

IN MEMORIAM

PROF. JUAN RAFEL G. MACARANAS, Ph.D.

March 28, 1965 – April 6, 2023
Chairman of the Board – PNPRS
Managing Editor – Philosophia:
International Journal of Philosophy
Professor – DLS College of Saint Benilde

This issue of *Philosophia: International Journal of Philosophy* is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Juan Rafael G. Macaranas, Ph.D., Managing Editor of this journal and the Chairman of the Board of the Philippine National Philosophical Research Society (PNPRS). Doc Johnny, as we fondly call him, taught philosophy and theology subjects for more than two decades at the De La Salle College of Saint Benilde. He finished his Bachelor of Philosophy in 1984 and his AB Classical and Licentiate of Philosophy in 1986 at the University of Santo Tomas, Faculty of Philosophy, Ecclesiastical Faculties. He had three master's degrees: MA in Philosophy from UST Graduate School (1993), MA in Religious Studies from Maryhill School of Theology (1997), and MA in Music from UST Conservatory of Music (2005). He earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy at De La Salle University - Manila in 2000. He was a lifetime member (2021) of the Philippine Society of Music Education (PSME) and was an active member of the Religious Educators Association of the Philippines (REAP) and the Philosophical Association of the Philippines (PAP).

Doc Johnny has been an active member of the PNPRS since its beginning in 1997 when Dr. Gripaldo established the PNPRS. He was elected Chairman of the Board of PNPRS in 2014, reelected in 2018, and appointed the Managing Editor of *Philosophia* in 2018. Ever since he has served PNPRS and *Philosophia* not only in his official capacity as an officer and editor but in his personal capacity as a mentor to the other officers of PNPRS and the editorial staff of *Philosophia*, he has supported various projects – conferences, symposia, international engagements, and publications of PNPRS and *Philosophia*, often at his personal expense. Together with me, he envisioned the PNPRS as a premier philosophical organization that would promote philosophy for nation-building in the Philippines and *Philosophia* to be an internationally recognized journal publishing good quality and relevant articles in philosophy. The success of these two entities is attributed to the tireless efforts, enthusiasm, and dedication of Doc Johnny. In a sense, PNPRS and *Philosophia* are identified with Doc Johnny; in philosophy circles in the Philippines, the names of Doc Johnny, Doc Jove, and the PNPRS and *Philosophia* are constantly linked.

Doc Johnny's untimely and sudden passing left a very big void in the lives and hearts of the members of the PNPRS and the staff of *Philosophia*, and his family and

friends. His passing was a painful moment! And the suddenness of it all and the fact that he passed on in a foreign country – Turkey due to a heart attack while on a pilgrimage during the Holy Week with his only son and away from his wife and two daughters made it all the more painful. He was very much a part of our lives, practically of the many things that we do as a group, as a family. He was a father, a friend, a mentor, a teacher, a brother, and a constant companion who was always willing to help, to support, or just be there for someone who needed his presence. He was always willing to share not only his resources and time but his ever-present enthusiasm and joyful spirit - and his smile. When things seem to be not going our way, he is the first one to say that everything will be fine. His usual encouraging words: “kaya natin yan!” (We can do it.!) He was always willing to lend a helping hand and never expected in return. He was a friend to everyone and always went the extra mile for his friend, which earned him the nickname – “Best Friend Johnny.”

Doc Johnny described himself as a Roman Catholic and a former monk, educator, husband, traveler, and guitar, piano, and organ player. On a personal note, Doc Johnny is a friend and big brother to me. I have always thought we were going to grow old together, enjoy our retirement together, and travel together, attending conferences both here and abroad as we always do. We had our plans - for philosophy in the Philippines, for PNPRS for Philosophia, and of course, for our families. We always talked about various things – family, philosophy, music, and our teaching careers. But we like it the most when we talk about our families and what we desire for our children. For us, family comes first! Life is not just about careers and not even philosophy; it is about the things we love most, and for us, that is family.

He would surely be missed! But his generosity, cheerful spirit, enthusiasm, and every positive thing about him will remain in our hearts and memories. His untimely passing is so painful for us, but we trust in the infinite wisdom of God.

Rest peacefully in God’s loving embrace, our dear Doc Johnny! Till then, my friend!

Jove Jim S. Aguas