

Sheepskin Diary

It is with great honor that I attended the welcoming party of Don Santos, Gobernadorcillo. Despite the busy schedule of a fray such as myself, I honored the wishes of my constituent and friend, and made an appearance for the return of Don del Rosario, the Alcalde Mayor's son, Inocencio. Upon arrival I was warmly greeted by the Don and Doña and invited upstairs the caida into the sala where a commotion was held. A commotion that deemed its subject more important than the fray himself!

At the epicenter was Don Inocencio del Rosario himself, a curious fellow indeed, one with the air of those *Illustrados*, *qué jactancioso!* Offering not a mere kiss on this humble friar's palm, he held himself with impudence whilst the crowd fawned over him. Need I to cough like a coy woman to alert them of my attendance? As he should, the Don remedied this, directing them to my person, woefully depriving the fellow of his attention, if not but for a second. For shame, Maxmiliano! To have deprived the precocious young thing of his milk.

Ah, but I jest, of course. Even the ilk of beasts wean from its mother's teat. The young Don must learn in time, of which I have plenty, for I have groomed immense patience from civilizing the Indio of these Islands. However his mannerisms, the perfunctory greeting of his when he came across me, left much to be desired in his taming. We conversed, briefly so, regarding the Church. He then revealed his preferences for less savory beliefs, of which I mean none insofar as The Lord is concerned. Ah but an empty vessel can be refilled. Had he told me he had turned over to Mohammedanism, I would not have the heart to exchange more words. It is proof he can be saved, in due time

of course. Patience serves me well. Along the course of conversation he so abruptly steered it towards the state of the Church and how he had already missed Europe for its far superior edifices.

During that time, I had begun to question the morals the academes of *Europa* had imparted upon the youth. Supposing to alleviate himself of such vile influence, he would do well to attend mass though such an action partaken on his behalf I highly doubt, for the nature of this young man I fear, is that of a head held high in daring opposition to The Lord and at present it refuses to yield.

He continued, unbearably so, that it is only of a single reason he desired return, and that is for Don Santos' daughter Esperanza, whom I consider to be another test of patience The Lord has imparted upon me to test my unshaking faith. A minor slip of memory it was to forget their engagement, which the darling young man was quite, quite eager to remind me of. He boasted of grand weddings, fiestas lasting weeks in celebration of his union. The irony of it all was how he looked to me to officiate the wedding, and being the man of generosity I conceded. Then I suggested, a union so grand should not be held in a church as dilapidated as ours, however the funding dedicated to its refurbishment has not arrived from Don Santos. Such a shame, I told him, to imagine the most beautiful couple wed in such a fashion. Immediately he proposed a donation endorsed by himself, directed to his father the Alcalde! What joy I suppressed in the moment I write here, and from this journal itself he retrieved a page to write his endorsement and handed it to me. I thanked him, most graciously. Perhaps a morsel of kindness lay in him, despite his deprived faith and rather pompous nature.

The toast to his arrival I dedicated to his development.

Otherwise, the suman *muron* and adobo served were nothing short of exquisite, overtly so for this humble friar. Many thanks! To The Lord, Don Santos for his invitation, and to Don del Rosario's parentage.

18 de mayo de 1863

I ascertain the need for these Biblical passages, for the Indios and even the Insulares would do well to gain such values.

Proverbios 11:2 - When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.

Proverbios 15:33 - Wisdom's instruction is to fear The Lord, and humility comes before honor.

Proverbios 18:12 - Before a downfall the heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

