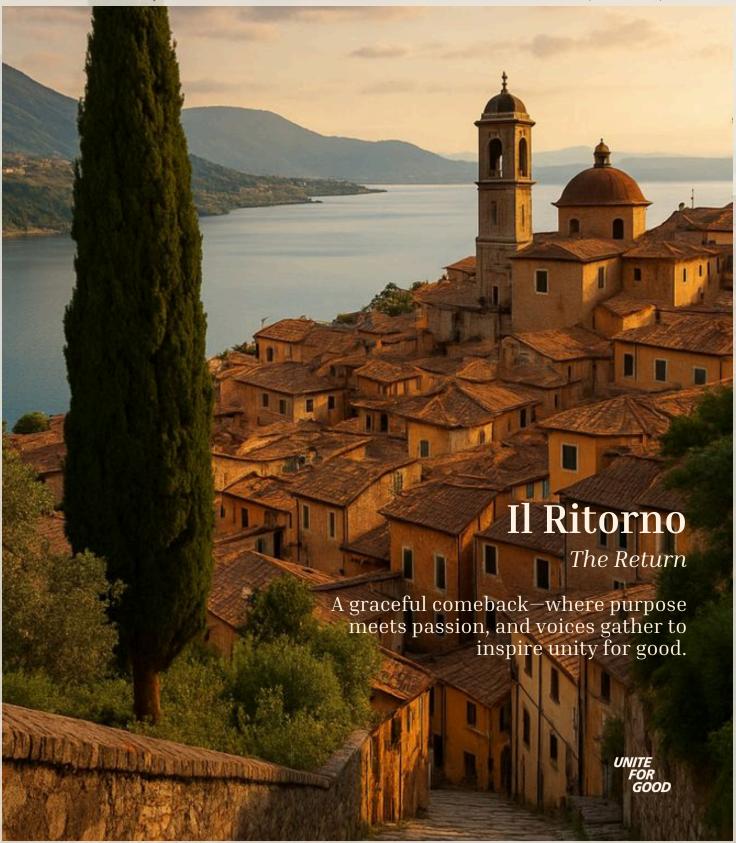
IAFUERZA



The Official Bulletin of Rotary Club of Cebu Fort San Pedro

Club No. 82846, District 3860, Zone 10A



LEADING THE WAY

A Tribute to Rotary's Global, District, and Club Visionaries A story of purpose, heritage, and service that unites Rotary leaders from Sicily to Cebu.





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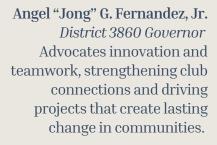
Leadership Across Borders

These leaders embody the Rotary spirit of service that transcends borders, cultures, and generations.



Francesco Arezzo

Rotary International President Champions global unity through impactful service and crosscultural collaboration, inspiring Rotarians worldwide to lead with purpose and compassion.







Josephus Gonzales Club President

Leads with dedication, fostering fellowship and guiding members to turn shared vision into meaningful community action.







EDITORIAL STORY





Francesco Arezzo
RI President | RY 2025-2026

Meet the Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo: A Life of Service, Heritage, and Global Impact

Francesco Arezzo is an orthodontist in private practice and owns an agricultural enterprise that produces extra virgin olive oil in Sicily.

Arezzo is a graduate of the University of Padua and a member of the Italian, European, and American orthodontics associations, as well as the Italian and European lingual orthodontics associations. He is a dentistry graduate of the University of Cagliari, where he also received a master's in lingual orthodontics.

He has served as vice president of the National Association of Italian Dentists for the province of Ragusa and was the founder and head for seven years of the Ragusa delegation to the National Trust for Italy.

Arezzo is also the owner of an agricultural enterprise and producer of extra virgin olive oil in the Monti Iblei region of Sicily. He has been vice president of the administrative council of the consortium controlling and regulating quality production of oil in that region. He owns two boutique hotel settlements there. He enjoys modern art and opera.

