, San Beda Law Alumni Association*

Happy 70th birthday Justice Nick! You have instilled greater pride in the San Beda Law Alumni Association and inspire our Alumni to serve the nation and glorify God by giving the best we are all capable of sharing. Go San Beda fight!

-**Atty. Norberto P. Manzano**

*Trustee, San Beda Law Alumni Association*

Special birthday greetings to you, Justice Nick Acosta. You have surely enriched not only the Judiciary but more so Bedan education with your wisdom and dedication. All the best for you Justice Nick.

-**Atty. Solomon M. Hermosura**

*Trustee, San Beda Law Alumni Association*

It is with joy that I greet you on this auspicious day when you celebrate your 70th milestone birthday. May God bless you with every heavenly blessing, make you always holy and pure in His sight, pour out in abundance upon you the riches of His glory, and teach you with the words of truth. Happy birthday Nick!

-**Atty. Rudy Robles**

*Adviser, San Beda Law Alumni Association*







# THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

By Atty. Dominador D. Buhain, Jr. (GS '57, HS '61)



Justice Nick Acosta

I join the many well-wishers of our good friend and *compañero* Justice Nick Acosta on the occasion of his 70th birthday and his retirement from the Court of Appeals. I was privileged to attend his birthday celebration at the Club Filipino last April 2, and based on the attendees, Justice Nick is well-loved by all. Here's to many more years of birth celebration knowing that people

love and care for you. The San Beda Law Alumni Association is truly blessed to have you and Atty. Ave Cruz as their leaders, for without both of you, the SBLAA would not have achieved much as a formidable law alumni organization.

\*\*\*

On behalf of our many alumni and friends, I thank Dr. Manny V. Pangilinan for once again sponsoring the annual Red and White Ball. For the last 14 years now, MVP has been so generously giving much of his time and financial resources to ensure the success of our traditional alumni gathering to honor our outstanding Bedans.

\*\*\*



Dr. Manny V. Pangilinan

I welcome Mr. Michael Sherwin Macatangay (CAS'95) to the SBCAA Alumni Board. Michael is the latest addition to the board having won in the last election for the SBCAA board of trustees. Michael is bringing to the board his dynamism, exemplary academic credentials, professional experience and love for San Beda.



Mr. Michael Sherwin Macatangay



Mr. Rene Reinoso



Dean Bryan Bustamante



Mr. Michael John Rubio

\*\*\*

I congratulate as well Mr. Rene Reinoso, Dean Bryan Bustamante and Mr. Michael John Rubio, for making it once again as board trustee of the SBCAA. Having worked with you guys during my term as SBCAA President, I know you still have much to share to make our SBCAA more progressive.

\*\*\*

The recently held Grand Alumni Homecoming was a huge success. Thanks to the host class (Silver Jubilarians: HS Class 1992) for the simple yet well-organized program show which brought the house down. The superb leadership of Steven Lumabi and the very professional program directorship of Roderick Lindayag made a very big difference. Let us have more of this kind of quality homecoming program in our succeeding homecoming.

\*\*\*



Very Rev. Fr. Eduardo P. Africa, OSB

Congratulations to Very Rev. Fr. Eduardo P. Africa OSB, for having been elected Abbot of the Monastery of Transfiguration in Malaybalay, Bukidnon. This is well deserved and a great call from the Holy Spirit.

\*\*\*

We sorely miss Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre OSB, our SBCAA Assistant Moderator who passed away last February 4. Fr. Benigno was laid to rest at the La Loma Cemetery last February 9. Fr. Benigno lived a meaningful life of 102 years. Well done, Fr. BB, take a much deserved rest.



# Farewell Speech of MR. JUSTICE FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA

on the occasion of his  
retirement from the Judiciary

*(Delivered during the Special Session En Banc  
of the Court of Appeals on March 31, 2017)*

First of, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to the following:

Justice Artemio Toquero, for being the first to encourage me to apply for government service and gave all his resources in support of my decision; a good man & a true friend;

Justice Dante O. Tinga, who gave his full support to my application and who has always been my role model as private practitioner, an academician, a Congressman

a Justice of the Supreme Court, a true gentleman and a friend;

Justice Artemio Panganiban, the Chief Justice at the time of my nomination. His invaluable support enabled me to gain 100% votes in the JBC. He is also a role model, both as a magistrate and a true sportsman, and also a paragon of a true journalist as a newspaper columnist; his stamina & endurance in all is astounding;

Justice Raoul Victorino, whose eloquence continues to enthrall his audience and bewitch the ladies; and who convinced the JBC by manifesting that my late father, the best dressed CFI Judge in Rizal, was his friend;

Atty. Jay Castro, whose integrity, industry & competence as a lawyer, a magistrate, a leader & a person beyond reproach;

Dean Amado Dimayuga, for his difficult questions which he generously answered;

Justice Secretary Simeon Dimaano, for his friendship and guidance;

To the members of the Board of Directors of the SBLAA, who inspired and supported me all the way;

To the San Beda Administration, led by Fr. Rafael Alaras,

Fr. Aloysius Maranan, Fr. Benigno Benabare, Dean Virgilio Jara and Dean Joffre Alajar, for all your prayers;

To my family, my wife Alma, my children, grandchildren, siblings, in-laws, nephews & nieces... thank you for your full understanding and support without qualification all the way;

To my father and mother, whose presence still continues to embrace and dominate my whole person; and

To God Almighty, Thank You Lord for your love for me.

