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RCMFI Day

ROTARY IN THE TIME OF UPHEAVAL:
PRID Raffy Garcia Unfolds a Story
of Courage and Conviction

Animal Welfare Outreach Program
in Collaboration with PETA Asia

RC Manila Delegates
Pay Courtesy Call on
Philippine Consul
General in Japan

PWDs
Special
Olympics

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH:
The Life Journey of Domingo San
Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

CONTENTS



Program	4
Editorial	6
President's Message	14
ROTARY IN THE TIME OF UPHEAVAL: PRID Raffy Garcia Unfolds a Story of Courage and Conviction Club Administration	18
Club Administration	44
Membership Committee Meeting	48
Meeting on Leon Lambert Fellows Program	52
Rotary Club of Manila Delegates Pay Courtesy Call on Philippine Consul General in Japan	53
PWDs Special Olympics	54
Animal Welfare Outreach Program in Collaboration with PETA Asia	60
BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.	68
Interclub Events	120
Board of Directors and Executive Officers for RY 2025-2026	126
Editorial Board for RY 2025-2026	127



Thursday, October 2, 2025, 12:30 PM
Manila Polo Club

RCMFI DAY

Moderator: Pres. EDUARDO V. ENRIQUEZ III

PROGRAM

PART I

- 11:00 AM Registration
- 12:00 PM Call to Order
Chairman ALEXANDER P. CUREG
- Invocation
Trustee SIXTO T. BENEDICTO
- Philippine National Anthem
AVP
- Rotary Club of Manila Hymn
RCM WF Music Chorale
- The Four (4) Way Test
Trustee WARREN S. SO
- Acknowledgment of Guests
Trustee DELFIN N. LORENZANA
- Welcome Song
RCM WF Music Chorale

Birthday Celebrants:

- Sept 27 Rtn. Ralph Joseph
Rtn. Ronald Martinez
- Sept 28 Rtn. Jovee Ong
- Sept 29 Rtn. Miguel Lazaro
- Oct 02 DE Teddy Kalaw

Maligayang Bati/Happy Birthday Song
RCM WF Music Chorale

PART II

- 12:45 PM CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE
Chairman ALEXANDER P. CUREG
- RCMFI Financial Report
AFS 2024 – 2025 & Website
Trustee DANIEL C. OBRADÓ
- RCMFI Membership
Trustee FELIX FRANCISCO S. ZALDARRIAGA
- RCMFI Golf
Chair KARLO CASTRO
- 2:00 PM Adjournment
Chairman ALEXANDER CUREG



EDITORIAL

Reginald T. Yu
Editor-in-Chief



TODAY, at the Manila Polo Club, the Rotary Club of Manila gathers to celebrate RCMFI Day — a moment of reflection, reaffirmation, and renewal. This occasion reminds us of the enduring legacy of the RCManila Foundation, Inc. (RCMFI) — the institutional arm that has, for nearly five decades, safeguarded the financial integrity and sustainability of the world's first Rotary club in Asia.

Formally established in February 1979 as a non-stock, non-profit organization, RCMFI was envisioned not merely as a fiscal mechanism, but as a strategic foundation — a

vehicle through which the Rotary Club of Manila channels its vision into measurable, transformative impact. Through prudent stewardship, it has stood as the financial custodian and development enabler of programs that advance Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus: peace and conflict prevention, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, community economic development, and the environment.

A Legacy of Purpose and Accountability

The Foundation's existence has always been intertwined with the Club's highest ideals — service above self, transparency, and institutional continuity. Its founding members understood that goodwill alone could not sustain long-term social change; it required a disciplined structure for fundraising, governance, and accountability.

For decades, RCMFI has quietly but resolutely underwritten countless humanitarian initiatives — bridging the gap between compassion and implementation. Its prudent financial management has allowed RCM to

EDITORIAL

sustain programs that have improved lives, educated children, empowered communities, and advanced peace across the nation.

The Contemporary Challenge: Stewardship in the Modern Era

Yet as we celebrate this legacy, we must also confront the realities of the present. In an era of heightened expectations for transparency and impact, the role of RCMFI becomes even more consequential. The challenge before us is no longer only to raise funds — but to ensure that every contribution translates into measurable social value. Stewardship today means strategic alignment, rigorous evaluation, and open reporting.

RCMFI must continue to exemplify governance excellence — maintaining strict compliance with corporate, tax, and ethical standards—while fostering innovation in how it mobilizes resources and engages donors. As the Club advances toward its 50th year of foundation service, it must reaffirm that financial stewardship is not a back-office task but a moral



**RCMANILA
FOUNDATION, INC.**

imperative and a public trust.

The Significance of Today's Gathering

This week's Weekly Membership Meeting (WMM) is not only a celebration but a call to action. It invites every Rotarian to deepen engagement and renew commitment to the principles that have defined RCMFI for nearly half a century. By understanding how the Foundation operates — and how each member's contribution sustains it — we collectively ensure that RCM's projects remain robust, relevant, and responsibly managed.

Most notably, today also marks the official nominations for the RCMFI Board of Trustees for Rotary Year 2026–2027. This process is not a mere formality; it is a cornerstone of continuity and accountability. The Trustees we elect will be entrusted with the dual responsibility of protecting the Foundation's assets and propelling its mission forward with integrity, prudence, and foresight.

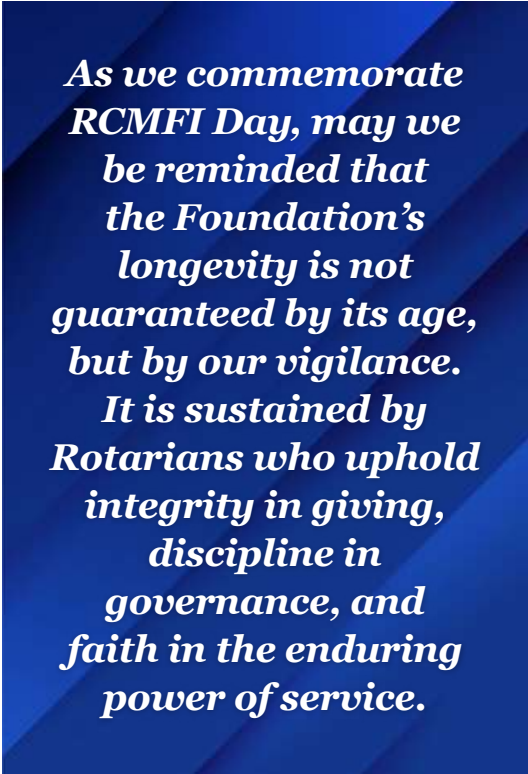
EDITORIAL

Each vote cast is an act of stewardship — an expression of confidence in leaders who must balance vision with vigilance, compassion with competence, and ambition with accountability. As we nominate and elect the next set of trustees, we do so with the understanding that they are not only custodians of funds but architects of trust — ensuring that the Foundation remains a credible force for good in the decades to come.

A Call to Collective Stewardship

As we commemorate RCMFI Day, may we be reminded that the Foundation's longevity is not guaranteed by its age, but by our vigilance. It is sustained by Rotarians who uphold integrity in giving, discipline in governance, and faith in the enduring power of service.

The Rotary Club of Manila stands today as a beacon of continuity because institutions like RCMFI have anchored its mission in structure and sustainability. Let us,



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therefore, celebrate not merely with nostalgia for what has been accomplished, but with a clear-eyed determination for what must yet be done.

In honoring the past, let us secure the future — fortifying the pillars of service through enduring stewardship, collective accountability, and an unwavering commitment to humanity.

EDITORIAL

Rotary was never meant to be passive. The Four-Way Test demands that we pursue truth, fairness, goodwill, and benefit to all concerned — even when these principles cut against the prevailing tide. In this age of obfuscation, when public discourse is riddled with half-truths and society risks surrendering to cynicism, Rotary must be a voice of clarity.

The Responsibility of the Rotary Club of Manila

For the Rotary Club of Manila — the first in Asia, the most prestigious in the region — the responsibility is heavier still. This is not merely another club; it is the progenitor of a movement in this part of the world, a crucible that has shaped statesmen, captains of industry, and civic pioneers. Prestige is not an ornament to be admired; it is a responsibility to be shouldered. The Club must continue to be a beacon where leaders are formed and where moral courage is spoken aloud.

In Raffy Garcia's story, we are reminded that it is never too late to answer the call to service, and that when one does, lives are transformed. In John Simon's journey,

we see the power of Filipino innovation and resilience to change the world. Both speak to a deeper truth: that Rotary is at its best when it unites vision with action, when it bridges the global with the local, and when it insists on clarity amid confusion.

A Call to Rise Above

As the Rotary Club of Manila sits in fellowship on this day, it is invited to see beyond the program, beyond the speeches, into the heart of what these two lives represent. They are not only voices from the podium — they are mirrors held up to the Club itself. Will we, like Raffy, embrace the full weight of service, even if belatedly? Will we, like John, channel our talents to create, to innovate, and to uplift not just ourselves but generations to come?

In their convergence, the answer becomes clear. The Rotary Club of Manila must continue to lead — not with prestige alone, but with principle. Not with silence, but with clarity. Not with apathy, but with action.

In this time of confusion, may their voices be heard as a call: to Unite for Good.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WHILE Manila Rotarians gather at the Manila Polo Club for the weekly meeting on October 2, a delegation of about 11 RCMers will be in Osaka to meet and bond with a sister club – the Rotary Club of Osaka East (RCOE). As we are all aware, Rotary is a story of friendship, service, and the power of human connection. This beautiful feature of Rotary is exemplified by the enduring bond between RCM, which is Asia's first, and RCOE, one of Japan's most dynamic and service-driven clubs. What began as a partnership rooted in Rotary ideals has blossomed over the years into a profound and lasting friendship, nurtured by shared values, mutual respect, and a common vision of service above self.



Raoul C. Creencia
President

From the earliest exchanges, members of both clubs placed importance on fellowship visits. Delegations traveled miles to meet, carrying with them not only gifts and tokens of goodwill but also stories, laughter, and shared dreams. These visits soon became a cherished tradition, with Manila Rotarians warmly received in Osaka, and their Japanese counterparts welcomed in Manila. Such exchanges deepened cultural appreciation and created bonds of friendship that endured across generations of Rotarians.

The relationship between the two clubs has stood the test of time. It

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

has weathered the shifting tides of history and grown stronger over the years. At its heart lies not just a commitment to collaboration, but also a deep appreciation of one another's culture and heritage. Through joint projects and regular visits, members of both clubs have bridged geographical boundaries, strengthening ties between Filipinos and Japanese while building pathways of understanding that extend beyond Rotary circles.

These bonds have manifested in meaningful acts of service. Over the years, the Rotary Club of Manila and the Rotary Club of Osaka-East have collaborated on humanitarian projects that embody Rotary's mission: uplifting communities, fostering peace, and creating lasting change.

What makes the relationship between the two clubs unique is its continuity. Leaders may have changed, and new generations of members may have come in, but the flame of friendship has been carefully nurtured and passed on. Today, as both clubs continue their work in an interconnected world, the partnership remains a shining example of how Rotary builds bridges of goodwill that last beyond lifetimes.