A Rotary member for 36 years, Arezzo has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and as RI director, chair of the 2023 Melbourne Convention Committee, learning facilitator, and district conference presidential representative, among other roles.

He is married to Anna Maria Arezzo-Criscione, an entrepreneur in the tourism field. They have two daughters and two grandchildren. His daughter Raffaela spent a year in Florida as part of a Rotary Youth Exchange. Francesco and Anna Maria are Benefactors and Major Donors to The Rotary Foundation.

Source: www.myrotary.org



FEATURE STORY



Angel "Jong" Fernandez 3860 District Governor RY 2025-2026



DISTRICT FOCUS

An insight into the path, service and leadership of our district's chief steward.

Angel "Jong" Fernandez, Jr joined the Rotary Club of Mandaue in 2008 and became Club President in Rotary Year 2013-2014 under the leadership of then Past District Governor Ed Chiongban. He finished his term as club president with a Most Outstanding Club President award.

After successfully leading his club, he was elevated to Rotary District 3860 leadership roles when All Star District Governor Mary Anne Alcordo - Solomon invited him to join the district team as Assistant Governor for Area 1E where he was recognized as Most Outstanding Assistant Governor by District 3860. DG Jong subsequently served as Assistant Governor under Past District Governor Art Tan and as Deputy District Governor for Operations for Visayas Region under Past District Governor Benjamin Garcia, making him assistant governor for three consecutive years.

DG Jong is also the Past District Trainer and Past District Public Image Chair under the leadership of Champion Past District Governor Philip N. Tan. He served as Past Assistant District Membership Committee Chair and PETS-SETS training leader of Past District Governor Anna Louisa Bumagat in RY 2021-2022. He is also the immediate Past District Secretary who worked side by side with Imaginative Past District Governor Lilu I. Aliño. Not to mention he was the tireless and energetic perpetual district host and emcee in almost all of the annual district conferences, PETS-SETS, DISTAS and countless district fellowship night.

By profession, DG Jong is a professional ISO management systems auditor, trainer and consultant to some of the biggest private companies in the Philippines and abroad. He is a CQI-IRCA certified lead auditor for ISO-based management systems, granted by the British Standard Institute United Kingdom. He is the founder and CEO of AGF Consulting Group, an international management system standards think-tank with client presence in Singapore, Shanghai, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Sao Paolo, Brazil, Kentucky & Florida in the USA and the Netherlands.

He holds a degree in Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy from University of San Carlos and a Bachelor of Laws degree from Notre Dame University. He completed an executive MBA course in Singapore and is a Certified Quality Specialist recognized by global Underwriters Laboratories, Chicago USA.

He is married to Atty. Maria Regina Hagad-Fernandez, a former Graft Investigation and Prosecution Officer in the Office of the Ombudsman Visayas, and lives in Cebu City with their two children Angelo Emmanuel, who recently graduated from De La Salle University and Regina Angeli, a sophomore at the same university.



SPOTLIGHT



Josephus Maxilom Gonzales

Club President, RY 2025–2026 A life of service, a legacy of leadership

With a career defined by public service and a heart deeply anchored in family, Josephus Maxilom Gonzales brings wisdom, humility, and drive to his role as Club President.

A proud husband to Juanita Sampilo Gonzales, and father to three accomplished daughters and a cherished granddaughter, Jojo lives by values shaped over decades of government leadership and academic excellence. He retired as Chief Agrarian Reform Officer after 31 years with the Department of Agrarian Reform, and dedicated 21 years as a graduate school professor, guiding aspiring public servants and professionals.

Beyond titles, he is a builder of institutions — most notably as the Founding President of the Association of Government Internal Auditors in 1998, and as a respected government internal auditor in Region 7.

Jojo holds not one, but three doctoral degrees:

- · Doctor of Public Administration from Cebu Normal University (1997)
- · Doctor of Management from the University of the Visayas (2006)
- · Doctor of Education from Southwestern University (2011)

Even in retirement, his commitment to growth continues. He now helps others pursue health and financial security as a Gold Director at USANA and Financial Wealth Planner with FWD Life Insurance Corp. He also serves as a Land Use Conversion Consultant, sharing his expertise with communities navigating development and land reform.

