





ROMEO RAMOS CENTINA

(MAY 18, 1945-APRIL 5, 2011)

Romeo Ramos Centina of La Carlota City and Binangonan (May 18, 1945-April 5, 2011) died peacefully in his sleep at around 5 a.m. on Tuesday, April 5 (Manila time), after a lingering illness from various complications due to diabetes. He now joins his wife Emelita of twenty years in the company of the choir of angels singing praises to our Creator. His wife, whom he married in 1989, died two years ago.

The eldest in the family, Romy will forever be remembered with fondness by his surviving and devoted parents Luis T. Centina Jr. and Eva Ramos Centina, caring brothers Fr. Gilbert, Pierce, Evans and Christopher, loving sisters Louella and Heidi, loving in-laws Mateo Garnado, Joseph Mannuzza, Mary Joan Celo-Centina and Liezl Anog-Centina, adoring nephews Clark Constantine, Mark, Ludwig, Israel, Jon Paolo, Chester, twins Eulo and Gio and nieces Michelle and her husband Karl, Cindy, Marja Katrina and Samantha Ashley, not to mention countless friends and relatives.

Romy loved the pursuit of knowledge. He debated in high school and, on a scholarship, attended La Salle College-Bacolod (now St. La Salle University) where he was on the dean's list and where he earned a BA in political science and sociology in 1965. After earning his undergraduate degree, he spurned lucrative job offers and instead opted to teach at St. Joseph High School in Bacolod to help troubled kids upon the invitation of a La Salle brother. Relocating to Manila a few years later and while working at Ateneo de Manila University, he obtained his law degree from Manuel L. Quezon University in 1978. From 1988 to 2007, he worked at the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office at Camp Aguinaldo as a legal investigator, helping poor veterans' families receive long delayed benefits. While there, he obtained a master's degree in public administration.

His social activism got him in trouble with Martial Law. In 1973, he was arrested and subjected to torture at Camp Crame, a traumatic experience that eventually led to health problems. A nationally published poet, he attended the Silliman Writers Workshop. He and his brothers Fr. Gilbert and Pierce made literary history as the only three brothers to have been accepted to Asia's oldest literary workshop. His love of poetry, especially of Robert Frost's poems, was rivalled only by his fondness for classical music.

Until the end Romy remained loyal to his family. But above all, he never lost his strong faith in God and his abiding hope in the promise of eternal life. Just weeks before his death, he had a special Mass said at his residence for the death anniversary of his wife and where, in hindsight, he made his final peace with his Creator here on earth.

Select friends and close family members are invited to attend a memorial service on Sunday, April 10, at the St. Monique Valais Subdivision Chapel in Binangonan. Romy will be cremated in private, also on Sunday, at 3:30 p.m. at a St. Peter Memorial Home facility. His ashes will be brought to the United States.

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD,
I SHALL NOT WANT;
HE MAKES ME LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES.
HE LEADS ME BESIDE STILL WATERS;
HE RESTORES MY SOUL.
HE LEADS ME IN PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.

EVEN THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY
OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
I FEAR NO EVIL;
FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;
YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE;
AND I SHALL DWELL IN THE HOUSE OF THE
LORD FOREVER.

PSALM 23