1. I have been asked in various ways how I feel to retire. Even if you know what's coming, you're never really prepared for how it feels.
2. But to answer this question, allow me to relate my work and my life experience with the Court of Appeals.
3. Even before I applied for the Court of Appeals, due diligence tells me that my entry point will be either CA Mindanao stationed in CDO or CA Visayas in Cebu. There were four (4) of us who

FRANCISCO P. ACOSTA  
ASSOCIATE JUSTICE  
COURT OF APPEALS



were appointed by PGMA, Stephen "Larry" Cruz, Jane Lantion and Michael Elbinias. As fate would have it, Larry and I were assigned to Cebu while Jane and Michael in CDO.

4. Being adventurous, I welcomed my Cebu assignment. But this did not sit well with my boss – Alma, who was determined to stay in Manila. Only when I told her that the people in Cebu will become very suspicious should a healthy, agile and good-looking macho will live alone in the City, did she finally agree.
5. And so my journey with the Court of Appeals began. To my absolute delight, my work and personal experience in Cebu far exceeded my expectations. I immediately bonded with my fellow Justices like EJ Arsenio Magpale, Sonny Didican, Romy Barza, Poi Abarintos, Precy Padilla, Tony Villamor, Gus Dizon, Larry Cruz, Chito Diamante, Floy Macalino, Ed delos Santos, Amy Javier and Rodil Zalameda.
6. And it was no different with respect to the lawyers and staff who were all respectful, diligent and honest public servants. May I present my Cebu staff: Mayor Dean Singco Theodore Ortiz, Attorneys Aissa, Ameli, Ron, Fe, Hannah and Stella. Also, Jazel and Che. It was while I was in Cebu that I began to realize that I now belong to a community far different from the circle of private law practice. Indeed, it was a paradigm shift.
7. Ironically, my stay in CA enabled me to learn more about the law than in my thirty-four (34) years in practice. Here, We decide all cases except those only originating from the Sandiganbayan and the Court of Tax Appeals. In my daily job as reviewer of all decisions of the lower court and of all pleadings made by lawyers who, I imagine, have toiled night and day to advance the cause of their clients, I gained so much knowledge that I could not have otherwise acquired even in my long



years of law practice.

8. I soon developed the habit of listening, instead of talking; of weighing arguments instead of making them; and of prolonging my patience to better understand why party litigants come to Court in the first place. I have learned to ask questions in order to ferret the truth, rather than to elicit something favorable to my client. I have learned that anonymity is a virtue as opposed to being high-profile and I have learned that being read and re-read is far better than merely being heard.
9. I likewise soon took to heart that my appointment to the Court of Appeals carried with it qualifications and restrictions that are exacting. Justices are expected to live and breathe the sacrosanct Code of Judicial Conduct. Knowing this, I deliberately limited my association to my co-Justices, and more strictly, I limited my association with the rest of the civil society.
10. Before I realize it, two (2) years and seven (7) months already passed and it was time for me to transfer to Manila. While the working environment







in Manila was not drastically different from that of Cebu, I found the work here to be more challenging and more mature.

11. Days with the Court quickly turn to months, and months to years. As time pass by, I find myself increasingly filled with respect and growing affection for the institution. More tellingly, I found my heart filled with constant joy as my work with the Court became a source of pride and happiness.
12. To the best of my ability, I was able to decide over 2,000 cases. I had the opportunity to deal with cases involving various jurisdictions including writ petitions, criminal cases of all kinds, civil cases, family matters and labor cases. There was a conscious effort on my part to decide competently, diligently, independently and always with integrity.
13. The happiness and satisfaction that I found in discharging my duties as a Justice of the Court of Appeals is rivaled only by the warm collegiate atmosphere existing at the Court. You might be surprised to know that underneath the inscrutability which we Justices exhibit, lie a wonderfully carefree sense of humor. I treasure my friendship with my fellow Justices whose humor and wild imaginations provide much needed comic relief at the end of every work day.
14. Simply said, I had immense fun that work ceased to become a toil, but a treasured adventure.
15. This adventure has resulted in the development of a strong work ethic, a strong sense of integrity, the feeling of fulfillment for having contributed to the cause of administration of justice and the respect that the public extends to the judiciary which gives life and meaning to our job as public servants.
16. These gifts, however, are to be enjoyed not only by ourselves. It is also our duty to nourish such gifts for the future care-takers of the Judiciary to enjoy. And to take care of such gifts means we must always be on guard and zealously protect the independence guaranteed by the Constitution

and presently enjoyed by this institution and the rest of the Judiciary.

17. This we can achieve by consistently rendering just and fair decisions, conducting ourselves always beyond reproach and above suspicion and be free from personal bias and prejudice. Let us not only convince ourselves that We are fair as Justices, but more importantly let us strive to convince others that we are indeed fair. As arbitrators, we must not only be impartial but, equally so, we must appear impartial. We fail when our impartiality fails.
18. Let us also compliment these traits by leading simple lives. No less than the Constitution mandates that as public officers, We must serve with utmost responsibility, integrity, loyalty, and efficiency; act with patriotism and justice, and lead modest lives. With these bare essentials, We are well equipped to counter the evils of abuse, corruption and subjugation.
19. Abraham Lincoln is credited in saying that "nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." Our job as Justices is not a hollow aphorism but one that carries tremendous influence. Next only to the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeals is the most powerful Court of the land. In some way, it can also be said that the CA's power primarily lies in the binding effect of our findings of fact, even before the Supreme Court.
20. Necessarily then, the quality and quantity of our work output should be complemented by the strength of our character and moral quotient. On these traits lie the credibility and longevity of the Court as an institution.
21. So if you ask me how I feel to retire, I'll say it is awful and terribly painful. I would be lying if I say I am looking forward to my retirement. But this terrible pain is somehow eased by your affectionate presence here today.