In Rotary, he brings all these layers of experience — government, education, business, and mentorship — into one purpose: to unite people for good and uplift the lives of others through meaningful service.

Beyond his impressive accomplishments, let's take a closer look at the leader at the heart of our club.

Q: What inspired you to accept the role of Club President?

Jojo: What inspired me most was the opportunity to serve with purpose and to give back to a community that has shaped me. Rotary's values resonate deeply with my personal beliefs in servant leadership, collaboration, and impact. I also saw it as a chance to work alongside fellow Rotarians who are equally passionate about service. Together, I believe we can do meaningful work.

Q: What is your vision for the club this Rotary year with the theme, Unite for Good?

Jojo: My vision is to foster a more engaged, inclusive, and collaborative club environment where every member feels heard, valued, and empowered to lead. We will strengthen partnerships within and beyond our club, amplify impactful projects, and develop the next generation of leaders. Through unity, we will magnify our good.

Q: How does this year's Rotary theme resonate with you?

Jojo: Unite for Good speaks to the heart of what I believe leadership should be: bringing people together—not just to act, but to act for a higher purpose. It's about setting aside differences, aligning on values, and moving forward together for the common good. It reminds me that progress is not a solo act—it's a shared mission.

Q: Which area of Rotary service are you most passionate about?

Jojo: I am most passionate about Community Development, especially in empowering underserved sectors through sustainable livelihood and education. When we uplift a community with lasting solutions, we don't just give aid—we give dignity, hope, and a future.

Q: What message would you like to give members as we begin this journey?

Jojo: Let us walk this journey with open hearts and collaborative minds. Each of us brings something unique to the table. Let's unite our strengths, share our time and talents, and remember that the smallest act of service, when done together, becomes something truly powerful. Let's make this year memorable—not just in achievements, but in the relationships and legacy we build.

Q: Share one fun fact about yourself that members might not know.

Jojo: One fun fact? I'm actually a big fan of urban gardening—I grow herbs, vegetables, ornamental plants and even some fruit trees right in the heart of the city. It's my stress reliever and my way of staying rooted—literally and figuratively.

SHINING MOMENT



Mary Grace Guingona Catarata

Club President, RY 2024-2025 Grace in leadership, strength in service

Mary Grace Catarata serves as the Chief Financial Officer of Adeptworks Corporation, a prominent construction company based in Cebu. Her extensive career in the construction industry spans 22 years, showcasing deep expertise and leadership in financial management within this dynamic sector. This long tenure highlights her significant contributions and adaptability within the field.

Beyond her professional achievements, Mary Grace is a dedicated mother of two, balancing her executive responsibilities with her family life. She also demonstrates a strong commitment to community service, passionately contributing her time and skills to various non-denominational religious organizations. Her involvement underscores a rich personal life dedicated to both her family and her faith.

This combination of seasoned financial leadership in a demanding industry, coupled with her devotion to family and community, paints a picture of a well-rounded and impactful individual. Her profile reflects a blend of professional excellence, personal dedication, and active civic engagement, making her a truly distinguished figure.

Here is a chance to get up close and personal with our iron lady:

Q: How would you describe your Rotary year in three words? Grace: Challenge. Unity. Achievement.

Q: What accomplishment or project are you most proud of? Grace: The GIRL Project 4 with the Everlasting Hope Cancer Kids

Q: Share one challenge your team overcame and how. Grace: Hosting the PELS/SELS (President-Elect and Secretary-Elect Learning Seminar), DTLS (District Training Learning Seminar), and DLA (District Learning Assembly) for Visayas last April 3-5, 2025 was no small feat, especially with the limited time we were given to prepare. Despite the tight schedule, everyone rose to the challenge and gave their full support to ensure the event's success. I witnessed first-hand the dedication, teamwork, and unity of our club members, each one doing their part with unwavering commitment. It was truly heart-warming to see everyone come together for a common goal. All the effort was worth it when we received positive feedback from fellow Rotarians and guests. It was a big event, and yet, we pulled it off. Thankful to our district officers for going the extra mile and generously contributing both their time and resource. Their support played a huge role in making the event a memorable success.

