PAGKAKAISA LODGE NO. 282
Under the Jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful
Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines
Masonic District NCR-G

“UNITY AND SERVICE TO HUMANITY”

VW Arnel F. Pilapil, DGL
Lodge Secretary

WB Gabriel C. Comia, Jr.
Worshipful Master
PAGKAKAISA LODGE NO. 282
ACTIVITIES AND
ACCOMPLISHMENTS
JANUARY 2014
Lodge Activities

- January 11 - Installation of New Set of Officers for the ensuing year 2014

- January 11 - Awarding of Life Membership Certificates and Pins to the following Brethren:
  - VW Norberto A. San Mateo, PDGL
  - VW Isidro P. Banaria, PDDGM
  - VW Michael V Casipit, PDGL
  - VW Gerardo H. Luztre, PDGL
  - Bro Enrique S. Atanacio
  - Bro Josefino R. Trinidad
  - Bro Ramon L. Uy
ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER
WM GABRIEL C. COMIA, JR.

SENIOR WARDEN
BRO NOEL F. YUMUL

JUNIOR WARDEN
BRO NORWARE V. TAMBARA

TREASURER
VW HERBERT P. QUIMPO, CDGL

SECRETARY
VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL

AUDITOR
VW JORGE A. MANAOG, DGL

CHAPLAIN
BRO CESAR T. GERENTE

MARSHALL
BRO JOHN GLENN A. SIGUAN

SENIOR DEACON
BRO MARK ANTHONY A. PILAPIL

JUNIOR DEACON
BRO ROMMEL D. TRIJO

TREASURER
BRO CARMELO M. MENDOZA

SECRETARY
BRO ANTONY S. ALISING

AUDITOR
BRO ARNOLD C. DUGAS

CHAPLAIN
BRO BENJAMIN D. ILAGA

MARSHALL
BRO CRASSIUS C. PASCUAL

SENIOR DEACON
BRO ALLEN P. LEABAN

JUNIOR DEACON
BRO NORMAN A. ADRIANO

TREASURER
BRO RONILO R. CAPISPISAN

SECRETARY
WB FLORENDO F. REGIS

AUDITOR
VW ISIDRO P. BANARIA, PDDGM

COMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

CUSTODIAN OF WORK & RITUALS
WB ANDRES S. RAMOS

WAYS AND MEANS
VW ROSEADEL A. OCBINA, PJGS

YOUTH AND SPORTS
BRO SIMPLICIO R. YUTERO, JR.

TEMPLE AND BUILDING
BRO JOSEFINO TRINIDAD

PUBLICATION, LODGE RECORDS & ARCHIVE
VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL, DGL

DISTRICT GRAND LINE OFFICERS
MASONIC DISTRICT NCR-G

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
VW MANUEL LUIS P. IDQUIVAL

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS
VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL

VW EMMANUEL R. BRAVO

VW JOHNNY S. CAMBA

VW PERFECTO M. PASCUA

VW NORMAN T. TAGUM

VW JORGE A. MANAOG

DISTRICT GRAND LINE OFFICERS
MASONIC DISTRICT NCR-G

DISTRICT DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
VW MANUEL LUIS P. IDQUIVAL

DISTRICT GRAND LECTURERS
VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL

VW EMMANUEL R. BRAVO

VW JOHNNY S. CAMBA

VW PERFECTO M. PASCUA

VW NORMAN T. TAGUM

VW JORGE A. MANAOG

GRAND LODGE INSPECTOR
GABRIEL C. COMIA, JR.
WORSHIPFUL MASTER 2014
OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Attended the Multi District Convention at Grand Lodge of the Philippines
OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Attended MD –NCRG Meeting at JZMT
OTHER ACTIVITIES FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

King Solomon Lodge
No. 150 Installation

Muog Lodge No. 89 Installation
Lodge Activities

- February 14 – Stated Meeting
- Outreach Program at Sitio Makipot, Pulang Lupa, Las Pinas City
- Attended District Meeting at JZMT
- Past Master’s Caucus
“Handog Pagmamahal sa Kapwa” Outreach Program. Pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282 donated rice, groceries to the informal settlers by the river at Sitio Makipot, Pulang Lupa Las Pinas City.
MARCH 2014
LODGE ACTIVITIES

- Stated Meeting for the Month of March
- Past Master’s Caucus
- District Meeting
- Courtesy call with the Grand Master MW JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR. and Deputy Grand Master RW ALAN LM PURISIMA at the Grand Lodge of the Phil.
Courtesy call with the Grand Master MW JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR. and Deputy Grand Master RW ALAN LM PURISIMA at the GLP
Courtesy call with the Grand Master MW JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR. and Deputy Grand Master RW ALAN LM PURISIMA at the GLP
Courtesy call with the Grand Master MW JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR. and Deputy Grand Master RW ALAN LM PURISIMA at the GLP
Courtesy call with the Grand Master MW JUANITO G. ESPINO, JR. and Deputy Grand Master RW ALAN LM PURISIMA at the GLP
Past Master’s Caucus with Guest MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr at The Village Club
Past Master’s Caucus with Guest MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr at The Village Club
Past Master’s Caucus with Guest MW Juanito G. Espino, Jr at The Village Club
LODGE ACTIVITIES