22. Still, I appreciate and welcome this new phase in my life. As the Bible says, "[f]or everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-22)

23. As I let go, I take comfort in the fact that I will always look back with pride and honor to my experience at the Court of Appeals. If indeed, all good things must come to an end, I wouldn't have wanted it to end any other way or with any other people.

24. For making my life easier, I thank my staff in Manila: Attorneys Andrew, TJ, Tina, Kat, Marie, KC, Czabrina and Liezl. And also, Angie, Phinez, Jenny, Rey, Garry, Jaime and Loma.

25. To San Beda College thank you for instilling in me the values of prayer and hardwork.

26. Do I have any regrets? Yes, I regret not having the

opportunity to be the Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeals. And this is because the incumbent PJ is the most loved and most admired Justice in the whole world. This is the best tribute I can give to PJ Reyes – for his work in the CA and for his friendship which he generously extends to all of us. Thank you PJ, for your warm friendship and for the pleasant memories of our golf games and the memorable times we had in Boston and in Harvard.

27. To all my colleagues in the CA, I shall forever treasure your friendships and carry with pride the distinction of being one of you. Truly, one need not go far to look for Justices of the Supreme Court, as the best place to look for them is in the Court of Appeals. Second only to the Justices of the Supreme Court, the best are the Justices of the CA.

28. To my baby brother, who was my ring bearer in my wedding, and now the newest member of this Court, welcome to the Court of Appeals.

29. You shall all be included in my daily prayers. May our Good Lord bless and keep you always.

30. Maraming salamat po!







# THE FOUNDATION PRESIDENT'S LINE

Dr. Jaime Z. Galvez Tan (GS '62, HS '66)



Justice Nick Acosta

Our very best wishes on the 70th birthday of our Law Alumni Association prexy Justice Nick Acosta. Turning 70 is a milestone event that deserves a grand celebration. And since Justice Acosta is a treasured member of the Bedan family, his milestone birthday has become a

reunion of sort for a number of Bedan classes especially in the College of Law.

\*\*\*



Mr. Ramon Ang

We are glad that the San Beda Law Alumni Association has established its first Professorial Chair courtesy of San Miguel Corporation President and COO Mr. Ramon Ang. Let us expect more from the SBLAA in terms of Professorial Chair and Student Scholarship

grant for we know that a huge number of Law Alumni are capable of supporting these programs.

\*\*\*

And speaking of Professorial Chairs we are most joyful receiving a Professorial Chair donation from our youngest board trustee, outstanding Bedan Mr. Enrico "Rikki" U. Dee. Being an entrepreneurial *Guru*, Rikki



Mr. Enrico "Rikki" U. Dee

chose to establish a Professorial Chair in the field of Entrepreneurship. For the information of our readers, Rikki owns a battery of restaurants in the country to include Mesa Restaurant and Todd English located in almost all SM malls. Thanks Rikki and more power to your roaring and growing business empire.

\*\*\*



Manny V. Pangilinan

We are also grateful to the PLDT-Smart Foundation most especially to Dr. Manuel V. Pangilinan and Ms. Esther Santos for entrusting to our SBC Alumni Foundation the second tranche of a million pesos scholarship grant for our financially challenged but deserving students. Our

scholarship program would not have succeeded if not for generous and supportive donors like PLDT-Smart Foundation.

## PLDT Smart FOUNDATION

\*\*\*

The SBC Alumni Foundation will soon launch its first coffee table book about this great foundation, now on its 20th year of service to the Filipino nation. We look forward to its completion soonest.





## The Red and White Ball Lives on

With these first lines from the San Beda College Hymn, Bedans once again took a bow as the San Beda College Alumni Association (SBCAA) paid tribute to them in the annual Red and White Ball.

In its 117 years of existence, San Beda College has produced countless graduates who have been living interesting and inspiring lives. Thus, the SBCAA considers it an inherent responsibility to mirror and honor these quintessential Bedans for their laudable achievements so that the youth can follow their footsteps. Proudly, San Beda College is the only school which has a Red and White Ball to celebrate its alumni's achievements.

Last February 16, the SBCAA once again dropped the curtains of its time-







honored Red and White Ball as an ode not only to the College's winning in various sports competitions, but also to numerous Bedan achievements for AY 2016-2017. For decades now since the SBCAA came into existence, the annual Bedan event being looked forward to, other than the Homecoming, is the Red and White Ball. A *"Celebration of Bedan Pride and Glory"* has always been the heart and soul of this special gathering of Bedans,

families and friends.

At the dawn of a new century, the Red and White Ball has emerged as a truly big event, celebrating much of Bedan achievement. Thanks to the officers and members of the San Beda College Alumni Association, most especially outstanding Bedan **Manuel V. Pangilinan**, who has been consistently giving his full support to the Red and White Ball since 2000.



A tribute to Bedan exemplars, on the occasion of the 92nd founding anniversary of the San Beda College Alumni Association, the Red and White Ball unfolded another grand celebration of Bedan Excellence—the Diamond, Ruby, Golden (Class '67) and Silver (Class '92) Jubilarians who by tradition hosted the year's homecoming. The SBCAA paid tribute to all Bedan achievers whose numerous accomplishments and plaudits have earned them deserving berths in the Bedan Exemplars Circle.

Through the years, the Red and White Ball has become a testament of the SBCAA's commitment to Bedan Excellence - a tribute to its many exemplars who shall inspire the future generations of Bedans, bringing not only San Beda College but the entire Philippine society to a new era of progress and development!