Q: What is your favorite memory from your term as President?

Grace: Looking back, I can honestly say that my entire term as Club President has been the most meaningful time in my seven years as a Rotarian. Throughout this journey, I truly felt the love, encouragement, and unwavering support from my fellow club members. They never left my side, from accompanying me to my president's training in Dumaguete to standing with me during my final days as president in Tacloban. Along the way, whether it was through service projects, meetings, fellowships, or hosting district events, their commitment to both me and the club never wavered. This year was not only about leadership; it was about friendship and connection. I gained new friends, built lasting relationships, and had the privilege of meeting many inspiring people. It's an experience I will always treasure.

Q: What advice or encouragement do you want to give the new leadership team?

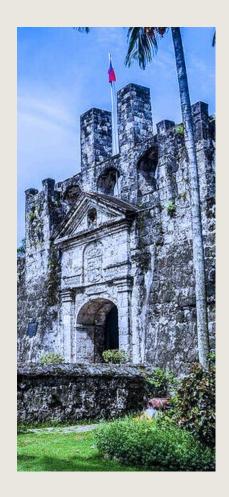
Grace: First of all, congratulations on stepping up to lead! You're about to embark on a truly meaningful journey, one that will challenge, inspired, and transform you in ways you might not expect. Lead with purpose, serve with heart, and never forget why we do what we do. Rotary is not just about projects and meetings, it's about prople. It's about creating impact, building connections, and making a difference, one act of service at a time. You don't have to do it all alone. Lean on each other, trust your team, and remember that your fellow Rotarians are here to support you, just as mine stood by

There will be challenges, but also countless moments of joy, pride, and fulfilment. Embrace them all. And above all, enjoy the journey; it's one of the most rewarding experiences Rotary has to offer. Wishing you a successful and meaningful year ahead!

Q: A short personal message to the members.

Grace: Thank you for walking beside me throughout this incredible journey. Your support, friendship, and dedication have made my Rotary year truly unforgettable. I'm proud of what we've achieved together, and even more grateful for the bond we've built. For choosing RC Cebu Fort San Pedro as your second home. Your time, effort, and resources spent in every activity are deeply appreciated. Please know that each of you plays a vital role in the success of our club. You are valued, you are needed, and you belong. Your journey as a Rotarian is no coincidence, it's part of a greater purpose. Your service will never go unnoticed, because it touches lives in ways you may never fully see. Together, we have planted seeds of hope and change that will continue to grow long after this Rotary year ends. Carry forward the passion, the fellowship, and the commitment that define us. Keep serving with open hearts and willing hands, knowing that every act of kindness brings us closer to a better world.





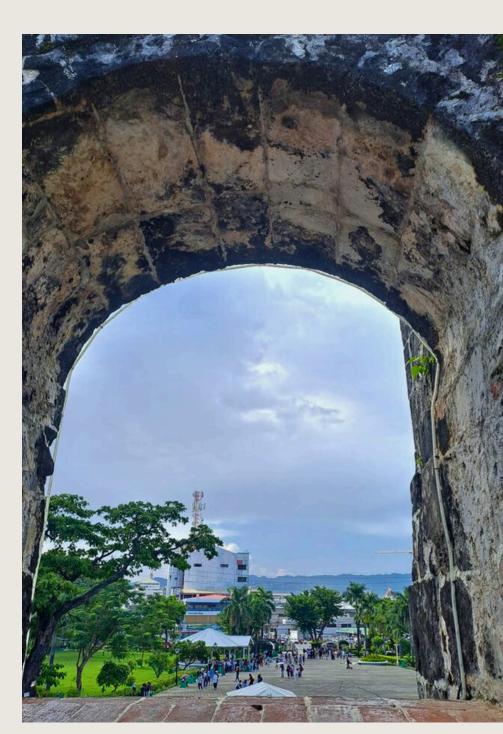
A PLATFORM REBORN

After years of quiet, the official bulletin of the Rotary Club of Cebu Fort San Pedro returns, renewed, reimagined, and ready to tell the stories that matter.