- April 10  Past Master’s Caucus
- April 12  Stated Meeting Month of April
- April 24-26  98th Annual Communication
- April 25  Fellowship with Foreign Delegates
- April 28  Handog pagmamahal sa Kapwa Part 2
98th Annual Communication held at Mall of Asia SMX, Pasay City
98th Annual Communication held at Mall of Asia SMX, Pasay City
98th Annual Communication held at Mall of Asia SMX, Pasay City
APRIL 25

FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT LOLA INA’S RESTAURANT WITH FRANCIS DRAKE LODGE NO 376 OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AND THE GRAND MASTER’S REPRESENTATIVE GRAND CHAPLAIN LEONARD OAKES.
FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT LOLA INA’S RESTAURANT WITH FRANCIS DRAKE LODGE NO 376 OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AND THE GRAND MASTER’S REPRESENTATIVE GRAND CHAPLAIN LEONARD OAKES.
FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT LOLA INA’S RESTAURANT WITH FRANCIS DRAKE LODGE NO 376 OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AND THE GRAND MASTER’S REPRESENTATIVE GRAND CHAPLAIN LEONARD OAKES.
FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT LOLA INA’S RESTAURANT WITH FRANCIS DRAKE LODGE NO 376 OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AND THE GRAND MASTER’S REPRESENTATIVE GRAND CHAPLAIN LEONARD OAKES.
FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT LOLA INA’S RESTAURANT WITH FRANCIS DRAKE LODGE NO 376 OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AND THE GRAND MASTER’S REPRESENTATIVE GRAND CHAPLAIN LEONARD OAKES.
FELLOWSHIP DINNER AT LOLA INA’S RESTAURANT WITH FRANCIS DRAKE LODGE NO 376 OF SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA AND THE GRAND MASTER’S REPRESENTATIVE GRAND CHAPLAIN LEONARD OAKES.
Grand Line Officers of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines: From L-R Grand Treasurer MW Rudyardo Bunda, PGM; Deputy Grand Master RW Tomas G. Rentoy; Grand Master MW Alan La Madrid Purisima; Senior Grand Warden RW Voltaire T. Gazmin; Junior Grand Warden RW Abraham Tolentino; and Grand Secretary MW Danilo D. Angeles, PGM.
Pagkakaisa Lodge no. 282 donated goodies/rice for street children of Metro Manila thru Kaibigan Community Center Feeding Site, a non-government organization helping the less fortunate children. Photo: Bro Arthur Callanta, WM Gabriel C. Comia, Jr
May 2014
LODGE ACTIVITIES

- May 5  MD NCR-G  Turnover of District Officers
- May 10  Stated Meeting of May 2014
- May 17  3rd Degree Conferral upon Prosecutor Bernabe Augustus Coronado Solis & PSupt Ariel Rebancos Red
- May 24  1st Degree Conferral upon Lt Col Rommel Magleo and Muntinlupa PNP Glenn Quinay
- May 10  “Adopt a Student” Program – a scholarship grant for the Lodge caretaker high school’s son at St. Marks School
MD NCR-G TURNOVER OF OFFICERS FOR MY 2014-2015
PAGKAKAISA BRETHREN WHO WERE APPOINTED DISTRICT OFFICERS

VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL, DGL

VW JORGE A. MANAOG, DGL

WB FLORENDO F. REGIS, GLI

WB ORLANDO M.
Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, Prosecutor Bernabe Augustus Coronado Solis & PSupt Ariel Rebancos Red

1st Degree Conferral upon Lt Col Rommel Magleo and Muntinlupa PNP Glenn Quinay

MD NCR-G TURNOVER OF DISTRICT OFFICERS
Scholarship Grant to High School Student at St. Mary’s School
LODGE ACTIVITIES

- June 1  Pagkakaisa Lodge Family Summer Outing in VilBros Resort, Anilao Mabini, Batangas.
- June 2  District Meeting at JZMT
- June 12 Independence Day Celebration at Luneta Park
- June 14 Regular Monthly Stated Meeting Month of June
- June 14 Pagkakaisa Charter Day Celebration hosted by Birthday Celebrant VW Roseadel A. Ocbina, PGJS.
- June 14 Award of Pagkakaisa 20 year Pin to VW Fernando S. Rodas and VW Herbert P. Quimpo
- June 21 1st Degree Conferral upon Bro Karlo Cortez and Bro Camlon Nazdoman
- June 24 Outreach Program at Community Center for Transformation at Magdalena, Laguna
- June 24 Outreach Program at Community Center for Transformation at Bai, Laguna
- June 21 Recognition Award was given to Bro Arthur S. Callanta by WB Florendo F. Regis, GLI
June 1 Pagkakaisa Lodge Family Summer Outing in VilBros Resort, Anilao, Mabini, Batangas.