With a legacy of discovering, developing and directing leaders in various fields of influence, the SBCAA will continue in honoring and awarding men and women of excellence and achievement in national pride and global progression, - a mark made in proud Red and White! The 2017 Red & White Ball unfolded another celebration of Bedan achievements, hailing the triumph of the Bedan Spirit.





## PRIDE AND Red and White







# PRIDE & GLORY White Ball 2017





## **Rt. Rev. Abbot Eduardo Africa, OSB (GS '61, HS '65) elected as first Abbot of the Abbey of the Transfiguration, Malaybalay**

*By Joffre M. Alajar*

Last March 14, 2017, the Benedictine Community of the Monastery Transfiguration, San Jose, Malaybalay, Bukidnon elected its very first Abbot, after has been elevated to the status of an Abbey. Rt. Rev. Abbot Eduardo Africa, OSB, one of the lead pioneers of the monastery was unanimously elected by the Community and confirmed by the Abbot President bared in Rome, Italy, Guillermo L. Arboleda I., OSB., after the latter received the consent of the Council of Assistants (OCG 82.1), Abbot President Arboleda director an invitation to the monks of the Benedictine Community in Malaybalay to welcome Abbot Africa's Ministry is a spirit of faith, obedience and collaboration.

Well-love Benedictine monk Rev. Fr. Eduardo Paterno Africa celebrated last August 6, 2016 his 50 years of monastic profession at the iconic Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay City, Bukidnon.

Fr. Ed as he is endearingly called, is the first Filipino Benedictine Abbot becoming superior for twenty years, first of th Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat Manila, then, of the Bukidnon Monastery. He has been giving retreats here and abroad mainly for the clergy and religious. His doctoral dissertation at the Ateneo de Manila University was a study on the spirituality of communion and community entitled: "Cenobitism in the Rule of St. Benedict with the Context of the Early Patristic and Monastic Tradition." At present, he is Assistant Secretary to the Papal Nuncio in the Philippines at the Apostolic Nunciature Manila.

At 68, Fr. Ed still maintains a very toxic schedule reporting for work at the Apostolic Nunciature practically everyday. He is also professor of Spiritual at the Ateneo de Manila's Loyola School of Theology.

Drawn to monasticism in the 1970s, Fr. Africa become the first Filipino Benedictine Abbot in 1980. He earned the title at 33, making him also the Order's youngest Abbot in the world at that time.

Since 2002, he has served as assistant secretary to four papals nuncios-Antonio Franco, Fernando Filoni, Edward Joseph Adams and the Vatican's current envoy, Guiseppe Pinto.

But outside his scholarly life and prior to his service at the nunciature, Fr. Aprica was most active as the founder of the Monastery of the Transfiguration in Malaybalay City in Bukidnon province, which he established in 1982.

Last year, Fr. Africa's San Beda High School Class of 1965 held a golden jubilee reunion, with him officiating a



special Mass and holding a recollection for fellow alumni. This year, it was Fr. Africa's turn to celebrate his golden year as a priest. And it was not only his classmates who celebrated with him but everyone whose lives Fr. Africa has once touched.

The entire San Beda College Alumni Association wishes him more blessings of good health and peace of mind and heart so that he will be able to help others grow spiritually and become closer to the Divine.





## **The Monastery of the Transfiguration, San Jose Malaybalay, Bukidnon, now an Abbey**

*By Joffre M. Alajar*

In 1983, the Monastery of the Transfiguration in the Philippines was founded. This brought the riches of the Monastic charism of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila to Malaybalay, Bukidnon. In 1986, the Monastery was able to achieve its independence from the Abbey in Manila.

Today, considering its continuous growth in numbers and influence and for giving a good witness to the Benedictine life of prayer, work and peace, the Subiaco Cassinese Congregation, willingly granted the request of the Conventual Chapter to raise the Monastery of the Transfiguration to the status of an Abbey.

This is contained in the decree given in Rome, S. Ambrogio della Massima, last February 2, 2017 during the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, signed by Abbot President Guillermo L. Arboleda T., OSB and Procurator General P. Luigi Funa, OSB. The Abbot President invited the Monastic Community of the Transfiguration to implant the riches of the Monastic tradition, and promoting the simplicity of life so that they become real witnesses to the riches of the values of Monastic heritage in the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the other part of the Philippines.



# ONE QUARTER, FIVE YEARS TO GO

*By Atty. Rene Saguisag*

Our Prez Digong should talk less and listen, and do more.

He's Time's No. 1. Most Influential. Cheers. But change he must, transform, not transmogrify. As is said in the April 24, 2017 number of Time, "if we want to see change, the best way we can make it is to run for office." Page 29.

Good or bad influence? No true patriot wants Digong to fail, to our common woe. But, enough of Hyper-Bola as in crushing 1) the persistent drug problem (hard-line has not succeeded anywhere, as Colombia, Thailand, and Myanmar have learned and admitted, 2) the resilient Abu Sayyaf and 3) the persnickety Abu-Gados, from San Beda, and elsewhere.

In Digong's numerous expensive trips abroad, it seems to me he should not display our dirty linen there. He should endeavor to be a Caballero always, there, if anywhere.

Our differences should end at the water's edge. Nick Joaquin asked Al Yuchengco, who just passed away, if he was happy. Al replied: "Bastante feliz." Happy enough. Wish we could say the same after nine months of Digong and his team, with visions of distant oil wells and pies in the skies conjured.

What do we use for money? In none of the remaining trees we have do we have money growing on it.