LISTA DE PERSONAS QUE NO ASISTIERON A MISA

el 20 de mayo de 1863

AGBUYA, ALEJANDRO

BAUTISTA, MARICEL

BOÑAGA, ERNESTO

CASTILLO, CRISANTO

DEL ROSARIO, INOCENCIO

GARCIA, ANTONIO

GUERRERO, CARDING

MANLANGIT, BULAN

SANTOS, ESPERANZA

DON IGNACIO DEL ROSARIO

It is with full grace and thankfulness I send this letter to inform you that I have met with your son, Don Inocencio del Rosario on the eve of May 18, 1863. Inocencio is a gallant young man inheriting your intellect and gallantry. your son was nothing short of an exemplar amongst his peers, exhibiting peerless mannerisms and inspiring respect all throughout my time meeting him. I had the luxury of sequestering him off for a mere moment amongst the hubbub of Don Santos' party and he shared with me his startling insight upon the state of The Church coming from his comparisons of the enlightened Europe and the Islands. From his keen observations the Church buildings here are left derelict from a lack of maintenance whereas the monasteries in Europe are grand constructs of contemporary architectural styles. I informed him of the state of Kawit's treasuries, the contents of which are nothing to worry you over, due to the Gobernadorcillo's stellar leadership in improving Kawit. However the price of civilizing the Indios through the construction of new roads and buildings for the public comes at a cost of foregoing the Church and Her upkeep. I do not blame Don Santos for this. It is then that your son proposed a humble donation of 2000 pesos from you, with all due respect from this humble friar. Affixed to this letter is his signed endorsement, of which I

am grateful to accept. Truly your son, an angel sent to walk amongst men. The exemplar!
Notwithstanding, you may still reject the donation if you so wish, for this humble friar
and his constituents fear burdening our Alcalde Mayor with such trivialities. On the
occasion you are to accept, I will be nothing short of grateful for your kindness and
generosity.

En Kawit, a 21 de mayo de 1863

Fray Maximiliano Cordero

NOTICE TO THE GOBERNADORCILLO AND CABEZA DE BARANGAY
OF KAWIT CAVITE

I, Fray Maximiliano Cordero have assessed the total costs of reparations to the
Church of St. Mary of Magdalene amounting to 3000 pesos in total. Thanks to the great
donation from the utmost generous Alcalde Mayor Don Ignacio del Rosario this amount
has been lowered to 1000 pesos. To incur the required amount within three months, an
additional tribute of 10 centavos is set to be imposed upon the citizens of Población.
Other nearby barangays are soon to follow.

2 de junio de 1863

Fray Maximiliano Cordero

TIENDA DE COMESTIBLES

el 5 de junio de 1863

RICE.....	1/2 FANEGA
PORK.....	10 KILOS
BEEF.....	15 KILOS
CHICKEN.....	5 KILOS
TILAPIA.....	2 KILOS
MILKFISH.....	3 KILOS
CABBAGE.....	3 KILOS
CARROT.....	3 KILOS
POTATO.....	5

KILOS

STRING BEAN.....	1 KILO
MUNG BEAN.....	1 KILO
MANGO.....	3 KILOS
SUGAR.....	15 KILOS
SALT.....	250

ADARME

COFFEE.....	2 KILOS
CHOCOLATE.....	75

ONZA

CONFESIÓN

el 7 de junio de 1863

Danilo Alvarez

Confessed his theft of his neighbor's chicken's eggs. He reasoned that his children needed to eat, and that he could not afford it. Poor soul. May The Lord bless him and his misfortunes. For his penance I instructed him to pray The Lord's Prayer 10 times a day and imparted upon him a passage from the Bible.

Ephesians 4:28, Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

Isagani Garcia

Confessed he had skipped the paying of his tribute because his harvest had failed, and the amount of crop yielded only half of what he needed. Unfortunate, given everyone else had complied with the new cost of tribute. May The Lord have pity on him. For him, he must pray the Act of Contrition 20 times before me. Before his exit, I imparted a passage to remind him of his duty.

Psalm 116:18, I shall pay my vows to the Lord, oh may it be in the presence of all His People.

Crisanto Diaz

Confessed he had skipped manual labor from past crimes. He has a history of avoiding taxation and various cases of petty theft. Once, he was implicated in a case of smuggling. No prayers will save this one, unfortunate it is to admit. However I shall relay to him a passage to soothe his woes.

Colossians 3:23-24, whatever you do, work heartily, as for The Lord and not for men, knowing that from The Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving The Lord, Christ.

Inocencio del Rosario

Came for counsel, instead of confession. A poor use of this busy friar's time. I would do well with a bowl of champorado after this headache I've had the misfortune of being blessed. Preposterous I find it, how this 'enlightened' fellow is stumped over a simple woman, of all things. A simple push is all a man needs to get what he wants. Though, I doubt the man has had a taste of anything requiring more of him than his father's money. Money of which I am grateful to The Lord for. For inspiration, a simple passage.