Thanks to Bro Oliver Villanueva the invitation to visit their place in Batangas where his brother serves as the Mayor of the town.
June 1

Pagkakaisa Lodge Family Summer Outing in VilBros Resort, Anilao, Mabini, Batangas. Thanks to Bro Oliver Villanueva the invitation to visit their place in Batangas where his brother serves as the Mayor of the town.
June 1 Pagkakaisa Lodge Family Summer Outing in VilBros Resort, Anilao, Mabini, Batangas. Thanks to Bro Oliver Villanueva the invitation to visit their place in Batangas where his brother serves as the Mayor of the town.
June 1 Pagkakaisa Lodge Family Summer Outing in VilBros Resort, Anilao, Mabini, Batangas. Thanks to Bro Oliver Villanueva the invitation to visit their place in Batangas where his brother serves as the Mayor of the town.
JUNE 12 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT LUNETA PARK
JUNE 12 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT LUNETA PARK
JUNE 12 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT LUNETA PARK
JUNE 12 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT LUNETA PARK
JUNE 12 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION AT LUNETA PARK
AWARDS

20TH YEAR PIN AWARD FOR VW HERBERT P. QUIMPO, CDGL

20TH YEAR PIN AWARD FOR VW FERNANDO RODA, PDGL

RECOGNITION AWARD FOR BRO ARTHUR S. CALLANTA GIVEN BY WB FLORENDO REGIS, GLI
OUTREACH AT PUYPOY, LAGUNA
OUTREACH AT MAGDALENA, LAGUNA
JULY 2014
LODGE ACTIVITIES

- **July 10**  Past Masters Caucus / VW Arnel F Pilapil Birthday Treat for the Month of July.

- **July 12**  Regular Monthly Stated Meeting Month of July. Dinner hosted by Birthday Celebrant VW Arnel F. Pilapil, DGL

- **July 10**  Past Master’s Caucus

- **July 5**  1st Degree Conferral upon Bro Jeffrey Kua Manlapaz

- **July 7**  District Meeting at Jacobo Zobel Masonic Temple presided by DDGM VW Manny Luis P. Idquival

- **July 12**  Joined the Outreach Program at Elsie Gaches Village, a project by MD NCR-G spearheaded by Muog Lodge No. 89. Brethren from Pagkakaisa who participated were VW Arnel F. Pilapil, WM Gabriel C. Comia, Jr., and Bro Mark Anthony A. Pilapil.
LODGE ACTIVITIES (CON’T)

- July 18  Blood Donor Recognition Day at St. Lukes Medical Center Global City, with VW Arnel F. Pilapil, DGL.
- July 18  Meeting
- July 19  Petitioners Orientation Forum at JZMT with VW Oliver S. Yabut, JGL & VW Manuel Luis P. Idquival, DDGM. Hosted by Hadji Abdul Bagui Razul Mem Lodge No. 393
- July 25  Meeting
ELSIE GACHES OUTREACH PROGRAM WITH MUOG LODGE
25TH YEAR PIN AWARD TO BRO TYRONE CHANCO AND BRO ENRIQUE S. ATANACIO
Blood Donor’s Recognition Day at St. Lukes Medical Center Global City on July 18, 2014 in recognition of the Bloodletting Program conducted by Pagkakaisa Lodge No, 282
MD NCR-G Petitioners Orientation Forum held at Jacobo Zobel Masonic Temple: From L-R: Genato, Guido; Ilaga, Alen; Andalan, Brian; WM Gabby; Decena, Francis; Amuguis, Dainis; EAM Jeff Manlapaz. Together with VW Arnel F. Pilapil and VW Jorge Manaog.
AUGUST 2014
BASKETBALL CLINIC FOR BELISARIO SUBD YOUTH FEATURING BRO ALI PEEK, PBA, TALK&TEXT CAGER. HE ALSO DONATED 15 PCS BASKETBALLS, JERSEYS, NET, WHILE THE OTHER BRETHREN REPAINTED THE COURT AND POST.
MONETARY AWARD TO JASON CHIBA FOR EXEMPLARY CONDUCT GIVEN BY VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL
25TH YEAR AWARD TO BRO TYRONE R. CHANCO
2ND Degree Conferral Upon Bro Glenn Quinay, Bro Karlo Cortez, and Bro Camlon Nazdoman on Aug 16, 2014
MD NCR-G District Convention on Aug 9, 2014
MD NCR-G District Convention on Aug 9, 2014
Pagkakaisa attended Bro Jandale Sulit’s Fathers Wake in Tagaytay City on Aug 12, 2014
1\textsuperscript{st} Degree Conferral Upon Dainis Amuguis, Guideon Genato and Francis Decena on Aug 23, 2014
DDGM’s CUP Basketball Tournament Opening on Aug 17 at Camp Aguinaldo Gym
Pagkakaisa Basketball 1\textsuperscript{st} Game Winner
NCR-G Sportsfest: Bowling, Billiard and Dart Tournament on August 24, 2014
Billiard
Dart Champion - Pagkakaisa Lodge No. 282
SEPTEMBER 2014

LODGE ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
SEPT 11, 2014  NCRG GOLF TOURNAMENT

PAGKAKAISA LODGE NO. 282 JOINED THE NCRG DISTRICT GOLF TOURNAMENT HELD AT VILLAMOR GOLF CLUB ON SEPT 11, 2014 PARTICIPATED BY VW ISIDRO P. BANARIA, VW FRED ESPINO, VW JORGE A. MANAOG, AND BRO LITO TABANGCURA.
September 13 Stated Meeting
Fellowship
September 13
Presentation of Masons Diploma
September 13 Testimonial Dinner
Ceremonial Toast
Testimonial Dinner
Certificate of Recognition and 15th Year Pin Award
September 13, 2014

Bro. Ernesto C. Torres, Jr.  
Colonel, Phil Army

Bro Efren P. Baluyot  
Colonel, Phil Army

Bro Rowen S. Tolentino  
Colonel, Phil Army
Testimonial Dinner
Certificate of Recognition
September 13, 2014

