

The HERMA Group

#BUILTOLAST

PETROLEUM AND SUPPLY CHAIN | BUNKERING | SHIPPING
SHIP BUILDING / SHIP REPAIR | AGRI BUSINESS VENTURES
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT | ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT



ESGUERRA FARMS & STUD INC.

The Official News Organ of
the Rotary Club of Manila

balita

ISSUE NO. 4057 • JULY 17, 2025



LIGHTING THE TORCH OF RENEWAL:
The Rotary Club of Manila Convenes
Its First Club Assembly of Rotary Year
2025-2026

**FORGING ALLIANCES,
SHAPING IMPACT:**
How the Rotary Club
of Manila is Building
a Nation Through
Partnerships

**Atty. CARLOS
GELACIO SERAPIO**
A Fool for God,
a Servant of
Country, a
Warrior for Truth

CONTENTS

Program	3
Editorial	4
President's Message	8
LIGHTING THE TORCH OF RENEWAL: The Rotary Club of Manila Convenes Its First Club Assembly of Rotary Year 2025-2026	26
FORGING ALLIANCES, SHAPING IMPACT: How the Rotary Club of Manila is Building a Nation Through Partnerships	42
Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting - Photo Collage	58
President Raoul Creencia and the Board of Directors Take Oath Before Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso	76
Club Administration	82
Thanksgiving Luncheon with Fellow Leon Lambert Fellows	86
Atty. CARLOS GELACIO SERAPIO: A Fool for God, a Servant of Country, a Warrior for Truth	92
RCManila Foundation, Inc.	112
District Activities	115
Recognition Corner	116
Fellowship	122
Interclub Activities	123
Board of Directors and Executive Officers for RY 2025-2026	126
Editorial Board for RY 2025-2026	127

PROGRAM

3rd Weekly Membership Meeting
Rotary Year 2025-2026
Thursday, July 17, 2025, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

Moderator: DIR. EDWIN H. HERNANDEZ

PART I

- 12:00 NN Registration
- 12:30 PM Call to Order | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**
Invocation | **VP RICARDO "Ricky" S.B. GUEVARA**
Philippine National Anthem | **AVP**
Rotary Club of Manila Hymn | **RCM WF Music Chorale**
The Four (4) Way Test | **STAR RTN. VALENTINO "Val" S. BAGATSING**
Acknowledgement of Guests | **DIR. EDWIN H. HERNANDEZ**

Birthday Celebrants

- | | |
|---------|---------------------|
| July 13 | PVP Joel Valdez |
| | Rtn. Mico Mendoza |
| July 14 | PDG Rudy Bediones |
| July 15 | Rtn. JV Magsaysay |
| July 17 | Rtn. Jack Branellec |

Maligayang Bati / Happy Birthday Song |
RCM WF Chorale

PART II

- 12:50 PM President's Time | **PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA**
12:55 PM Introduction of the Guest of Honor and Speaker
BLA CARLOS "Caloy" G. SERAPIO

Guest of Honor and Speaker

HON. FRANCISCO "Isko" MORENO DOMAGOSO
Mayor, City of Manila

- 1:30 PM Open Forum/Q&A
1:50 PM Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation |
PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA
2:00 PM Adjournment

EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



IN a time when governance is often reduced to spectacle or spin, few public servants in recent memory have embodied the raw grit, streetwise intellect, and reformist urgency of Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso. As he takes the podium as the Rotary Club of Manila’s first guest-of-honor and speaker for Rotary Year 2025–2026, it is more than just a ceremonial gesture — it is a clarion call to reexamine what leadership in public service should look like in the post-pandemic Philippine landscape.

Isko’s presence before Asia’s First Rotary Club is both fitting and symbolic. Here is a man who, despite

rising from the slums of Tondo, ascended not through privilege or pedigree but through perseverance and an instinctive grasp of urban politics. His — actor turned councilor, vice mayor, and eventually one of the most transformative mayors of the capital city — mirrors Rotary’s own ethos: self-transformation through service above self.

As mayor of Manila, Isko did not merely govern; he disrupted. He bulldozed decades-old illegal structures in Divisoria and revived historical landmarks like the Jones Bridge with a sense of civic pride many thought lost to time. He brought digital governance to a city mired in analog processes. In his administration, public service was not cloaked in rhetoric — it was visible in cleared streets, in-functioning public hospitals, and in the resuscitated Manila Zoo.

Yet it is not his projects alone that command attention — it is his politics of possibility. He governed Manila not as a manager of decline but as an architect of urban renaissance. He took seriously the idea that even the most neglected pockets of society could be centers of dignity, order, and progress. That he speaks today to a

club of elite professionals, CEOs, diplomats, and Rotarians is a powerful reminder that leadership can come from anywhere — and speak to everyone.

To engage with Mayor Isko is to wrestle with deeper questions: What does effective urban governance look like in an age of digital disruption and climate vulnerability? How do we create public value in cities stretched by inequality, traffic, and fragility? What role must business, civil society, and clubs like Rotary play in partnership with the public sector? His appearance is not merely a chance to reminisce about the “Yorme” era — it is an invitation to move from admiration to collaboration.

And yet, perhaps the most cerebral challenge Isko poses to us today is not infrastructural, but philosophical: Are we still capable of imagining a more functional, inclusive, and inspiring city — and nation? In an era when cynicism often masquerades as wisdom, Isko’s story is an antidote. He reminds us that political imagination is not the privilege of the elite, but the responsibility of all. That governance is not about maintaining power, but about enabling lives.

Let this gathering be more than a luncheon and more than a lecture. Let it be a meeting of minds across sectors, stations, and stories — a communion of public purpose.

The Rotary Club of Manila stands at a threshold this Rotary Year with the theme Unite for Good. In welcoming Mayor Isko Moreno to the fold of our weekly dialogue, we are not merely inviting a past mayor — we are welcoming a continuing idea: that public service, when done with authenticity and audacity, can still matter. That it is not too late to restore trust in institutions, in communities, and in each other.

Let this gathering be more than a luncheon and more than a lecture. Let it be a meeting of minds across sectors, stations, and stories — a communion of public purpose.

Because when leaders like Isko speak, it is not only to recount where they’ve been — it is to awaken in us the urgency of where we must still go.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

IT is with both joy and gratitude that I recall the past week's exciting events. After our well-attended Club Assembly last July 10, we had our meeting on July 12 with Korean Rotarians from District 3610.

Together with Vice-President Ricky Guevara, Secretary/DIS Anton Mauricio, Global Grant Committee Chair Aries Balanay, and Star Rotarian Ingill Ra, I sat down with the delegation from the Rotary Club (RC) of Gangjintamjin headed by President Bang Jae Nam. The discussion on a global grant project partnership went smoothly that a Cooperation Agreement was promptly executed between our two clubs. I would later accompany President Bang and his other officers to the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) the following day, July 13, to personally inspect the hospital's neonatal intensive care unit, as well as the pediatric wards. The ocular inspection, coupled with our discussion with Dr. Jenny Yap, made me and President Bang realize the real need of PGH for more equipment, such as incubators, radiant warmers, and breastmilk analyzers. I look forward to fully consummating a meaningful global grant project with our Rotarian brethren from RC Gangjintanjin to help address the needs of PGH.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

In the afternoon of July 12, with the attendance of our two Past District Governors – PDG Rudy Bediones and PDG Vince Carlos, more than 10 Manila Rotarians welcomed 70 plus Korean Rotarians from RI District 3590. In a meaningful activity, the visiting Rotarians (among them officers and members of RC Jinju-jeil) showered the children of Hospicio de San Jose with love and gifts that they all brought with them. RC Jinju-jeil even expressed its firm interest to jointly pursue a global grant project with RCM. I hope and look forward to successfully implement a project with them.

I highlight above the attendance of our two PDGs because their presence is always inspiring to me, and I am sure to

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

all the other Manila Rotarians who were at the Hospicio during the eventful Saturday afternoon of July 12. Both PDG Rudy and PDG Vince have served RCM as Presidents, both have served as District Governors, and yet, even with several decades of Rotary service under their belt, they still show up in projects like the one we had with our Korean Rotarians from District 3590. What is more, they are always present in our Club's weekly membership meeting. Now this is truly inspiring, and undeniably worth emulating.

This brings me back to the conferment of special citation to our five loyalty awardees for their 50 years of dedicated service to RCM. PDG Vince was among them, together with PP Archit, and Rotarians Claver Ramos and Brendan Egan. 50 years!