In short, we cannot have our feet planted firmly in mid-air. But, Digong has wide support but even in EJKs, it is seen to be falling. Too many people have died.

Here's hoping he will have a good less bloody first final quarter as Prez. Indeed, a good balance of his, term to end in 2022, when he may yet change his mind on the UP Award, said to be like the French Legion of Honor, a distinction said to be impossible to escape. And spark no rhubarb.

I used to josh Prez Cory, early on, "it is the first 20 years that are the hardest." Digong has 21 quarters to make a positive difference in giving our people a better life. Let's go, help.

**Go San Beda go!**



# DR. REX VENARD BACARRA

## Living a Purposeful Life Beyond the Abbey

By Joffre M. Alajar



The good news that a former Benedictine monk was adjudged recently as one of the 2017 Most Influential Filipinos in the Gulf by the *Illustrado Magazine*, a premiere and high end lifestyle publication in Dubai, is something which should make us all proud as Filipinos. More so, the awardee is a Bedan and was a former member of the Benedictine Community.

Dr. Rex Venard Bacarra, more popularly known in the San Beda family as Dom Venard, OSB had his formation for five years at the Monastery of Transfiguration in Bukidnon. He then transferred to the Abbey in Manila and took 18 units of Philosophy in SBC College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) in preparation for his master's studies at the De La Salle University where he also pursued his doctoral studies. He was Professor in Philosophy at the CAS (1997-2004) and the College of Law (1996-1997) in San Beda. Dom Venard was appointed Director for Administration at San Beda Alabang, after which he went to Dubai in 2007.

While Dom Venard found Benedictine monastic life fulfilling, fate destined him to set foot in a foreign land as a professor of Philosophy and Humanities at the American College of Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The school is multi-cultural, with students of diverse background and nationalities.

In an interview immediately after being declared one of "the Most Influential Filipinos in the Gulf," Dr. Rex shared that his climb to the top was never easy. At 19, he left his family in the Philippines, and pursued a challenging but fulfilling life as a teacher par excellence in Dubai. As a postscript to this prestigious award, Dr. Rex attributes his success to his "unflinching determination, patience amid cynicism, continues studies, and the unbending belief that indeed, teaching is the noblest profession in the world".

Referred to by his foreigner students as their "idol, role-model and friend," all rolled into one, Dr. Rex as he is reverely addressed by faculty and students of the American College feels deeply humbled by this special award bestowed upon him by *Illustrado* magazine. He never expected that his simple life journey will create a huge impact in a foreign land. And such inspirational journey of a Filipino was featured in the ABS-CBN The Filipino Channel (TFC) news which was televised in the Gulf. Prior to this award, Dr. Rex was also featured in the Philippine Consulate's Portrait Exhibit of successful Filipinos in Dubai in their field of endeavour entitled "TOUR DE FORCE" by the renowned Paris-based photographer Ryan Arbilo 2017. He was consistently rated as an EXCELLENT PROFESSOR by his multi-cultural students for seven years now.

Looking back, Dr. Rex considers being a Benedictine a great turning point in his life. He however, felt empty and unheeded so he decided to get out of the Abbey so he could gain a better perspective in his spiritual journey. Today, he is living a more purposeful life beyond the Abbey, taking his unique place on the world's center stage, doing it with so much passion and bravura. We only hope for his greater success!





# San Beda's bid for University Status

By Fr. Ranhillo Callangan Aquino  
Dean, SBC Graduate School of Law



Fr. Ranhillo G. Aquino

SAN BEDA'S academic community is in earnest about its bid for university status. That raises the question: What for? The Philippines abounds in universities, too many, in fact for education's good! As in many things, we have outdone ourselves in creating

universities. We have more per square kilometer than many more prosperous countries. For sure then, it will not do for Bedans to aim at just adding to the list of universities. But a Benedictine university—that is what is so exciting and promising about this prospect, the promise of a gift to the Philippines "ex corde ecclesiae... from the heart of the Church." How does one teach the world that one is strongest on his knees? How does one imbue a society over which the arrogant prevail with the virtue of humility, born of ora et labora.... prayer and work?

Towards the end of the Prologue to his Regula (The Rule), which is the great Benedictine's legacy not only to Western monasticism but to the world, he writes: "Therefore, we intend to establish a school for the Lord's service. In drawing up its regulations, we hope to set down nothing harsh, nothing burdensome. The good of all concerned, however, may prompt us to a little severity in order to correct faults and to safeguard love. Do not be daunted immediately by fear and run away from the road that leads to salvation. It is bound to be narrow at the outset. But as we progress in this way of life and in faith, we shall run on the path of God's commandments, our heavens overflowing with the inexpressible delight of love. Although, by "school" he meant the formation of the monk that the Rule was to bring about, there is every reason to read this passage as the basic charter of a Benedictine university: That its sons and daughters, humbly aware of failings and zealous in charity, may tread the path of the Gospel."

Mendiola is not the quietest place in Manila. In fact, it is the favourite assembly of all who have gripes against Malacañang's tenant. But in one corner of the entire compound of San Beda College is the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat—an enclave of peace, quiet, contemplation and prayer. As such, the Monastery is a constant reminder to the bustling academic community just outside its doors that for all the learning that may issue from classrooms and halls, there is much that is taught by the silence of the heart, where God can speak in whispers. And when a monk passes by—easily identified by

the cowl that drapes over his shoulders—we are all reminded of a kingdom not of this world" that gives all our labours and toil in this world enduring worth and value.