Bro Carlito U. Grijaldo
P/Supt, Phil Nat Police

Bro Marlo N. Solero
P/Cinsp, Phil Nat Police

Bro Medel R. Rafuson
P/Insp, Phil Nat Police
3RD Degree Conferral was conducted upon Bro Karlo Cortez, Bro Camlon Nazdoman, and Bro Glen Quinay
SEPT 20, 2014
THIRD DEGREE CONFERRAL

3RD Degree Conferral was conducted upon Bro Karlo Cortez, Bro Camlon Nazdoman, and Bro Glen Quinay
SEPT 26 – 27, 2014
NCR MULTI- DISTRICT CONVENTION AT AZIZA PARADIZE HOTEL, PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN
SEPT 26 – 27, 2014
NCR MULTI-DISTRICT CONVENTION AT AZIZA PARADIZE
HOTEL, PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN
AZIZA HOTEL, PALAWAN
2nd Degree Conferral upon: Bro Dainis Amuguis, Bro Jeffrey Kua Manlapaz, and Bro Francis Decena on October 4, 2014
2nd Degree Conferral OCT 4
2nd Degree Conferral Oct 4
OCTOBER 5, 2014
NCRG BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
CONTINUATION OF THE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT AMONG THE DISTRICT INTER LODGES.
OCTOBER 6, 2014
NCRG DISTRICT MEETING

PAGKAKAISA LODGE NO. 282 HOSTING THE NCRG DISTRICT MEETING AT PAGKAKAISA MASONIC TEMPLE
OCTOBER 11 STATED MEETING

2ND SATURDAY OF OCTOBER 2014
All MD NCR- G Worshipful Masters: We are now on the 2nd half of our Masonic Year 2014-2015 and may I request Worshipful Masters of Masonic District NCR G to ensure the following observations:

- a) Requested lodge dispensation as submitted by WM or Lodge Secretary once approved by DDGM and fee paid to GLP, a copy should be furnished to District Secretary. Please avoid that this dispensation request to be handled by any other lodge member specially when this would involve disputes or conflicts among brethren.

- b) Proficiency examinations should all be done in open lodge and during Lodge stated meeting and strict adherence on its procedural.

- c) On handling of petitioners / petitions: c.1. Petition fee should be fully paid before submission of the petitioner’s form to GLP; c.2. Investigation should be independently performed by 3- lodge members, preferably senior and knowledgeable on the procedural, unknown to petitioner, independently submitting separate reports, and favorably unanimous, for petitioner to be balloted; remember, this is our first line of defense to protect the fraternity and avoid entry of undesirable persons;
c.3. No petitioner should be invited by any brethren of the lodge in any unrelated Masonic activities, specially on fellowship outside of the lodge;
c.4. No favors should be asked from any petitioners like selling of raffle tickets, financial contributions, as driver for a brethren, etc.;
c.5. Proper handling of our petitioner will ensure that we would produce an upright and worthy member of the craft, with the gospel of the 3-basic tenets and 4-cardinal virtues of freemasonry in their heart and soul;
c.6. No conferral degree to be rendered unless fees as mandated by the lodge are fully paid.
c.7. These proceduralis are extensively discussed in our GM 2014-15 manual and just concluded 26-27 Sept 2014 NCR Multi- District Convention in the Masonic Lecture conducted by SGL VW Juanito B Vaño Jr. and non-adherence would be meted with unmasonic sanctions.

d) Election of our incoming 3-lights is a few months away from now and ensure that those to be elected have their proficiency and IMES compliance;
e) District's Lodges and its officers evaluations would be centered on our GM's MW Alan La Madrid Purisima directions as stated in this Masonic term 2014-2015 Manual

e.1. Brethren Harmony within and without the lodge

e.2. Handling of petitioners and petitioners

.3. Ritual / Conferral management-

* circulation

* investigation

* balloting

* payment of fees

* tried and proven

* proficiency examination

.4. Proficiency of officer

.5. District activities, projects participation and contribution


   adopt a school project; medical-dental missions; brethren & families gatherings like sportfest, outings, tree planting; clean-up drives, etc.

, (which could be done in conjunction with other Lodges and /or participation on District level)

.7. Reports submittal compliance to District and GLP (monthly and annually)

.8. Lodge management including its financial soundness and temple
f) Worshipful Masters to include in their stated meeting agenda reading of Section-2, Article II of the Uniform Code of By-Laws (Part III page 99 of Masonic Law Book Centennial Edition, 2012) starting this month of October until December wherein election of officers of subordinate lodges would be held and to quote:

"No member shall solicit for himself or for any other member of any Lodge any elective or appointive office in a Lodge, nor shall any electioneering, canvassing or soliciting of votes or support, for any member be allowed. Nominations of candidates for office shall not be made. A violation of this section shall be deemed unmasonic conduct and shall subject the offender to such discipline as the Lodge may determine. This section shall be read in open Lodge by the Master at the stated meetings of October, November and December of each year."

For your strict implementation.

Fraternally yours,

VW MANUEL LUIS P. IDQUIVAL, DDGM
MASONIC LECTURE
NCR MULTI DISTRICT CONVENTION
PUERTO PRINCESA, PALAWAN
SEPTEMBER 27, 2014

Presented by:
VW Oliver V. Yabut
Junior Grand Lecture, NCR
Good Afternoon, Brethren and welcome to the very relaxing City of Puerto Princesa.