The story of RCM and RCOE is, in essence, a story of people — Rotarians who believed in friendship across borders, who devoted themselves to service, and who demonstrated that even in a world marked by change, the values of Rotary provide a constant foundation. It is a legacy worth celebrating and a partnership worth preserving, not only for what has been achieved, but also for what it promises to accomplish in the years to come.

As both clubs look toward the future, the significance of this long-standing relationship continues to grow. In a world often divided by differences, the special bond of our two Rotary Clubs stands as a shining example of unity, proving that friendship and service can overcome barriers. Indeed, the RCM and RCOE relationship is more than a Rotary partnership -- it is a bridge of goodwill between nations, carrying forward the spirit of harmony and cooperation that Rotary cherishes.

As both our clubs continue to write new chapters of service and fellowship, may this special story of friendship serve as an inspiration— not only to Rotarians, but to all who believe in the transformative power of friendship across borders.

ROTARY IN THE TIME OF UPHEAVAL: PRID Raffy Garcia Unfolds a Story of Courage and Conviction

by PE Reginald T. Yu

WHEN the gavel struck at the Manila Polo Club, the familiar hum of fellowship and purpose filled the air once again. The Rotary Club of Manila — Asia's first and oldest — assembled not merely to share lunch or laughter, but to listen, to understand, and to be moved. Presiding over the meeting was President Raoul C. Creencia, who called the august body to order with the quiet dignity befitting an institution of legacy and leadership.



Sec. Antonilo “Anton” D.C. Mauricio moderated the 8th Weekly Membership Meeting.

The invocation by STAR Rotarian **Delfin “Del” Lorenzana**, the solemn strains of the National Anthem, and the resonant chorus of the RCM Hymn reminded all present of the twin pillars upon which Rotary stands — faith and service.



STAR Rotarian Delfin “Del” Lorenzana led the invocation.



President Raoul C. Creencia called the meeting body to order.

When Rtn. **Nicolo “Nic” Hallare** led the Four-Way Test, one could sense an almost liturgical cadence: “Is it the Truth? Is it Fair to all concerned?” — questions that would echo later, in unexpected gravity, during the day’s keynote address.



Rtn. Nicolo “Nic” Hallare led the Four-Way Test.

As the **RCM World Famous Music Chorale** serenaded the birthday celebrants, the afternoon seemed set to follow the familiar cadence of Rotary fellowship — music, camaraderie, and meaningful projects. Yet, before the Guest of Honor would take the stage, another kind of story unfolded — one that embodied Filipino ingenuity, perseverance, and pride.

The Engineer Who Dreamed of Perpetual Motion

Rtn. Juanito “John” A. Simon, a Filipino mechanical engineer, took to the podium for his Classification Talk — his voice calm yet animated with passion. His story was not that of an overnight success, but of a mind that refused to stop tinkering, a heart that never stopped believing that Filipino invention could stand shoulder to shoulder with the best in the world.

Long before graduation, Simon had already been enamored by metals and machines. He worked as an apprentice in a small welding shop, where sparks became his first teachers and oil-stained hands his first laboratory. After earning his degree, he moved to the United States, where destiny placed him at the research wing of a global oil company. His task: to improve fuel additives.

But Simon’s curiosity ran deeper than formula. “What happens when the fuel runs out?” he wondered. “Should the benefits disappear with it?”

That question would define his life’s work. He envisioned an additive that would remain within the engine — one that would make engines last longer, run smoother, and consume less fuel.



Rtn. Juanito “John” A. Simon, a Filipino mechanical engineer, took to the podium for his Classification Talk.

Through years of experimentation, he created what he called **Tribotec**, inspired by tribology — the science of friction and lubrication. In 1986, he brought the idea home to the Philippines and christened it **Per’tua**, short for perpetual — the dream of an engine that never wears down.

Pinoy Disruption

Stories about **Pertua** spread like folklore across garages, racetracks, and highways. A car drained completely of oil ran from Long Beach to San Francisco without faltering. A truck, leaking oil through a busted pipe, still made it back to its *garahe* without engine damage. Even the U.S. military, Simon shared, once tested Pertua on Apache helicopters — and were impressed enough to consider adopting it.

In the Philippines, it became the lubricant of legend, passed from mechanic to mechanic, whispered about by jeepney drivers and motor enthusiasts alike. There were no billboards, no glitzy TV ads — just word of mouth, fueled by trust and performance.

Pertua's rise in the early '90s coincided with a nation recovering from economic turbulence. During the post-Martial Law years, when brand-new cars were scarce and Filipinos relied on secondhand vehicles, Pertua became a symbol of *diskarte* — that irrepressible Filipino knack for making things work, even when the odds don't.

Though the company went through highs and lows over the decades, its



legacy endured. Under new management, Pertua was rebranded, its product line expanded, and its distribution modernized. With a 500% increase in factory output last year, Pertua is now tapping new markets, even venturing into industrial and home applications.

But Simon remains restless. Recently, he proposed to the Department of Energy a system that could reduce the immense amount of waste oil discarded daily by power plants. Even now, nearly four decades after his invention, he continues to push the boundaries of efficiency and sustainability.

As he ended his talk, a quiet awe settled over the audience. Here was a Filipino who had not only invented but endured — whose creation had outlasted trends, recessions, and generations of engines. His message resonated beyond mechanics: perseverance is perpetual.

Of Service and Significance

President Raoul's address followed, brimming with momentum and mission. He spoke of the upcoming animal welfare partnership with PETA, the tree-planting drive spearheaded by **Rtn. Rafael Ignacio S. Dionisio**, and the forthcoming MOA signing between RCM, its Foundation, and three new partners: **Reading Specialists, TopHealth Medical Clinic, and Dualtech.**



President Raoul Creencia delivered his message during the President's Time.



Rtn. Rafael Ignacio "Raf" S. Dionisio presented a tree planting initiative and invited everyone to participate.



MOA signing with Reading Specialists. From left: RCMFI Pres. Jujut Enriquez, RCM Pres. Raoul Creencia, Ms. Raquel Ner (Training Director, Reading Specialists), PDG/RCMFI Chair Alexander P. Cureg, and Chair Nicolo Hallare



MOA signing with TopHealth Medical Clinic. From left: RCM Pres. Raoul Creencia, Rtn. Daniel C. Obrado (CEO, TopHealth), PDG/RCMFI Chair Alexander P. Cureg, and RCMFI Pres. Jujut Enriquez



MOA signing with Dualtech. From left: A representative from Dualtech, RCM Pres. Raoul Creencia, Mr. Leo Calderon (Scholarship Consultant, Dualtech), PDG/RCMFI Chair Alexander P. Cureg, and RCMFI Pres. Jujut Enriquez

Each partnership was a testament to Rotary's living creed — to serve not in words, but in deeds. **Rtn. Romy Nones** then offered an insightful overview of the Leon Lambert Fellows Program, reminding all that true leadership is not self-proclaimed, but recognized in service.



Rtn. Romeo "Romy" C. Nones offered an insightful overview of the Leon Lambert Fellows Program.

And then came the moment of anticipation—the introduction by **Director-Elect Caloy Serapio** of the Guest of Honor and Speaker: **PRID Rafael M. "Raffy" Garcia III**, a Filipino whose leadership had shaped Rotary International at its very core.



Director-Elect Caloy Serapio introduced the Guest of Honor and Speaker.

A Voice from the Inside: PRID Raffy Garcia Speaks

When PRID Raffy Garcia III stood at the lectern, the room stilled with that special silence reserved for those who have truly been there — men who have looked into the heart of institutions and seen both their greatness and their frailties.

“Good afternoon,” he began, his baritone steady and unhurried. “It’s always a joy to come home to the Rotary Club of Manila.”

He greeted friends and stalwarts of the movement — Chairman **Susing Pineda**, Co-Chair **Romy Nones**, President **Raoul Creencia**, President-Elect **Reggie Yu**, District Governor **Jackie Rodriguez**, and a

host of familiar names. “I’ve been attending your meetings since the days of the Manila Hilton,” he recalled, drawing nostalgic smiles from the old guard. “Then the Manila Hotel, then New World. And now, here we are — at the Polo Club, where it’s easier to park and harder to forget.”

The laughter subsided, and Garcia’s tone deepened.

“Rotary International,” he said gravely, “is in the midst of its most turbulent chapter in recent memory. Some of these storms are acts of nature. But others — are man-made.”

He spoke of a brewing crisis at Rotary’s highest echelons: the sudden resignation of **Mário César Martins de Camargo**, a Brazilian leader once hailed as a reformist visionary and now remembered as the President who never was.

Garcia painted the portrait of a man molded by enterprise and idealism. “Mário was born into a family of printers. His father founded *Gráfica Bandeirantes*, one of Brazil’s foremost printing companies. He studied law and business in São Paulo, trained in the U.S. and Germany, and was a Rotary Youth Exchange scholar in Minnesota.”

At 23, Mário had joined Rotary and, over the decades, served as Director, Trustee, Facilitator, and Chair of countless committees. “He was brilliant,” Garcia said. “And fearless.”

But courage, as in many institutions, has a cost. Mário’s call for reform — his demand to restructure the powerful office of Rotary’s General Secretary — would trigger an institutional revolt. He argued that Rotary had become too heavy, too top-down, too costly. “He believed we were serving the bureaucracy more than the mission,” Garcia explained.



Guest of Honor and Speaker PRID Raffy Garcia III

His dissent did not sit well with Evanston. At one fateful board meeting, Garcia recounted, when Mário attempted to voice opposition to the renewal of General Secretary **John Hewko**’s contract, then-RI President **Gordon McInally** cut him off:

“You are just a President-Nominee. You have no standing in this meeting. Please leave.”

The audience gasped softly.

“That,” Garcia said, his voice low and deliberate, “was the moment the knives came out.”

In June, barely two weeks before he was to assume the presidency, Mário called Garcia in desperation. “Raffy, Raffy, they are asking me to resign,” he said. “Seven past presidents gave me seven hours — or they will announce whatever they claim to know about me.”

Garcia, stunned, pressed for details. “He told me they accused him of everything — from passport suspension to bankruptcy. But he was at home in Brazil. He wasn’t arrested. He hadn’t done anything wrong.”

The silence that followed was heavy. “He resigned,” Garcia finally said. “And the institution lost a brave reformer.”

His successor, **Francesco Arezzo** of Italy, Garcia described with affection. “He is kind, cultured, and well-meaning — but he speaks mostly in Italian. He tries English,” he smiled, “but you will need subtitles.”

The next president after him, **Olayinka Hakeem Babalola** of Nigeria, is another of Garcia's close friends — an engineer and Shell executive, deeply spiritual and earnest. "But his English, too, is imperfect," Raffy said lightly. "When he speaks, you must listen not just with your ears — but with your heart."

He paused, letting the laughter fade into thought.

