



FOR  
**THE EDIFICATION**  
OF GOD'S NATION

Executive Minister conducts Pastoral Visitation and Ordination  
in Pasay, Metro Manila South, Philippines



**P**ASAY, NOVEMBER 1913—in a house along Ochoa Street, Brother Felix Y. Manalo stayed in a room for three days in seclusion, with neither food nor sleep, to seek the truth written in the Bible. He emerged from that seclusion fully convinced that God commissioned him to carry out His work of salvation in these last days. God's Messenger then traveled, preaching the words of God, and eventually crossed the Pasig River to

reach Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila, leading to the establishment of the first local congregation of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* (Church Of Christ) in 1914.

In 1920, Brother Felix sent three ministers to Pasay to preach the gospel and to convince more people to join the Church. This resulted in the establishment of the Pasay congregation, which steadily grew in membership and eventually had its own house of worship. To meet the spiritual

needs of the increasing membership, a bigger worship building was built for the congregation which was dedicated to the Lord God on November 30, 1955 through a worship service officiated by the Messenger himself, Brother Felix Manalo.

About 58 years later, this worship building underwent a major renovation and was rededicated to the Almighty God on March 22, 2013.

### **Carrying on the mission**

Almost a hundred years after God's work of salvation in these last days began, it continues on as more and more people join the Church. This can be seen in the increasing number of ecclesiastical districts and local congregations being established around the world. Further evidence of this growth is the numerous worship buildings and properties that the Church has either constructed or acquired for the glory of the Almighty Father.

With these unstoppable developments in the Church, the need to intensify edification of the members also arises. To meet this pressing need, the Lord God continues to place servants who will take care of the brethren's spiritual welfare. By means of the Church Administration, the Almighty God commissioned 60 more ministers to help the Church Administration in providing for the spiritual needs of the Church members. They received the laying on of hands by the Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, during a worship service held in the local congregation of Pasay, Metro Manila South on April 26, 2013.

This ordination was the fourth this year and the thirtieth since Brother Eduardo began presiding over the administration of the Church in 2009. From January to April of

this year, 240 were added to the ministerial force, bringing to 1,984 the number of ministers ordained since January 2010.

### Having utmost devotion to God

Preaching from the Bible, the Executive Minister emphasized that as servants of the Lord God, members of the Church Of Christ should be active in all works for the Lord. Active Church members can be identified by their great devotion to the Lord God, a devotion that reaps benefits in all things, both in this life and in the life to come (I Tim. 4:8). Brethren who are active always immerse themselves in many Church activities, because they firmly believe that this does not go to waste (I Cor. 15:58).

Therefore, active members of the Church do not limit their services to God with just regularly attending the worship services. They are busy participating in all the activities of the Church, such as edifying one another and propagating the faith. Just as Apostle Paul encouraged the early Christians to remain completely obedient to the commandments of the Lord God, the Executive Minister does the same today (Heb. 10:36-37).

Because our service to God is likened to a race, Brother Eduardo enjoined all members of the Church to run their best, denying themselves many things that can distract them from running straight towards the finish line (I Cor. 9:24-26). The overall Church leader reminded everyone that, at the end of the race, the prize of everlasting life awaits those who will reach the finish line (Phil. 3:14).

### The worship gathering

Prior to the teaching of the lesson, the congregational prayer was led by Brother Israel U. Flores. After the preaching of the Executive

Minister, Brother Dan V. Orosa led the congregation in prayer. Afterwards, the 97-member all-male choir solemnly sang 'Alagaan Mo Ang Kawan' (Tend the Fold of Christ), the lyrics of which was written by the late Sister Pilar Manalo-Danao, the Church's first choir directress and daughter of God's Messenger.

Before the laying on of hands, Brother Radel G. Cortez administered the oath-taking of the ordinands. As they lined up, the ordinands knelt down in pairs as their names were read by Brother Bienvenido C. Santiago, and they received the laying on of hands by the Executive Minister. Afterwards, Brother Armando F. Ernie led the congregation in prayer. Brother Ernesto V. Suratos led the prayer for the voluntary offerings. Brother Eduardo himself said the benediction.

### Strengthened conviction

One of the ordainees, Brother Joseph Fadrilan, shared how he felt, "My family and I are very happy and thankful for this great blessing. This is all because of the Almighty God's love that I received this divine task. I promise that I will fulfill this divine duty with utmost devotion to God." Brother Joseph is currently assigned in the local congregation of Caloocan City, Metro Manila North.

Brother Eduardo Eusebio, 73 years old and the *obispo* (bishop) of Pasay congregation said, "I have seen many ministers who labored for the benefit of the Church. They worked hard, stayed focused on their task, and spent their life just to ensure that the brethren are active in their services to God. Because of the efforts of everyone, led by the Church Administration and with the love and guidance of the Lord God, this Church remains active towards its centennial

and beyond, prepared to receive the promised salvation."

### Extension of the Church Administration

After greeting the brethren in Pasay, Brother Eduardo proceeded to inaugurate the newly constructed district office of Metro Manila South, located in a property beside the nearby local congregation of Evangelista. The construction for this building began in March 2012 and was completed in about a year.

The Executive Minister led the ribbon-cutting ceremony assisted by his wife, Sister Lynn V. Manalo. Afterwards, Brother Israel U. Flores, Metro Manila South district minister, read the inscription on the marker.

The building houses both the offices of the district of Metro Manila South as well as that of the local congregation of Evangelista. On the ground level, one can find the offices of the congregation's resident minister, Secretariat, Finance, and Christian Family Organizations. On the second and third levels are the offices of the district minister, assistant district minister, the district secretariat, and the district staff.

In addition to the office building, another structure was also completed to meet the housing needs of the district minister, district staff, resident minister of Evangelista congregation, and other Church personnel. The new residential building is situated right behind the office building. 📍

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