For Star Rotarians and relatively newbies like me, it is both refreshing and inspiring to witness and behold the sterling dedication and fierce loyalty of Manila Rotarians like PDG Vince, PDG Rudy, PDG Obet, PP Archit and PP Boy, among many others. Saludo ako! Of course, I also salute each and every member of this Club (especially our Past Presidents and officers) who continue to self-effacingly make the effort and purposively take the time to fulfill their Rotary duties. *Mabuhay po kayo!*

As we mark the first two weeks of this fresh Rotary year, may we truly come together not as individuals, but as One united force, One RCM bound by purpose and passion — ready to write a story of success that echoes far beyond our time.



The loyalty awardees for their 50 years of dedicated service to RCM

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with RI District 3610, Rotary Club of Gangjintamjin for a Global Grant Project

PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia, Vice President Ricky Guevara, Secretary Anton Mauricio, and Past Secretary Aries Balanay signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Rotary Club of Gangjintamjin (Rotary International District 3610), led by President Bang Jae Nam, for the Global Grant project in partnership with the Philippine General Hospital and other cooperating organizations. The signing of the MOU was held on July 12, 2025, at the Hyatt Hotel, City of Dreams.



Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with RI District 3610, Rotary Club of Gangjintamjin for a Global Grant Project





DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Gift Giving at Hospicio de San Jose

A Joint Project with RI District 3590, Zone 12, South Korea



President
Raoul Creencia
presented RCM's
bannerette to the
Governor of RI
District 3590
(Zone 12, South
Korea).





DISEASE PREVENTION
AND TREATMENT



WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Gift Giving at Hospicio de San Jose



President Raoul provided brief information about Hospicio de San Jose and RCM's programs with the Institution. STAR Rtn. Ingill Ra served as interpreter for the delegates from RI District 3590 (Zone 12, South Korea).





MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Visit to the Philippine General Hospital



As a continuation of the MOU signing on July 12, 2025, President Raoul Creencia, together with RI District 3610's Rotary Club of Gangjintamjin President Bang Jae Nam and his delegation, visited the Philippine General Hospital-Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (PGH-NICU) on July 13, 2025. They were joined by Dr. Jenny Yap from the NICU.



Visit to the Philippine General Hospital



The Rotary Club of Gangjintamjin is partnering with the Rotary Club of Manila to donate incubators to PGH by the end of this year. RCM will be fundraising for a portion of the total USD 50,000 to be shared between the Districts and Clubs for the purchase of the incubators, as a project under the Maternal and Child Health area of focus.

RC Gangjintamjin would like to make this joint project an annual effort to sustain collaboration between our Clubs.



For those who would be contributing to the Paul Harris, you may direct the Philippine donation to this particular project.

- Sec. Anton Mauricio

GUEST OF HONOR & SPEAKER

**Hon. Francisco
"Isko Moreno"
Domagoso**

Mayor, City of Manila



THE Honorable Francisco "Isko Moreno" Domagoso has dedicated over two decades of his life to public service. Rising from his humble beginnings in Tondo, Manila, he first entered politics as a city councilor in 1998 and quickly became the most-voted councilor in the 2001 elections.

He went on to serve as Vice Mayor of Manila from 2007 to 2016, and later as Mayor from 2019 to 2022, where he was widely recognized for his 24/7 hands-on leadership, big-ticket infrastructure

projects, and pro-people reforms and initiatives.

Beyond local governance, Domagoso held key national positions, including Undersecretary for Social Welfare and Development and Chairman of the National Railways Corporation. A product of Manila's public school system, he later pursued higher education in business and law, and has been conferred honorary doctorates in law and humanities. Domagoso also sharpened his leadership skills abroad through executive programs at Harvard and Oxford Universities.

Lighting the Torch of Renewal

The Rotary Club of Manila Convenes Its First Club Assembly of Rotary Year 2025–2026

by PVP Reginald T. Yu



THERE are meetings, and then there are moments — occasions that do more than occupy the minutes between meals and calendars. They stir something deeper: reflection, commitment, and a yearning to return to the core values of a venerable institution. On the warm, noonday gathering of July 10, 2025, at the storied halls of the Manila Polo Club, The Rotary Club of Manila — Asia’s first and premier Rotary Club — convened its First Weekly Membership Meeting and Club Assembly for Rotary Year 2025–2026, not merely to launch a new term but to light the beacon of renewal.



With fifty-one Rotarians in attendance — seasoned veterans and fresh faces alike — the assembly bore witness to a rare blend of candor and courage, fraternity and frankness, humor and humility. And more importantly, it signaled a club ready to listen, to change, and to rise once more with a clear, united voice.



President Raoul C. Creencia called the meeting to order.



Secretary Antonilo "Anton" DC. Mauricio and Board Legal Adviser Carlos "Caloy" G. Serapio moderated the first Club assembly/meeting.

A Ceremonial Prelude to Purpose

Promptly at 12:30 PM, Club President **Raoul C. Creencia**, a man steeped in both the law and Rotary service, called the meeting to order. The air, though

laced with July's humidity, was cooled by the reverent invocation of Director **Rami Chahwan**, followed by the swelling chords of the Philippine National Anthem and the rousing harmony of the RCM Hymn, rendered by the iconic World-Famous RCM Chorale.



Director Rami Chahwan led the invocation.



The iconic World-Famous RCM Chorale performed the RCM Hymn.

Director **Edwin Hernandez** solemnly led the Four-Way Test, reminding all that truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all remain the moral compass of Rotarian life. Then, the Club turned festive, offering birthday greetings to **PP Archib Bartolome** (June 30 celebrant), sung once more with hearty cheer by the Chorale.



Director Edwin Hernandez solemnly led the Four-Way Test.

A President's Time for Truth

In his inaugural remarks, President Raoul struck a balance between sober introspection and a stirring call to action. He acknowledged the work that lay ahead — not merely in programs and projects, but in healing divisions, reviving engagement, and restoring integrity. It was a tone-setting declaration for a club that has, for over a century, played a defining role in Philippine civil society.



In his inaugural remarks, President Raoul Creencia acknowledged the work that lay ahead, not merely in programs and projects, but in healing divisions, reviving engagement, and restoring integrity.

Prologue, Dialogue, and a Chemistry Lesson on Fellowship

Rotarian **Delfin “Del” Lorenzana**, former defense chief and Program Chair, shared a pragmatic outline of what to expect this Rotary Year: a star-studded roster of speakers, from government and academia to cinema and diplomacy. But beyond celebrity, he called for conscientious presence — pleading not for perfection, but for participation. “If one cannot attend weekly,” he said, “then at least twice or once a month would be most appreciated.”

Rotarian **John Nico “Nico” P. Valencia** announced the July 24 fellowship and upcoming fellowships.

Then came Past Director **Dean Amading Valdez**, who, with wit and wisdom, gave an unexpected but compelling scientific defense of club meetings. Speaking of serotonin, oxytocin, dopamine, and endorphins — the “happy hormones” — he drew laughter and knowing nods as he concluded: “So yes, being here today... is more than worth it. It’s part of what keeps us alive.”

“... being here today... is more than worth it. It’s part of what keeps us alive.”



Rotarian Delfin “Del” Lorenzana



Rotarian John Nico “Nico” P. Valencia



Past Director Dean Amading Valdez

The Survey Speaks: Director Jason Bogovich Presents a Mirror to the Club

Perhaps the most awaited portion of the assembly came when Director **Jason M. Bogovich**, armed with data and dry wit, delivered the results of the RCM Membership Feedback Survey.



Director Jason M. Bogovich presented the survey results.

With a 24% response rate — equivalent to 52 out of 215 members — the survey revealed what the Club cherishes and what it must confront:

- Deep reverence for RCM’s legacy and brotherhood.
- Frustration with internal politics and poor communication.
- A desire for quality over quantity in new memberships.
- A call for more engaging meetings, hybrid options, and flexible venues.

- A need to bridge generational gaps and foster intergenerational mentorship.
- Strong consensus for transparency, accountability, and a reinvigorated culture of respect.

“Mutual respect among members,” he emphasized, “isn’t just idealism — it’s the lifeblood of our organization.”

A Forum of Brave Voices

The open forum, moderated by club Secretary **Anton Mauricio**, became an exercise in open hearts and sharpened minds.

- Past Director **Art Lopez**, in his usual candor, warned against hybrid meetings: “It will be the end of the RCM.”



- Past President **Hermie Esguerra** and Vice-President **Ricky Guevara** defended make-up attendance and the role of orientation and Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) as pivotal in retaining Rotarian values.



- Rotarian **Romy Nones** gave an impassioned plea: “The hate must stop. RCM must be a safe haven for all.”



- Past President **Archit Bartolome** urged stricter accountability: “If you accept a nomination, commit. Fail to attend 50% of board meetings? Expulsion.”