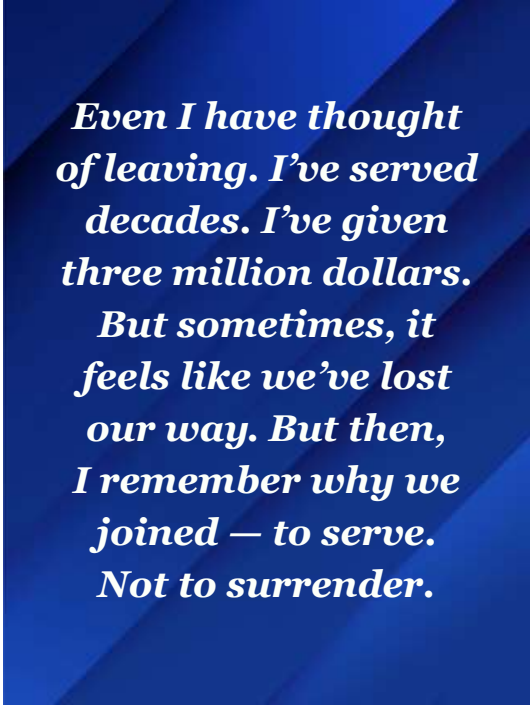
"What you see here," he said, "is Rotary's paradox. We are an organization of 1.4 million people in over 200 countries — and yet, at the top, we are still learning how to listen to one another."

It was an observation that struck deep — a blend of candor and compassion, spoken by a man who loved the organization too much to flatter it.

Then came the confession: "Even I," he said softly, "have thought of leaving. I've served decades. I've given three million dollars. But sometimes, it feels like we've lost our way."

A ripple of silence swept across the hall.

"But then," Garcia smiled faintly, "I remember why we joined — to serve. Not to surrender."



Even I have thought of leaving. I've served decades. I've given three million dollars. But sometimes, it feels like we've lost our way. But then, I remember why we joined — to serve. Not to surrender.

When Justice Falters and Conviction Prevails

Having peeled back the layers of global intrigue, Garcia turned his gaze homeward — to a controversy closer to the heart of Philippine Rotary.

"I want to speak about something that happened right here," he began. "Something that should concern every Rotarian who values fairness."

The audience leaned forward. The tone was no longer reflective but resolute.

“I’m talking about our very own District Governor, **Jackie Rodriguez**,” he said. “After ten months of dedicated service — ten months of carrying this district on his shoulders — he was removed. Just like that. Two months before the end of his term.”

A stunned hush filled the room.

Garcia continued: “It was unjust. And, frankly, uncalled for. Because that someone they replaced him with? She was the same one whispering the wrong advice that led to the very errors they used against him.”

The weight of his words hung like a gavel suspended in midair.

“This is what disheartens me,” he said. “When politics and pettiness overshadow principle. When service becomes secondary to ego. Rotary is not a playground for power — it is a proving ground for integrity.”

He straightened, eyes sweeping across the hall. “I will not promise miracles,” he declared, “but I will speak with those who can make this right. I will knock on the door of President **Stephanie Urchick** herself, and if need be, remind her that justice — like service — must never be delayed.”

The audience broke into spontaneous applause. It was not the polite applause of diplomacy, but the fierce affirmation of men and women who had seen courage in real time.

For a moment, the Manila Polo Club felt less like a luncheon hall and more like a tribunal of conscience — one where truth had been spoken, and a flicker of faith restored.



PRID Raffy Garcia donated and handed over a check in the amount of PHP 1 million for the Leon Lambert Program through CP Susing Pineda, Rtn. Romy Nones, and Pres. Raoul Creencia.

Then, softening, Garcia ended with a touch of humor and hope. “I may have thought of resigning,” he said, “but I suppose I’m too invested — both emotionally and financially.” Laughter erupted. “So I’ll stay. But perhaps with a smaller checkbook.”



PRID Raffy Garcia III and Rtn. John Simon received RCM's Plaque of Appreciation, presented by President Raoul C. Creencia and witnessed by Rtn. Romy Nones, PD Ner Lonzaga, CP Susing Pineda, PVP Fausto Preysler, PD Amading Valdez, and Rtn. Gani Macatoman, Sec. Anton Mauricio, DE Caloy Serapio, DE Del Lorenzana, and Rtn. Nic Hallare.

He concluded by sharing his latest project — a traveling Rotary museum in honor of the late PRIP Matt Caparas. “We will bring it across the Philippines, then install it permanently in Malolos, Bulacan,” he said. “So future Rotarians may see how Rotary used to be — when Rotary was Rotary.”

The hall stood in ovation.

Epilogue: Light Beyond the Storm

When President Raoul Creencia presented the Certificate of Appreciation, the gesture was more than ceremonial — it was a benediction of gratitude to a man who had dared to speak truth in a time of quiet disillusionment.



Rtn. John Simon raffled off a special 50-year-old vintage wine—and big congrats to Rtn. Raf Dionisio for winning it, and to Rtn. Val Co, who also took home a special prize!



President Raoul Creencia adjourned the meeting.

As Rotarians filed out beneath the warm afternoon light, they carried with them not just stories, but reflections — on service, courage, and conviction.

In the course of a single meeting, they had witnessed two archetypes of greatness: the Filipino engineer who defied limits, and the Filipino Rotarian who defied silence.

Both, in their own way, embodied the spirit of the **Four-Way Test** — not as a slogan, but as a compass pointing always toward what is true, fair, and beneficial to all concerned.

For amid the noise of change and the weight of tradition, the message of the day lingered like a quiet vow:

*When the world
grows heavy
with doubt, it is
the voice of
integrity that
keeps the engine
of humanity
running.*

Meeting Fellowship



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

RCM Members' Attendance Report
RY 2025-2026



ATTENDANCE REPORT
September 2025

SEPTEMBER 2025	September 04, 2025 SOL GEN. DARLENE MARIE BERBERABE	September 11, 2025 TRIPLE TREAT: ATTY. PANOLONG / ATTY. HERMOSURA & BOOK LAUNCH	September 18, 2025 FELLOWSHIP	September 25, 2025 FRID RAFAEL "RAFFY" GARCIA III CLASSIFICATION TALK: RTN JOHN SINON
MEMBERS PRESENT	99	48	27	43
MEMBERS PRESENT %	46%	22%	13%	20%
MAKE UP ATTENDEES	3	21	2	0
EXEMPTED	5	3	3	5
ON LEAVE	0	0	0	0
Total Active Members	102	69	29	43
Total # of Members	215	215	215	215
TOTAL %:	47%	32%	13%	20%
ROTARACTORS	0	0	0	0
MEDIA	0	0	0	0
EMBASSIES / DIPLOMATIC CORPS	0	0	0	0
DG, DGE, DGN, PDG	0	0	0	0
GOHS / GS	1	1	0	1
VISITING ROTARIAN	0	2	0	1
Guests of RCM MEMBERS	9	4	0	10
TOTAL ATTENDEES	118	55	27	64



