

## Tribute to manang Inez Saley

By Lambert Sagalla

May I add the following to the many tributes to manang Inez.

Manang Inez played a crucial role in the fund-raising efforts towards sustaining Episcopal Mission Schools north of Baguio in Northern Philippines.

She was a founding member of St. Mary's School of Sagada Alumni and Friends Foundation (SMSSAFF) which was established primarily to spearhead fund raising efforts in north America to help avert St. Mary's School of Sagada, Inc (SMSSI) from closing.

The Episcopal Diocese of Northern Luzon announced they will not be able to sustain operation of the school beyond 2005, due to extreme financial difficulties.

Manang Inez played a key role in obtaining a 501c3 tax exempt recognition for SMSSAFF from the IRS of the USA which was crucial in enticing tax-exempt donations for SMSSI.

She served as the Treasurer of SMSSAFF since it's founding in 2005 until her untimely death this year, 2020.

SMSSI is now well on its way towards gaining financial independence; thanks in large part to the volunteer service of manang Inez and other SMSSI die hard loyalists.

Manang Inez also served as a defacto Treasurer of All Saints Mission School Alumni and Friends Foundation in North America (ASMESAF-NA) prior to this organization's accreditation as a 501c3 tax-exempt corporation. ASMESAF-NA is composed of alumni and friends of All Saints Mission School of Mountain Province, Inc. (ASMIS), Bontoc. ASMIS was, likewise, at the brink of closure during the last quarter of 2010. No doubt, manang Inez played a significant role in keeping ASMIS functioning until now.

After the old St. James School of Mountain Province, Inc in Besao (SJS) was burned to the ground on June 2, 2012, a world-wide school rebuilding fund-raising effort was launched by alumni and friends of the school. Manang Inez was tapped to act as treasurer to collect SJS building fund donations in North America and remit such collections to SJS through the Diocese of

Northern Philippines. As usual, manang Inez did an astounding service with every cent of donation she collected accounted for. She received a prolonged standing ovation during the blessing of the newly built SJS building on April 6, 2013 in Kin-iway, Besao.

Being the Treasurer of a 501c3 organization (SMSSAFF) as well as her honesty and efficiency in transmitting donations intended for Episcopal Mission Schools in Northern Philippines, quite a number of donors to said schools enlisted the services of manang Inez to facilitate donors' tax exemption receipts as well as remittances to the school beneficiaries. Such schools include, St. Alfreds School, Tamboan, Besao; St. Mathews School, Banga-an, Sagada; and St. Pauls's, Balbalasang, Kalinga.

Devoting most of her time, talents and efforts to charity work, I can only smile with amusement when manong Joe Saley, her loving husband, would jokingly state with a smile, that he has donated manang Inez to charity.

Cousin Inez\*, it was an honor, it was a privilege, it was fun working with you in fund-raising efforts towards sustaining Episcopal Mission Schools in Episcopal Mission Schools north of Baguio. See you in the sweet bye and bye.

Lambert Sagalla.

\*Manang Inez is my cousin tracing from our Batil-ang – Peypeyan family tree springing from Payeo, Besao, Mt. Province.