- Past District Governor **Rudy Bediones** cut through the noise: “All this talk on attendance? Irrelevant. Let’s focus on what matters.”



But it was Internal Auditor **Nick Locsin** who delivered perhaps the most soul-stirring soliloquy: questioning past board decisions, lamenting ethical lapses, and imploring members to “vote not for the loudest, but for the good.” Quoting Pasig

City Mayor Vico Sotto, he said, “It’s not enough to be competent. You must be a good person.”



A Call Back to the Rules — and to the Heart

Past Director **Beda Fajardo** stood up like a sage and reminded all: “We are a rules-based organization.”

He spoke of how the president must be president for all, that no business interest should drive membership, and that the club must institutionalize the publication of board resolutions, to inform and empower the general membership. His was a call to legal clarity and organizational dignity.



A Presidential Epilogue

As the clock struck 2:00 PM, President Raoul C. Creencia delivered his final remarks, not with thunder, but with truth. He acknowledged every insight, every criticism, every call for reform — and

promised to take them forward.

“You say yes three times,” he reminded. “When nominated, when you sign, and when you take your oath. You said yes — three times. And that yes must mean something.”

A Club That Chose to Speak

For all its traditions and trappings, it is not protocol but people who define a Rotary club. On this day, The Rotary Club of Manila chose to speak. It chose to wrestle with its contradictions, to reflect on its past, and to reaffirm its identity not only as Asia’s first, but as Asia’s finest — not by pedigree, but by principle.

Yes, it was only the first club assembly of the year. But in those two hours at the Manila Polo Club, something old was reborn. The fire of fellowship. The courage of truth. The dream of a Rotary that lives not just by its name, but by its noblest ideals.

And with that, the meeting was adjourned — but the work has only begun.



President Raoul C. Creencia adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Fellowship



Meeting Fellowship



FORGING ALLIANCES, SHAPING IMPACT: *How the Rotary Club of Manila is Building a Nation Through Partnerships*

by PVP Reginald T. Yu



IN a time when many choose to work in silos, the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM) under the dynamic leadership of President Raoul Creencia has chosen a different path — one paved with shared missions, collaborative aspirations, and transformative partnerships. In the opening months of Rotary Year 2025–2026, the country’s first and oldest Rotary club has taken the bold step of institutionalizing change through an unprecedented series of Memoranda of Agreement and Understanding with a wide range of organizations, both in the public and private spheres.

Each signing was more than ceremony; it was a declaration—a pledge to turn good-will into action, and shared goals into lasting impact. Below is a sweeping chronicle of these remarkable collaborations, stitched together by a common thread: service that transcends boundaries.

Honoring the Unsung Heroes of Retail



In one of the most symbolically resonant partnerships of the year, the **Rotary Club of Manila** and the **Philippine Retailers Association**, led respectively by President Raoul Creencia and PRA President Alice Liu, signed a **Memorandum of Agreement** to recognize the quiet yet essential contributions of Filipino retail workers.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with the Philippine Retailers Association. The purpose is to establish a framework of cooperation between the Rotary Club of Manila and the Philippine Retailers Association to pursue a project that will give recognition and highlight the contributions of workers in the retail industry.

Often overlooked yet instrumental to daily life, these workers are now set to receive the acknowledgment they deserve. Through awards, narratives, and public campaigns, the partnership aims to highlight their dignity and dedication, thus uplifting an entire sector that forms the economic backbone of everyday commerce.

Championing Government Transparency and Service Efficiency



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA). The mutual understanding engages both parties to aid the government agencies to simplify documentary requirements in the application of permits/licenses to do business or professional licenses, clearances, permits, certifications or authorizations after orientation by ARTA, for designated ARTA Champions, where ARTA authorizes RCM members to receive complaints from the business sector, the professionals, and civic society organizations which shall be promptly endorsed to ARTA; assist in the conduct of webinars and seek the participation of Rotary district/s and its members in the activities of ARTA.

The signing of a **Memorandum of Understanding** between RCM and the **Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA)**, represented by Secretary Ernesto Perez, marks a leap toward cleaner, more accessible governance.

Through this alliance, Rotarians will be trained as ARTA Champions — empowered to receive and elevate complaints from professionals, businesses, and civic groups regarding bureaucratic inefficiencies. This is not merely advocacy; it is active citizenship. The goal is to simplify documentary processes, making licenses, permits, and clearances easier to access while ensuring transparency, fairness, and accountability in public service.

A Brotherhood of Service: Rotary Club of Manila and JCI Manila



Two giants of Philippine civic service — **RCM** and **JCI Manila** — came together through a historic MOA signed by Presidents Raoul Creencia and Jan Adrian Padiernos. This partnership promises not only shared projects, but also shared values.

From disaster resilience efforts to animal welfare programs, the two organizations will jointly identify initiatives to address urgent community needs. The alliance is a celebration of synergy — combining

the depth of Rotary's legacy with the vigor of JCI's youth-driven energy.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with JCI Manila. Both parties agree to jointly pursue and mutually coordinate the conduct of worthwhile and impactful projects, such as disaster resilience programs, animal-welfare activities, and other community projects that both organizations will jointly identify and agree to undertake together.

Innovation Meets Empowerment: RCM x Innovation PH

In partnership with **Innovation PH**, led by Grace Fernandez (President & COO) and Marc Kristian Gulle (Administrator), RCM has committed to advancing **community innovation**, **capacity building**, and **multi-sectoral network development**.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with Innovation PH. Both parties agree to explore collaboration in areas concerning Community Innovation and Empowerment, Multi-Sectoral Network Building, Capacity Building and Leadership Development, Strategic Convening and Platforms, and Civic Engagement and Shared Advocacy.

This is a forward-looking endeavor, setting the stage for grassroots empowerment, leadership development, and civic engagement initiatives that bridge sectors, industries, and generations.

Opening Doors for the Deserving: The Dualtech Scholarship Agreement



In collaboration with **Dualtech Training Center**, President Jerry Webb Muhi and

President Raoul Creencia signed an MOU focused on **scholarship programs** for underprivileged yet deserving youth.

Rooted in the belief that education is the most powerful equalizer, this partnership will fund technical-vocational training that equips students not just with skills—but with dignity, confidence, and purpose.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with Dualtech Training Center. Both parties are to collaborate on the funding of a scholarship program for poor and deserving students.

Life in Every Drop: Rotary x Philippine Red Cross



Through a strategic **Memorandum of Agreement** with **Philippine Red Cross**, led by Chairman Richard Gordon, RCM committed to hosting annual **mobile blood donation drives** and promoting the **PRC Safe Card Program**.

In return, PRC will extend critical medical support to employees and



dependents of RCM members when supplies are available. This partnership merges the compassionate heart of Rotary with the life-saving mission of the Red Cross — proving once again that service knows no boundaries.

Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with JCI Manila. Both parties agree to jointly pursue and mutually coordinate the conduct of worthwhile and impactful projects, such as disaster resilience programs, animal-welfare activities, and other community projects that both organizations will jointly identify and agree to undertake together.



Clean Water, Clear Purpose: WASH Education Collaboration



RCM's partnership with **WASH Education Pty. Ltd.**, led by Ms. Kathleen May Faigal, lays the groundwork for **WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene)** education programs that will benefit underserved communities.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with WASH Education Pty. Ltd. The primary purpose of the partnership is to establish a framework for collaboration between RCM and WASH PTY LTD. regarding a joint implementation of WASH Ed projects.

Together, they will roll out hygiene campaigns and water-related education projects that underscore Rotary's global thrust for clean water and disease prevention, especially in vulnerable and underserved areas.

Surgery as Service: Partnering with World Surgical Foundation Philippines



In cooperation with **World Surgical Foundation Philippines, Inc.**, represented by President & CEO Dr. Marcus Lester Suntay, RCM will assist in conducting **surgical outreach missions** to provide free medical procedures to marginalized communities.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with World Surgical Foundation Philippines, Inc. The purpose of the understanding is to establish a framework of cooperation between the parties to pursue surgical outreach activities to undertake the same according to specific terms agreed upon.

These medical missions will save lives, restore dignity, and offer hope — especially to those who suffer in silence because they cannot afford care.

Kindness in Action: RCM and PETA for Animal Welfare



With the **People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)** through Director Ashley Fruno, RCM will organize a **veterinary mission in Tondo, Manila** — offering free sterilization and vaccinations to the local pet population.



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). The purpose of the partnership is to co-lead in the overall implementation and coordination of a one-day veterinary clinic that will offer accessible sterilization and vaccination services to the local community in Tondo, Manila, and perform all necessary functions to ensure its success.

