#### XV. ORTEGA TWINS

## 15.1 Ortega Family







Ortega marker at Santa, Ilocos Sur Luz points at Sub-Gov. J. ORTEGA



Families of Francisco and Evaristo Ortega at the La Union Provincial Capitol



#### Nila's message recalls the Ortega Twins' birth.

"When we were born in 1954, January 16 to be exact, papa brought the good news to her mother, our Lola Paca. He said Rose gave birth to, not one but two\_ twins! They are a blessing, they will bring good luck to the family. We twins keep this in mind to live up to Papa's expectations."



# PAPA BISTING







STEVE, ROCIO, FLOR, LUZ, NILA





Nila forgot to buy candle. God's providence. Saw 100 candle at the kitchen of manong Steve.







25th Wedding Anniversary of Papa Bisting and Mama Rose at St. William's Cathedral officiated Bishop Victorino Ligot, D.D.

Republic of the Philippines COURTS OF AGRARIAN RELATIONS Quezon City

January 28, 1974

Very truly yours,

C. MACALINO

Executive Judge

Mrs. Rosa U. Ortega San Fernando, La Union

Dear Mrs. Ortega,

I have been intending to write you this letter of commendation for a long time since my esteemed colleague, your late husband, Judge Evaristo Ortega died last October. However, the pressure and volume of work has prevented me from doing so. It is only now that I find the opportunity to express to you my personal and official sentiments regarding your late beloved husband. Firstly, of course, with his passing I feel a deep personal loss because he was, at all moments I was with him, the irrepressible good natured gentleman, a young advisor and a sober legal consultant. Secondly, he was one of the best District Judges that we, in the CAR, have been privileged to have. Since his appointment as District Judge of our Ozamis Branch in 1968 up to his demise last year, he has consistently been one of the ten (10) Judges of the Court with the most number of cases disposed. His records speak for him; in the fiscal year 1967-68, he was ninth (9th) among the ten (10) top District Judges of the CAR; in 1968-69, he was third (3rd); in 1969-70, eight (8th); in 1970-71, third (3rd); in 1971-72, fourth (4th); and in 1972-73, eight (8th). No doubt dedication to duty, hard work, unqualified competence and personal sacrifice contributed to his achievements. For all these, may 1, although belatedly and posthumously, commend our late District Judge, the Honorable Evaristo Ortega, for a job indeed well-done.

No less deserving of this commendation are you, your children and the others whom he left behind who inspired him into dedicating himself to the service of his people and country.





Friar Evaristo
Guadalupe
– Father of our
grandmother,
Doña Francisca
LacsamanaOrtega







A tribute to a wonderful mother \_ holding roses her children and grandchildren sing "Roses Roses". They were practiced by the late Dr. Mardave Martinez. Reception of Mama Rose 75th Birthday was held at Consuelo Hall, Sea and Sky Hotel.

## MRS. ROSA U. ORTEGA

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY MAMA We love You!!

A mother's greatest achievement is not found in the material or professional accomplishment of her children, but in the special sensitivity and esteem with which they regard her. With her this is made manifest by this Birthday BASH on her **75th** birthday (September 4, 1996), and along with her friends and associates; who with their tributes and accolades thrown her on this day, are apparently enough to conclude that she emerged from her widowhood stronger, and driven to make something of herself - as a "Woman of Substance".





Dr. Rosa Martinez, Emily Ortega, Engr. Evaristo Ortega, Jr. birthday celebrant Rosa Ortega, Flor O. Ocampo, twins Dr. Ma. Luz O. Bolong and Dr. Ma. Nila O. Argel.





Ma. Nila with husband Chicoy and Pacifico, Jr.



Ma. Luz family\_ husband Danny and children Mari Dianne, Daniel III and Luz Danielle.

Obispo Jose Diaz Rodriguez
 Q

Ma Luz, what is the anniversary of life or birthday? It is the best time to thank God the most beautiful gift, the life he has given us. The time to celebrate with loved ones and friends who help us live a joyful and full life. It is also time to forgive all those who have not fulfilled their responsibilities with us or worse yet, have done us wrong or have not met our expectations. It is also the time to do new plans and projects to make our life every day more full, cheerful and complete. And for this server, it is time to ask God to fill your life with peace, health, prosperity, protection and his continued presence.



Receive on this important day my greetings, congratulations, prayers and blessings.