Our Senior Grand Lecturer VW Juanito Vano is scheduled speak to you today. Unfortunately, he is unable to leave in time due to a scheduled Congressional presentation today on the PNP budget of which he is in charge. And so as I am the Junior Grand Lecturer for the NCR, he has directed me instead to render to you a lecture on some of the important esoteric teachings of our craft.

Now, to begin with, let me ask you this: What is the ultimate purpose of Freemasonry? Easy. We all know that Freemasonry’s chief purpose is to make good men better. The main goal of freemasonry then is to build and develop the minds and the courage and character of Masons to make them different from other kind of man.

Freemasonry aims to exhibit to the world at large that in the turbulent surroundings of man, in very competitive dog-eat-dog world, in the midst of extreme materialism, in, in the face of perennial man made conflicts, violence and wars that erupt every now and then among nations, among men of different cultures and religions, there exists a distinct group of men of different background, religion and persuasions, who, despite individual divergence or differences, are at peace among themselves, and who by the strength of their character, strive to live constantly in true friendship and harmony. Those men are called Freemasons and those men are us.

Let me go to another question? Why did we join Freemasonry? The answer, of course, vary from one mason to another. Primarily, we joined Freemasonry because we are attracted to its ideals. Our basic proposition is that when a good man joins Freemasonry, he acknowledges his imperfect nature and therefore he consciously and voluntarily submits himself to embrace the idea of changing for the better. Why? Because it is said that Man has a dualism – he has a lower and higher nature and too often the lower nature prevails over the higher nature because of the weak character of man. Freemasonry therefore undertakes the task of elevating mankind through the strengthening of character of the individual, so as to improve each mason.

All masons are supposed to be good and true and that is the first lesson taught us in Freemasonry. And the foremost and simplest manifestation of a good and true mason is this: He consistently exhibits exemplary conduct and good behaviour – that is: ideal behaviour inside the lodge and outside the lodge, good behaviour among the brethren, good behaviour among strangers, good behaviour with his family, in his office, in his business and profession. As masons, we are therefore called upon to always regulate our conduct, avoiding hypocrisy and deceit; truly, sincerity and plain dealings are traits that ought to distinguish us.

But the sad reality is this: there is a disturbing tendency among some masons to exhibit bad behaviour inside and outside the lodge. (Not many, of course, just a few – although you will agree that a single bad mason is one too many already). How often do we see ugly in-fighting inside the lodge? Why do some masons carry on petty quarrels among themselves? Why do we let our passions prevail just to prove a point? Or fight without honor just to attain positions of prominence in the craft? In our major conventions and elections, there are masons who forget elementary rules of civility and rather than be guarded in words and actions, descend down to the level of traditional politicians and their gutter politics. Masons are supposed to be
are worthy of our calling and therefore behave in a manner expected of good and true men.

But let's face it brethren. If you accept the proposition that man is imperfect, then you have accept the notion that there is a little devil that lurks inside every man, no matter how generally good he is, and that is true even to those who call themselves masons.

And so how does Freemasonry deal with this? When those few good men manage to enter its fold, the craft of course charges them to practice steady obedience to the tenets of Freemasonry.

Next, the brethren are constantly presented and bombarded at every opportunity with powerful, time tested, tried and proven tools designed to impart upon them important lessons for an ideal and correct way of life. These powerful lessons are contained in our various symbols and rituals. And the failure by individual masons to fully understand these lessons often lead to his failure to act in a truly Masonic manner.

For our purpose today, let us dwell into the significance of our Masonic rituals. This is not to say that emphasis is given more on rituals over our symbols. It is just that it will take an entire Masonic course to adequately cover the meanings of our various symbols. However, let me just take up one powerful symbol – the point within a circle. This symbol is relatively obscure and receives less prominence in our craft compared to other popular ones. Operative masons use this as a tool to test a perfect square. In our craft, it is a symbol of control of conduct. You will recall the lecture in our ritual. The point represents a brother, the circle the boundary line of his conduct, beyond which he should never let his passions, his prejudices, his pride, his bias, or selfless interest to get the better of him. In other words, consciously contain your own devils within this circle, keep your baser instincts in check, be always conscious of what is right and wrong, and in doing so you will never materially err.

Now back to rituals. This is appropriate because the prescribed Masonic topic for this month is Ritual Management and Masonic Protocol.

Masonic ritual is the very basis of Freemasonry. Without ritual, we would not have Freemasonry as we know it. Yet it is incorrect to say that our fraternity is the only organization that has a ritual system because ritual seems to be part of all human experience. College fraternities have their own ritual; all church denominations have theirs; private clubs have them; the military has them too. But the rituals of Freemasonry have a much deeper significance which will not be readily apparent to strangers.

Picture this if you will, brethren. If you happen to observe the rituals practiced by other non-masonic groups, chances are you can relate to them. On the other hand, should a cowan or an eavesdropper or an outsider happen to observe our ritual, he would probably think it as silly movements with strange incantations of words and phrases. For our peculiar set of ritual, as he sees it, would be absolutely meaningless to him. I hate to think that a mason may feel the same thing, but it may be possible if he chooses to be unschooled in our craft.

Why is it that some of us are better in rituals than others? Why is it that not all members of a lodge are proficient in our rituals? Why is it that even masons of long standing seem to perform our rituals for the first time?