Cuthbert, writing of the death of Venerable Bede, the College's namesake, describes his holy passing. At three o'clock, Bede said to me, "I have a few treasures in my private chest, some pepper, napkins, and a little incense. Run quickly and bring the priest of our monastery, and I will distribute among them these little presents that God has given me."

When the priest arrived he spoke to them and asked each one to offer Masses and prayers for him regularly. They gladly promised to do so.

That was all that Bede had—pepper, napkins and incense—and all that he asked for were the prayers of his brothers. This is the abnegation that preaches the Gospel, that makes the monk ever a light shining on a hill. This is the poverty that contrasts itself markedly with the crass consumerism that makes victims of us all. This is what should draw the young to a Benedictine university. Yes, the skills of commerce, the intricacies of business, the challenges of economics will and should be expertly taught and thoroughly learned, but the spirit that should pervade all should be an option for "evangelical poverty." Only in this way will a Benedictine university have a wealth to offer that other universities do not!

Writing on "The Essence of a University in Our Changing Times," Francis Gevers, a Letiven philosopher whose classes it was new my great fortune to attend, posited:

"A university does not earn the title Catholic merely by giving religious instruction and by making it possible for the students to attend Mass. A school, in order to be Christian, ought to produce student committed to the cause of Christianity which both Church and the world need. Such a Christianity should be an apostolic Christianity, because a Catholicism which is not apostolic is dead Catholicism. Instruction and learning are 'musts', but they are by far insufficient to form and train apostolic-minded Christians of the type that is needed in the present situation of the Church—a Church in mission."

While a Benedictine university will be responsive to other indicia of excellence, this concept of a Catholic university will be the ultimate outcome by which its success is measured; its existence justified.



## COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

**Secretary Rodolfo Agapay Salalima**

*Department of Information and Communications Technology*

Bedans as leaders are no longer a rarity in these modern times, especially in public service where a Bedan's touch, equipped with decades of dedicated professional experience, tamed and mellowed by life's series of ups and downs, is important, if not essential.

Such can be said of this outstanding Bedan who is Secretary of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT).

At San Beda, he was the recipient of the Rector's Award, the highest award of the College of Law for over-all excellence in curricular and extra-curricular activities. Secretary Salalima holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, major in Philosophy, magna cum laude (1969), and a Bachelor of Laws degree, cum laude (1973), from San Beda College.

Atty. Salalima served as Chief Counsel of Innove Communications, Inc.. He also served as Consultant of Globe Telecom Inc. and served as its Chief Legal Counsel and Senior Advisor. Atty. Salalima is responsible for all licensing and other legal requirements of Innove Communications and Globe Telecom. He served as Managing Director of Ayala Corp. He was Head of Corporate and Regulatory Affairs prior to joining Globe Telecom in 1993. Atty. Salalima served as the Vice President of International Communications Corporation's (now Bayantel) Legal and Human Resources Department. From 1992 to 1996, he became the first President and Founding Director of the Telecommunications and Broadcast Attorneys of the Philippines Inc. and was the immediate past President of the Philippine Electronics and Telecommunications Federation. Atty. Salalima became Associate Director of

Ayala and Director of Innove Communications, Inc.. Rudy is also the Vice Chairman of the San Beda Law Alumni Association.

In 2015, Salalima authored the book entitled "Telecommunications in the Information Revolution", a law book on telecommunication policies in the country.

Rudy, as he is fondly called, received the 2005 Distinguished Bedan in the field of Law. The San Beda College Alumni Association recognized his having contributed significantly to the legal profession and the growth and development of the telecommunications industry in the Philippines; his exemplary and inspiring leadership in the various executive and legal positions he has held; his selfless dedication; and his faithful embodiment of the Benedictine ideals of peace, prayer and work humility and charity.

Atty. Salalima received also the Life Achievement Award (2011); Outstanding Jubilarian (2013); and Outstanding Law Alumnus (2007 and 2015), all from the San Beda Law Alumni Association.

His being invited as CAS Commencement Speaker is in recognition of his exemplary achievements as a professional public servant leader of exceptional integrity and rigor, worthy of emulation by today's young generations.

The San Beda College Academic Community takes singular joy and pride in having as distinguished Commencement Speaker – Outstanding Bedan – SECRETARY RODOLFO A. SALALIMA





# Farewell to Fr. B

By Alfred A. Yuson



It's not every day that one says goodbye to a beloved Benedictine monk, let alone someone who's a year past his centenary. But this is what we'll do today, as we honor our former San Beda College high school principal of ages ago.

Fr. Benigno Vigo Benabarre, OSB, passed away 10 days ago. He had turned 101 last May 23. A year before that was the last time we saw and greeted him, at the dinner celebration on his memorable one-hundredth, held at our old quadrangle in the Mendiola campus.

Months previous, in January 2015, some of us Bedan alumni of various vintage batches had also gotten together with him at the OSB Garden of 100 Native Trees at Havalá Filinvest, just past the SBC campus in Taytay.

A 1960 high school batchmate, the distinguished doctor-sculptor Ton Raymundo, created a bust of Fr. BB

that was eventually installed in the garden that is also formally named after him, as a project of the San Beda College Alumni Association, Inc. (SBCAA) in coordination with Hortica Filipina Foundation (HFI).

Other alumni present were Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan and Rex Buhain, both past presidents of SBCAA, and about a dozen others from a range of decades, including 1960 batchmates Lino Dionisio who is our own alumni group president, and Bong Obligacion, who left us later that year.

Our honoree proved himself still strong enough to wield a shovel for the ceremonial planting at the first native tree park within a real estate project.

On those last two times when we enjoyed his company, Fr. Benabarre was in fine form, even quipping that he had a simple, three-part formula for reaching 100: "No smoking. Drink moderately, and only while eating. And

don't go out with bad women."