This project is as much about community wellness as it is about compassion. By controlling stray populations and ensuring animal health, RCM and PETA affirm that empathy for all living beings is integral to community service.

Sisterhood Beyond Borders: RCM, Kandaya, and Lipa South



Rotary's essence lies in fellowship — and nowhere was this more evident than in the twin Sisterhood Agreements signed with the **Rotary Club of Kandaya**, led by President Lolita Escaño, and the **Rotary Club of Lipa South**, led by President Joseph Vincent Lim.



Signing of Sisterhood Agreement with the Rotary Club of Kandaya



Signing of Sisterhood Agreement with the Rotary Club of Lipa South

These agreements, witnessed by District Governor Caroline Andrade, RCM Secretary Anton Mauricio, and former RCM Past Director and now, Chair Rene Policarpio, outline a shared roadmap: joint projects, member exchanges, collaborative fellowship, and a strengthening of inter-club ties.

Beyond formalities, these bonds cultivate cultural understanding, deepen personal friendships, and ignite collaborative opportunities for community and international service.

A Legacy of Leadership through Partnership

With all these agreements in place, President Raoul Creencia has turned the Rotary Club of Manila into a hub of **collaborative leadership**, where action springs not just from within — but from the trust, values, and synergies formed with like-minded institutions.

What these partnerships collectively represent is not just a checklist of civic gestures — but a bold, strategic move toward nation-building, one agreement at a time.

As the Rotary wheel turns forward into the heart of RY 2025–2026, RCM stands not only as a solitary beacon — but as a vibrant part of an ever-growing constellation of changemakers.



In President Raoul's own words:
"To serve is to connect. And to connect is to build a future not alone, but together."

Indeed, with each handshake, signature, and shared vision, the Rotary Club of Manila builds more than projects — it builds hope.

And in doing so, it builds the nation.



Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting

July 3, 2025

REGISTRATION



From left: RCMFI Immediate Past Chair/PVP Reggie Yu, RCMFI Chairman/PDG Alex Cureg, RCMFI Trustee/BLA Caloy Serapio, RCMFI Trustee/RCM Dir. Mike Albaña, Rtn. Coco Mauricio, PP Jackie Rodriguez, RCM IA Nick Locsin, RCM Asst. Treas. Karlo Castro, Dir. Hans Palacio, RC Lipa South Admin Chairman Rene Policarpio, RC Lipa South Pres. Joseph Vincent Lim, RC Lipa South PDG Ed Publico, PD Oscar del Rosario, RCMFI Trustee Noy Benedicto, and RCM Dir. Edwin Hernandez



RCM Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio (rightmost) with Kahil Carlos and Dra. Glory Tantoco



From left: RCM VP Ricky Guevara, Board Legal Adviser Caloy Serapio, RCMFI Chairman/PDG Alex Cureg, and WF Chairman/PD Oscar del Rosario

Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting



From left: Dir. Hans and Marge Palacios; Mariko, Rachelle, and Dir. Edwin Hernandez



From left: Rtn. Jordan Pizarra, PP Archibartolome, PP Chito Zalzarriaga, IA Nick Locsin, Rtn. Cito Manalaysay, RCMFI Chair/PGD Alex Cureg, and Rtn. Cris Acosta



Rtn. Cris Acosta with family, Monet and Nesty



From left: Rtn. Momo Mommaerts, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, Centennial Pres. Susung Pineda, Pres. Raoul Creencia, Rtn. Jun Aventura, and PD Issam Eldebs



VP Ricky and Fiona Guevara



From left: Kahlil Serapio, Dra. Glory Tantoco, Ms. Flor Chahwan and son Sean Chahwan

Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting



Rtn. Romy Nones introducing PDG Bill and Joanne Biddle to PP Boy Guevara and Treasurer PJ Garcia



From left: Rtn. Marius Angara, Rtn. Joshua Aragon, Rtn. Jop Esquivias, JCI Manila Pres. Jan Padiernos, Dir. Hans Palacios, PP Jackie Rodriguez, PD Amading Valdez, PD Oscar del Rosario, and RCMFI Trustee/ Rtn. Dan Obrado



Treasurer PJ Garcia, IPP Jujut and Lia Enriquez



PD John Cenica



Rtn. Senen Mangalile, PD Art Lopez, and PP Boy Guevara



Rtn. Joshua Aragon, Rtn. Val Co, Rtn. John Simon, Dir. Rami Chahwan, and Rtn. Miguel Lazaro

Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting



From left: PD Pepo Nunez, Centennial President Susing Pineda, VP Ricky Guevara, PT Lito Sibayan, and Treas. PJ Garcia



From left: PVP Reggie Yu, Centennial President Susing Pineda, Dra. Emily Tan-Aventura and Rtn. Jun Aventura



From left: PS Aries Balanay, PVP Reggie Yu, BLA Caloy Serapio, Rtn. Caloy Buendia, Pres. Raoul Creencia, PD Noy Benedicto, PD Oscar del Rosario, Dir. Mike Albaña, STAR Rtn. Dean Cid, and PD Amadng Valdez

Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting



From left: PD Pepo Nunez, PD Oscar del Rosario, Treas. PJ Garcia, Rtn. Senen Mangalile, Ms. Lia Enriquez, and IPP Jujut Enriquez



From left: Rtn. Ben Ibuyan, Rtn. Jop Esquivias, Rtn. Teddy Tee, Rtn. Nico Valencia, Rtn. Inov Talusan, and PD John Cenica



PDG Rudy and Sharon Bediones, UCP Page Sanchez, and Governor Aide Ayet Garcia



Clockwise from top left: Rtn. Teddy Tee, Treas. PJ Garcia, Rtn. Nico Valencia, Rtn. Jonas Gonzales, AT Karlo Castro, and Rtn. Jop Esquivias



From left: DSAA Dave Reynolds, FL Myelne Creencia, FL Sharon Bediones, PDG Rudy Bediones, DGE Bing Carrion, PD Oscar del Rosario, and PD Amading Valdez



PD Amading Valdez and Rtn. Tong Payumo

Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting

The United Chosen Presidents of RI District 3810



Rotaractors

Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting

The Distinguished Guests of RCM Members



Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting

The Art Exhibit



First Lady Mylene Creencia with special guests at the art exhibit



Rotary Club of Manila's 106th Anniversary and Inaugural Meeting

The Art Exhibit



Ms. Flor Chahwan, Arya Chahwan, Sean Chahwan, PD John Cenica, and Dir. Rami Chahwan



PD Abe Pascual, RCM guest, PP Boy Guevara, Fiona Guevara, and Monette Guevara



From left: Rtn. Senen Mangalile, PD Phillip Ong, PDG Rudy and Sharon Bediones, PD Pepo Nunez, PD Oscar del Rosario, RAC Manila IPP Summer Bonifacio, and Treas. PJ Garcia



Artist Angie with Hospicio de San Jose Administrator Sr. Martha Gamolo, DC, Executive Asst. Maribel Andales, Project Chair PD Phillip Ong, and PD Oscar del Rosario



Artist Angie beside her artwork

President Raoul Creencia and the Board of Directors Take Oath Before Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia and the Board of Directors made a courtesy call and took their Oath of Office before City of Manila Mayor Francisco 'Isko' Moreno Domagoso, who served as the Inducting Officer, on July 10, 2025, at the Office of the Mayor.



President Raoul Creencia and the Board of Directors Take Oath Before Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso



Fellowship After the Oathtaking at the Office of Manila Mayor Isko Moreno Domagoso



Rotary Club of Manila Receives Gifts and Donations from the Rotary Club of Bangkok



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia receives from the Rotary Club of Bangkok PP Abdullah Alawadi and his son, Sam, token gifts and cash donations.