LIST OF ATTENDEES
September 25, 2025

- 1

Acosta, Crispiniano G.
- 2

Bartolome III, Arsenio M.
- 3

Bella Jr. Geronimo P.
- 4

Benedicto, Sixto T.
- 5

Camat, Nathaniel
- 6

Carlos, Vicente J.
- 7

Co, Val Constantine L.
- 8

Creencia, Raoul C.
- 9

Cureg, Alexander P.
- 10

Del Rosario Sr., Oscar A.
- 11

Dionisio, Rafael Ignacio S.
- 12

Enriquez III, Eduardo V.
- 13

Esguerra, Herminio S.
- 14

Guevara, Jr., Domingo S.
- 15

Guevara, Ricardo S.
- 16

Hallare, Nicolo S.
- 17

Hernandez, Edwin H
- 18

Lacambacal, Alvin D.
- 19

Locsin, Arsenio Z.
- 20

Lonzaga, Reinerio C.
- 21

Lorenzana, Delfin
- 22

Macatoman, Abdulgani M.
- 23

Magsaysay, Francisco D.
- 24

Mauricio, Antonio DC
- 25

Nones, Romeo C.
- 26

Nuñez, Jr., Jose A.
- 27

Obrado, Daniel Calzado
- 28

Peliño, Wilfredo M.
- 29

Pineda, Jr., Jesus M.
- 30

Pizarras, Jordan M.
- 31

Preysler, Jr., Fausto R.
- 32

Ra, Ingill
- 33

Reynolds, David J.
- 34

Rodriguez Sr., Joaquin C.
- 35

Roxas, Michael D.
- 36

Serapio, Carlos G.
- 37

Simon, Juanito A.
- 38

So, Warren S.
- 39

Tagaysay, Hector O.
- 40

Talusan, Ferdinand E
- 41

Valdes, Joel C.
- 42

Valdez, Amado D.
- 43

Yu, Reginald Tieng

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

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

As of October 1, 2025

1	ABOY, VALENTINO G.	52	GARCIA, HERBERT JOEY	103	PAGDANGANAN, ROBERTO M.
2	ABRIAM, ARIEL	53	GARCIA, PAUL JOSEPH M.	104	PALACIOS, ALBERT S.
3	ACOSTA, CRISPINIANO G.	54	GARCIA, THEODORE Q.	105	PALLASIGUE, JOHN BRIAN C.
4	AGNES, JERRY A.	55	GARCIA, VICTOR III G.	106	PASCUAL, ABRAHAM
5	ALBAÑA, MICHAEL JAEY	56	GO, DANNY C.	107	PAYUMO, FELICITO C.
6	ALDAY, ALBERT S.	57	GO, HENRY S.	108	PELIÑO, WILFREDO
7	ALINGOG, ALDOUS REX A.	58	GONZALES, JONAS R.	109	PINEDA, JESUS JR. M.
8	ANDAL, AVELINO L.	59	GONZALES-LA'O, EMIL	110	PINEDA, PATRICIO JR. F.
9	ARAGON, JOSHUA RUEBEN G.	60	GUARIN, MICHAEL ARCATOMY	111	PIZARRAS, JORDAN M.
10	ARGUELLES, PABLO C.	61	GUEVARA, DOMINGO JR.	112	PREYSLER, FAUSTO JR. D.R.
11	BAGATSING, VALENTINO	62	GUEVARA, RICARDO S.B.	113	RA, INGILL
12	BALANAY, ARIES B.	63	HALLARE, DELFIN JR.	114	RAMOS, CLAVER P.
13	BARTOLOME, ARSENIO III M.	64	HALLARE, NICOLÒ	115	RANKL, PETER
14	BAUTISTA, JOHN JR.	65	HERNANDEZ, EDWIN H.	116	RECTO, PHILIP H.
15	BEDIONES, RODOLFO P.	66	HESSE, UWE	117	REYNOLDS, DAVID
16	BELLA, GERONIMO JR. D.	67	IBUYAN, BENEDICT JULIUS F.	118	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN ANTHONY JR. H.
17	BENEDICTO, SIXTO T.	68	KALAW, TEODORO ALEJANDRO IV Y.	119	RODRIGUEZ, JOAQUIN SR. C.
18	BERTELSEN, BERTEL INGMAR	69	KATIGBAK J ALFONSO L	120	ROMUALDEZ, FERDINAND
19	BLANCO, MANUEL M.	70	KLEBS, DAVID	121	ROXAS, MICHAEL D.
20	BOGOVICH, JASON M.	71	KOH, PAUL ANTHONY	122	SARMIENTO, RICARDO MANUEL M.
21	BRANELEC, JACQUES	72	LAUREL, RICARDO P.	123	SCHNEIDER, BERND
22	BUENDIA, CARLOS	73	LAZARO, JUAN MIGUEL	124	SERAPIO, CARLOS G.
23	CABANGON, EDGARD	74	LEDDA, JAIME VICTOR B.	125	SEVILLA, LUIS ANGELO L.
24	CAMAT, NATHANIEL	75	LEE, RICHARD L.	126	SHIMODA, SHIGERU
25	CAMPOS, JOSELITO JR. D.	76	LI, RICHARD JOSEPH C.	127	SIBAYAN, JOSELITO H.
26	CANON, RAUL JR. C.	77	LIM, DAVID EDUARDO T.	128	SIMON, JUANITO AYSON
27	CARLOS, VICENTE J.	78	LOCSIN, ARSENIO Z.	129	SO, WARREN
28	CARRANCEJA, ARVIN ARIK B.	79	LONZAGA, REINERIO C.	130	STRANATHAN, IKE EDWARD
29	CASTRO, KARLO EUGENE JOSEF M.	80	LOPEZ, ANTONIO	131	SYJUCO, JOSE, JR. A.
30	CATALAN, RODILLO	81	LOPEZ, ARTHUR M.	132	TAGAYSAY, HECTOR O.
31	CHAHWAN, RAMI	82	LORENZANA, DELFIN	133	TALUSAN, FERDINAND E.
32	CHAN, ROBERT JR.	83	MACAPAGAL, MICHAEL T.	134	TAMANO, SHALIMAR H.
33	CID, DEAN	84	MACATOMAN, ABDULGANI M.	135	TAN, EUSEBIO V.
34	CO, VAL CONSTANTINE L.	85	MAGSAYSAY, FRANCISCO D.	136	TAN, JOHN G.
35	COYIUTO, ROBERT JR. G.	86	MANALAYSAY, CESAR P.	137	TAN, LAWRENCE L.
36	CREENCIA, RAOUL C.	87	MANGALILE, SENEN	138	TEE, TEDDY JR. B.
37	CUREG, ALEXANDER P.	88	MARTINEZ, RONALD	139	TEJUMAL, MICHAEL
38	CUTTER, JOHN MICHAEL	89	MATSCHUCK, GUENTER GERHARD G.	140	TILLMAN, HANSEL JOSEPH MICHAEL L.
39	DAYANG, JUAN E.	90	MAURICIO, ANTONILO DC	141	VALDES, JOELC.
40	DAVIS, RAYMOND N.	91	MAURICIO, FRANCISCO C.	142	VALDEZ, AMADO
41	DEL ROSARIO, OSCAR	92	MENDOZA, MIGUEL	143	VALDEZ, JASON ROLAND N.
42	DIONISIO, RAFAEL	93	MENDOZA, RAYMUND JOSEPH D.	144	VALENCIA, JOHN NICO P.
43	DY, MANUEL C.	94	MOMMAERTS, STEVE	145	VALENCIA, RODOLFO G.
44	EGAN, BRENDAN	95	NOLIDO, RAMON ALBERTO B.	146	VAZQUEZ, EVARISTO JR.
45	ELDEBS, ISSAM	96	NOMURA, KAZUHIRO	147	VILLARICA, HENRY R.
46	ENRIQUEZ, EDUARDO III	97	NONES, ROMEO C.	148	YORDANOV, STEFAN
47	ESGUERRA, HERMINIO S.	98	NUÑEZ, JOSE A.	149	YU, GEOFFREY C.
48	ESQUIVIAS, JOAQUIN PABLO A.	99	OBRAPO, DANIEL	150	YU, REGINALD T.
49	EUGENIO, JOHN EMYL G.	100	OCAMPO, TEODORO J.	151	ZALDARRIAGA, FELIX FRANCISCO S.
50	FERNANDEZ, ANTONIO JAIME JOSE V.	101	ONG, PHILIP	152	ZEITOUNI, NAGI
51	FOLLOSCO, CEFERINO JR. G.	102	ONG, ROWEL JANSON S.	153	ZIALCITA, XAVIER Y.
				154	ZIMMER, CHRISTOPHER

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Membership Committee Meeting



THE Membership Committee met on Thursday, September 25, 2025, at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club in Makati City to get to know the proposed new members.

Present from the Membership Committee were Chairman/Past Vice President Fausto Preysler, Co-Chairman/Immediate Past President Jujut Enriquez, Past District Governor Vince Carlos, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Director-Elect Del Lorenzana, and Centennial President Susing Pineda.

Mr. Chris C. Tamesis

Managing Partner

Sadsad Tamesis Legal and Accountancy Firm

*Proposed for membership by
PP Boy Guevara*



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Membership Committee Meeting



Mr. Ralph Valentin L. Kho
Vice President/Owner
Sonera Industrial Group Inc.
*Proposed for membership by
PE Reggie Yu*



Mr. Christopher U. Liao
Owner
Fisio Centro Rehabilitation Clinic
*Proposed for membership by
PE Reggie Yu and PP Hermie Esguerra*



CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Meeting on Leon Lambert Fellows Program



AFTER the 8th Weekly Membership Meeting at the Manila Polo Club on September 25, 2025, President Raoul Creencia met with Leon Lambert Fellow benefactors—Past Rotary International Director Raffy Garcia, Centennial President Susing Pineda, and Past President Romy Nones, to discuss the forthcoming plans for the Leon Lambert Fellows Program.

RC Manila Delegation's Courtesy Visit to Consul General Voltaire Mauricio in Osaka



A courtesy visit to Consul General Voltaire Mauricio at the Philippine Consulate General in Osaka, Japan. Leading the delegation of RCM is President Raoul Creencia, with (seated, from left): Rotarian Willie Peliño (RCManila Foundation, Inc. Past President), President Raoul Creencia, Past President Ebot Tan, Past President Archit Bartolome; (standing, from left): Past Director Abe Pascual, Rotarian Cris Acosta, Past Director Ner Lonzaga, Secretary Anton Mauricio, Internal Auditor Nick Locsin, Ms. Vanessa Villafuerte, First Lady Myls Creencia, and Director-elect Caloy Serapio (RCMFI Trustee).

PWDs Special Olympics



BRINGING hope and joy to children with disabilities and their families, the Rotary Club of Manila proudly served as a major co-host for the PWDs Special Olympics. The event, organized by the Rotary Club of Amazing Manila, was held on September 20, 2025, at Freedom Court in Freedom Park, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.



This game is sponsored by:



SEPTEMBER 20, 2025 * Freedom Court Freedom Park 5, Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Candy Color Game





Rotary

Club of Amazing Manila

District 3810 - Manila

RI CLUB ID #224838



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GOOD

THIS
Certificate of Appreciation

IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

UCP RAOUL CREENCIA

Rotary Club of MANILA

District 3810

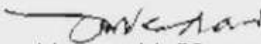
In grateful recognition of your support
AS MAJOR CO-HOST
for the success of

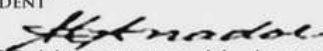


GIVEN THIS 20TH DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2025

FREEDOM COURT, FREEDOM PARK 5, BATASAN HILLS, QUEZON CITY


CANDY GALICIA
RCAM IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT


MARIE M. VEDAN
RCAM SECRETARY


UCP MERLINDA M. AMADOR
RCAM PRESIDENT 2025-26



Animal Welfare Outreach Program in Collaboration with PETA Asia



RCMANILA Foundation, Inc. (RCMFI), in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Manila, Junior Chamber International (JCI) Manila, PETA Asia, Ampon Alaga, Biyaya Animal Care Foundation, and the local barangay, conducted a one-day community veterinary clinic.

Held on September 27, 2025 in Barangay 72, Tondo, Manila, the initiative provided vital free services including sterilization (spay and neuter), vaccination, and essential veterinary care to approximately 620 dogs and cats. The aim was to curb animal overpopulation and mitigate the spread of preventable diseases, particularly rabies, thereby safeguarding both public and animal health.

The total cost of the project is P350,000.00

Animal Welfare Outreach Program in Collaboration with PETA Asia



Animal Welfare Outreach Program in Collaboration with PETA Asia



*PDG/Chair Alex Cureg
being interviewed by
the DWIZ*



*Ms. Ashley Fruno, Director of PETA Asia,
giving a tour and a brief insight into what
is happening at each station of the project*



Animal Welfare Outreach Program in Collaboration with PETA Asia



Ms. Ashley Fruno delivered a warm message to all participants and partners of the PETA Project.



Secretary Anton Mauricio shared a story about a rescued dog that was later adopted, illustrating how a small act of kindness can give profound meaning to others.



PDG/Chair Alex Cureg delivered a message, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness not only about animal bites and rabies, but also about other potential diseases transmitted by animals and pets. He also extended his gratitude to all participants, volunteers, partners, and donors who contributed to the project's success.



RC Manila Past Assistant Treasurer Joshua Aragon/JCI Manila Director was interviewed by DWIZ as one of the partners of the PETA project.

PEOPLE

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH

The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

By PE Reginald T. Yu

ON the surface, childhood summers should have been the stuff of innocence: games with neighborhood friends, lazy afternoons, endless stretches of play. For Domingo “Boy” San Buenaventura Guevara Jr., however, summers were about something else — work. From the fourth grade until the day he graduated from high school, vacations were measured not by leisure but by labor. While other children were escaping to the beaches, Boy was immersed in the machinery of enterprise, apprenticed into the world his father had built brick by brick.



BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

That father was no ordinary man.

Domingo Mariano Guevara Sr. was one of the Philippines' boldest industrial pioneers, a restless mind who dared to believe that Filipinos could build with their own hands what the world thought they could only import. Radiowealth produced televisions that flickered in Filipino living rooms. DMG introduced the Volkswagen Beetle and Kombi to Philippine roads. *Sakbayan*, literally *Sasakyan ng Bayan* — the People's Car — offered a Filipino response to mobility needs. *Trakbayan* sought to adapt the rugged concept of trucking to local terrains.

These ventures were more than just companies; they were statements of sovereignty in an era when the Philippine economy was dominated by

foreign brands and imported goods. For the young boy who bore his father's name, the effect was profound. He grew up not only within a family but within a vision — one that combined nation-building with enterprise, integrity with ambition.

“Truthfully,” he admits with a laugh, “I learned all my vices at FEMA” — referring to the Far East Military Academy, where he spent his first year of high school. “But at Ateneo I learned loyalty, integrity, spirituality, and study discipline.” Between the stern regimen of FEMA and the Jesuit ethos of Ateneo de Manila, the contours of his character were formed. His sense of purpose, his very ambition for life, crystallized during those years in Loyola Heights.