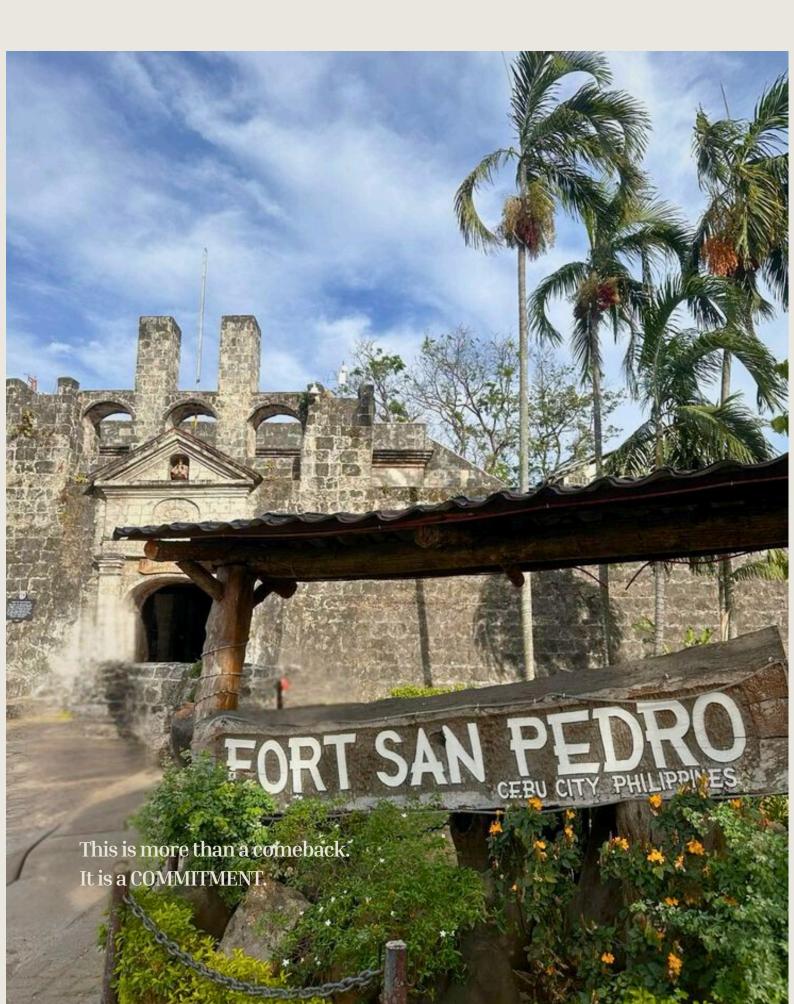
More than just a publication, this bulletin is a window into our club's heartbeat. It captures the spirit of service, the strength of fellowship, and the impact we create together.

From milestone moments to meaningful missions, we are bringing our Rotary journey back to the page.

To those who carried this torch before us—thank you for the foundation. To our readers old and new—we are excited to have you with us. And to future Rotarians and partners in service—may this glimpse into our work inspire you to join the movement.









ROTARY FOCUS

JULY SPARKS: Igniting a New Rotary Year

As the Rotary calendar turned, so did a new chapter for the Rotary Club of Cebu Fort San Pedro. July wasn't just a month—it was a momentum. From vibrant service to powerful leadership transitions, every event reminded us of why we do what we do. This issue captures the passion, purpose, and people behind our projects. Whether you're a longtime Rotarian or just curious about what we're all about, welcome. Come see what impact looks like in motion.



• Bloodletting Drive: One Pint, A Hundred Hopes July 26, 2025

Not all heroes wear capes, some roll up their sleeves.
In a life-saving collaboration with our district partners, our club helped collect precious blood donations in July's community bloodletting drive.

