

yans, Akasi by the Zambals, *Gugurang* by the Bicolos, and *Kabunian* by the Ilocanos and the Igorots.

In his enumeration of the *Duties of the Sons of the People*, Bonifacio ordained:

- "1. Love God with all thy heart.
- "2. Always bear in mind that true love of God is love of thy country, and that this love is also the true love for thy fellowmen."

Emilio Jacinto, the brain of the *Katipunan*, in his *Liwanag at Dilim*, said: "God is the father of Humanity, and what a father requires of his children is not constant protestations of respect, fear, and love for him, but the performance of his mandates."

Referring to the letter of Rizal to the young women of Malolos, Marcelo H. del Pilar wrote to the young women of Bulacan: "...the virtue most acceptable to the Creator consists in perfecting the intelligence which He, in His infinite love, granted to His creatures to serve them as a light upon the path of life."

As a nation, the Filipinos demonstrated unity of belief in one Supreme Ruler as much as oneness of political purpose. The Declaration of Philippine Independence at Kawit, Cavite, on June 12, 1898, called upon "the Supreme Judge of the Universe" as a witness and invoked the protection of "Divine Providence." The preamble of the Malolos Constitution of January 21, 1899, invoked the assistance of the "Sovereign Legislator of the Universe" for the attainment of its aims. And when Mabini exhorted his compatriots of intransigence, convinced of the justice of the Philippine cause, he reminded them that "there is a Providence which punishes the crime of men and nations." Our Constitution, in establishing a government that shall embody the ideals of the Filipino people, implores "the aid of Divine Providence." (Preamble, Constitution.)

Our Constitution recognizes the freedom of religious profession and worship. (Article III, section 1, paragraph 7, Constitution.) Religious tolerance is necessary so that there may be peace among men and nations. And, because of the tremendous importance of religion as a moral force in the lives of private individuals, and with a view to giving impetus to the formation of a God-fearing citizenry in so far as is compatible with the freedom of conscience, our Constitution ordains that churches, buildings and improvements used exclusively for religious purposes shall be exempt from taxation (Article VI,

section 14, paragraph 3) and provides for optional religious instruction in the public schools (Article XIII, section 5).

II

LOVE YOUR COUNTRY FOR IT IS THE HOME OF YOUR PEOPLE, THE SEAT OF YOUR AFFECTIONS, AND THE SOURCE OF YOUR HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING. ITS DEFENSE IS YOUR PRIMARY DUTY. BE READY AT ALL TIMES TO SACRIFICE AND DIE FOR IT IF NECESSARY.

Love of country is demonstrated not by words but by deeds. It is not an occasional virtue to be exhibited now and then, but it is a flame that should constantly be kept aglow in our hearts. It is unflinching determination to serve and defend one's country at all times and at all costs.

Apolinario Mabini, in his *True Decalogue*, said:

"*Fourth*—Thou shalt love thy country after thy God and thy honor and more than thyself; for she is the only Paradise which God has given thee in this life, the only patrimony of thy race, the only inheritance of thy ancestors, and the only hope of thy posterity; because of her, thou hast life, love and interests, happiness, honor and God.

"*Fifth*—Thou shalt strive for the happiness of thy country before thine own, making of her the kingdom of reason, of justice, and of labor: for if she be happy, thou, together with thy family, shalt likewise be happy.

"*Sixth*—Thou shalt strive for the independence of thy country: for only thou canst have any real interest in her advancement and exaltation, because her independence constitutes thy own liberty; her advancement, thy perfection; and her exaltation, thy own glory and immortality.

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"*Tenth*—Thou shalt consider thy countryman more than thy neighbor; thou shalt see in him thy friend, thy brother, or at least thy comrade, with whom thou art bound by one fate, by the same joys and sorrows, and by common aspirations and interests."