Philippians 4:13, I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

LISTA DE DELINCUENTES

el 12 de junio de 1863

BANDIDOS

ALVAREZ, DANILO

ARGUELLES, FELIPE

ASUNCION, MAKISIG

PROSTITUTAS

CALDERON, TRINIDAD

DE GUZMAN, MIRASOL

EVASIÓN DE POLO Y SERVICIO

DIAZ, CRISANTO

FLORES, JOSE

EVASIÓN DE TRIBUTO

CONTRERAS, JOSELITO

FLORDELIZA, HONESTO

GARCIA, ISAGANI

GUTIERREZ, MELCHIOR

The Don and Doña visited me today, having sought my counsel over their daughter's recent misconduct. As I suspected, it was in relation to the young man and his woes of how the woman he loved had grown cold over the years of his absence. It appears he had fallen short of The Lord's wisdom and failed in courting a mere woman. It is fair to argue however, that Esperanza is a peculiarity herself and should not be taken lightly, for she has a record for betraying her demurity. I see her tendency for subversiveness has reared its head once again.

Descriptions of her insubordination is as follows. Firstly, she had neglected her manners during the party, of which I recall her not having greeted me in earnest, leaving

the sala immediately for the parlor. I dismissed it then for a case of her usual shyness. And then, Don Santos told me of a most disturbing thing. Esperanza had slapped the innocent Don Inocencio! I care not for the fellow, but the *subversiva* has not the right to strike a man. Such insolence! They had taken appropriate measures of course, having confined her to her room for the hysteria. After which the two had fled to me in hopes of answers. There, see, is a show of Esperanza's streak for wretched disobedience which I am no stranger to.

Erstwhile from her childhood, she had always been one for mischief, running wild among boys without a care for her father's image. I insisted upon the use of corporal punishment for her misdemeanor back then. If their daughter wished to play with boys, then she shall be treated as most appropriately. That would not end it unfortunately, when they returned to tell me she found ways to run throughout the house like a deranged animal behind her parents' back. Despite all their efforts, Esperanza was a stubborn child rife with problems stemming perhaps from a lack of firm parental guidance.

I blame not the Gobernadorcillo for her upbringing, but the Doña had always been a touch lenient on their child, as expected of the fairer sex. My suggested methods had proven effective enough to tame the wild child, but as a young woman, I hesitated to impose upon her the use of such, for the damage on her face. However, if the Don can find it in himself to strike decisively, then perhaps it shall suffice. To supplement it, Don Santos would do well to take away her other liberties, such as jewelry or leisure, or whatever of the sort Esperanza enjoys. These I suggested to them, which they took well. But of course they would, for a friar would know best how to domesticate.

Knowing gratitude, Don Santos promised me a kilo of Oaxacan chocolate, the best of its kind, and my favorite! I tried to refuse, truly! However, the Don was so insistent I couldn't refuse him either. Perhaps some other time I shall put a foot down and reject such indulgences. I sense the Don and Doña will return once again.

22 de junio de 1863

LISTA DE PERSONAS QUE NO ASISTIERON A MISA

el 28 de junio de 1863

ABUAN, AGAPITO

DE LEON, ELISEO

DEL ROSARIO, INOCENCIO

JIMENEZ, NICOLAS

LOPEZ, ANDRES

MANLANGIT, BULAN

RAMIREZ, FRANCISCO

REYES, MIGUEL

SANTOS, ESPERANZA

SUAREZ, FRANCO

UBALDE, MANINGNING

VELASQUEZ, GABRIEL

CONFESIÓN

el 5 de junio de 1863

Nicolas Jimenez

Confessed that he simply wished not to go to Mass. I advised he rethink himself and his relationship with The Lord, and sentenced him to pray 50 of The Lord's Prayer as penance. I shall spare him no passages, for a man who neglects his relation to The Lord and his Church shall be neglected by him in turn.

Elena Soriano

Confessed that she had intended to steal grain from her master's zaguan to sell elsewhere but refrained from doing so. She and her family serve and live with the Salongas, a reputable family of considerable wealth. I instructed her to say the passage of Exodus 20:15. "You shall not steal," fifteen times for each instance she is led to temptation once again, and to profess her ill will to her master, who will hand her suitable punishment. She wept, so grateful for my wisdom she had neglected to thank me. *Qué grosero!*

Esperanza Santos

Confessed her misdeeds against her parents, Inocencio, and The Church. A pleasant surprise indeed. Her voice was faint, and though her apologies sounded sincere, I doubted their validity for the way she shook like a dog beaten into submission betrayed her dishonesty through the screen. *No soy tonto*, Esperanza! A woman truly repentant

would bow her head and confess with deference, not in hushed tones, for The Lord must hear your cry for mercy.