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026

ATTENDANCE REPORT
July 2025

JULY 2025	July 03, 2025 ROTARY CLUB OF MANILA 106TH ANNIVERSARY & INDUCTION CEREMONY	July 10, 2025 FIRST CLUB ASSEMBLY: PROLOGUE & DIALOGUE
MEMBERS PRESENT	90	53
MEMBERS PRESENT %	42%	25%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	0	0
EXEMPTED	6	4
ON LEAVE	0	0
Total Active Members	84	49
Total # of Members	215	215
TOTAL %:	39%	23%
ROTARACTORS	20	0
MEDIA	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0
GOHS / GS	0	0
VISITING ROTARIAN	75	0
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	102	0
TOTAL ATTENDEES	287	53



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

LIST OF ATTENDEES
July 10, 2025

1	Acosta, Crispiniano G.	28	Lopez, Arthur M.
2	Alday, Albert Singson	29	Lorenzana, Delfin
3	Alunan III, Rafael M.	30	Mauricio, Antonilo DC
4	Bagatsing, Valensino S.	31	Mauricio, Francisco Robert DC.
5	Bartolome III, Arsenio M.	32	Nones, Romeo C.
6	Bediones, Rodolfo P.	33	Obrado, Daniel Calzado
7	Benedicto, Sixto T.	34	Ozaeta, Miguel Antonio L.
8	Bogovich, Jason M.	35	Palacios, Albert C.
9	Carlos, Vicente J.	36	Pascual, Abraham F.
10	Chahwan, Rami	37	Peliño, Wilfredo M.
11	Cid, Dean Y.	38	Pineda, Jr. Patricio F.
12	Creencia, Raoul C.	39	Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
13	Cureg, Alexander P.	40	Ra, Ingill
14	Cutter, John Michael	41	Rankl, Peter
15	Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.	42	Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
16	Eldebs, Issam	43	Roxas, Michael D.
17	Eguerra, Herminio S.	44	Serapio, Carlos G.
18	Fajardo, Beda G.	45	Sibayan, Joselito H.
19	Fernandez, Antonio Jaime Jose V.	46	Simon, Juanito A.
20	Garcia, Paul Joseph M.	47	So, Warren S.
21	Go, Henry S.	48	Tagaysay, Hector O.
22	Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.	49	Talusan, Ferdinand E
23	Guevara, Ricardo S.	50	Tee, Teddy Jr. B.
24	Hernandez, Edwin H	51	Valdez, Amado D.
25	Kalaw, Teodoro Alejandro Y IV	52	Valencia, John Nico P.
26	Locsin, Arsenio Z.	53	Yu, Reginald Tieng
27	Lopez, Antonio S.		

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

List of Members
Who Have Paid
Their Annual Dues
for RY 2025-2026

As of July 15, 2025

1	ABRIAM, ARIEL
2	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.
3	CANON, RAUL JR C
4	CARLOS, VICENTE J.
5	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.
6	CUREG, ALEXANDER P
7	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL
8	ELDEBS, ISSAM
9	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.
10	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.
11	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.
12	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR. S.
13	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.
14	HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.
15	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F
16	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L
17	KLEBS, DAVID
18	LEE, RICHARD L
19	LOPEZ, ANTONIO
20	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M
21	LORENZANA, DELFIN
22	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B
23	NONES, ROMEO C.
24	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F
25	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
26	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O
27	ZIALCITA, XAVIER
28	YORDANOV, STEFAN
29	YU, REGINALD T.



THE FIRM OF
CREENCIA CARILLO & VELASCO

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Managing Partner

EDWIN M. CARILLO
Senior Partner

GLADYS M. CAGADOC-VELASCO
Senior Partner

MARLO V. DESTURA
Junior Partner

JERRY S. UY
Special Counsel

MARIA LEA BERNADETH S. OTICO
Senior Associate

MICHAEL P. PECAYO
Senior Associate

JONA N. PLATEJA
Associate

KRISTINA MARIE S. SAVELLANO
Associate

RENZO NIÑO M. ROSALES
Associate

KEITH MATTHEW R. CAMACHO
Associate

JOAQUIN ANTONIO S. DILLERA
Associate

Thanksgiving Luncheon with Fellow Leon Lambert Fellows



THE Leon Lambert Fellows thanksgiving lunch was held on July 15, 2025 at the Mireo Salon, Raffles Hotel.

Present were President Raoul Creencia, Vice President Ricky Guevara, Centennial President Susing Pineda, Past RI Director Raffy Garcia, former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Ben Diokno (Past Vice President of RCM), PP Teddy Ocampo. PVP Fausto Preysler, PD Alvin Lacambacal, PD Amading Valdez, Rtn. Jun Bella, Rtn. Romy Nones, Rtn. Emyl Eugenio. Rtn. Gani Macatoman, Rtn. Romy Nones, and Mr. Edgar Lee (Past Director of RCM).



Thanksgiving Luncheon with Fellow Leon Lambert Fellows



Rotarian Romy Nones presented an overview of the Rotary Education Assistance Program (REAP) from the Leon Lambert Fellows donation.



Centennial President Susing Pineda (REAP chairman) provided more details about the project.



President Raoul Creencia shared his recommendations for the REAP project.



PD Amading Valdez (left) shared his insights on the REAP Project. Beside him is Rtn. Gani Macatoman.



VP Ricky Guevara (left) made an inquiry on the TOWER awards project. Beside him is Rtn. Jun Bella.



PRID Raffy Garcia shared his insights on Rotary and RCM projects.

Thanksgiving Luncheon with Fellow Leon Lambert Fellows



Former Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Governor Ben Diokno (RCM Past Vice President) was presented a token as a Leon Lambert Fellow.



Rotary

THE FOUR-WAY TEST
of the things we think, say or do

- I. Is it the TRUTH?
- II. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- III. Will it build GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- IV. to all concerned?

Russell-Hampton Co. Item #R89805M

PEOPLE

Atty. CARLOS GELACIO SERAPIO

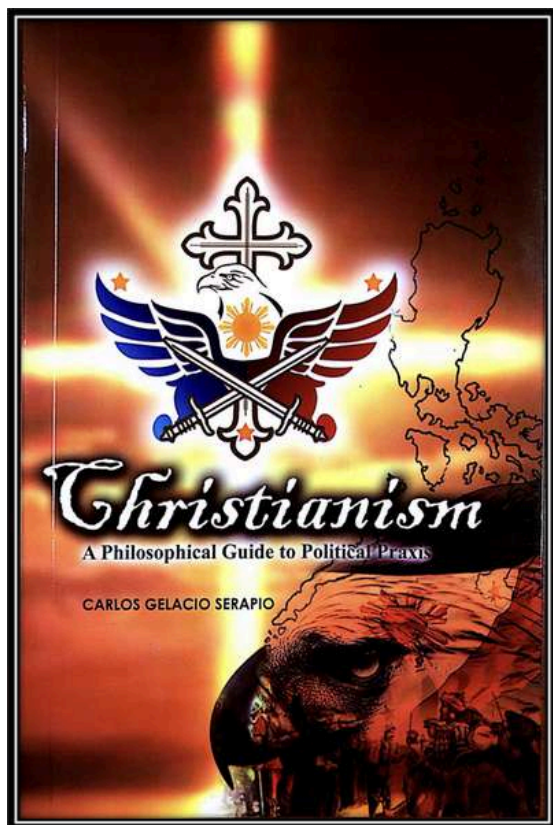
A Fool for God, a
Servant of Country, a
Warrior for Truth

by PVP Reginald T. Yu

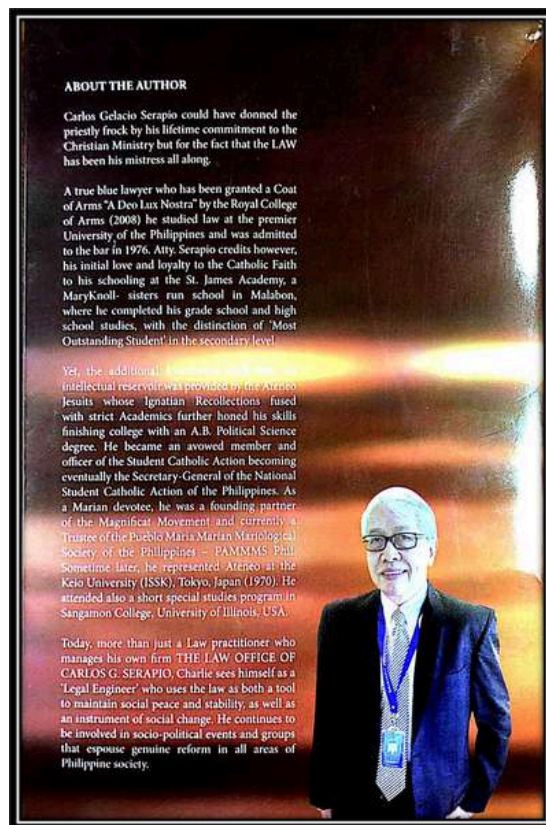
NOT all revolutionaries wear fatigues or take to the streets. Some wear barong, wield the law like scripture, and speak softly of grace as though it were the most natural inheritance of man. In the chaotic intersections of law, faith, politics, and service, few lives trace a path as intricate — and as resolute — as that of Atty. Carlos “Charlie” Gelacio Serapio. He is a man whose words echo the cadence of scripture, whose convictions burn with prophetic fire, and whose actions, often quietly performed, have rippled across movements, institutions, and generations.