Five years previous, when he blew out all the candles on a couple of cakes marked No. 95, he had intoned, typically mock-seriously: "One disadvantage of old age — the longer you stay on earth, the shorter your time in Heaven." But he promised a bigger party five years hence, on his very centenary that would also mark the 77nd anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The good father had retired from the Manila abbey of the Order of St. Benedict sometime in the 1980s, if memory serves right, and returned to Spain. But he missed our country so much that he asked to be brought back, even at a ripe old age.

He took over the role of Alumni Association moderator. His brilliant ideas included initiating a Bedan Plaza where red bricks generated funds from alumni who had their names,



# Benabarre



signatures and class years engraved on them. And he kept on writing books, some 35 publications, some of which he gifted me with, but not before taking the trouble of discussing each one.

His most important title, *They Died As They had Lived*, was about the lives and martyrdom of Frs. Santiago Pardo and Domingo Caballe and Bro. Eugenio Erasquin, who had also been members of the Benedictine Community. Another was *Set Your Hearts Above*, a translation from Spanish to English of 34 religious articles, first published in Puerto Rico in 2004. There's also *Sanctification Made Simple*, an essay on how to become real saints without much difficulty.

His autobiography, *From Shepherd of Goats to Pastor of Souls*, has had two editions. The following excerpts may help explain his longevity.

"Benigno is the Christian name I was

given upon entering the novitiate as a Benedictine monk in 1931. ... Actually, I was baptized Jose Pascual, the latter not being the family name, but my second baptismal name, since in Spain babies are given two Christian names. We also carry two last names: the first family name being our father's first (hence, Benabarre), and the second the mother's first family name from her father (Vigo. for me).

"... I am the fifth of seven children: four boys and three girls. One of the boys died a few months after birth. Five reached ages of over 85. The three eldest died by order of age — as it should be! — when they were over 85 years.

"These ages are remarkable, because with the family being poor by Spanish standards, our nutrition during the crucial years of development was rather deficient. Perhaps this was compensated by the fact that we were living in the isolated village of Aler in the municipality of Benabarre, province of Huesca, Spain, near the Pyrenees Mountains separating Spain from France. Aler, about 200 kilometers from Our Lady of Lourdes, is situated on top of a 600-meter hill, surrounded by countryside, and very far from contaminating elements."

We can't help but marvel at the life story of this Spanish priest who has been most dear to us. Last week, a fellow writer and Bedan I idolize, former senator Rene A.V. Saguisag, provided fresh information.

"In February 1986, Fr. BB called from Spain, to congratulate our people, for People Power. I was then spokesperson for candidate, Pre-elect and finally Prez Cory, Honorary Bedan. We had just shocked and awed the world, by the way we ended the dictatorship, in a virtually bloodless manner..."

Such was Fr. Benabarre's love for his adopted country.

Last Thursday, our GS 1956 / HS 1960 Bedan class had our monthly barkadahan hosted by former Ombudsman Vic Fernandez. About 25 of us came, some with their better halves, including current balikbayans Tony Abad from Connecticut, Oying Pinto from New Jersey, and Fr. Vince Jazmines from NYC, who officiated Mass in the garden.

With special spirits provided by our host, including the prized treasure that is a special Glenfiddich 30 Years Old, as well as a Macallan 17 Years, we toasted to the memory of our beloved Fr. BB. Former UP Manila Chancellor Dr. Mon Arcadio handed me a fresh copy of *The Bedan Alumnus*, SBCAA's official publication that had been founded by Fr. BB way back in 1962. The issue was a special one of remembrance for the good father.

We echo the text on its cover: "Adios y muchissimas gracias, Padre Benigno Benabarre, OSB (1915-2017)."





# Praying for Healing

## Prof. Ben Faylona

*Confined at the ICU of  
Perpetual Hospital Bacoor Cavite  
due to cardiac arrest.*



## Prof. Alex Lazo

*worsening prostate problem and  
is required to undergo surgery.*



## Mr. Sidney Simangan

*(HS '88, CAS '92)*

*Undergoing kidney dialysis  
for several months now.*



## Mr. Kishu Sehwhani

*Recovering from a heart ailment.*



With heads up in hope, we continuously pray for their complete healing.

Let us continue extending financial help to them. Please send in your donations to Dr. Joffre M. Alajar, Executive Director, San Beda College Alumni Association at telephone no 735-5995 (for Prof. Ben Faylona); to PNB Las Piñas branch account no. 5167-998000-25 (Prof. Alex Lazo); and to Metrobank Savings Account no. 3310-141322 (Marissa B. Simangan for Sidney Simangan)

## IN MEMORIAM



- **Roberto N. Bacsal**  
(GS'59, HS'63)
- **Rev. Fr. Benigno Benabarre, OSB**
- **Herminio "Butch" N. Bautista** (GS'49), father of QC mayor Herbert Bautista (GS'91, HS'86, CAS'92)
- **Caridad Hermosura**, mother of Atty. Solomon Hermosura (Law'86)
- **Romy Ginez**, father of Atty. Winston Ginez (CAS '90, Law'95)
- **Robert David Calderon**  
(GS'62, HS'66)
- **Eddie Laconico** (CAS'71)
- **Rafael Consunji** (GS'65, HS'69)





## The Enrico "Rikki" U. Dee Distinguished Professorial Chair in Entrepreneurship



**Enrico and Elizabeth Dee**

The San Beda College Alumni Foundation is very pleased to establish the first-ever Enrico "Rikki" U. Dee Distinguished Professorial Chair in Entrepreneurship.

