



# Paglaurm

HOPE FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION



Issue No. 32 • 4 pages

April 2014

The official publication of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014 GRADUATES

Prof. Nene Pimentel, Chairman of the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance (standing) cites the importance of education as a means not only to improve one's lot, but more importantly, to be of service to others, to the community and to the nation. Also present was commencement guest of honor DOJ Secretary Leila De Lima, and other officials of the University of Makati, held on April 4, 2014.

### UMAK HOLDS COMMENCEMENT RITES

By Jay Dejaresco

The University of Makati held its 41st commencement exercises last April 2, 3, and 4 at the Umak Grand Theatre, with the theme "Trailblazing Innovations in the Philippine Education."

Justice Secretary Leila De Lima graced the ceremonies together with local officials of Makati City.

University President Prof. Tomas B. Lopez, Jr. led other professors and faculty, and department heads in recognizing the achievements of the students of the University.

He also announced the

*Turn to Page 2*

### Word from the Center

#### CONSCIENCE

Its been relied upon as the inner voice that guided the early Christian martyrs to die for their beliefs.

Also for the more recent Christian missionaries who dared to bring the word of God into forbidden lands.

Islam too would have its list of its believers who fought against "infidels" and who died believing in the promptings of their consciences.

In the country today,

perhaps, it can be said that the struggle for the liberation of one's conscience found vindication in the Supreme Court's recent ruling on the RH law.

Some legal observers conclude that the compulsory aspects of the RH Law have been removed by the decision.

For instance, the provision that compel doctors and hospitals to provide medication - no matter if abortifacient - to women in need has

*Turn to Page 2*

### PIMENTEL CITES VALUE OF EDUCATION

By Clarisse Aquino

In today's world, education is remains a well-nigh tool of upward mobility that can be ignored only at one's peril.

The importance of having an education was highlighted by Professor Aquilino Nene Pimentel when he addressed the graduates of the University of Cabuyao Laguna last April 11.

"Education is important because it gives you the power of critical understanding of the issues involved in our development as a nation," he stressed.

In addressing the new graduates, Pimentel said, "Your critical understand-

*Turn to Page 2*

**UMAK...From Page 1**

strides undertaken by his administration in its commitment to continually raise the standard of education.

“To be at pace with the fact changing landscape of the education system, the School of Continuing Professional Education (SCOPE) was established and it has proven to be a robust innovation,” Lopez announced.

This innovation received positive response not only from the academic personnel but also from the outside clientele due to the

novelty of its curricular design, Lopez said.

Lopez took pride in the gains of the university’s executive programs which have been effective in laying the groundwork for its success in the entire Philippines through the local governments.

He also disclosed that one of the strategies being adopted by the University is the blended learning that combines the best features of the traditional classroom with the power of the internet and the industry exposure through the Dualized Training System.

**PIMENTEL...**

From Page 1

ing of the issues involved in our country’s development should provide you with the wisdom to know what is most needed to overcome the problems of poverty, disease, ignorance, corruption, law and order and the threatened dominance of our country’s development by foreign interests.”

“Our people know that they or their children should have some kind of formal education to get out of the mire of poverty.” He said.

**Training vs. Education**

He also reminded the graduates that they have been equipped by the University not only with training, but education.

“Training,” as some academics have pointed out, merely teaches people how to “get along” within the existing social order, Pimentel explained.

“It marginalizes the critical side of education and therefore actually “disempowers people by reducing them to (be) ... mere instruments of labor,” he added

“If your University had merely given you training, our country may not have as much need for your presence here,” he said.



Prof. Nene Pimentel was guest speaker during the 10th Commencement Exercises at the University of Cabuyao. (April 11)

More important Pimentel, exhorted students to always do their best.

**Kindling of flame**

He expounded on the thoughts of the Greek philosopher Socrates who said that “Education is not the filling of a vessel, but the kindling of a flame.”

Pimentel explained that education is not meant to fulfill one’s selfish goals, but as a means to be able to care for and protect our surroundings, our society, and our nation.

He concluded by reminding the graduates that they should thank everyone who had helped them get to where they are.

Principally, those who had extended them generous assistance, their parents, other members of the family, their school and most important the Lord who made everything possible.

**Word... From Page 1**

been declared unconstitutional. So was the section of the law that required the teaching of sex education to children of school age without the need of their parents’ consent.

That is a good development.

Still, much has to be done by those who in conscience believe that it is not right for pharmacies to sell drugs that kill the unborn to just any Juan or Juana who may want to buy them.

And for the interested, the venue for the struggle has shifted from the Judiciary to the Legislature.

And there the voice of the Clergy AND the Laity must be heard. Not singly. But jointly. And starting from the parish.

For that is what an organized church is all about - shepherds and sheep.

Nowadays, though, the shepherds must listen to the discordant sounds emanating from the sheep, discern what’s beneficial from the useless, and guide them to pasture accordingly.

Otherwise, discord, not harmony, will be the rule of the day.

Nobody likes that, for sure.