DMG Racing days

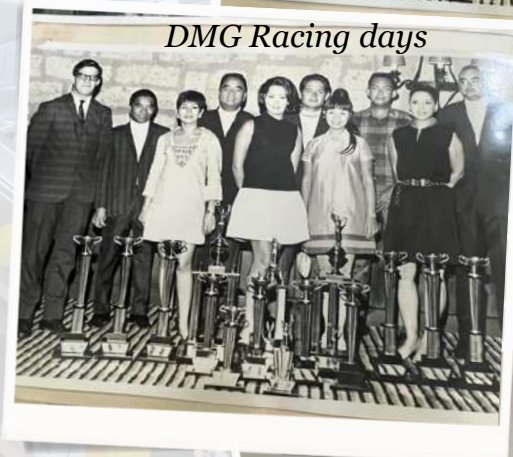


BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

Even at play, he was surrounded by the future he was being groomed to inherit. He remembers the Mandaluyong of his youth, a landscape that looked nothing like the teeming metropolis of today. The DMG Center stood amid expanses of land his father had purchased from Don Francisco Ortigas — sixteen hectares for less than a peso per square meter. Along Libertad Street, later renamed Domingo M. Guevara Street in honor of his father, rain would flood the canals and young Boy would delight in catching fish. That very street now stands as a living monument, but to him it carries memories of boyhood, of muddy feet, of the curious way history can transform personal playgrounds into public legacies.

His father's world was not merely inherited — it was participated in. By the summer of 1957, while still a high schooler, Boy was working side by side with two German technicians and a team of Filipino workers to assemble the very first Volkswagen Kombis in the Philippines. He was barely a teenager, but he was tightening bolts, hammering steel into shape, and painting vehicles that would soon hit the nation's roads. It was sweaty, dirty, exhausting work — and it lit a fire inside him.

“I decided then,” he says, “that my life will be the business of Volkswagen.”



BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

3 DMG execs see better years ahead

Three DMG, Inc. officials have issued separate statements intended to rally the entire dealership network around the Volkswagen flag for a renewed attempt to improve the brand's market share.

Do Inador Pongos, DMG president, said "1978 is a good year to capture a more significant share of the market because of the world currency situation which places our products in a more competitive stance."

Domingo Guevara, Jr., DMG executive vice president and general

manager, pledged all-out support from DMG's newly-reorganized marketing division and production facilities as in previous years but with a more optimistic outlook this time.

Among the main reasons for this optimism are the setting down of key personnel and the appointment of a singular head each to direct overseas the automotive manufacturing and marketing operations.

Leon Herrera, newly-installed vice president for marketing, assured the entire dealership network with more

meaningful, timely and stronger marketing thrust never before attempted in the history of Volkswagen in the Philippines. He said that in addition to the VW Beetle, Brasília and Passat, other models referred to as "new generation" Volkswagen models will be made available to place the brand in a better competitive position.

"The marketing of these models will be accompanied by vigorous marketing support that will dazzle any dealer's imagination," Herrera added.



Dominador Pongos
DMG president

Domingo Guevara, Jr.
DMG executive vice president and general manager

Leon Herrera
DMG vice president for marketing

DMG—a service-oriented firm

DMG, Inc. is basically a service-oriented company. The kind of service that is available whenever and wherever the customer needs it.

This basic orientation more than meets a strict Volkswagen policy of not selling any Volkswagen product unless the availability of service and parts are assured in that place.

At present, all of the 32 automotive dealers, service and sales outlets of DMG which are strategically located around the country, exist not only to concentrate on sales of vehicles but also to provide parts and

service.

As of today, there are 546 workboys available to more than 47,000 Volkswagen vehicles in the country. The service personnel are highly trained at the VW Training Center in Mandaluyong, Metro Manila. They undergo periodic refresher courses. The workshops—which are accredited by the Department of Trade National Accreditation Board—offer comprehensive diagnosis and maintenance programs utilizing electronically precise check-out equipment.

There is also the

Rain-Care Service which is actually a preventive maintenance in preparation for the rainy season. In case a Volkswagen vehicle happens to break down outside the normal range of a VW workshop, there is a DMG Volkswagen Mobile Workshop which brings over the necessary equipment, parts and service personnel to the distressed vehicle.

Last year saw the launching of the Express Service for repairs requiring only 90 minutes or less.

More than P90 million worth of genuine spare parts are available from

the combined Volkswagen dealership network. The DMG central parts depot has another P10 million worth of parts available to the dealers and their customers. The inventory system at DMG has been computerized to facilitate faster ordering of parts needed. The supply capability is 92 per cent of the total demand, considered very high in the industry. All dealers are equipped with the VW Microfiche System 2400, a feature unique and exclusive to the VW organization worldwide.

This equipment, which originated in West Germany, has made the parts catalog system obsolete in the industry. With the Microfiche System, one can drastically cut down the time required in identifying and locating a specific part required by the customer.

Because of the rough terrain and unfavorable road conditions, most developing countries—like the Philippines—have learned to appreciate the VW Beetle.

Proof of this is the unprecedented number of VW Beetles produced around the world. As of last year, 19.2 million units have already rolled out of factories making it the world's most-produced vehicle.

This year, two Volkswagen factories outside West Germany are increasing VW Beetle production. Volkswagen de Mexico have started to fill up the production gap for the VW Beetle as the West German factory is now concentrating on the new Volkswagen models like the Passat, Golf, Audi 80 or Fox, Derby Polo, VW LT (light truck) and Scirocco.

The Brazilian factory—considered the largest Volkswagen factory outside West Germany—exports to neighboring South American countries such as Peru, Bolivia, Uruguay and in Asia, the Philippines. It also supplies spare parts and a Brazil-made components to West Germany and other subsidiaries around the world.

Mexico will supply the VW Beetle requirement of West Germany and other European

components for the VW Beetle.

Despite years of ruggedness, the first Beetles with local components was road-tested around the Philippines and the Philippines.

The result was very encouraging because the vehicles never had any mechanical breakdowns. They negotiated a total of 800 kilometers of paved and unpaved roads.

There was a world-famous London-Manila Express further tested the vehicle's durability as they traveled for three months covering 83,000 kilometers of all types of road and weather conditions around the world.

Satisfied with the performance of the prototypes, DMG then proceeded to implement in high gear its local content utilization program prescribed by the progressive car manufacturing program of the government.

From that time on, DMG ceased to be a mere assembler of Volkswagen vehicles. As a participant of the progressive car manufacturing program, it is now in the midst of turning out vehicle with very high local content.

With its local content program, the Beetle is now very much considered a product of Filipino engineering and technology as it is a German car. Actually, the Philippines is now among several countries outside Germany accredited by Volkswagenwerk to manufacture Beetles.

Yet, beneath the pride ran another current: the shadow of politics, the reminder that in the Philippines, entrepreneurship could never be divorced from power. The boy would later watch as his father's enterprises — so full of promise — were crippled during the Martial Law years, when cronies bent the rules and fairness was cast aside. It was then that the most sobering lesson was passed down, one that cut as deep as any bolt or weld: "Do not fight City Hall or their cronies."

And so, the roots of legacy were laid. Summers of work, the disciplines of Ateneo, the memory of fields and floods in Mandaluyong, the clang of the first Volkswagen Kombis, and the bittersweet wisdom of a father's struggles — all combined to form the soil in which Domingo Guevara Jr. would grow.



Inauguration of the Ysmael Steel Compound to the New DMG Complex in May 1975 with BOI Chairman Ting Paterno as Guest of Honor.

The boy had found his calling, not in the comforts of privilege but in the clang of steel and the scent of primer paint. In many ways, it was a mirror of his father's own path: conviction through action, identity forged not by words but by labor. If Domingo Sr. taught by example, then Boy absorbed the lesson fully.

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

For him, the name he carried was not just heritage. It was both anchor and compass: Domingo Mariano Guevara, son of a pioneer, destined to wrestle with history, and to leave his own imprint on the canvas of a nation still struggling to find its industrial soul.

The Making of a Young Leader

Education, for Boy Guevara, was never a straight line — it was a mosaic of experiences, each school adding a brushstroke to the canvas of his formation. He began in the modest halls of St. John's Academy in San Juan, where he spent his earliest years until the fourth grade. From there, his parents placed him in Ateneo de Manila's Padre Faura campus, an institution that would eventually leave the deepest imprint on his spirit. But the journey was punctuated by detours — one year at the Far East Military Academy (FEMA), a crucible of harsh discipline and temptations alike, before returning to Ateneo at Loyola Heights for the remainder of high school and the start of college.

"I learned all my major vices at FEMA," he admits with a disarming candor. But if FEMA left its scratches, Ateneo left its armor. From the Jesuit priests, he absorbed loyalty and integrity; from the rhythms of the classroom and chapel, he gained a sense of study discipline and spirituality. These were not abstract



Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Community Leadership in Philippine Business History

Domingo S. Guevara Jr. leaves an indelible mark on Philippine business history through his multifaceted contributions as an entrepreneur and community leader. Born in Manila, his journey began under the mentorship of his father, Domingo M. Guevara Sr., a notable industrialist who founded Radiowest appliances & DMG Inc. (Volkswagen Vehicles Assembler & Distributor.) Educated at Ateneo de Manila, Guevara Jr. cultivated his skills and knowledge, laying the groundwork for his future endeavors.

Boy married Monette Amado Guevara in 1968. Monette, who was Miss Red Feather Philippines 1967, was sent to Washington to speak to some congressmen at Capitol Hill, and then traveled to Europe as her prize. Their union blessed them with 5 beautiful girls: Monica, the oldest, who is married to Daniel dela Cruz; Jessica, married to Richard Everingham, an Australian businessman; Sheila, married to Congressman Bong Sumbay and also the owner of Clean Fuel gas station; Carla, married to an executive chef at the newly opened Gordon Ramsay restaurant; and Dominique, married to King Perez de Tagle and currently residing in LA. Together, they have 13 grandchildren.

lessons. They were practices, drilled into daily life — rules of honesty, the habit of prayer, the unspoken demand that one's word must carry the weight of truth. It was in Loyola Heights, during the turbulent years of adolescence, that he first glimpsed the contours of purpose, the stirrings of ambition that would guide him through the decades to come.

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

By the time he reached his third year of business administration at Ateneo, however, reality intervened. He became a working student, a choice that brought him face-to-face with the grit of responsibility. To finish his degree, he transferred to the University of the East, a different universe altogether from Ateneo's cloistered quads. UE was teeming with energy, with working-class students who hustled between classes and jobs, with a democratic air far removed from the Jesuit enclaves. For the young Guevara, the experience was electrifying.

He cut a striking figure on campus, always in a crisp white shirt and tie. Fellow students often mistook him for a professor, and on more than one occasion, he was invited to substitute for absent instructors in subjects like Personnel Management and Business Ethics. It was not just a quirk; it was a recognition of his bearing, of the maturity that came from balancing the roles of student, worker, and aspiring leader. He even became a minor celebrity of sorts, frequently invited to social events. Yet what mattered more were the bridges he built with professors who would later join him at DMG as managers — mentors transformed into colleagues, teachers into partners in enterprise.

Still, if Ateneo had instilled faith and discipline, and UE had sharpened his pragmatism and people skills, the most enduring influence came not from professors but from friends. "I cannot recall any real mentors," he reflects. "But I did have several real BFF who remain my BFF to this day." In the years after graduation, as he weathered cycles of triumphs and financial setbacks, it was these friends — not the fair-weather ones of school days, but the loyal circle who stood by him — that sustained him. To this day, he nurtures those bonds, organizing monthly mini-reunions of Ateneo High School Batch '59, gathering classmates for First Friday devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and rekindling ties with Grupo '58, the cohort with whom he spent an extra year mastering high school.



