



**Catholic
Educational
Association of the
Philippines**

Condolences and Challenges

The salvation of the righteous comes from the LORD; he is their stronghold in time of trouble... Psalm 37:39

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Matthew 5:4

It is with deepest sympathy that the Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines offers its condolences to the family of President Cory Aquino and it is with deepest regret that we sympathize with the Filipino people for the loss of both our candle in the darkness and moral compass.

For us, as the foremost credible Christian leader, the spirit of President Cory is not lost with her demise. Her spirit shall only grow stronger - as her example, as well as the self-sacrifice of her husband Ninoy, shall forever echo in us, in our youth and in our dream of a country where our people are free from the tyranny of greed and selfishness.

God of our life, there are days when the burdens we carry chafe our shoulders and weigh us down; when the road seems dreary and endless, the skies grey and threatening; when our lives have no music in them, and our hearts are lonely, and our souls have lost their courage. Flood the path with light, run our eyes to where the skies are full of promise; tune our hearts to brave music; give us the sense of comradeship with heroes and saints of every age; and so quicken our spirits that we may be able to encourage the souls of all who journey with us on the road of life, to Your honour and glory. -Augustine

Thus lay the challenge for our generation to take stock of the example and life who goes before us. As a people, we need to awaken, stay awake until our task of nation building is done. We still liken our democracy to a teenager wary of leaving the protection of the house yet wanting to go out on his/her own. The time now calls for us to heed the lessons, and collectively respond to the responsibility at hand. We shall stand up, though knowing and fearing the possibility of falling, stand nonetheless; with the lessons and examples, of both Ninoy and Cory, at heart. And as the days pass and our confidence grows, we shall have answered our country's need for heroic Christian leadership in the service of responsible and engaged citizenship.

For this we pray

*The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **Psalm 23***

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of
compassion and the God of all comfort, 4who comforts us in all our troubles, so
that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have
received from God. 5For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives,
so also through Christ our comfort overflows. **2 Corinthians 1:3-5***

Catholic Educational Association of the Philippines
August 3, 2009