#### **ORTEGA TWINS 65TH BIRTHDAY**

" the lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and have mercy on you; the

you, and have mercy on you; the Lord lift upon you his face, and give you peace." (Numbers 6:24-26)
Your friend and brother in faith, Monsignor José Miguel Díaz Rodríguez and the missionaries of divine mercy.







Doña Francisca Lacsamana Ortega Memorial National High School **DFLOMNHS)** Golden Foundation Anniversary



As I go on, let me read to you a brief history of our school, DFLOMNHS was conceived for establishments on March 9, 1970 by the Municipal Council of Bangar un- With Ate Nida Lacsader the leadersh/ip of the late Municipal Mayor Atty. mana, Ate Luz Ortega-Avelino M. Pascua that credited him to become the Bolong and Mary Rose

founder of this institution.

It was formerly a Municiapal High School, FLOS, which the was named after the illustrious daughter of Bangar Lacsamana de Ortega Donia Francisca Lacsamana, who became the wife of *Memorial* the first Civil Governor of La Union, the late Don High School Golden Joaquin J. Ortega.

The first teachers are Dr. Igmedio M. Cariaga Sr. who

was assigned as the first school administrator, and Mrs. Teresita M. Monis who was later assigned as Head Teacher of Araling Panlipunan Department.

It was nationalized on April 14, 1983 under Batas Pambansa Bilang 458 sponsored by the late Hon. Joaquin "Titing"Ortega and Hon. Jose D. Aspiras both congressman of L.U. It was signed into law by the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos on June 10, 1983 thus making FLOS in DFLOMNHS.

(baketen50yrs)

Ortega Twins Peace Park March 7, Saturday





To Joey Ortega: From: Ortega Twins Date: March 3, 2020

Re: Peace Park at "Don Joaquin Smart City" Barangay Ortega

Bacnotan, La Union

The **rainbow** symbolism also serves as an obvious symbol of peace and serenity. These feelings are often evoked when looking at a rainbow. More significantly, rainbows are often seen after a rainstorm when the sun breaks through the clouds. Rainbow promise I promise that I will do my best, to think about my beliefs and to be kind and helpful.



Lacsamana-Flores Francisca Doña National Founding Anniversary





March 10 Groundbreaking



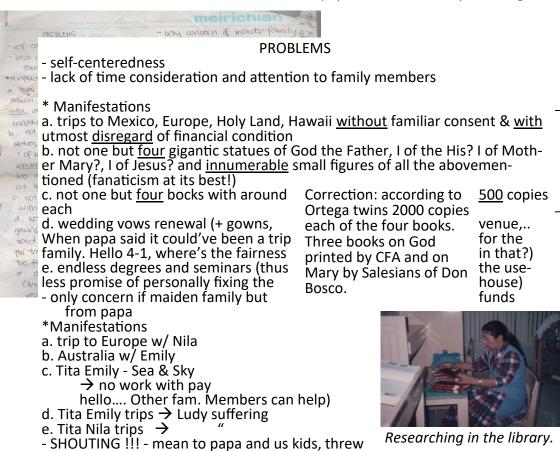
Baptism

#### 16.3 Bolong Family

Promise to Listen and Obey God's Will

I, Maria Luz Ortega-Bolong, writes a Journal. Keeping a Journal started during our Jubilee Year 2000 pilgrimage in Jerusalem. The booklets we have written from 2000 to the present show that we listen to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

On March 4, 2020, I discovered two sheets of papers attached in my 2009 log book.



It has come to our attention that our mother, Mrs. Ma. Luz Monica Ortega Bolong





food at me; threatened me how many times; curse me a lot.

November 1997\_ Emily Ortega and Luz O. Bolong attend Hospitality Study Tour at TAFE Brisbane, Australia.

will be leaving for a three-month seminar at Rome. We are strongly against her plans. However, she does not heed our plea. Therefore, we are forced to resort to this kind of action. THIS IS OUR FINAL ATTEMPT TO STOP OUR MOM FROM DOING HER NONSENCE ACTIVITIES.

