

# Far East DeMolay Conclave

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A dream that took three years to mature eventually became a reality when the associated DeMolay Chapters of the Jurisdiction of the Philippines, Guam and Okinawa convened in Manila from June 30 to July 2 for a three-day DeMolay Conclave. For the first time in the history of DeMolay in the Philippines, Chapters all over the islands threshed out their common problems other than those found in the teachings and ritual of their Order.

The first jurisdictional conclave's varied activities centered at the Scottish Rite Temple, Taft Avenue, Manila, III. Dad Manuel Crudo, Executive Officer for the Jurisdiction of the Philippines, Guam and Okinawa formally opened the three-day meet.

Foremost among the DeMolay Chapters in the Conclave were the Far East Chapter, Clark Air Force Base, with a delegation of 16 American DeMolays; Leon Kilat Chapter, with a delegation of 12 DeMolays coming all the way from Dumaguete City by boat. Emmanuel Baja Chapter, Cavite City had several representatives as did the newly-constituted Quezon City Chapter and dozens of delegates and observers from Jose Abad Santos and Loyalty Chapters which gradually increased when some of their brothers from the provinces studying in Manila finally arrived.

Due to some unique operational technique beyond the control of the members of the Teodoro R. Yangco Chapter, Olongapo City, the Advisory Council of the Chapter was not able to send any representative. However, the Chapter Advisor, Dad Anatalio Bustamante, was present as an observer. The Lapu-lapu Chapter of Cebu City did not send any delegate

for lack of time. However, Dad Gerardo Jimenea, Advisory Council member of the Cebu Chapter, was present. Excelsior Chapter of Vigan, Ilocos Sur was not represented.

## First Day

The hectic day started at 8:00 A.M. with the registration of delegates. After all were finished, Dad Crudo delivered his welcome speech. This was later followed by an orientation program mainly to familiarize the delegates with the conduct of the Conclave. This was conducted by Donald Wiles, Jr., Conclave Chairman. Part of the orientation itself was the introduction of the Chapter delegates by their respective Master Councilors. After the orientation period, the delegates went to the Rizal Park (Luneta) to lay a floral offering at the foot of the Jose Rizal monument. After the offering, the party toured the wide and scenic park and even took their lunch there. At about 2:00 P.M. the delegates went back to the Scottish Rite Temple for the afternoon workshop entitled: "Administrative Aspects in Running a Chapter." The evening was capped by an acquaintance night full of skits, games, vocal solos, choral renditions, pranks and jokes.

## Second Day

The whole morning was spent largely in the conferring of Initiatory and DeMolay Degrees on the Quezon City Chapter initiates. After lunch, the second workshop started, topic: "Issues Affecting the DeMolay Movement." After the workshop, Chapter and Jurisdictional Associations were organized. One important matter considered during the discussion was the proposed Jurisdictional Constitution which took a great deal of

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19, convention proper with a Lodge of Instruction.

The Grand Master's party was made up also of RW Manuel Crudo, Grand Senior Warden, MW Mauro Baradi, PGM, keynote speaker; VW Oliveros, Senior Grand Lecturer; WB Lorenzo Talatala and WB Domingo F. M. Domingo, who was awarded an Honorary Membership by Bulusan Lodge #38. The party arrived in Manila on Sunday, Aug. 20.

Things are perking up in the Grand Lodge with the more systematic follow-up of records sent or not sent by Lodge secretaries and Lodge treasurers. In the Grand Secretary's office is a four by eight-foot bulletin board with the names of Lodges and districts after which are five columns: Treasurer's report, Secretary's report, monthly membership report, Minutes, and Petitions, each column being divided into 12 spaces, one space for each month of the year. Reports received, O.K., are indicated by colored pins. If all reports are submitted, the columns are full of pins; if reports have not yet come in, the blanks are as white as snow. Many Lodges have colored pins, some complete, some not so complete. Quite a few are as lonely as the Sahara, without pins at all. If only the pins can prick the officers to act!

The Grand Secretary and the Grand Lecturer have gone around to hold seminars on the reports — how to accomplish and send them. On July 22, they went to San Pablo City to hold a seminar on Lodge administration. Masters, Wardens, Secretaries, Treasurers and Inspectors of the Twelfth Masonic District were in attendance there. In addition to the seminar on Lodge Administration, there was also a Lodge of Instruction.

On July 30, the party went to Cavite

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time during the deliberations. At seven in the evening dinner was served; and then came the moment of selecting their jurisdictional officers.

The four top officers are: Donald Wiles, Jr. (Far East) is State Master Councilor; Stanley Jacob (Jose Abad Santos) Deputy State Master Councilor; Cesar Niguigula (Loyalty) State Senior Councilor; Emmanuel Bustamante (Emmanuel Baja) State Junior Councilor; and Cicero Calderon, Jr. (Leon Kilat) State Treasurer. Don Wiles, Jr., unintentionally left for the United State on July 12, so that his Deputy will occupy the premier position until Don's return.

### Third Day

The last day of Conclave started early in the morning with the Installation of the Jurisdictional Officers. The Philippine Priory of the Order of Knighthood took charge of the Installations. After the installation the delegates went to the Central Methodist Church in Ermita for the morning's church service. Lunch was served at the church's Heroes Hall. Among the activities held in the afternoon were the conferral of the HONORARY LEGION OF HONOR upon Daed Conrado Benitez, 33°, and the showing of the "DeMolay Story" movie.

After dinner, the three day affair was put to an end in a closing ceremony which was later highlighted with the selection and crowning of the Jurisdictional Sweetheart.

The next day the delegates bade each other farewell while some DeMolays accompanied and saw some of their brothers off to their homes. Everyone is looking forward to the next DeMolay Conclave which was proposed to be held in Dumaguete City next summer. Chairman of the Preparation Committee is Sonny Calderon, Jr. of Leon Kilat Chapter. Δ