One of the finest harvests of Marketing CAS Class of 1985 Rikki Dee belongs to the breed of young and brilliant Filipino entrepreneurs with a nationalistic spirit and social responsibility as heart and soul of his lifetime achievements. An accomplished business executive: chairman & president of RIBE Holdings; president and chief executive officer of Foodlink Group, Inc., Premium Development Corp, and Quantumlink Development Corp. Rikki is also Chapter chairman for the Young President's Organization-Philippine

Chapter and board member for YPO South East Asia Chapter, Singapore. Like all other enterprising young movers of today, Rikki plays his role to the hilt in Philippine society with an ambitious goal. He arms himself with proper attitude and correct planning in everything he does.

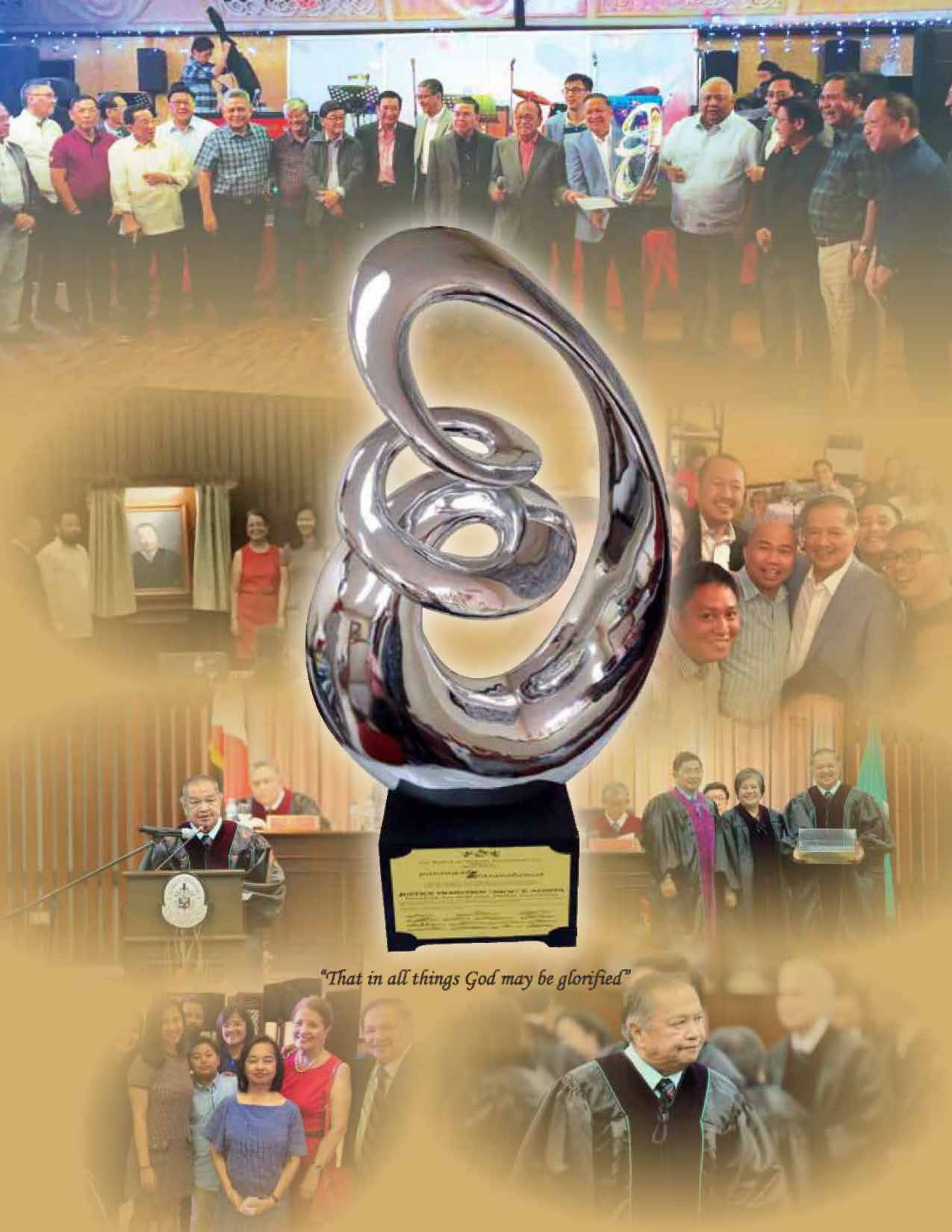
In 2010, the Board of Trustees of the San Beda College Alumni Association awarded Rikki a Distinguished Bedan award recognizing his dynamic and inspired leadership, innovative management style, and untiring effort to blaze a trail in local entrepreneurship; his self-discipline, diligence, perseverance and idealism which make him an exemplar for generations of students desirous of becoming successful business entrepreneurs; his firm resolve to make a true big difference where it really matters; and, his faithful embodiment of the Benedictine ideals of peace, prayer and work, humility and charity.

For his passionate crusade to engage the academe to scholarly pursuits in the field of business and entrepreneurship; and, his having embodied the Benedictine ideals of peace, humility, service, prayer and work (*ora et labora*), and the Bedan values of faith (*fides*), knowledge (*scientia*) and virtue (*virtus*); the San Beda College Alumni Foundation, Inc., the San Beda College Alumni Association and the Academic Community of San Beda College, are establishing the ENRICO "RIKKI" U. DEE DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORIAL CHAIR IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP.



**Rikki and Eric Thomas Dee**





*"That in all things God may be glorified"*