Donors arrived quietly, left smiling, and unknowingly became lifelines for someone in need.



• Unang Lakang: First Steps, Big Dreams July 1, 2025

We kicked off the Rotary year by stepping into the hearts of children. Unang Lakang, held at the Cebu City Sports Institute, brought joy, laughter, and learning to over a hundred young participants. From storytelling corners to mini-games and surprise treats, it was a full-day love letter to the youth. More than an outreach, it was a reminder of why we serve.

Where Hope begins.

A child, lost in the simple bliss of his meal, captures the pure joy and innocence at the heart of "Unang Lakang": *Rotary Day* for *Children*. In this quiet, tender moment, hope feels tangible, and the mission to nurture young lives becomes more than an act of service, it becomes a promise for a brighter future.

Photo by Dean Monares

ROTARY FOCUS



CHANGING OF THE GUARD: DISTRICT HANDOVER CEREMONY

July 4, 2025 – Early July marked more than just a leadership shift—it was a celebration of vision, trust, and continuity. At the District Governor's handover, we honored a year of challenges turned into triumphs led by Immediate Past District Governor Caroline Andrade and welcomed District Governor Jong Fernandez with cheers and confidence. The torch may have been passed but the fire only grew stronger.

This year, our club takes special pride in seeing four of our own step into key leadership roles in the district.

Janel Obnimaga – District Chief of Staff for Area 1 Khristina Pestaño – District Public Image Chair Frederick Rizon – Area of Focus Chair for Economic and Community Development Marifi Gerona – Rotary Youth Exchange Chair

Their appointments are not just personal achievements but also a reflection of our club's commitment to leadership beyond the club level. We look forward to supporting them as they help shape the direction of Rotary International District 3860.



Service Above Self.



Maria Janel S. Obnimaga
District Chief of Staff for Area 1
Past President | RY 2020-2021



Frederick S. Rizon

Area of Focus Chair for Economic
6 Community Development
Past President | RY 2011-2012



Khristina S. Pestaño
District Public Image Chair
Past President | RY 2013-2014



Marifi S. Gerona Rotary Youth Exchange Chair Past Assistant Governor Past President | RY 2012-2013









Area 1 Coordination:
 Charting Our Course –
 Club Goals and Strategic
 Alignment

Club Goals and Strategic Alignment
Who says strategy can't be
inspiring? At the Area I Coordination
Meeting, we gathered with other
clubs from Cebu, Bohol, Negros
Oriental and Siquijor to align
calendars, compare notes, and cook
up plans that serve bigger, better,
and together. When clubs
collaborate, communities win.







For July, the Rotary Club of Cebu Fort San Pedro had the honor of hosting the meeting. It was a proud moment to bring everyone together under one roof and set the tone for a strong, united Rotary year.











• Governor's Visit: Defining Our Direction, Driving Our Mission

July 30, 2025 – With DG Jong Fernandez in the house, our club came alive with stories of impact, strategic plans, and a whole lot of heart. He saw not just our numbers—but our drive, our passion, and our people. The visit was both validation and ignition. To those watching: this is a club on the move. Think big. Serve bold. Be one with us.



15



HANDOVER CEREMONY

ROTARY CLUB OF CEBU FORT SAN PEDRO

ROTARY FOCUS



• Handover & Induction: La Famiglia – A Night of Classic Italian Elegance

July 30, 2025 – We raised our glasses and hopes at our club's handover and induction. Fresh faces joined our ranks, officers donned their pins, and the room buzzed with renewed purpose. It wasn't just a turnover—it was a reawakening. This is your sign to be part of something meaningful, fun, and full of heart.























Every Hand Counts. Especially Yours. The stories you have just read are not just club highlights—they are invitations. Each pint of blood, each child's smile, each handshake between leaders, are all small actions that ripple out into lasting change. Imagine what more we can do with you on board. Join us in the work, the fun, and the fellowship. Let's make this Rotary year unforgettable—together.