In a nation often seduced by spectacle and plagued by short memories, Charlie is not just a footnote in the annals of service. He is a moral architect, quietly shaping institutions, inspiring civic consciousness, and daring to envision the Philippines not merely as a nation of citizens, but as a people awakened to its divine and national destiny. And yet, for all his gravitas, he calls himself — with endearing humility — a “hopeless romantic idealist.”

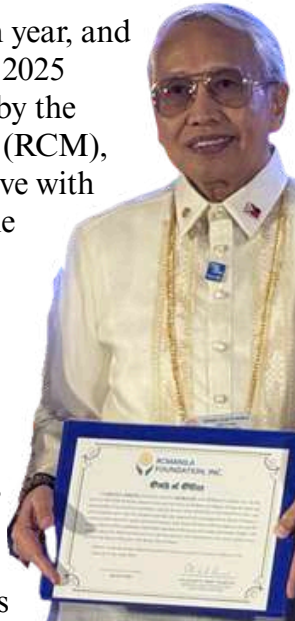


This is no throwaway phrase. To understand him, one must first appreciate that Charlie is in love — not with power, but with pursuit. He is in love with ideas that seem too noble to survive in politics, with causes too sacrificial for most, with visions of justice and faith so intertwined that to him, the courtroom and the altar are not opposites but complements. He has lived his life not just for law but for logos — for the Word, the Spirit, the Purpose.



Atty. Carlos “Charlie” Serapio’s spiritual and political worldview found written form in his book, “Christianism: A Philosophical Guide to Political Praxis.”

Now in his seventy-fifth year, and recently honored as the 2025 "Rotarian of the Year" by the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM), Charlie continues to serve with unflagging fervor. As the newly appointed Board Legal Adviser of RCM and a Trustee of the RCManila Foundation, Inc. for Rotary Year 2025–2026, he once again brings his compass — pointed unwaveringly toward God and country — into Rotary's highest chambers of counsel and conscience.



His is not a story best told through accolades, though they abound. Rather, his narrative unfolds through struggles embraced, truths spoken, and service rendered even when inconvenient or misunderstood. From his days of catechism and community organizing to the halls of Malacañang and the platforms of national politics, his journey has always been one of tension — a tension between what is and what ought to be. And it is in that sacred tension that his life has found both its burden and its brilliance.

To call him a fool, as he sometimes does of himself, is not to diminish him — it is to place him in the lineage of the saints, philosophers, and patriots who lived not by calculation, but by conviction. This is the story of a man who dared to live out his idealism to the very end, a man whose truth-telling, law-shaping, and nation-loving vocation continues to illuminate the path for those still searching for the soul of service.

The Romance of Rotary: The Spirit Behind the Service

For Atty. Serapio, recognition such as "Rotarian of the Year" is not a badge of personal glory but a reflection of divine grace. "Except for my sins, I do not own anything," he states plainly. In a world

that so often measures worth through trophies and applause, his orientation is different. He believes that every good he experiences is a gift — an unmerited favor from the Source of all blessings.



In his own words, being awarded Rotarian of the Year is simply this: "I AM BECAUSE YOU ARE." It is Ubuntu, the African principle of shared humanity, articulated through a Christian lens of grace and humility. If he has shone in his Rotary service, it is because he mirrored the light of his fellow members, the heartbeat of their shared mission. "Service beyond self is its own reward," he insists, and with those words, he anchors his Rotary journey not in accolades but in alignment with divine purpose.

When Atty. Serapio was asked to serve as Chairman of the Programs Committee for Rotary Year 2024–2025, the call came unbidden. He was on a walk in a local mall when Director Mike Albana called to offer him the position. He hesitated, unsure if he was fit for the job. But after reflection and discernment, he embraced the mission, believing that there was a reason it had been entrusted to him. And so began a year of transformative programming that would come to define the Club's intellectual and spiritual cadence.



His approach was not strategic in the conventional sense; it was spiritual. He did not begin with metrics or themes but with a fundamental conviction: "Love of God and Love of Country are inseparable." That singular belief shaped the character and direction of every weekly meeting he curated.

He was acutely aware of the stature of the Club's audience. These were men who once seemed, in his younger days, the very embodiment of the bourgeoisie. But now, with faces and names and shared experiences, they became to him "gentle souls with big hearts in the right places." They were not just professionals; they were stewards of tradition and exemplars of civic virtue. And it was for them that he designed each week's program to speak not only to the mind but to the heart.



"Love of God and Love of Country are inseparable."



The result was a tapestry of themes that traversed the arts, sciences, diplomacy, economics, and ethics. Whether the topic was the ancient journey of the Balangay, the role of artificial intelligence in future governance, or the ethical challenges in politics and media, each session was an invitation to reflect, engage, and elevate.

But for Charlie, the most meaningful programs were those that touched the cultural and spiritual foundations of the Club. These programs, he believes, brought to the fore the Club's "heart and soul." They were not just intellectually stimulating but morally grounding.

To ensure the success of each event, he often reached out to guest speakers personally, engaging them in soul-to-soul conversations. "Presence," he asserts, "was needed in every program." That presence was not merely physical; it was emotional, intellectual, and spiritual. It was the act of being fully there — as speaker, as listener, as Rotarian.

His alignment with then-President Jujut Enriquez was equally grounded in shared values. At a time when internal conflict threatened to divide the Club, Charlie stood beside President Jujut, supporting his vision of fellowship over factionalism. "He focused on what makes the Club a 'Happy Place,'" Charlie recalls. And so, in a year marked by potential discord, the Programs Committee became a channel for healing, reflection, and unity.



Law as Mission: The Jurisprudence of Justice and Love

As Charlie transitions into his role as Board Legal Adviser and Trustee of the RCManila Foundation, Inc., he brings with him not only decades of legal experience but a legal philosophy rooted in justice as both social order and moral imperative.

He proposes a comprehensive review of the Club's Constitution and By-Laws, not to undermine its foundations, but to enhance its relevance. "Law is both a tool of social peace and social change," he explains. This dual purpose animates his legal outlook: the law must preserve harmony during times of consensus and serve as a catalyst for growth during times of transition.

He envisions creating legal frameworks that support Rotary's evolving goals — developing compliance checklists, conducting due diligence, and training officers to align their programs with both tradition and innovation. His work in RCMFI, similarly, will adhere to corporate governance and regulatory standards, but always with an eye toward moral accountability.

For Charlie, the distinction between

civic, corporate, and government advising lies in the soul of the institution. Civic organizations, he says, "humanize the law." They serve as vessels of collective spirit, idealism, and conscience. In that sense, Rotary is not just a service club; it is a moral compass.



A Life on the Frontlines: Labor, Law, and Liberation

To understand Charlie's Rotary philosophy is to understand his life's crucible. His early years were steeped in service and faith. As a child, he oscillated between dreams of law and the priesthood. While he ultimately chose the courtroom over the seminary, his path was never merely professional — it was apostolic.

He served as President of the Student Catholic Action (SCA) and rose to

He didn't simply argue cases; he built ideological frameworks and organizational strategies to elevate the labor movement. That work, however, would eventually lead to his detention under Martial Law.

become its National Secretary-General. The SCA, under his leadership, positioned itself as a centrist third force amid the ideological tug-of-war between rightist reformists and leftist radicals. His work in poor communities, his catechism classes, and his advocacy efforts laid the foundation for what would become a life-long commitment to social justice.

His entry into labor law through the Federation of Free Workers (FFW) was not a career move but a calling. He didn't simply argue cases; he built ideological frameworks and organizational strategies to elevate the labor movement. That work, however, would eventually lead to his detention under Martial Law.

Even in prison, Charlie's conviction deepened. Upon his release, he served under the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs and later in the Office of the Executive Secretary under President Benigno Aquino III. He drafted policy papers, analyzed political scenarios, and contributed to crucial initiatives, including EO 57, the formation of the National Coast Watch Center, and expanded research on the Sabah claim.

His spiritual and political worldview found written form in his book, "Christianism: A Philosophical Guide to Political Praxis." For Charlie, law and politics are meaningless unless grounded in faith. "We are spiritual beings having a human experience," he often says, echoing the thoughts of Teilhard de Chardin.

Running on Faith: The Vice-Presidential Bid of 2022

In 2022, Charlie made an unlikely return to the political stage, this time as a Vice Presidential candidate under the *Katipunan ng Kamalayang Kayumanggi*. The run was not fueled by ambition but by divine conviction. "It was a spiritually inspired run," he says. His goal was to "put the Lord Jesus Christ in the midst of the political conversation."