Year 1999, our mother began her so-called evangelization by ordering five enormous God the Fa-

ther statues. After that she said, it was the end. Unfortunately, she did not comply with her promise. Instead, she continued making innumerable God the Father statuettes. To make matters worst, she and her twin sister collaborated to make four books on their alleged journey towards faithfulness. To add to that, she ordered a statue of Mother Mary, a large cross of Jesus Christ and a massive image of the Holy Spirit. Also, she told us that in exchange of her 25th Wedding Anniversary Celebration, she would just go to Rome. She did go to Rome but she also had her wedding. All of these are proof that she loves only herself and not her family. Through this letter, we hope to end our mother's weird actions, and in turn build our family.

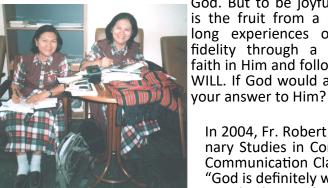
all during time when papa is suffering from financial prob.

With the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines come March 2021, I am reminded of a promise my children forced me to make in 2006 when we twins arrived from our pilgrimage to Mexico. I wanted to keep it a secret to maintain a healthy and happy life with my family in the community. But an inner voice is pushing me to write about it. It could be my readings on the life of Saints Elizabeth Leseur and St. Alexandra di Rudini that made me decide to make my own testimony. This would show that like the Saints, we ought to make God our priority and not be afraid to always do His WILL.

Believe it or not, the Sea and Sky establishments which is the fruit of my earlier sacrifices are doing fine and important occasions we celebrate attest that it has made our life "joyful" and not monotonous.

I make my stand. I have no choice but to follow the highest MASTER. You may not like me a mother, but God will be my final judge.

Spiritual books and faith testimonies we read and hear strengthen and encourage one another to trust in



**Gregorian University** Rome, Italy

God. But to be joyful in Him is the fruit from a personal September long experiences of God's anniversary fidelity through a Childlike chapel, Nasugbu, Batangas. faith in Him and following His

WILL. If God would ask you today: How close am I to you? What is

2003 25th weddina at Transfiguration

In 2004, Fr. Robert White, Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Communication who welcomed us in a Pastoral Communication Class at the Gregorian University in Rome, said: "God is definitely with you." As members of the Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, we learned from the teachings of Our Holy Mother, St. Teresa of Avila that, "the fruit of profound experience is always good works..." and in perfect conformity to God's Will lies all our good".

December 5, 2004 To: Danny and children

From: Mama Re: Travel

Mother is the heart of the family. So as to heal the broken relationship caused by my travels abroad I am taking the initiative of extending reconciliation to my love ones.

I did not expect you resent so much what would make your mother happy. The pilgrimages have given me so much grace that though your past actions have hurt me tremendously I forgive.

Of course I admit I was the cause of your behavior as you are putting the blame on me. You simply can not see the relevance of my trips. I promise not to go on foreign trips again, not even local trips. I promise also to fulfill my obligations as the wife and your mother and to bring back the love that was lost and the love the family is longing for. And regarding my expenditures I promise to work for it and not to spend beyond.

It is my duty though to remind you: He who honors his father atones for sins; I he stores up riches who reveres his mother. In the old testament, Ben Sirach said: The Lord sets a father in honor over his children; a mothers authority he confirms over her sons.

Good luck in your work and studies. May you grow spiritually mature for in the long run your relationship to our creator is what matters most in life.



#### St. Bernadette on Praying the Rosary

"In the evening when you go to sleep, hold your (rosary) beads, doze off reciting them. Do like those babies who go to sleep mumbling, 'Mama, Mama!" — St. Bernadette Soubirous (actual photo of Bernadette below).

Sharing with you the letter of Ludi, Luz' daughter on her visit to Lourdes.

Oct. 15, 2005

I just carried 3 liters of Holy Water from the Apparition site back to this hotel room, Poof!!! I hope I don't die from carrying all these back to the Philippines. But it's ok I guess. I mean this sacrifice is for my mom. She can use it when visiting her religious congregation and stuff—I just know she'd love them.

The feeling of bonding with strangers, of believing something greater than you, of the endless possibilities offered by the Holy Water... I just feel so glad that I'm here in Lourdes. Oct. 16, 2005

There was a procession last night. What can I say? It was so beautiful. People singing in different languages, smiling at each other, praying fervently... wow was it so amazing I really enjoyed it. The experience of liking yourself to people from different walks of life is just too overwhelming and touching at the same time.

We had mass yesterday but we arrived late. So we decided to go to mass again - to the Pius Church at that. Wow!