Because unwittingly, some of us merely take our rituals for granted; some of us merely accept them as essential routines of freemasonry without actually understanding them and thus we just go through the motions without knowing their significance. Brethren, it is high time for us to completely change our attitude and view our rituals with the highest importance that they deserve. There are specific meanings behind our every ritual. We should all strive to understand and know the significance of the rituals.
illustrated by constant repetition thru our rituals; and it is when masons apply them to their daily lives that helps turn them into better individuals.

Now, it is incorrect to say that as Master Masons, we should just concentrate on the rituals of the third degree. The rituals of all degrees are essential parts of the totality of all full-fledged masons and all is equally important. Truly, the whole internal structure of Masonic ritual is for the more noble and glorious purpose of setting forth some principle of life, some philosophy, some aspect of character building.

Let us review some of the important ones (not in the order of importance).

1. The Rite of Opening and Closing a Lodge

There is always a formal opening and closing ceremonies of all our lodges. This is to signify orderliness and the seriousness we place upon our business. It reminds us to treat our rituals and fraternal duties with the dignity and respect that they merit. It marks our dedication to the Craft and to making the Lodge a place to work out the true purposes of Masonry.

In it, we pray to acknowledge our subservience to a Divine Being because nothing can be achieved without the blessing of God. In it, we walk in square to remind us to always square our actions in all walks of life. In it, we pay homage to the flag to instill in us the allegiance and duty we owe to our country. In it, we observe equality among men – one man, one voice - yet still maintain the rules of subordination. And inside the lodge, we speak with civility and act with decorum.

These are lessons applicable to our daily lives and there are so many more as will be found in our degree rites.

2. The Rite of Petitioning

The moment a man petitions a lodge, a common yet informal ritual is already performed. Of course, you are lectured on, given insights, allowed to observe some of the workings of the lodge. But primarily you were made to do various menial tasks for the lodge. It is not for the sake of making a ‘chimoy’ out of you but to impress upon you from the very beginning that Freemasonry is all about personal service – a service that cannot be delegated. Observe that we are descended from men whose duty is to render skilled labor. Hence, no matter your stature in life, in Masonry you must accept willingness to do labor, both physical and mental, so as to prepare you to always serve your fellow men. For that matter, masonry abhors indolence and those who exhibit laziness, apathy or lack of concern, or lack of willingness to help will have and should have no place in our craft.

3. The Rite of Salutation

The rite of salutation - in our ritual, involves the candidate saluting each station in turn. In open lodges, it consists of saluting the Master, a recognition of the authority of the Master and the principal officers of the lodge and a member’s submission to the will and pleasure of the Master. It also emphasizes a Mason’s respect for and obedience, not only to lodge officers, but to all just and duly constituted authorities. You will recall the charge given during our installation ceremonies – to always maintain respect to civil magistrates, etc. And each time we salute, we execute our signs. And each time we do the signs, it is to manifest that we have sworn duties, obligations to perform and promises to keep - all of which we are reminded never break on pain of self-imposed penalties.

4. The Rite of Discalceation

Plucking the shoe, was the ancient Israelitish custom “for to confirm all things,” as the Book of Ruth has it. In olden times, when a man took off his shoe when redeeming or changing, or making any kind of contract, this is his testimony that he would not run away from his obligation. In our craft, this is to signify to us that a mason will not back out of his promise in all his dealings. Hence, a mason always pays his debts. And so, when a mason closes a business with a hand shake, this should be equivalent to a contract already.

It has also a significance beyond testimony or sincerity. ‘Put off thy shoes from off thy feet for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground’, was God’s instruction to Moses. It is an ancient custom to remove shoes when entering any holy place. Remember that in our lodges, we have invoked the presence of God and dedicated our work to Him.
Discalceation is thus, masonically, not only a rite of testimony of sincerity but one of reverence.

5. The Rite of Destitution
The divesting of all minerals and metals; or when we were neither naked nor clad is to remind us that Masonry regards no one on account of his worldly wealth and honor. Divesting of all minerals and metals is to remind him that material possession is not what counts in life.

Take away all your titles and material possessions – what will be left is the individual’s character and personality – your naked value. It emphasizes the concern of Freemasonry with a man’s internal worth rather than with his position, wealth of power.

6. The Ritual of the Cabletow
The ritual of placing the cabletow signifies the restraints by which a man is controlled by others, or by forces outside himself. When this cord is cut, it is replaced by a stronger bond – the Mystic Tie of Brotherly Love. With its removal, you have placed yourself under an obligation to Freemasonry. At the same time, the Fraternity has placed itself under obligation to you – that is to train and teach you to be of more service to your fellowmen. The cable tow is also a symbol of a vow to assist a brother because of your connection to each other. Now, if the cord of each mason were tied around the world, it becomes the mystic tie of brotherhood which no earthly power could break.

7. The Rite of Perambulation
The rite of perambulation is the ceremony of walking around the lodge room, an allegorical act with many meanings. One of these is that Masonic life, as in real life, is a life of progressive journeys, from station to station of attainment. It represents the toilsome progress of humanity and that man must be able to advance from one journey to the next. Walk with God, walk with a purpose, travel toward your own success, but always remember the important things in life, because in the circle of life, you will always return to whence you came.