**Paglaum**

The official publication of the Pimentel Center for Local Governance and the Pimentel Institute for Leadership and Governance

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# A TRUE STORY FOR NEW GRADS YOUNG PROS, and their Parents

By Bernie Lopez



The following message to the graduates is reprinted here with the kind permission of its author, who may be contacted at [eastwindreplyctr@gmail.com](mailto:eastwindreplyctr@gmail.com):

*I make you blind so you can see  
I bring you darkness  
so you can seek My light  
for it is in darkness  
that you begin to see the Light*

*when I was in New Jersey on a quick visit  
i met a Filipino single mother, Jessica  
who lived with her only son, Jason*

*Jessica hardly knew me  
I dropped by just to pick up something for  
my sister but it was as if we were friends  
from way back  
she was hungry to talk to someone as much  
as I was and so she began unraveling her  
life to me*

*Jason was the only son  
fatherless but rich because her mother  
had her own dental clinic*

*Jason was spoiled by her mom  
he had his own car  
she cooked for him  
he never washed dishes  
she could not even ask him  
to mow the lawn*

*It was the only way she knew  
how to pour her love for him  
he was her entire world*

*Jason was extremely bored with life  
Jessica could sense it  
he looked far away for hours  
to the horizon lost in thought  
Jessica kept asking the Lord  
what was His will  
what would He want Jason to be*

*she asked Jason if he wanted  
to try to get into Harvard  
for his masters and doctorate  
Jason was at the top in his class  
Jason frowned  
he wanted something different  
from what all other kids  
go through after college*

*Quite by accident Jessica's brother dropped by  
and told her how changed his daughter was*

*after being a peace corps volunteer for a year  
when Jessica suggested this to Jason  
he jumped on it because he was bored  
it was a chance to see the outside world  
in no time he was on his way to Guatemala*

*For the first time  
Jason saw the meaning of poverty and pain  
in their rawest form  
immersed in a marginal farm community  
coming from the luxury of home in the states  
he was shocked to see kids  
who did not even have shoes  
who would miss class because they had no food*

*fighting the discomfort of mosquito bites  
and learning to sleep on a hard bed  
Jason's heart started to open up  
for the first time in his life  
he realized how much power he had  
to change people and the world*

*sometimes you stumble on a rare opportunity  
you never thought was so golden  
until you taste the bittersweet experience  
**ALWAYS TAKE THE RISK TO GRAB SUCH  
GEMS**  
that may never come by again  
pray for discernment and think it over well  
the road less travelled by can offer magic  
beyond your comprehension and imagination*

*his six months in Guatemala was enough  
to change him forever  
he grew fond of the poor children  
when finally he had to go home  
he had silent tears  
as the children embraced him for the last  
time*

*coming home to new jersey  
the first thing Jason asked her mom  
was if she wanted him to mow the lawn  
Jessica fell into tears  
she knew Guatemala gave her a better son  
she knew the Lord answered her prayers  
things were never the same  
Jason was no longer a spoiled child*

*it takes awareness of suffering  
to awaken one's restless soul  
it took poverty to enrich Jason  
it took the darkness all around  
to make him realize that the light  
was inside him a long time ago  
he just ignored it*

*the Lord works in mysterious ways  
Jessica prayed for a career for his son  
the Lord gave it on a silver platter  
Jason would not exchange Guatemala  
for a doctorate decree at Harvard*

*it was the best thing  
that ever happened to him  
he found a 'career'*

*Jason did not make a quick decision  
what to do with himself  
but he knew it would come in time  
sometimes it is premature to dive into a career  
and change your mind later  
sometimes the best way to plan is not to plan  
for a while at least when your spirit is still  
fermenting*

*this is because the basis of career decisions  
is theoretical rather than experiential  
theoretical wisdom at Harvard  
could never match experiential wisdom  
in the ghettos of Guatemala*

*my advise to parents  
don't give your son a car as a graduation gift  
or a house as a wedding gift  
you are just enticing him more  
into the world of materialism  
that is plaguing our society today  
whose values destroy rather than build  
people  
intervene in your children's spirituality*

*perhaps an air ticket to somewhere  
would open his eyes and open his soul  
what better gift can you give  
more spiritual than material*

*do not seek to understand incomprehensible  
mysteries  
such as how and when the rain and wind  
will come  
you know not the work of the Lord*

*rather sow your seeds wherever you have land  
if you know not where the flood will fall  
let the Lord decide your fate and just do  
your part*

*Ecclesiastes 11:1-8 / eastwind*

*vanity of vanities, all things are vanity  
rivers go to the sea yet the sea is never full  
words are eloquent yet empty of meaning  
the eye is never satisfied, the ear hears a lot  
what is crooked cannot be made straightened  
what is missing cannot be supplied  
the greatest wisdom i have learned  
is that all wisdom is chasing the wind  
in much wisdom there is much sorrow  
he who strives for wisdom strives for grief*

*Ecclesiastes 1:1-8, 14-18*

*I am the Way and the Truth and the Life  
no one comes to the Father but through Me  
if you know Me  
then you know My Father*

*John 1:6-7*

# RECENT PICTORIAL EVENTS



Prof. Nene Pimentel (at the center) receives guests from Pasay City headed by Councilor Bel Petilla (April 2).



Meeting with Kapamahala Peoples Councils Advocates. (Standing L-R): Vangie Blanca, Ptr. Nate Yague, Rolando Montiel, Atty. Allan Contreras, Lucy Rocha, Rudy Laguna and Andy Rosales, (Seated) Brgy. Capt. Manny Guarin and Nene Pimentel (April 10).



Dr. Raymundo Arcega the newly appointed Executive Vice-President of University of Makati and also Resource Person of the University of Cabuyao delivers his message to the graduates during their Commencement Exercises (April 11).



Prof. Nene Pimentel receives a plaque of appreciation from University officials when he was guest speaker during the 10th Commencement Exercises at the University of Cabuyao. (April 11)



Nene Pimentel is the very first barber of the son of Prof. Raymond Rosuelo who was joined by his family members in the conference room of PILG. (April 23)



Nene and Bing Pimentel celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary April 30 together with family members Gwen and Luigi Gana and the latter's two daughters, Trina and Dominique, daughter Inde and Fr. Rey Adalid.