The church was jampacked! The languages used were vaguely familiar. It was a "mixed" mass\_ ....Italian, Spanish, French and English used. Someday, I promised myself... I will go back at Lourdes. I hear there really is something about the apparition site. It was just a manifestation of faith in every sense.

Dec. 6, 2005



Wow. What a long day. I had customers Relationship management class from 8-9:30... After that I withdrew some money... Then I went back to my room to review for my French finals. But then, I got a text from my mom. That's news cos she rarely texts me. Anyway, my mom messaged to remind me to go to mass, confess and pray. Since I felt like going to Church anyway, I went and prayed. After that, I buried myself with French dictionaries again and desperately tried to memorize the verbs. At 17:00,... and I left for school. I rushed in answering the exam cos I wanted to make the 18:30 mass.

Fortunately, the exam wasn't bad... So I ran to the Church afterwards; good thing the mass hasn't started when I got there. After that, I attended the procession. On the way home (thank goodness I found my way! Haha. It was dark and cold pa). I decided to pass by supermarket. I was surprised it was still open that late. Iba na talaga ha! Turn out they ex-

tended their working hours - with the holidays coming and all. So I bought some groceries and headed back home... funny land.

Luz is...A fighter for principles

One time she remarked, "I'm so strict when it comes to morality. I don't like teenagers getting pregnant before marriage. I just hope, my children will not disappoint me." She continue, "When, I read about St. Lucy who became one of the early Christian martyrs, for defending herself from her attacker to keep her body pure and fit temple for God, I told myself, maybe \_ I'm influenced by St. Lucy."



Luz and Nila enjoy their joint 45th birthday celebration at Sea and Sky Restaurant with their exchange gifts.



## Ma LuzNila Ortega BolongArgel

Apr 8 at 11:56 AM • 3

Life is "For Lease" Only





Instead of dreading the Luzon wide extension until April 30, it is time to reflect this 2020 Lent and Easter.

On the third day after His burial following His Crucifixion, we remember His Resurrection come Easter Sunday, April 12. It teaches us that Jesus lives, we shall live also!

Our life is "For Lease" only. Our purpose is one of following Jesus, surrounding our earthly lives for His Kingdom, and to serve Him.

Holding on a bunch of things could cause some important things being eaten by termites. When we die we give our family members options when sorting out our lifetime possessions:

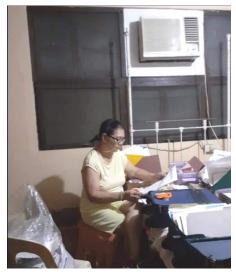
- 1) Throw all our things;
- 2) Retain some keepsakes for themselves and for the next generation;
- 3) Give away some of our things.

Thus I made a serious decision: De clutter now while I am still alive since I know the stories behind my and twin Luz things.

While de cluttering, I listen to the Rosary, Inspirational Talks, Divine Mercy Chaplet. My time is also spent re-reading. Re-reading and seeing old photos take me on a rollercoaster ride of emotions: happiness, sadness, fear and surprise.

I throw right away things I don't need now and in the future. I have files for the following: Keep, Give away and recycle.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. When we cross the other life — life eternal our things should be light. One book we want to leave is entitled, "In the Footsteps of La Madre". It is our faith experiences in our journey of life —moments that take our breath away.





#### Ma Luz Bolong since life is for lease only then our priority must be God. we are confident God takes care of our family.

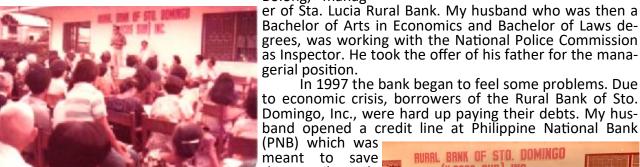
Twins married to bankers

Not all the memories that come to us are happy ones. I was brought back in touch with a painful loss of the Rural Bank of Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur.

In April 26, 1980 Pacifico Argel of Vigan, Ilocos Sur and I, Ma. Nila Ortega were wed at Ermita Church in Manila.

When God created marriage, he gave a foundational rule for relationships between a husband wife. 'Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother shall cleave to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Being the obedient child of God I left home to live with my husband at Vigan, the birthplace of my husband.