His platform was both radical and righteous: oppose political dynasties, return to the International Criminal Court under conditions of judicial integrity, and awaken the Filipino soul to its divine calling. He called for systemic overhaul, likening the political landscape to an egg waiting to hatch — its latent life activated only when exposed to the right external heat of reform.

He experienced firsthand the power of grassroots mobilization, especially in areas like Lanao del Sur and the Cordilleras. His campaign revealed a silent but substantial constituency longing for real change, for leadership rooted not in dynasty or demagoguery but in divine purpose.

The Legacy in Formation: From Local Chapters to Sacred Philippines

What does Charlie hope to leave behind? The answer lies in the institutions he has built and the values he has espoused.

He has founded or co-founded a number of spiritual and civic initiatives: the *Magnificat of Mama Mary*, *Awit ng Bayan ni Maria*, *Ordo Ecclesiaries*, *Kapatirang Pilipinas*, *Kamalayang Pinoy Movement*, and the *Katipunan Party*. All of these reflect a consistent yearning — to create structures where love of God and love of country coexist.



His newest vision, *One Sacred Philippines*, aims to integrate these initiatives into a national spiritual movement. It is, to some, abstract; to Charlie, it is prophecy.

He dreams of a nation that serves not only as a political or economic player but as the spiritual heart of the global order. A country that, through love and law, becomes a beacon of human dignity and divine purpose.

From the Past, for the Future

Born in Santa Cruz, Manila in 1950, Charlie grew up in a world still healing from war but rich in grace. He witnessed the elegant civility of his elders, the generosity of his grandfather, and the incorruptibility of his father. These influences grounded him. They became his lodestar.

His father once rejected a lechon gifted by a litigant, and his grandfather reminded him that law was a service, not a trade. These lessons stayed with him through years of activism, detention, and public service. They shape him still.





And in his twilight years, Charlie is not slowing down. If anything, he is sharpening his tools — legal, spiritual, and philosophical — for the battles yet to come.

A Fool for the Truth

"By bookish definition, I may thus be called a fool," he once wrote. But if that is so, then he is a fool like Don Quixote, like St. Francis, like Rizal: a man who dares to believe in what is good, and to fight for it.

He is a fool who sees service as sacred, law as love codified, and politics as the ultimate arena for the soul's struggle toward righteousness.

And in that foolishness lies his greatness.

Atty. Carlos Gelacio Serapio — lawyer, Rotarian, philosopher, prophet — is not simply a man of his time. He is a man for all seasons. And in the annals of

Rotary and the nation, his story will long stand as a testament to what it means to serve not with might, but with meaning; not for glory, but for God.



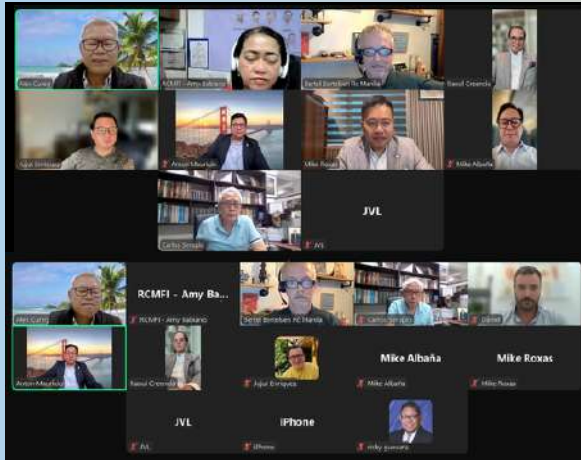


First Board of Trustees Meeting

THE first Board of Trustees Meeting was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at the Turf Room, Manila Polo Club. Present were Chairman Alex Cureg, President Jujut Enriquez, Trustee/Secretary Caloy Serapio, Trustee/Treasurer Mike Roxas, Trustee/AT Dan Obrado, Trustee Raoul Creencia, Trustee Ricky Guevara, Trustee Noy Benedicto, Trustee Anton Mauricio, Trustee Warren So, and Executive Director Amy Babiano.



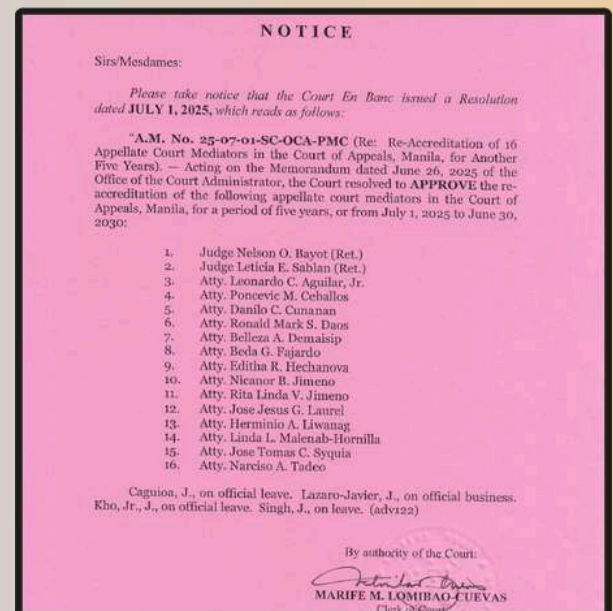
Continuation of the First Board of Trustees Meeting via Zoom



THE continuation of the July 10th first Board of Trustees meeting was held on July 15, 2025, at 2 PM via Zoom.

Present were Chairman Alex Cureg, President Jujut Enriquez, Trustee/Secretary Caloy Serapio, Trustee/Treasurer Mike Roxas, Trustee/AT Mike Albaña, Trustee Dan Obrado, Trustee Raoul Creencia, Trustee Ricky Guevara, Trustee Anton Mauricio, Screening Committee Chair Bertel Bertelsen, and Executive Director Amy Babiano.

PD Atty. Beda Fajardo Accredited as Appellate Mediator of the Court of Appeals by the Supreme Court



SUPREME Court en banc Resolution dated July 2, 2025 accredited PD Atty. Beda Fajardo as an Appellate Mediator of the Court of Appeals.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Rotary District 3810 Management Committee Post-Event Dialogue and Appreciation Meeting



DISTRICT Secretary-General Hermie Esguerra, Special Assistant to the District Governor-Manila Senior Deputy Governor Albert S. Alday, Senior Deputy Governor for GML Reggie Yu, Senior Deputy Governor for Online Tools and Website Aries Balanay, and District House Committee Chairman Senior Deputy Governor/Rotary Club of Manila Dir. Mike Albaña attended the Rotary District 3810 Management Committee Post-Event Dialogue and Appreciation Meeting last July 11, 2025, at Meeting Room 8 of the SMX Convention Center Aura in Bonifacio Global City, Taguig.

RECOGNITION CORNER

Inday's fitness for president under trial, says law dean



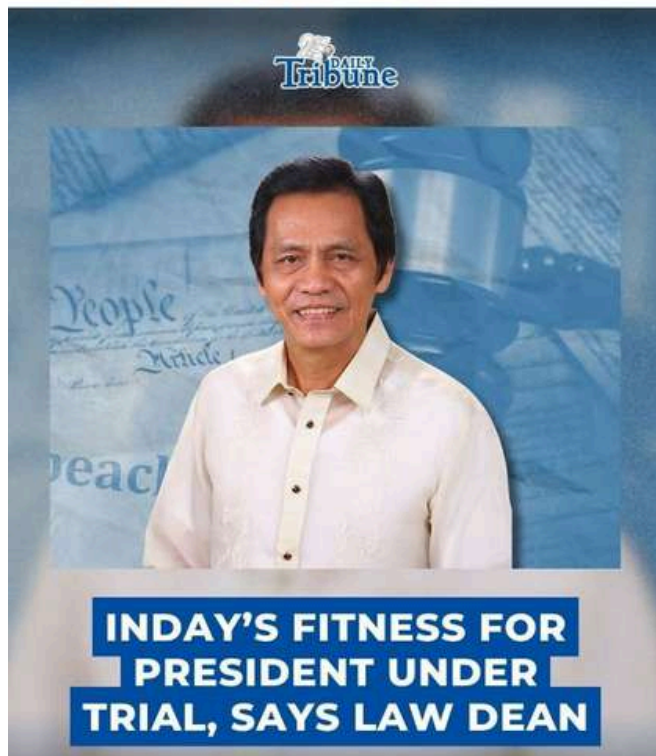
Daily Tribune

15m ·



Speaking in an exclusive interview on DAILY TRIBUNE's Straight Talk with Chito Lozada and Ted Montelibano, Valdez — who was one of the private prosecutors in the historic impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada — offered both legal and political insight into the latest impeachment complaint to rock the country's political landscape.

