

## A TRIBUTE TO A BEDAN ICON

### **ARTURO DELA ROSA MACAPAGAL**

*(GS'54, HS'58, BSC MANAGEMENT 1968)*

*by Joffre M. Alajar*



What can San Beda College say when it loses one of its outstanding sons? Surely, words are never adequate to express one's emotions especially of grief and pain.

We know that mere words can do little to ease the terrible pain of losing a loved one; but perhaps **Mam Mariter**, three (3) kids (**Alex, Andrei, Maria Elizabeth**) and other family members can take some measure of comfort in the knowledge that many people whose lives were touched by Arthur, share the burden of your grief.

On his passing away, we affirm our admiration for Arthur, and we pledge that we shall continue to love him by remembering him and all that he believed in, and all that he gave his life for, and by continuing the deeds that death kept him from completing. For some of us, we never had the opportunity to work closely with Arthur, but seeing his family today, and the people whose lives he had touched, we know Arthur had done a superb job. Undeniably, a good number of Filipinos must have come across this legendary person.

When a great person like Arthur is taken away from us, the most precious legacy that he can leave us is the work that he had left undone. For if we commit ourselves to continuing it and bringing it to full accomplishment, we somehow share in his greatness, in his vision, his dedication, and his very person.

One school organization that was truly close to the heart of Arthur was the San Beda College Alumni Association. It was in 2008 when his high school class 1958 came back to San Beda College to organize the Adventus Christmas concert in time for his class'58 golden jubilee.

We affirm our admiration for Arthur by also signifying our gratitude for all that he was to us and for all he did for us. For us in the Bedan community, he will eternally be a Bedan icon and during his lifetime, he lived well the Benedictine ideals of *pax, ora et labora* (peace, prayer & work) and the Bedan values of *scientia* (knowledge), *fides* (faith) and *virtus* (virtues). He was a faithful Bedan (*GS'54, HS'58, CAS'68*), an exemplar of initiative, concern and commitment, and a truly servant leader. Because he was a true loving person, he was eminently lovable.

With Arthur no longer among us, we affirm our hope in ourselves, hope for a world that seems to lose something good and precious, when someone of moral stature passes away. When a person who excels in goodness is taken away from us, we feel that something of goodness is irretrievably lost. Yet we must affirm our hope in our capacity for goodness.

We must affirm our hope that there will still be people like Arthur who will come not only from his generation but also from those who are still young, and from those who are still to be born.

So in faith, love and hope, we cannot really say farewell to Arthur, but welcome him into our lives as our inspiration.

The Distinguished Arthur Macapagal Professorial Chair in Business and Economics which he established in San Beda College in 2005 will surely keep his Bedan spirit alive.

Thank you again, Arthur. We, will always remember you in a special way as a truly great Bedan.

May your soul eternally rest in peace. You've done your job and have done it truly well.