My late father-in-law, Judge Manuel A. Argel invested part of his retirement pay in the establishment of the rural bank. He was the principal stockholder. The following month, May 10, 1980, was the blessing of the bank's premises by Fr. Tashner and official ribbon-cutting ceremony was conducted. Provincial Government officials led by Governor Luis "Chavit" Singson, Central Bank of the Philippines officials and Rural Bankers of nearby municipalities of Ilocos Sur and my family at San Fernando, La Major stockholder ret. Judge Manuel A. Union were present. Twin sister Luz is married to Daniel Bolong, manag-



Gov. Luiz "Chavit" Singson supports the establishment of the new bank.

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Bachelor of Laws degrees, was working with the National Police Commission as Inspector. He took the offer of his father for the managerial position. In 1997 the bank began to feel some problems. Due

to economic crisis, borrowers of the Rural Bank of Sto. Domingo, Inc., were hard up paying their debts. My husband opened a credit line at Philippine National Bank

(PNB) which was meant to save the Rural Bank. The Bangko Senng Pilipinas tral (BSP) did not ap-

prove of the banks' assets to be used as collateral. Moreover, the rest of the stockholders were not willing to infuse additional capital. My husband had therefore no recourse but to use our personal properties (house and lot at Vigan and a building at Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur) as collaterals.

Despite our great desire and efforts to maintain the bank, after sometime, it was evident that it was no longer Manager Pacifico Argel welcomes the in a position to continue its operation. On October 10, guests on the inauguration. 1997, it was put under receivership by the BSP with the Philippine Deposit Insurance Company taking over. Since then my husband resumed the responsibility in paying the PNB.

We wrote PNB to understand our non-payment of our amortization for two months and asked for a restructuring of our loan into long-term loan. We indicated in the letter that we are selling some properties to meet payment of our obligations. However, we were given a demand letter to pay up to August 1999 or else our house and lot will be foreclosed. God the Father's generous and providential love was manifested when our 1,500 square meters lot at Baroro, Bacnotan, La Union was bought a





month before the deadline by a Filipina named Lolita Vicencio Kawasaki married to a Japanese residing at Antipolo. Praise God!





Argel

I told my twin that I will write about Bangko Rural ng Santa Lucia, Corp. (BRSL) then called as the Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur) Inc. (RBSL) but she said, "no, I will be the one." But, I have a gut feeling, that she will eventually like it.

Rural banks are the intermediary between the so-called informal credit market such as the 5 -6 to the big commercial banks in the formal credit market. As such, they play a major role in providing accessible, safe and sustainable means of livelihood to the high-rich clientele—small farmers, fisher folks and marginalized groups in the rural areas.

In 1974, Rural Bank of Sta. Lucia (Ilocos Sur) Inc. was organized by Dr. Daniel S. Bolong, Sr., the President/Manager was Daniel T. Bolong Jr. The BRSL, occupied a prestigious status during its adolescent years, in the early '80s. This could be the reason why I wanted my future husband Pacifico Lahoz-Argel to be the manager of the Rural Bank of Sto. Domingo, his father, the late Judge Manuel Argel was planning to put up.

In 1982, it was number 8 in terms of resources; in 1983 the RBSL opened a new branch in Sta. Cruz; in 1986, the Central Bank recognized the BRSL as one of top Ten Rural Banks of the Philippines in Assets.

But as the "wheel of fortune" rotates—this business endeavor soon found itself at the lower portion of the wheel — to the surprise of my twin. In 1999, on its 25th year, the bank was a candidate for closure.

Inspired by the "luces" which "lucia" stands for, Dr. Ma. Luz O. Bolong, started as the bank's liaison officer in November 22, 1999 and on January 24, 2000, her husband Daniel T. Bolong, Jr. tendered his resignation as President of the bank. He said in his letter he entrusted the operations and management to his wife as she has proven capability and commitment to manage the bank.

Now, twin Luz as the new BRSL President valiantly took over the "silently ailing bank". She was even elected President of the Association of the Rural Bankers in Ilocos Sur (ARBIS).

Determined to succeed and achieve rebirth, the BRSL celebrated its 26th anniversary with a Scholarship Millennium Promo to symbolize its sincere desire to regain the confidence of the bank's clients and soar high like an eagle. On 16. 2002. a program entitled "Persevering Discipleship" was held at the Sea and Sky Hotel and Restaurant. Excerpts of Luz' Speech

I have not willed to gather you today like it were planned quite a time ago. This event as with all others since 1999, is a fascinating example that a Supreme Being chooses what we go through and that our only response should be a persevering discipleship.