Click the link in the comments for the full story.
[#VPSaraDuterte](#) [#DailyTribune](#)



HEADLINES

Inday's fitness for president under trial, says law dean

Jason Mago

Published: 10th Jul, 2025 at 10:48 PM

The impeachment of Vice President Inday Sara Duterte could ultimately serve as a referendum on her fitness to seek the presidency, according to constitutionalist and former University of the East College of Law Dean Amado Valdez.

Speaking in an exclusive interview on **DAILY TRIBUNE's** Straight Talk with Chito Lozada and Ted Montelibano, Valdez — who was one of the private prosecutors in the historic impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada — offered both legal and political insight into the latest impeachment complaint to rock the country's political landscape.

"I think the word 'remand' is a misnomer," Valdez said, referring to how the Senate initially acted on the complaint.

"The text was actually asking the House to certify that they were still pursuing the case. It was more of a delay. I don't know if it was a deliberate delaying tactic. But in hindsight, I think it is still a good delay. It's a necessary delay. It may be a necessary evil."

Valdez said the current political climate — marked by midterm election preparations and the eventual transition to a new Senate — may be influencing the pace of the proceedings.

Should the trial begin and continue into the next Congress, a new set of senator-judges would preside over the case, potentially shifting its trajectory. He noted that a drawn-out process may allow the public to focus more intently on the evidence, making the trial itself a test not only of the Vice President's legal standing but also of her leadership potential.

He further commented on Duterte's decision to remain silent during official proceedings, particularly during budget hearings. Valdez speculated that legal advice may have played a role in her refusal to respond but cautioned that such silence may work against her in the court of public opinion.

Valdez emphasized the strategic importance of communication, especially during an impeachment trial that could stretch for months. If he were still part of the private prosecution, he said he would highlight the need for the Vice President's camp to deliver a coherent public message.

"Court proceedings may confuse some citizens," he said, but added that each hearing presents an opportunity to define one's position.

RECOGNITION CORNER



PORTRAITS

Escaping ignorance, Valdez finds voice in the law

Valdez's name would become forever linked to one of the most consequential events in Philippine political history: the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada in 2000.



Former University of the East College of Law dean Amado Valdez, who served as private prosecutor in the politically-charged impeachment trial of former President Joseph 'Erap' Estrada, believes public perception can be more powerful than fact. Photograph by Alvin Kasiban for Daily Tribune

Jason Mago X

Published on: 14 Jul 2025, 04:21

At 16, Amado Valdez boarded a bus alone, leaving behind the strict household of his youth in the Ilocos Region. He wasn't running from home — he was running toward a future.

"I ran away from ignorance in pursuit of knowledge," Valdez said in an exclusive interview on **DAILY TRIBUNE's** Straight Talk.

"That was the bravest and best decision I made."

Today, the former dean of the University of the East College of Law and constitutional law expert stands as one of the most respected legal minds in the country.

But his journey began with fear, freedom, and eventually, faith — not just in himself, but in the law.

"I thought I was all alone in Manila," he said.

"But I later discovered my father was quietly watching over me. There was a guardian angel following everything I did."

He first took up a Bachelor of Architecture as his pre-law course — an unusual path to jurisprudence — and eventually earned his law degree.

"That was my passport to where I am now," he said.

Valdez's name would become forever linked to one of the most consequential events in Philippine political history: the impeachment trial of President Joseph Estrada in 2000. As one of the five original private prosecutors in the case, Valdez found himself at the center of a constitutional and moral storm.

And at the heart of that storm? A mysterious envelope.

"I was the one who received the envelope because no one else wanted to," he recalled.

"There was so much drama. And when the Senate voted not to open it, the public erupted. You could no longer stop the people from going to the streets."

Valdez later confronted Estrada about the envelope, which was rumored to contain damaging evidence but had never been opened.

"I asked him, 'Mr. President, why didn't you insist it be opened?' He said, 'I let my lawyers handle it.'"

The mystery proved subsequently to be all hype as the sealed packet did not produce incriminating evidence.

The Senate court's 11-10 vote on 16 January 2001, to suppress the envelope's opening led to a walkout by prosecutors and sparked the EDSA II protests, which ultimately forced Estrada's ouster.

To Valdez, that moment was not just about legal strategy — it was about trust.

"There was a growing popularity for Erap back then, survey after survey," he said.

"But that envelope — that lack of transparency — was what broke it. That changed everything."

More than two decades later, Valdez finds himself once again watching history unfold. This time, it's the impeachment complaint against Vice President Sara Duterte, and he sees echoes of the past.

"The Vice President has to be very transparent when she defends herself," Valdez said.

"There are questions about expenses, and she needs to respond."

Now in his 70s, Valdez is measured and deliberate, but not afraid to speak plainly, especially when it comes to the lessons of impeachment.

He believes this new complaint is not just about legal accountability, but about how the public will judge the character of the nation's leaders.

"Maybe we may not get a vote of conviction," he said.

"But in the mind of the people, they will have their judgment."

Modern version of sealed envelope

Valdez also raised what he called the "new envelope" in today's political narrative: former President Rodrigo Duterte.

"The big X factor is still President Digong (Rodrigo Duterte). Whether he's acquitted or not, the sympathy will always be there," he said.

"And that will affect Sara. But she is not her father. She's not a copy of him, and she won't be as good as him when she becomes president."

It's a stark assessment, but one Valdez sees as necessary — both for Sara Duterte and for the country's future.

"They should be careful not to overemphasize the battering of Sara," he added.

"Because perception can be more powerful than fact."

From the second envelope to the evolving battle for 2028, Valdez sees a nation repeatedly brought to the edge of political crisis — and opportunity. And through it all, he remains firm in his belief that the Constitution and public conscience are the ultimate arbiters.

At 79, he reflects not only on his legal career but on the moment he decided to leave home in search of something more.

"I thought I was alone," Valdez said. "But all the while, someone was watching over me. And I never stopped searching for truth, for meaning, and for what is right."

FELLOWSHIP

Aleco Breakfast Fellowship



ALECO breakfast fellowship, hosted by PD Pepo Nuñez, was held on July 14, 2025.

Present were (clockwise from left) PD Jun Hallare, former members Eric Severino, Francis Juico, PP Jackie Rodriguez, former member Jorge Salazar, VP Ricky Guevara, PD Beda Fajardo, Rtn. Cris Acosta, PP Ebot Tan, PD Pepo Nuñez, PP Archit Bartolome, Rtn./RCMFI Past President Willie Peliño, and PT Chito Tagaysay.

INTERCLUB ACTIVITY

Rotary Club of Makati's 60th Induction Ball



PRESIDENT Raoul Creencia with Rotary Club of Makati President Eddie Galvez during RC Makati's 60th Induction Ball at The Peninsula Manila on July 11, 2025.



INTERCLUB ACTIVITY

Rotary Club of Calumpit Handover Meeting



THE Rotary Club of Calumpit Handover Meeting was held last Monday, July 14, 2025, at the Calumpit Waterworks District Function Room. The event was attended by IPP Jujut Enriquez, BLA Caloy Serapio, and PD Oscar Del Rosario, Sr., who served as the guest speaker.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS & EXECUTIVE OFFICERS RY 2025-2026

RAOUL C. CREENCIA
President

EDUARDO V. ENRIQUEZ, III
Immediate Past President

RICARDO SB. GUEVARA
Vice President

MICHAEL JAEY C. ALBAÑA
JASON M. BOGOVICH
RAMI CHAHWAN
EDWIN HERNANDEZ
ALBERT PALACIOS
WARREN SO
Directors

ANTONIOLO DC. MAURICIO
Secretary

PAUL JOSEPH M. GARCIA
Treasurer

JASON M. BOGOVICH
Sergeant-at-Arms

CARLOS G. SERAPIO
Board Legal Adviser

FRANCISCO D. MAGSAYSAY
Assistant Secretary

KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M. CASTRO
Assistant Treasurer

ARSENIO Z. LOCSIN
Internal Auditor

MICHAEL D. ROXAS
Asstistant Internal Auditor



EDITORIAL BOARD RY 2025-2026

PRES. RAOUL C. CREENCIA
Publisher

SDG REGINALD T. YU
Editor-in-Chief

RTN. SENEN T. MANGALILE
Managing Editor

SEC. ANTONILO DC. MAURICIO
Associate Editor

SDG ALBERT S. ALDAY
Editorial Consultant

DSAA JOHN M. CUTTER
Contributing Editor

RHEA V. TABORA
Editorial Consultant

RCM SECRETARIAT

LHEA J. LOZANO
Executive Secretary

RCM OFFICE

543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. 8-527-1886
Fax No. 8-527-1885
Email: rcmanila@rcmanila.org