Jaime Legaspi

Confessed to the theft of his neighbor's share of rice from the harvest. He stated his family would have starved, and a kilo or two of rice would not have hurt anyone. How presumptuous of him, and how callous to deprive The Church of Her tributes! May the merciful hand of God strike him for his impertinence.

Rejoice, for a miracle had occurred! Esperanza Santos had returned to the Church! Ring the bells, hold a fiesta! Set the parade, for the lost lamb has found its way home! Had I not been at the forefront of the Church, I would have dropped the mass and danced with glee! Even the townspeople noticed, though their mumbling amongst each other served no purpose but to hamper my sermons. Oh, and the Don Inocencio had made his appearance as well, a blue-eyed wedge between Esperanza and her maid.

Perhaps I ought to implement the Orans instead. I jest, of course! No member of this town is allowed a mimicry of my posture.

However, the Don's unpleasant expression whilst touching Esperanza's hand during the sacred Our Father allows me to indulge the notion for a moment longer.

28 de junio de 1863

CONFESIÓN

el 3 de julio de 1863

Inocencio del Rosario

A most horrendous confession! Never before had I heard of such vile and nauseating thoughts plaguing a man! I sat in the booth, beside myself in shock! As if he, himself, was tainting me with his vivid descriptions, the stark imagery of the flesh. Abhorrent! To think a man holding such a title of dignity dare gallivant around the streets with impurities! It is most fortunate for him that I, most pious and pure in nature, can offer him some counsel.

Mark 9:47, and if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell.

CONFESIÓN

el 1 de agosto de 1863

Pablo Cabatingan

A case of thievery, which according to the other friars had been enjoying a spike as of late. Pablo stole one of Don Abelardo's carabaos, leading it to the forests and intended to slaughter it. Out of guilt, he returned the carabao and the merciful Don only had him beaten for his indolence. Twenty prayers to Our Father daily, for a week.

Bulan Manlangit

Another thievery! Bulan Manlangit had been caught stealing her mistress' necklace, a prized gift from Don Inocencio. It appears that not even the closest of *india* maidservants can be trusted. Don Santos had her beaten, and her hands whipped raw. She thanked the mercy of her mistress Esperanza for remaining in employment. Thirty prayers of the Hail Mary should suffice.

Arminda Kalaw

A *prostituta* of all things to come into the Church. Fortunately, she came seeking penance for her ill behavior, vowing never to partake in sins of the flesh. Despite the sincerity in her voice, I doubt her, for around her neck were bruises. Perhaps she had sated herself, caught unguarded with the risks of her unseemly occupation. I am no stranger to women of her ilk, who seek repentance but return to whoring in weeks' time. Fortunately, I am merciful and will welcome lost lambs at any time, no matter how often they fall astray. A hundred Hail Mary's a day for two weeks. The Bible offers no verses for her salvation.

LISTA DE DELINCUENTES

el 4 de agosto de 1863

BANDIDOS

CABATINGAN, PABLO

MANLANGIT, BULAN

LOCSIN, EMANUEL

CAPINPIN, FERNANDO

LEGASPI, JAIME

PROSTITUTAS

KALAW, ARMINDA

OCAMPO, MARIA ISABELA

EVASIÓN DE POLO Y SERVICIO

REYES, RODRIGO

BERNAL, CRISOSTOMO

ESTRELLA, JOSE

EVASIÓN DE TRIBUTO

MAGALLONA, FERNANDO

BERNARDO, JULIO

GONZALES, ANTON

LEGASPI, DANIEL

DIZON, PAOLO

13 de agosto de 1863

At last, the festival draws closer! I've secured the funds from Don Ignacio as well as the donations from the indios. How difficult it was to persuade them! If only the indios worked a bit harder, then even a single household would have been able to donate a single peso. Hence, the necessity of raising the taxes. It hurts my poor heart to do so, but for the Church, I shall do it.

Such matters aside, I have arranged for the bands to play throughout the town like a parade, so as to usher in the townspeople to watch the *comedia*: a theatrical rendition of the valiant battle against the Mohammedans of the south. I invested a substantial amount of money into ensuring this celebration will be perfect!

Through this fiesta I shall reinvigorate the masses, and increase their faith in the Church.

27 de agosto de 1863