

2004 GATHERING

Superb reunion and gathering!

Here's a short account of what happened.

The date was Dec. 30, 2004, Rizal Day. Everyone was busy gearing up for the big night. Well, at least for those of my fellow SNNHS 1993 batchmates. I was so excited I had to use the toilet twice in an hour!

A mass was held at 12:15 pm at the cathedral led by our very hopeful Roy Reyna, who is still single, available and on the performance level. Hahaha!!!

It was a world record that Mrs. Estrella Platil and Mr. Victorio Beltran, our guests, came way ahead of everyone at around 7:20 pm. The rest came in twos and threes like hunger strikers. At almost 8:00 pm, the program started with a prayer given by Dexter Lorente, also the host of the event. I enjoyed the meal so much that I ate two grilled chicken breasts. I just hope that someone hadn't missed his/her meal. Hahaha!!!

Mr. Vic Beltran delivered his welcome address in a fashion

I could describe as truthful, hilarious and quite touching. The irony was that he was a teacher of practical arts for the boys, so naturally, girls weren't familiar with him. But he talked like a knowing mentor and everyone similarly drooled over him. He welcomed everyone to the realm of everyday life – check reality, something that resembles life's struggles for success.

Some words from the acknowledged main organizer, Roy Reyna, gave us what it was like to mount such a huge task with very limited time and resources. He delivered his vision of an organization that would one day be able to help fellow batchmates in their needs and to finally host the 25th grand alumni homecoming of SNNHS. Everybody knows it is still a long way but it is also important to start right now. Everyone was invited to our yahoogroup, of course! To Roy and the rest of the gang who made this gathering a success and a dream fulfilled,

a big K-U-D-O-S!

At this point, Jonathan Ancla came in and everybody sang a happy birthday song for him. Charry Ballesteros came in late because she waited for her husband who came from Cagayan de Oro City. Such a lovely wife. Gay Madelo came in a very stunning and cutesy pink number. She had all eyes on her. What a grand entrance she pulled off. Dinah Ensomo was named Nancy Castiglione-older version. She was so pretty that night though she was a little sick. Jonathan Iligan came with his wife. Myrla Solloso was in full force, pregnant on her second child, she was with her hubby and first child. Nanette Minoza said she is a happy and fulfilled wife of Mr. Stephen Michael Gruca whom she met and fell in love with in Kuwait. She gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Kyrie on the first week of Dec.

Just one look at her husband and I know why. They were a lovely couple. Myles Mosende and Julielou Patriana were very gracious that night. And so was Charles Orias and Rainier Diaz. Cheryl Porras asked me if I still remembered her. Of course,

I did. She was fabulous in a chic pink blouse with a dark sleeveless tank top over. Augusto Espejon and Jose Wines kept us all mystified. They defined a true gentleman. Oh, I could go on and on. But that would be like having a caviar and champagne while those absent look and think with utter jealousy. Hahaha!!!

Next was the election of officers that went quite well. Obviously, the would-be-officers should be residing physically in Surigao City or nearby places.

The president-elect is Constancio Sarte Jr.,

Vice-President is Cosme Calejesan.

Donna Marchie Nocon is Secretary.

Treasurer is Rico Asumen.

Auditors are courtesy of the services of our two CPAs, Gay Madelo and Myrla Solloso (both are married already but I wanted to use their maiden name for quick reference).

Public Information Officer's Roy Reyna & Dinah Ensomo.

These officers are given the task to govern the activities of the batch 1993 from the creation of by-laws, registration to SEC, gathering as much support to create a cooperative to running the show of the 2005 reunion. Whew! I tell you, it was the most serious business we ever talked about. Congratulations to all!

And just wait a minute, guess who was this guy from the night session who rendered us a song number, acapella Doon Lang? You better ask Roy.

Mrs. Estrella Platil gave us an inspirational message that truly hit the jackpot. She said she was proudest of our batch. Can you believe it? You better be. She cited innumerable things that made us dearest to her heart like she knew our successes and failures. In all the trappings of the past years rolled behind us, to remember her made her feel special. I kidded her that no one will forget her when she ruled the campus and kept on torturing the students with physics. Hahaha!!! In fact, while the programme was distributed a day before the party, she was personally invited only 3 hours before the party!

And she didn't make a fuss. She said yes without a skip of a second.

What a night it was! We had a little game show. Question related to our high school days were asked. Do you remember the chemical symbol of Tungsten, for instance? Or when was our graduation day? Or your class adviser?

The newly elected president came forward to give us an aptly closing remarks. It was heartwarming to see everyone's eyes dazed with hopes for exciting things to come. And voila! For the next part, the dancing began.

NeilwinYap provided the music. Thanks to you. Of course, I ruled the dance floor. Hahaha!!! Actually, there were very few who had the guts to dance after a sumptuous meal. And since I got no shame, I gyrated on the dance floor like queen sheba dethroned for molestation. Hahaha!!! Almost half of the participants are married and I can only imagine what kind of dances they desire to play. I bet my ass worth, those of you who missed out the reunion, the likes of Juan Almeda essayed a dance step that would put your wives and husbands to shame. Hahaha!!! It was a knock-out party. It was like having a honeymoon.

But this time, with many partners. Hahaha!!!

By 12:00 midnight, an announcement was made. Guess what? The party was over. I mean, W-H-A-T? We begged and pleaded like a child wanting a toy so much and promising to be good. Remember, he sees when you've been bad or good, so be good for goodness' sake. Hey!

Like a true Cinderella, 1/3 of the attendees went home. But the rest went to, where else, boulevard! We chilled out and continued our merry making on that side of town where the sea meets the sky decorated by such luminous stars while our laughs shimmer down the early morning. It was cool to just lay down the streets reminiscing the moments of yesteryears and weaving the dream of our future while contented just drinking and eating leftovers of the party and being with your old buddies at present. It was more that I could ask for.

More fulfilling that having a great coffee at starbucks. Hahaha!!!

At 2:00 am, it started to drizzle and everyone felt victorious and drunk. W transferred to the sidewalk of TT merchandise and continued making tagay-tagay. By this time, we were a little less than 20 males. The good girls went home already by then. Just when we decided to transfer to Lipata, the wives started calling! A few brave men that included 4 gays present decided to continue the legacy at Caltex comfort zone going to capitol until 5:15 am. Can you believe I survived it all? Guys were looking at Jessie Saguran like they wanted him to take home. Grrr... can someone pick me up?

When I counted my blessing at the end of the day, I had 4 grilled chicken breasts, 2 plates of solid meals, 8 bottles of San Miguel beer, 2 bottles of Red Horse and 3 sticks of Marlboro lights. And no sleep at all.

Plus, all the memories I had with my best batchmates of 1993! You have to beat that. I dare challenge you all by the end of this year, December 2005, the party begins with you! See you until then...

Gui Lipio - Star of the Night