EDITORIAL

Journalists are front-liners too

In their daily grind to look for news, journalists are unquestionably risking their lives and reputation just so they have something to report and inform the public.

Media practitioners, being the lowest paid professionals in the country, are financially handicapped. Still they are numb to realize it because they still work without expecting a substantial pay in return.

They go around places, immerse themselves with the people, examine documents for leads, and shamelessly talk to the top henchos in government just to gather enough truth, over a prevailing issue, and enable them to form sentences and paragraphs for an accurate report to the public.

Journalists are, at worst, the most misunderstood professionals. Most people even think they have the easiest job on earth. In reality though, they have the most complex work to accomplish because they must reach out to as many sources as they can to make the report as thorough and reliable as possible, in so short a time.

The journalists’ room for mistakes is extremely narrow to wiggle out for adjustment. Even if there are options to rectify and say sorry for the mistakes, they are not free from chastisement, punishment, insults, and dishonor yelled on them by the public or, at worst, by his or her colleagues.

In doing their job, journalists are tireless workers who make fun of themselves as they narrate the scolding they get from powerful politicians or people who shift the blame on them instead with the usual line that a journalist “misquote” or “took him or her out of context.”

At this point, a journalist stands firm on his report, while clinging on to the last bit of self-worth he or she may still have, onward to the next chapter of his or her daily practice. The wounded animal licks on its wounds and leave his house for another day’s work, unmeaning if there’s some goodies to bring home to the family.

Covid-19 or any pandemic, for that matter, could not match the virus of ridicule and insults that journalists face from Day 1 of their professional practice. Some maybe publicly popular, others maybe obscure, but they are common victims of misleading ghosts in the eyes and minds of the public in general, and public officials in particular.

Even before Covid-19, journalists are already imbedded in the frontlines, mired in the battlefield of complexities of events and human interaction. Ever misunderstood, ever insulted. Yet they are the most honorable professionals, the true front-liners, in the truest sense of the word.

Publisher’s Message

By Meriam Garcia Desacada

(Will resume next issue)

EDUCATOR’S HIGH

By Dr. Bernadette Mondejar-Schlueter

An susumanon

SUSUMANON means to tell, from the Waray verb susunan, and refers to a broad classification of oral folk tales. Hart and Hart in their 1966 research Cinderella in the Eastern Bisayas: With a Summary of the Philippine Folktales broke these stories down into four major susumanon categories in Leyte and Samar. The locals listened to fabliau or fables, bida or legends, macatamatwa/pinosomal or comedy, and mahalasay or obscene tales.

The susumanon we heard were about encounters with fantastic beings, local legends, supernatural traditions, Aetas-like fables, and comical experiences of ordinary people. We listened to susumanon from just about any adult: our parents, grandmother, aunts, and visitors. Our first question to new members of the household staff was whether or not they knew some susumanon. Brownies in the city and candles in the house were perfect backdrops for scary stories. Our imagination ran see page 5

Reflections

By Fr. Roy Cimagala

Formation for the new normal

First of all, we should never neglect our life of piety, because this at bottom is what truly matters and what would sustain, protect and guide us as we face and traverse these uncertain times. With this vibrant life of piety, we can manage to feel confident and optimistic despite the many surprises and trials that surely will come our way.

It’s important that we have a healthy and positive attitude toward this new challenge that should be based on our strong faith in God and in his ever-wise providence. With him, we would feel assured that only something dramatically good can come out of these extraordinary times.

We should just be game and sport about the whole thing, open-minded, flexible, adaptive and versatile toward the new things we will be discovering and be made to tackle. We have to develop these qualities even as we should be clear see page 5
OPINION 5

Relaxed age restriction in MGCQ areas to stimulate biz: DTI

By Kris Ciriando

MANILA – The government’s latest move to further ease age restrictions in areas under modified general community quarantine (MCGQ) would result in increased revenues of businesses, particularly the retail sector, the country’s top trade official said on Friday.

In a radio interview, Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Ramon Lopez said based on their surveys among businesses, their revenues could double or triple when more segments of the market are allowed to go outside.

Lopez is the Inter-Agency Task Force for the Management of Emerging Infectious Diseases (IATF-EID) that now allows age 10 to 65 years old from 13 to 65 years old in MGCQ areas to go outside their residences, which means individuals from 10 to 14 years old can now enter malls and other retail outlets.

Lopez justified the move, saying that the government has been reviewing the IATF’s recommendations based on the country’s overall situation and current infection rate.

He added that despite the relaxed age restriction, the strict implementation of the minimum health standards shall be kept.

Local government units in GCQ areas like Metro Manila may also expand the age group to go outside depending on the Covid-19 situation in their respective areas, Lopez said. (PV4)

Reflections (From page 4)

about our goals, from the immediate all the way to the ultimate one. In other words, we have to be quite focused without being rigid. The new developments would never change what are truly essential to us and what are simply incidental and optional.

It’s important that we know how to orchestrate the different elements involved. Yes, we have to learn to move fast and when to move slow, when to be active and when to be contemplative, how to distinguish between the essential and the incidental. We have to sharpen our sense of order and priority, especially when we would be faced with competing priorities. Given how things are now, we should be ready to learn new things like the new technologies, distance learning and online classes, the use of modules, etc. In this regard, since many of us would be quite ignorant about these new things, we should not hesitate to consult those who know. We just have to humble ourselves so that even if we are already of a certain age, we can still flow with the times together with the young ones.

To be sure, there will be new aspects that we have to learn about the virtues and skills that we already have. It’s kind of polishing or refining them, or raising them to the next level. So you see, this new normal would be a good opportunity for further personal growth and development. We should therefore be welcoming of it rather than be anxious and scared of it.

The important thing is that we don’t lose sight of what is truly essential about the whole thing. And this is that we should go through this new stage of our life with God always, and never just by our own selves, relying simply on our own powers.

That would be the most important part of the education and formation that we should be undergoing under and for this new normal. Remember that with God, everything will always work out for the good. (Cfr. Rom 8,28)

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