8. The Rite of Submitting to a Sworn Obligation
The rite of undertaking a sworn obligation signify the nature and place of obligation in human life. An obligation is a tie, a contract, a pledge, a promise, a vow, a duty that is voluntarily assumed obligations to God, to our families, to employers or employees, to friends and neighbours, and fellow masons. It means that a Mason can be depended upon to fulfil his obligations, that a mason’s word is law, and that when he gives a promise or undertaking, it will not be violated.

Again, this is not a ‘blood oath’ which contravenes a man’s religious belief. Note that in most vocations, specific oaths are being administered and so you have oaths of office for government officials, doctors, lawyers, etc. Our oath is not in any way different as it presents a formal and solemn promise to do and not to do certain acts. What is peculiar about it is the recital of penalties. But we all know that these are merely symbolic and dramatizes the severe reprehensions a man should feel for violating what he has sworn to do.

But a word of advise. Our obligation is worded for emphasis’ sake, and not meant only for our craft, but to be extended to our private lives as well insofar as practicable. So when you say that you will not cheat, wrong or defraud a lodge or a mason, it doesn’t mean that you can cheat others not of this class. Or when you vow to be protectors of chastity of certain class of women, it doesn’t mean that all others not mentioned are fair game.

9. The Rite of Investing the Apron
The investing of apron is to signify to you that from then on, you are committed to a life of purity and a rectitude of conduct. By wearing it, you are always reminded to practice loyal obedience to the laws of the craft and observe sincere good will to the brethren; as the badge of a mason, it signifies that Masons are workers and builders and not destructionists. Please cultivate the idea that you wear the apron not only
in the lodge. A mason and his apron are one. Know that you represent the craft even in your private dealings as well so you must act as if the apron is always girded in your person.

10. The Ritual of the Working Tools

The presentation of the working tools - signifies those moral and spiritual virtues, habits and forces by which a man reshapes the crude and stubborn materials of his nature and adjusts himself to the requirements of human society. To become a Mason, a man who has lived planlessly, carelessly, without aims or ideals, must learn to systematize his life as signified by the 24 inch gauge. If he has temper, bad habits of speech, or defects of character that disturb or injure others, he must rid himself of these imperfection, just like a common gavel is used to rid rough stones of defects to fit it to a builder’s use. You were presented with a Trowel to remind you that it is your duty to spread brotherly love and friendship indiscriminately.

11. The Ritual of the Second Degree

Still, there are many more. The Ritual of the Second Degree emphasizes the value of education and that we should make learning a life-long endeavour across a broad range of subjects because man must be freed from the shackles of ignorance which create bondage in men. Freemasonry is concerned with the attainment of wisdom, and wisdom could only be attained through education and experience.

12. The Ritual of the Third Degree

The Ritual of the Third Degree presents the drama of Hiram Abiff. The great work in the temple that Hiram was engaged in is symbolic of the work all men do daily. The enemies he encountered – greed, jealousy and selfishness are the same enemies we constantly encounter in our daily lives and thus we are reminded not to succumb to them.

It will take an entire course to impart all the symbolic lessons of life imparted by the legend of Hiram. These include Perseverance, Love of Mankind, Courage, Patience, Devotion to God, Fortitude, Justice, Fidelity to a trust and the Immortality of Man. But let me emphasize the lesson of maintaining integrity – even in the face of death – an ideal which we are all taught to emulate.

Brethren, it really takes time, effort, dedication and constant practice to perfect our ritual – the floor works, the movements, and the dialogues. But that is another aspect altogether. I say to you that we will be a better ritualist if we all seek to realise the significance of what we are doing. When we know that everything we do, everything we say, is meaningful, then our ritual will be worthwhile. When we believe that what we are doing is worthwhile, then we will apply ourselves to the practice of our ritual with more vigor and enthusiasm.
And so for my final word today, let me leave you with this thought:

- A mason who still does not know his ritual is nevertheless a mason. You can call him bro.

- One who can just execute the Masonic rituals correctly each time is a proficient mason. You can call him My Worthy Brother Sir.

- But one who can both execute the rituals correctly and impart them with full understanding of their meaning is a Master Mason in the truest sense of the word. You can call him IDOL.

- Let us learn our rituals well and let us create more Idols in our lodges.

- Thank you and good afternoon.

VW OLIVER V. YABUT, JGL
OCTOBER 2014

LODGE ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENT
OCTOBER 11

STATED MEETING
DONATION OF AUSTRALIAN APRON FOR PAGKAKAISA MUSEUM BY BRO ARTHUR CALLANTA AND VW JORGE A MANAOG
OCTOBER 19

CON’T OF BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT
OCTOBER 24

LODGE OF REMEMBRANCE TO HONOR AND REMEMBER DEPARTED BRETHREN WHO DIED DURING THE PRECEDING YEAR WAS CONDUCTED AT JZMT MAKATI CITY. PAGKAKAISA VW LORETO R. VILLANUEVA, PAST MASTER 2001 WAS INCLUDED.
OCTOBER 25

3RD DEGREE CONFERRAL UPON BRO DAINIS ORTEGA AMUGUIS, BRO FRANCIS UY DECENA, AND BRO JEFFREY KUA MANLAPAZ.
NOVEMBER 6

PAST MASTER’S CAUCUS
TREE PLANTING PROGRAM
BY DISTRICT NCRG
Message during the Tree Planting Activity by Kagitingan Lodge No. 286 and other Lodges on Nov 15, 2014 at Plaza Mexico, Intramuros, Manila, by

VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL, DGL

Mga pinagkakapitagang kapatid sa iisang Diyos, magandang umaga po sa inyong lahat!