During Boy's courtship of Monette at Valley Golf Club. That's an EMX Fiberglass Sports Car with a VW Power Train.

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

Out of these experiences, a personal philosophy emerged, a set of guiding principles that fused the rigor of Jesuit education with the resilience of a working student's life. *It is better to have tried and failed than to have failed without even trying.* The words carried the conviction of someone who had seen how hesitation could paralyze potential. *A percentage of something is better than a hundred percent of nothing.* That was the pragmatist speaking, the businessman who knew the arithmetic of compromise.



Boy and Monette in a private audience with Pope Francis on February 10, 2020, after Pope Francis celebrated a Special Mass for about a dozen visiting Cardinals and Bishops from Africa and Asia. "We were the only Filipinos in the small group of 20 people."

But there was also the believer: *When confronted with a seemingly impossible situation, I always turn to God, let go, and trust Him.* Life had already shown him that closed doors could lead to wider windows, that divine timing often mocked human impatience. "Challenges are opportunities," he insists, "and I fully believe God answers all prayers — but in His own time."

Even forgiveness, for him, bore the imprint of faith. "I forgive all my transgressors, no matter what they have done, even if done to me personally. I forgive the person but not the action, because God is also just, and any transgressions will always have a consequence." It was an ethic that combined mercy with justice, humility with accountability.

By the time he left the university halls for good, Domingo Guevara Jr. was more than just the scion of a pioneering industrialist. He was a young man tempered by contrasts: the strictures of Ateneo and the freedoms of UE, the temptations of FEMA and the devotions of First Fridays, the lofty ideals of faith and the gritty arithmetic of survival. He carried within him the paradoxes of the Filipino entrepreneur: deeply spiritual yet relentlessly practical, grounded in tradition yet restless for progress, a man whose values were not inherited but wrestled into being.

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

The making of a leader, after all, is never a single stroke. It is a mosaic — a discipline here, a setback there, a friendship that endures, a philosophy that hardens into habit. And for Boy, those early years offered the palette from which he would paint the rest of his life.

Baptism by Steel and Fire

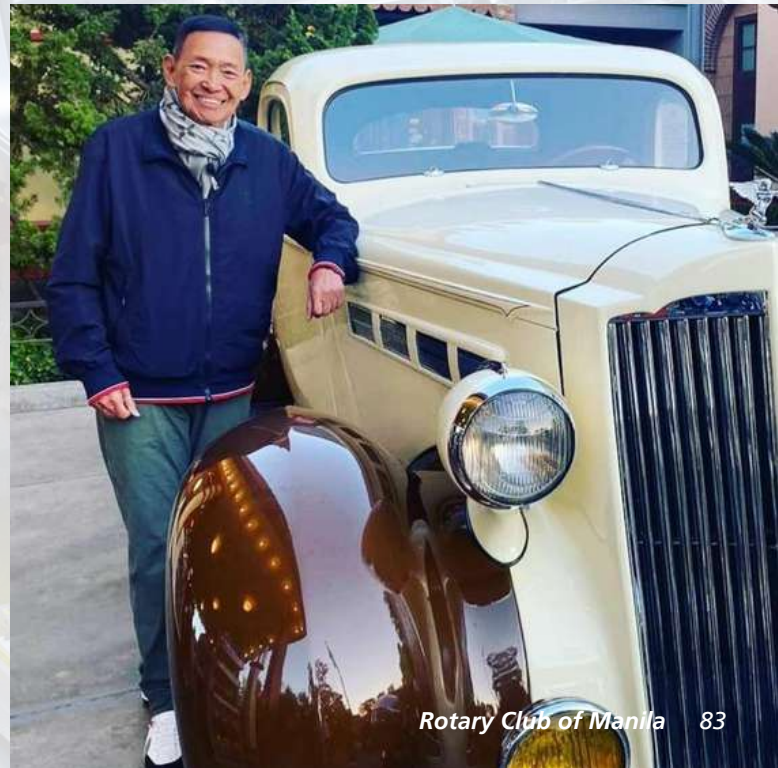
The summer of 1957 stands like a milestone in the memory of Boy Guevara. He was only in his second year of high school, yet his hands were already blackened with grease, his lungs filled with the acrid tang of primer paint, his ears ringing from the hiss of welding guns. It was the summer he joined a small crew — two German technicians and about twenty Filipino workers — tasked with assembling the first twenty-four Volkswagen Kombis ever to roll out in the Philippines.

The work was no simulation. There were no safety nets of theory or family privilege to shield him. He unpacked crates from Germany, wiped down rust-flecked panels, and helped fit together steel with makeshift jigs. When parts refused to align, he learned the stubborn craft of hammering them into place. He ground rough edges, sprayed red oxide primer by hand, and guided vehicles into the gas-fired oven that baked their coats of paint into permanence. At the end of

the line, he test-drove each unit, coaxing life out of machines that had once been nothing more than scattered parts in wooden crates.

It was, quite literally, a baptism by steel and fire.

For many heirs of industrial pioneers, the pathway is boardrooms and titles. For Junior Domingo, it was sweat and grime, long before any corner office. “I was so inspired by this experience,” he recalls, “that I decided then that my life will be the business of Volkswagen.” The teenager’s conviction would carry him across oceans, into the heart of Volkswagen’s Wolfsburg headquarters in



BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

Germany, where he trained after college. For two years, he immersed himself in every dimension of the business — from accounting and pricing to spare parts inventory, from after-sales service to warranty processing. No corner of the operation was left unexplored.

Yet while Volkswagen marked the foundation of his career, the vision that would make his own imprint on Philippine industry came in the form of two words: ***Sakbayan*** and ***Trakbayan***.

The *Sakbayan* was no mere product; it was a statement. Derived from the Filipino translation of Volkswagen — literally *Sasakyan ng Bayan* or “vehicle of the people” — it symbolized an effort

to design a car not just for profit but for national identity. At a time when the country was struggling to define its own economic independence, here was a vehicle that proudly bore a Filipino name, a Filipino concept. The *Trakbayan* followed a similar logic: a rugged truck, its very name a Filipinized rendering of “truck,” adapted to the rough roads and conditions of the archipelago.

The *Trakbayan* never went beyond its single German-made prototype, but even its creation was a testament to what could be achieved when local engineers and a visionary heir collaborated across continents. “The *Trakbayan*,” Guevara recalls, “was made in Germany with collaborations from our Filipino engineers and my own inputs because of my experience in the rough roads of the Philippines.”

These were not just products; they were metaphors. The *Sakbayan* and *Trakbayan* embodied the dream of a country that could build, innovate, and define its own destiny rather than merely consume what others produced. In them, one could see the echo of his father’s philosophy: a Filipino-first industrial spirit, bold enough to challenge foreign dominance.

But business, like history, rarely moves in straight lines. The late 1960s and early 1970s brought new tests. By then, Guevara had risen to leadership within



With wife Monette

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

DMG, tasked with navigating the turbulent seas of government policy and global competition. His proudest feat in those years was perhaps the most audacious publicity stunt in Philippine automotive history: the **London–Manila Express Caravan** of 1970.

It was a venture as improbable as it was grand. Four vehicles — a Volkswagen 1300 sedan assembled locally, a *Sakbayan*, a Sarao jeepney, and a German *Kübelwagen* — were driven by a team of twelve Filipinos across continents and oceans to prove the durability of Filipino-made and Filipino-adapted vehicles. One route wound east through Eastern Europe, Istanbul, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, down to Penang and Singapore before shipping to Manila. The other carved westward through Paris, Lisbon, across the Atlantic by ship to Florida, then by road to San Francisco, and onward by sea through Honolulu and Yokohama to the Philippines.

Seventy-nine days later, the four vehicles arrived in Manila within eighteen hours of one another. It was a triumph not only of engineering but of national pride. For Guevara, it symbolized the fusion of grit, teamwork, and vision — Filipinos proving to themselves and to the world that they could traverse the globe on their own terms.

They were not only about vehicles; they were about motion itself — the motion of a nation striving to industrialize, the motion of a family legacy rolling forward, the motion of a young leader discovering his own capacity for resilience.

The lesson of that journey was one he would carry for life: that leadership was not about resting on inherited legacies, but about testing them, stretching them, and daring to write new chapters. He would soon face sterner challenges — Martial Law, crony capitalism, financial collapse — that would temper his optimism with caution. But in those years of Volkswagen, Sakbayan, and caravans across continents, he learned the essence of enterprise: that it is forged not in the boardroom alone but in the furnace of risk, experiment, and sweat.

Looking back, one can see why he called those his proudest early milestones. They were not only about vehicles; they were about motion itself — the motion of a nation striving to industrialize, the motion of a family legacy rolling forward, the motion of a young leader discovering his own capacity for resilience.

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

It was baptism by steel and fire, yes. But it was also initiation into something larger: the unyielding belief that Filipinos could chart their own road, no matter how rough.

Navigating Storms

Every industrial dynasty in the Philippines has faced its crucible, a season when the winds of politics swept across the marketplace and left even the strongest reeling. For the Guevaras, that storm arrived with Martial Law.

In the early 1970s, Domingo Mariano Guevara Sr. still presided over Radiowealth — the country's boldest experiment in Filipino-made electronics. Unlike imported brands that arrived nearly finished, Radiowealth manufactured televisions almost from scratch. Picture tubes were shaped from raw glass. Printed circuit boards were machine-made. Power transformers and plastic cabinets rolled off factory lines. It was a fully integrated operation, a rare jewel of Philippine industry.

Then came the rival: JBC televisions, brought in under the protection of Ambassador Roberto Benedicto, a powerful crony of Ferdinand Marcos. Unlike Radiowealth's painstakingly crafted units, JBC televisions were imported in what was euphemistically called "semi-knockdown form." In reality, the sets were already complete,

their internal mechanisms intact. Only the plastic cabinets were detached, reassembled locally with a screwdriver. It was the equivalent of calling a house "locally built" because one screwed the doorknob in after importation.



BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

The government, of course, played along. JBC received preferential import duties despite having no real factory.

Radiowealth, which bore the costs of genuine manufacturing, found itself undercut at every turn. Domingo Sr., stubborn in principle, refused to raise his prices to protect his margins. Instead, he chose to match the artificially low prices of Benedicto's televisions — absorbing losses in the millions, holding the line in the name of fairness and Filipino pride.

For his son, watching these events unfold was a brutal education in the realities of power. Banks, under state influence, began cutting Radiowealth's credit lines. Cash flow dried up. The empire that had once symbolized Filipino ingenuity now teetered on collapse, not because of market failure, but because the rules had been rewritten to favor the regime's favorites.

The lesson was seared into him like a scar: *do not fight City Hall or its cronies.*

Yet the pain of those years went deeper than balance sheets. To see one's father — a man who had built industries out of faith in Filipino talent — forced into retreat was to witness the collision of ideals with the machinery of authoritarian power. For the younger Guevara, it was both sobering and

galvanizing. It revealed that in the Philippines, business was never just business. It was politics by another name, a chessboard where pawns could be swept aside if they stood in the wrong square.

