

MESSAGE OF FATHER RECTOR  
LAW ALUMNI HOMECOMING  
November 17, 2010, Club Filipino

His Excellency President Benigno “Noynoy” Aquino III, Hon. Secretary Leila de Lima and Justices of the Supreme Court, Dr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, Chairman of the Board, San Beda College Manila, Atty. Avelino Cruz, Chairman, San Beda Law Alumni Association, Atty. Jonas Cabochan, President, San Beda College Alumni Association, Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan, President, San Beda College Alumni Foundation, Dean Virgilio Jara, Dean of the San Beda College of Law, Fellow Benedictine fathers, school administrators, faculty members, jubilarians, fellow Bedans, guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with profound joy and pride to be among a distinguished group of Bedans, with His Excellency President Benigno Aquino III and our highly revered Justice Secretary Leila de Lima in our midst.

The San Beda Law Alumni Association chaired by Atty. Avelino Cruz amazes me to no end whenever they are to stage an event as important as what we have for tonight. With all the preparations to ensure the success of tonight’s gathering, I am very confident that this Bedan affair will be overflowing with meaning and significance not only to our alumni and the San Beda College of Law, but moreso to our entire nation.

A homecoming event is usually a joyous occasion to reminisce in bits of nostalgia one’s good old school days. It is also the most appropriate time to honor the alumni/ae who made a big difference in the life of our country. I am glad that amid the merry-makings that this gathering produces, the San Beda Law Alumni Association has not forgotten to honor Bedans, both living and dead, who have lived exemplary lives in the service of God and country.

Last September 2010, the Bedan Community was saddened by the tragic grenade blast incident after the bar examinations where most of the injured were our Bedan female law students. We are glad that the SBC Law Alumni Association thought of dedicating also this homecoming event to them. Glad to see also a number of them in tonight’s gathering. Truly, your homecoming theme: “Bedista: Sa Pagsubok Nagkakaisa” is very apt, for Bedans feel a strong sense of unity especially in the most trying of times.

Reunions such as this should also remind our alumni of about-to-be-forgotten ideals and values learned during your many years of stay in San Beda College. For these timeless Benedictine ideals and Bedan values of integrity, honesty, and servant leadership are what our country needs now more than ever.

Tonight, we remember also with fondness and grateful hearts two great Filipino leaders of our times – Ninoy and Cory who both underwent formative education in Benedictine schools in the Philippines. Ninoy graduated from San Beda High School (Class of 1948) while Cory went to St. Scholastica's College. May their good lives and self-sacrifices inspire us all to work for the greater good of our country and people.

Tonight also, we gather hope and inspiration from our new President. Being an offspring of Ninoy and Cory, great Filipinos as they were, President Noynoy will surely make a good leader, as this is our countrymen's longing for the past many years now.

And so when the San Beda Law Alumni Association endorsed a proposal to adopt President Noynoy as a Bedan, the San Beda College Board of Trustees, chaired by Dr. Manuel V. Pangilinan, unanimously approved the proposal – for we know we made the right choice. And so President Noy, aside from claiming that you are a Blue Eagle, you can now claim that you are also a Red Lion! And who can beat that combination – a blue eagle that can soar really high – and a red lion – sturdy and courageous, to meet the many challenges of leading our country to greater heights of progress and development.

President Noy, your Bedan family is one with you in hope and in prayer for good governance for a better Philippines. With great Bedans working with you led by your feisty and incorruptible Secretary Leila de Lima, we are confident that our country is in good hands. Our wish Mr. President is for you to have in your cabinet more good Bedans like Secretary de Lima who will move the country forward to even greater heights of excellence and service. After all, the Red Lions are used to survive the jungle out there.

Thank you, Mr. President, welcome to the Bedan family and hope to be with you in future San Beda College events.

Sa inyong lahat, isang masaya at mapagpalang gabi.  
Mabuhay si Presidente Aquino.  
Mabuhay ang San Beda Law Alumni Association.

Mabuhay ang mga Bedista.