Kami po ay taos pusong nagpapasalamat sa pagbibigay ninyo ng pagkakataong ito upang makibahagi sa makabuluhang gawain dito sa Intramuros. Tayo po ngayon ay binigkis ng tadhana at bugtong na adhikain, ang kumalinga sa kalikasan at pangalagaan ang istrakturang naging dambana ng ating makulay na kasaysayan.

Habang binabagtas po namin ang daan tungo dito, gabay po namin ang luhang bakas ng sakripsyos at pighati ng mga naulila, ang kinang ng mga gulok na tigmak ng dugo at ang ningas ng punglo na kumitil sa ating pambansang bayani, si Gat. Jose Rizal. Dito po sa makasaysayang lupaing ito ay sumasariwa sa ating alaala ang kabayanihan ng ating mga ninuno na nagbuwis ng buhay para sa Kasarinlan na ating tinatamasa ngayon.

Kung magkagayon, marapat at matuwid na pagyabungin natin ang hinirang na kapaligirang ito na ating kinatatayuan!

Ibig ko pong samantalahan ang pagkakataon na ipabatid sa inyo kung bakit

Dahil po dito, ibig ko na din pong ipag bigay alam sa inyo na ang ipinamalas na kabayanihan ng Kapatid na Rizal ay may kaugnayan sa kanyang pagtalima at tugon sa aral ng aming institusyon.

Ito ay patungkol sa tatlong natatanging baitang tungo sa kandungan ng Diyos at kaharian ng Langit. Ang tinutukoy ko po ay FAITH IN GOD o ang PANANAMPALATAYA SA DIYOS , HOPE OF IMMORTALITY o ang PAG_ASAM SA BUHAY NA WALANG HANGGAN at CHARITY FOR ALL MANKIND o PAGKAKAWANG GAWA SA SANGKATAUHAN.

Para sa aming mga mason ang pananampalataya at pag asam sa buhay na walang hanggan ay may katapusan subalit ang pagkakawang gawa ay papaimbulog, hindi malilimot at walang hanggan san kayat tayo ay tanghalin ng alabok sa pagsapit ng takdang panahon. At ayon sa aral na ito, ang kapatid na Rizal ay nag alay ng kanyang tanging buhay para sa inang bayan kayat magpa-hanggang ngayon ay buhay ang kanyang alaala at nag aalab sa ating mga puso at diwa...... ang kanyang ultimong kawang gawa para sa ating lahi.

Kaya bilang alay, ang mga punlang puno na ating itinaninim ay hindi lang po
Kaya bilang alay, ang mga punong puno na ating itinanim ay hindi lang po magpapaganda ng tanawin, magpalamig sa simoy ng hangin, aagapay sa kalinisan at kaayusan ng ating kalikasan bagkus ang mga punong ito ay magsisilbing bantayog ng ating tugon, ulirang pagkakaisa at pagkilala bilang maharlikang lahi sa iisang inang bayan at sisimbulo sa ibayo at marubdom nating pagmamahal, pagpapahalaga at pagbibigay pugay sa mga bayaning nagbuwis ng buhay paa kalayaan ng ating bansang Pilipinas at magsilbing pamana sa ating mga susunod na saling lahi.

Muli, maraming salamat po at magandang umaga sa inyong lahat!
TREE PLANTING ACTIVITY
NOVEMBER 30

BONIFACIO DAY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
DECEMBER 6
BLOOD LETTING CEREMONY WITH ST. LUKES
BLOOD LETTING PROGRAM
WITH ST. LUKE'S MEDICAL CENTER
SPEARHEADED BY J.W. NORWARE TAMBARA

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2014
TIME: 8:00 AM
WHERE: PACARAISA Lodge No. 262

WB GABRIEL L. COMIA, JR.
WORSHIPFUL MASTER

BRO. JOSE TAMBALA
REPRESENTATIVE
PAGKAKAISA LODGE NO. 282
UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND LODGE
OF THE FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS OF THE PHILIPPINES

BLOOD LETTING PROGRAM
WITH ST. LUKES MEDICAL CENTER
SPEARHEADED BY JW NORWARE TAMBARA

WHEN: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014
TIME: 800 HRS
WHERE: PAGKAKAISA MASONIC TEMPLE

WB GABRIEL C. COMIA, JR.  BRO NOEL F YUMUL
WORSHIPFUL MASTER    SENIOR WARDEN
ELECTED OFFICERS YEAR 2015

WM ELECT BRO NOEL F. YUMUL
SW ELECT BRO NORWARE V. TAMBARA
JW ELECT BRO MARK PILAPIL
TREAS VW HERBERT P. QUIMPO, CDGL
SEC VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL, DGL
AUDITOR VW JORGE A. MANAOGR
HARMONY OFFICER VW ISIDRO P. BANARIA, PDDGM
Dec 21, 2014
MD NCRG CHRISTMAS PARTY
SPONSORED BY MUNTINLUPA LODGE UD
INSTALLATION OF ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICERS

JANUARY 10, 2015
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
THANK YOU AND FRATERNAL GREETINGS FROM PAGKAKAISA LODGE NO. 282

VW ARNEL F. PILAPIL          WB GABRIEL C. COMIA, JR.
Lodge Secretary                 Worshipful Master