Still, resilience defined the family. While Radiowealth faltered, they turned their energy to preserving and reshaping the broader Guevent Group of Companies. What could not be sustained in manufacturing, they sought to balance with investments in real estate, finance, and other ventures less vulnerable to cronyism. At the same time, they strengthened the family's philanthropic arm — the D.M. Guevara Foundation. If authoritarian politics stifled enterprise, they would assert their values through service: financing medical missions, providing scholarships for technical schools, and supporting communities ravaged by natural calamities.

It was their way of saying that while politics could bend the rules of commerce, it could not dictate the family's principles. Employees continued to be treated fairly. Training remained a priority. The foundation became a moral anchor, a quiet assertion that the Guevaras would not let corruption erase their commitment to society.

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

In Mandaluyong, the family found a symbol of renewal. Boy himself pushed for Libertad Street to be renamed in honor of his father. Some councilors attempted to extract “SOP” under the table, but he reported the matter directly to then mayor Benjamin Abalos, who swiftly ensured the resolution’s passage. Soon after, a ceremonial program was held in front of the DMG Center Building, attended by the mayor and councilors. For the Guevaras, it was not just a street sign — it was vindication. The name of Domingo Mariano Guevara would not be erased by politics; it would be etched into the city’s very map.

Whenever he passes the street today, Boy feels both pride and nostalgia. Pride, because the road honors a father who sacrificed wealth rather than compromise integrity. Nostalgia, because he remembers playing as a boy in the flooded canals of that same street, chasing fish after heavy rains, in a neighborhood where houses were still sparse. He recalls his father purchasing sixteen hectares from Don Francisco Ortigas in the 1950s, then subdividing and selling parcels on installment to employees. What was once farmland and mud is now a bustling artery of Metro Manila. Yet for him, the street remains a personal landscape, its every inch inscribed with memory.

Storms do not only destroy; they reveal. Martial Law had stripped away the illusion that business success was insulated from politics. It had shown the Guevaras the cost of integrity in a corrupt system. But it also revealed the core of their identity: fairness, resilience, service, and pride in being Filipino.

For Boy, those years were not the end of the story. They were a testing ground, a crucible that tempered his leadership. He emerged from the storm both chastened and strengthened — wiser to the ways of power, yet still carrying the flame of his father’s vision.

The road ahead would not be easy. But like the Kombis he had once helped weld together, he had learned to hold under pressure, to keep moving forward, however rough the terrain.



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Jaycee Foundations

Before he ever wore the lapel pin of Rotary, before he presided over boardrooms and steered corporate caravans across continents, Boy Guevara cut his civic teeth in the Makati Jaycees. It was there, among the restless young men of the city's rising middle class, that he first encountered the intoxicating blend of leadership, camaraderie, and public service. The Jaycees were not merely a club; they were a crucible for testing ideas, forging friendships, and learning the alchemy of teamwork.

For the young Guevara, Jaycee life was a laboratory. Projects were the experiments, members the collaborators, and the community the proving ground. The rules of success were simple yet profound: no project could be accomplished alone. Every initiative required cooperation, fundraising ingenuity, and the commitment of many hands. It was an environment where leadership was not inherited but earned, where titles mattered less than results, and where one quickly discovered that ideas, however noble, were nothing without execution.

Among the many endeavors he spearheaded, one stands out in memory — the ***Kasalan Bayan***. The concept was simple, the impact profound. Two hundred couples, many from the poorer quarters of Makati, were gathered for a mass wedding ceremony. It was a gesture both practical and spiritual, offering dignity and legitimacy to families who had long lived without the sanctity of official vows. For Guevara, it was more than an event; it was an act of bringing people closer to Christ. Though ecumenical in nature, he ensured that every couple received a briefing on Christianity, and some were even baptized before exchanging vows.

In that moment, the Jaycees were more than a civic club; they were ministers of grace, architects of community. The ***Kasalan Bayan*** would ripple outward,



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replicated by other organizations across the country. For Guevara, it was a moment of revelation: that leadership was not about basking in applause but about facilitating transformation in the lives of others.

It was also in Jaycee circles that his business instincts found new applications. Fundraising for projects, negotiating partnerships, mobilizing volunteers — these were the same skills he would later deploy in industry and Rotary. But in the Jaycees, they were stripped of profit motive and directed instead toward public good. The practice of balancing ambition with service, of blending pragmatism with idealism, was a preparation as rigorous as any corporate training program.

The friendships formed there were equally enduring. Jaycee bonds, tested in the fire of late-night planning sessions and the grind of community projects, became lifelong ties. They were networks of trust, reservoirs of goodwill that would sustain him long after titles had faded. When he later encouraged his young managers to join the Jaycees, it was not merely professional development he sought for them; it was the shaping of character, the forging of leaders who understood that success without service was hollow.

Perhaps the most important lesson the Jaycees imparted was teamwork. “During my Jaycee days, no project could be successfully accomplished alone,” he recalls. That ethos of collective effort became the foundation of his managerial style. In business, he demanded cooperation among managers, encouraging them to see themselves not as isolated fiefdoms but as parts of a larger whole. In civic life, it prepared him for the complex choreography of Rotary, where diverse personalities and interests had to be harmonized toward common goals.

Jaycee training also taught him about the delicate balance between celebration and service. The organization was known for its social events, sometimes lavish to the point of extravagance. Guevara appreciated the fellowship but never lost sight of the danger of excess. Even then, he believed that resources should be tightly managed, that socializing should never eclipse the mission of service. It was a conviction that would later color his vision for Rotary — that inductions and balls should avoid ostentation, that funds were better spent alleviating poverty than purchasing gowns and champagne.

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Looking back, he often advises younger Jaycees to join Rotary before they become “exhausted Jaycees,” worn down by the endless cycle of projects and socials. He remembers attending the induction of Eric Ke as president of Manila Jaycees and encouraging him to join the Rotary Club of Manila as soon as possible. For Guevara, the Jaycees were a vital foundation, but Rotary was the next horizon — a space for matured leadership, where the lessons of youth could be transmuted into lasting service.

In many ways, the Jaycees gave him his first taste of legacy. The Kombis he assembled might fade, the caravans might pass, but the couples who exchanged vows in the ***Kasalan Bayan***, the young members he mentored into teamwork, the habits of service he cultivated — these endured. They were not stamped in steel or etched on street signs, but written in the fabric of lives uplifted.

For a man who bore the name of a pioneer, the Jaycees offered a different kind of inheritance: not factories and machines, but the wisdom that leadership without service is vanity. It was here that he first glimpsed what it meant to be more than a businessman, more than a son of privilege. It was here that he learned to be a servant-leader.



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The Rotarian's Compass

By the mid-1970s, Boy had already proven himself in the crucibles of business and civic training. He had learned resilience in the storms of Martial Law and forged his civic instincts in the Jaycees. But it was in Rotary — specifically the Rotary Club of Manila (RCM), Asia's first and largest Rotary club — that his sense of leadership and service found its fullest expression.

The invitation came from a friend and competitor: the late Ceferino “Cef” Follosco, then an executive of Ford Philippines and later Undersecretary of Trade. Follosco persisted, undeterred by Guevara's hesitation. “I was reluctant at first,” Guevara recalls. “Most of the members were already in their late fifties and sixties. I thought perhaps I didn't belong.” Yet he yielded, and in 1976, he became a Rotarian. It was the start of a journey that would span decades.

Those early days at RCM were a revelation. The club was a formidable gathering of the country's elite — bank presidents, Supreme Court justices, top businessmen — yet within its walls, hierarchy dissolved into fellowship. “We all addressed each other by nicknames,” Guevara remembers. The weekly Thursday luncheons at Manila Hotel's



Meeting with former President Fidel V. Ramos and former First Lady Ming Ramos



Inspection of the matching grant project at Hospicio De San Jose

Fiesta Pavilion were more than meetings; they were rituals of camaraderie. Guest speakers, or GOHAS (Guests of Honor and Speakers), were eager to be invited. Ferdinand Marcos himself, along with cabinet members and business titans like John Gokongwei, Lucio Tan, Emilio Yap, Jaime Zobel, and Alfonso Yuchengco, regularly graced the podium. To be a GOHAS was a badge of honor, a recognition of stature.

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*TOWER Awards
Screening Committee meeting*

Equally powerful was the culture of accessibility. “You could call any member,” Guevara recalls, “and you were guaranteed to be able to talk to that person within twenty-four hours.” It was a simple tradition, but it symbolized the trust and respect that bound the club together. Outside the meetings, homes opened for “home-sides” and “pillowships,” informal fellowships that cemented bonds of friendship. Membership was over four hundred, and attendance often reached seventy percent. Even the cost of lunch — just ₱120 at the Manila Hotel — made participation accessible. Rotary was less about pomp than about presence, less about glamour than about belonging.



*TOWER Awards hosted by GSIS GM
at GSIS Museum*



*Perpetual Help's scholarship support
for TOWER Awards scholars*

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Still, leadership was never easy. When Guevara served as Director and later as Sergeant-at-Arms (SAA) and Deputy SAA, he found himself navigating the delicate task of quieting some of the club's most senior and prominent members during meetings. "It was like walking barefoot on broken glass," he recalls. Yet with tact and respect, he managed — earning trust without offense, embodying the fine balance between authority and humility.

His defining moment came two decades later, in 1996, when he was overwhelmingly elected as President of RCM. By then, fissures were appearing in Rotary's landscape. Rivalries between clubs in Manila and Makati were straining relationships. Some clubs

resented RCM's dominance in district and international awards, perceiving it as arrogance. Guevara, ever sensitive to the undercurrents of fellowship, decided to act.

Upon assuming the presidency, he made a startling announcement: RCM would not compete for any major district or international awards during his term. The gesture disarmed critics and won back trust. "RCM had already proven itself," he explained. "It was time to give others their chance." Instead, he focused inward, streamlining redundant committees, strengthening active ones, and eliminating unnecessary bureaucracy. The decision restored goodwill and recalibrated RCM's role — not as a rival, but as a leader by example.



Sportsfest



Ladies Day



Signing of Memorandum of Agreement with the Technological University of the Philippines for extending a baccalaureate degree to the TOWER awardee

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

The friendships he nurtured in Rotary were as memorable as any project. He remembers with fondness Cef Follosco, his sponsor; Joe Barredo of Fabar Motors, nicknamed the “Kissing Bandit” for his playful habit of greeting every lady guest — including First Lady Imelda Marcos — with a kiss on the cheek; Nick Villongco of Chrysler Motors; and Dave Sycip of Northern Motors. Even competitors became allies under the Rotary banner, proving that service could transcend rivalry. He recalls approaching Justice Simmie Gopengco, a fellow Rotarian, about a legal case — not to win, but simply to ensure a judgment on its merits. Within weeks, a fair ruling was handed down. Such was the ethos of trust and integrity that defined the club.

For Guevara, Rotary was never about titles or awards but about impact. He admired and quietly supported projects like the Hospicio de San Jose initiative, which he considered a must-continue program. He often contributed financially, believing poverty alleviation should be Rotary’s central mission. He urged future leaders to “clone” the likes of PD Philip Ong, who chaired the project tirelessly, warning against overburdening a few while others remained spectators.