With the birth of Sea and Sky, a tourism Oath-taking of Pres. Luz O. entity, the quest to grow professionally is there. Bolong by BSP Dir. Rentoria, I wanted so much to be a recipient of a tourism scholarship in Burges, Belgium.

But I want to believe now that God wanted me to let go of something I've held on for so

Ma. Luz O. Bolong with twin sister Ma. Nila O. Argel on board the Sea and Sky College-Sta. Lucia Bank float bearing the statue of God the Father during the San Fernando City Fiesta Parade on Feb. 9, 2000.



Inducting Officer. Witnessed by relatives.

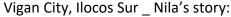


God the Father statue at the façade BRSL.

long. He wanted my hands to be free, for a bigger gift He has prepared for me, something more challenging, doubly painful but all for His glory. Nobody wills denials, difficulties and disappointments. They are present for a purpose. And they will come again for a purpose.

## 1.6 Birthday Celebrants \_ Ortega Twins @ 66





It's our birthday with my twin Ma. Luz. I have to be with my twin for the Golden Jubilee celebration of the St. Ferdinand Vicariate in the afternoon and our birthday party in the evening. After having breakfast with my husband Chicoy and son Resty I headed for San Fernando City, La Union.

San Fernando City, La Union \_ Luz's story:

Our 66th Birthday party held at the Evaristo Rosa ancestral home located Gov. Lucero St. was a happy one with the presence of the family members and special guest first cousin Carlos Ortega from Canada.



BLESSED TO SEE JANUARY 16 2020













66th Ortega twins birthday party\_family, relatives and employees.

## 16.6 Christ the King College Batch 1970 Golden Jubilarians

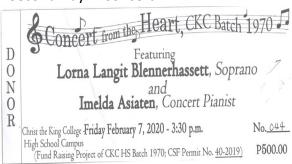
## Four Days Celebration





First Day —Meet and Greet at Sea and Sky Hotel and Restaurant

# Second Day —Concert





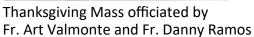


Third Day — Motorcade 6:30 a.m.











Luz during the Offertory Procession

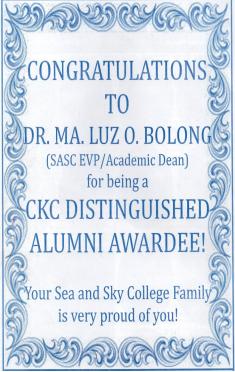


Fourth Day — Hawaiian Party and Program at Villa Estrella Resort









#### Love of Classmates

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus opens with a series of statements conblessedness known cerning the Beatitudes. The seventh Beatitude is "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matthew 5:9). In what way are peacemakers "blessed"? And who are these peacemakers? A peacemaker actively works toward peace. Whether it's to provide peace between two people or two nations, our world is in much need of those who represent the heart of God to bring peace to broken relationships. Those Merlinda Rivera who assist in such efforts will find joy in the experience of seeing people reconciled to one another and to God.



Feb 4 —Twins with Cleofe Bello and Florecita Nartates

our classmates still in Purgatory. Prayers and good deeds, offered in their behalf, avail for the lessening of their affliction. They are crying for aid and so let us pray. O God, you grant forgiveness, and desire the salvation of mankind; we pray you in your mercy to grant that the souls of our former classmates, who have passed out of this life, may partake of everlasting bliss by the intercession of Blessed



Misunderstanding between classmates was settled with the attendance of Merlinda Rivera (extreme right) Cleofe Bello, who is sick attended the Reunion.





Twins mission to remind classmates to attend our Golden Reunion. February 3 — Twins with

In memory of CKC deceased batch mates

We had great fun seeing all the classmates who came to be with us on our Golden High School Batch 70 Reunion. Listening to the names of our classmates who have gone ahead of us bring back a memory. Some have left us years ago while our classmate Victoria Bulseco is still waiting for a visit at their home before her funeral on February 14, 2020. By virtue of our mem-

bership in the Mystical Body of Christ, charity and justice demand on us to help the souls of



Feb 14—Funeral Mass of CKC classmate Victoria Bulseco at St. William's Cathedral

Mary ever Virgin and of all your Saints, through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.