At the same time, he championed simplicity. “Let us avoid unnecessary,



TV interview with Good morning Asia

ostentatious, and expensive socials,” he insists, “and use saved funds for civic projects.” He had seen how inductions and district balls could devolve into fashion shows of gowns and tuxedos, diverting resources from the poor to the perfumed. His vision for RCM was one of elegance without excess, service without distraction.

Today, he sees hope in the club’s younger members. They may not represent the “cream de la cream” of the country’s top corporations as in earlier days, but they carry within them the potential to be future leaders of the nation. “Old fogies like me,” he says with a smile, “should encourage and guide them.” This is why he continues to attend fellowships, not out of nostalgia but out of duty — to pass

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.



Inaugural Meeting

on the flame, to remind the next generation of what Rotary once was and what it still can be.

The compass of Rotary, for him, has always pointed to the same true north: honesty, fairness, service above self. It is a compass he has carried into boardrooms, foundations, and family life. And though titles and awards may fade, the friendships, values, and quiet acts of service remain — the true measure of a Rotarian's life.

Nation, Reform, and Faith

To speak with Boy Guevara about the Philippines is to encounter both the steel of a realist and the fervor of a patriot. He has lived through the promises of postwar industrialization, the suffocation of Martial Law, the uneven dawns of democracy, and the turbulence of globalization. His perspective is that of a man who has seen both the heights of possibility and the depths of betrayal.

At the heart of his critique lies a conviction: that the Philippines has never lacked ingenuity, talent, or ambition — it has lacked the political will to nurture them. His father's dream was for the country to achieve NIC status, to stand among the Newly Industrialized Countries of Asia like South Korea or Taiwan. That dream

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

remains tantalizingly within reach, he believes, but only if the nation can free itself from the stranglehold of dynastic politics.

“Eighty percent of our leaders are dynastic families,” he says bluntly. “Under our present setup, there can be no president who can control them to think of the national interest. They will always think provincial or regional at best.” His prescription is radical yet simple: pass the long-delayed Anti-Dynasty Law, even if it requires nothing less than a political revolution. For him, it is the single most important reform that could uplift millions of Filipinos, unlocking the door to genuine nation-building.

He is equally unsparing in his assessment of the Philippine business community. “Filipino entrepreneurs today are mostly selfish,” he observes. “They think only of domestic expansion. Very few think international, very few have ambitions of globalization.” In his eyes, this inward-looking stance has made the country vulnerable, shackling its industries to parochial markets while others race to capture global opportunities.

There are exceptions, and he names them with admiration: the Gokongwei Group, the Mabuhay Group of the Chan family, Metro Pacific, the empire of Ricky Razon. These are the firms that dared to think beyond the archipelago, to expand abroad, to welcome foreign partnerships. But too many others, he laments, have chosen to build barriers instead, lobbying against foreign investment rather than embracing the competition that could sharpen them. Perhaps, he muses, the second and third generations of the great business families will finally have the courage to think globally.

Yet Guevara is not merely critical; he is constructive. He has thought deeply about the structures that hold Philippine industry back. For him, the problem is not merely corruption, but the absence



With PDG Really Reyes & PP Ed Reyes, handing Boy a raffle prize in one of their early RCM Pillow-Fellowship at the old Santa Ana Race track.

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

of continuity. Agencies like the Board of Investments (BOI) and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) are capable of crafting long-term incentives, yet every new administration insists on stamping its own “legacy,” discarding the plans of its predecessors. Investors, both local and foreign, are left disillusioned.

His solution is bold: an integrated master plan for industrial zones, crafted jointly by PEZA, TESDA, DOLE, BOI, and other agencies, then enshrined into law and reviewed only every decade. “We need to take the politics out of the equation,” he insists. Only then will budding entrepreneurs be able to grow into giants, secure in the knowledge that policies will not shift with every election.

But even as he speaks with the analytical precision of a businessman, his language is never far from faith. For Guevara, economics and politics may set the stage, but it is God who directs the play. “When confronted with a seemingly impossible situation, I always turn to God, let go, and trust Him,” he says. To him, challenges are not obstacles but opportunities, doors closed only so that bigger windows might open.

It is this faith that sustains his view of governance. He acknowledges with anguish the scandals that have recently rocked the administration — flood

control projects, crony deals, even the involvement of powerful relatives. Yet he urges patience and prayer for the president. “We need the whole country to pray for him,” he says, “that the Holy Spirit will give him the necessary strength to punish the guilty parties swiftly. Otherwise, the political capital he has gained may be lost — and with it, his presidency, or even his life.”



Former Department of Tourism Secretary Mina Gabor, Guest of Honor and Speaker at one of the weekly membership meetings



BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

To some, such words may sound naïve in the ruthless theater of Philippine politics. But for Guevara, faith is not escapism; it is a form of realism, an acknowledgment that human effort alone is never enough. God is infinitely merciful, he reminds us, but also just. Every action has consequences, whether in business, politics, or personal life.

In the end, his vision for the Philippines is as clear as it is uncompromising: ban dynasties, embrace globalization, craft long-term industrial policies, and trust in God's justice. It is a vision forged not in academic seminars but in the lived experience of boardrooms, factories, and civic halls. It is the view of a man who has seen both the promise and the peril of this country — and who still believes, against all odds, that a better future is possible.

The Gospel of Leadership

In the end, titles blur. Chairman, president, director, past this, former that — these are the designations that adorn résumés and plaques, but they fade with time. For Boy, what remains is something deeper, something harder to measure yet infinitely more enduring.

Asked which role he cherishes most — businessman, Rotarian, Jaycee, family leader — his answer comes without hesitation: none of the above. The mantle he values most is that of witness, a man unashamed to give glory to God in word and deed. “I am most fulfilled spreading the Word of God through personal experience and practice,” he says, “and I am never ashamed to be verbally thankful for His blessings and mercy.”

This is not the piety of abstraction. It is a creed forged in the furnaces of trial: in the collapse of Radiowealth under Martial Law, in the grinding labor of assembling Kombis as a teenager, in the lonely difficulties of quieting elders as Rotary's Sergeant-at-Arms, in the humility of setbacks that tested both his finances and his friendships. Through it all, he has seen doors close and windows open, has felt the weight of failure only to find grace waiting on the other side.



With Monette and PSAA Gunter Matschick

BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

What he hopes to pass on — indeed, what he insists on imparting to children, grandchildren, and anyone willing to listen — is simple yet uncompromising: **honesty and fairness.** To be honest with one's self, with others, and with God. To deal fairly in business and in life. And above all, to live by Christ's first commandment: *Love thy neighbor as I have loved you.*

Leadership, as he sees it, is not about charisma or oratory. It is not about elaborate visions or grand strategies. It is about example. "Honest and fair leadership by example," he summarizes. That, in a single sentence, is his philosophy. Not theory, but practice. Not ambition, but integrity.

And how does he wish to be remembered by his fellow Rotarians, by the country, by history? The answer is disarmingly modest: as a *good servant of God* and a *Filipino patriot*. Nothing more, nothing less. Not the man who led the London-Manila Caravan, nor the president who gave up awards for the sake of fellowship, nor the entrepreneur who tried to globalize the *Sakbayan*. Simply a servant and a patriot.

Yet the legacy he carries is larger still. It stretches across three generations of Guevaras, from his father's pioneering factories to his own stewardship of

Guevent Investment Development Corporation, and onward to his children and grandchildren. The thread that binds it all is a credo his father thundered in boardrooms and embodied in practice: **Filipino First.** That phrase, once radical in its defiance of colonial dependence, now stands as the Guevara family's contribution to Philippine history — a reminder that true progress begins with believing in one's own people.

But if the past was about asserting national pride, the future, he believes, will be about deepening spiritual trust. To the younger generation of Rotarians and civic leaders, he offers counsel that could sound old-fashioned in a world enamored with technology and speed, yet resonates with timeless force: Learn to trust God.



BAPTIZED BY STEEL, GUIDED BY FAITH: The Life Journey of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr.

“God always answers our prayers,” he insists, “but always in His own time. God is infinitely merciful, but He is also just. All our actions have consequences. We must always think of those consequences before we act. Challenges are not obstacles — they are opportunities.”

In these words, one hears not only the wisdom of a businessman or civic leader but the cadence of a preacher, a man convinced that leadership without faith is rudderless, that ambition without consequence is reckless.

And so the life of Domingo San Buenaventura Guevara Jr. — child of privilege, apprentice of steel, witness of storms, builder of projects, servant of clubs, critic of dynasties, and bearer of faith — resolves into a single arc. It is the arc of a man who has sought, in every season, to be faithful: faithful to his father’s legacy, faithful to his country’s promise, faithful to his friends and companions, and faithful above all to God.

The street in Mandaluyong that bears his father’s name is not just a monument to the past; it is a metaphor for continuity. Children once played in its flooded canals. Factories once stood on its muddy edges. Today, traffic flows ceaselessly across it, carrying workers, dreamers, strivers. Life moves forward, as it must.



With all my precious jewels plus my Crown Jewel, Monette. Taken during our Golden Wedding Anniversary in 2018.

And so does the Guevara story: a family that dared to dream, stumbled against power, persevered in faith, and left behind not just businesses or foundations but a gospel of leadership. A gospel that says: be honest, be fair, love your neighbor, trust God.

That, perhaps, is the truest inheritance. Not the Kombis welded in a sweltering factory. Not the caravans that crossed continents. Not even the corporations that rose and fell. But the quiet conviction that in leading others, one must first be led — by conscience, by integrity, and by the God who answers in His own time.

INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Downtown Manila



DISTRICT Secretary General Hermie Esguerra attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Downtown Manila last September 25, 2025 at Oriental Palace Quezon City.

INTERCLUB EVENTS

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Imus Independencia



DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Imus Independencia last September 26, 2025 at the Tradean Hall, Tanza National Trade School, Paradahan 1, Tanza, Cavite.



Gov. Mary Mei Shootfest 2025 Hosted by RC Pasay Metro Sunrise



DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Gov. Mary Mei Shootfest 2025 hosted by the Rotary Club of Pasay Metro Sunrise where responsible gun ownership was likewise conducted last September 28, 2025 at the Armscor Shooting Ranges in Marikina.

The event was held under the Peace Building and Conflict Prevention Area of Focus of Rotary.



INTERCLUB EVENT

Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Pasay Cyber City



DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Governor's Visit to the Rotary Club of Pasay Cyber City last September 30, 2025 at the SMX Mall of Asia, Pasay City.



DSG Hermie Esguerra and District House Committee SDG/Dir. Mike Albaña attended the Governor's Visit to RC Pasay Cyber City

Rotary Club of Pasay Cyber City's Induction & Turnover Ceremonies



DSG Hermie Esguerra conducted the Charging of the Board of Directors and Officers during the Induction and Turnover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay Cyber City last September 30, 2025.



DSG Hermie Esguerra attended the Induction and Turnover Ceremonies of the Rotary Club of Pasay Cyber City,





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543 Arquiza St. cor. Grey St.
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Tel. No. 8527-1885
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