Honoring Excellence: RY 2024–25 Club Awards



MARIFI S. GERONA Rotarian of the Year

A standout in every sense—this Rotarian showed unmatched dedication, presence, and heart. Her service may be quiet, but it definitely made a loud impact.



DEAN MONARESClub Officer of the Year

This officer led with focus and heart, balancing responsibility with inspiration. A true anchor in a year of action.



KHRISTINA S. PESTAÑO FREDERICK S. RIZON JANEL S. OBNIMAGA

Presidential Awardees

Chosen by the club president for their unwavering support and quiet leadership, these three Rotarians were the steady hands behind our success.



MARY GRACE. G CATARATA

Leadership Award

Given to our outgoing president for leading with vision, grace, and grit. This is a tribute to a year of strong, servant leadership.

To our awardees: thank you for leading with heart. Your dedication reflects the best of who we are and reminds us what's possible when service is done with purpose. May your example continue to inspire us all to serve more boldly, lead more generously, and give with joy.



ROTARY CALENDAR YEAR 2025-2026



MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH MONTH

July 01 - Beginning of Rotary Year



MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB
DEVELOPMENT MONTH



BASIC EDUCATION & LITERACY MONTH



COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH

OCTOBER 24 -WORLD POLIO DAY



Rotary Foundation Month



Disease Prevention & Treatment Month



Vocational Service Month



PEACEBUILDING & CONFLICT PREVENTION MONTH

FEBRUARY 24-ROTARY'S ANNIVERSARY



Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Month



ENVIRONMENTAL MONTH



YOUTH SERVICE MONTH



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, TAIPEI

LOOKING AHEAD

SAVE THE DATES

August 2 – Orientation for Sponsor Clubs August 8 – Club Fellowship

- · Regular Meeting
- · Chartering of Satellite Clubs

August 9 – Orientation for New Satellite Clubs August 16 – Deadline for Submission of New Satellite Club Documents to RI

August 16 - Area 1 Coordination Meeting September 6 - Vibrant Club Seminar, Davao (Acacia Hotel)

September 13 – Vibrant Club Seminar, Cebu (Montebello Hotel)

October 22–24 – Mount Kinabalu Climb to End Polio



ROTARY KNOWLEDGE

LEARNING CORNER



Rotary Insights

Deepening our understanding of Rotary's history, programs, and impact.

Rotary's Areas of Focus: What Drives Our Service

Rotary's seven Areas of Focus define the kinds of lasting change clubs aim to create in their communities and around the world. These priorities help ensure that projects are meaningful, sustainable, and aligned with global development goals:

· Promoting Peace

Conflict resolution, mediation training, and support for displaced communities help foster a more peaceful world.

· Fighting Disease

From medical missions to public health education, Rotary works to reduce the spread of life-threatening illnesses and improve access to care.

· Providing Clean Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

Sustainable systems bring safe water and proper sanitation to underserved areas, improving health and dignity.

· Saving Mothers and Children

Access to quality healthcare, nutrition, and maternal support helps reduce preventable deaths and build stronger families.

· Supporting Education

Literacy programs, scholarships, and teacher training initiatives help unlock opportunity and reduce inequality.

· Growing Local Economies

Vocational training, microloans, and job creation projects empower communities to thrive independently.

· Protecting the Environment

Conservation efforts, renewable energy projects, and waste reduction initiatives contribute to a healthier planet for future generations.

Why It Matters

These focus areas are more than service themes, they are a shared blueprint that helps Rotarians across the globe address urgent needs with lasting solutions. Every successful project starts with a clear purpose and these seven priorities keep our impact focused and farreaching.











Inspiring hope, uniting for good.

A Rotarian's simple act of kindness can spark a lifetime of inspiration. Together, we uplift communities and shape brighter futures.













COMMUNITY PARTNERS











































Allied Organizations

Club partners, organizations, and companies are valued collaborators who share resources, expertise, and support to help achieve common goals. Through joint initiatives, sponsorships, and active participation, they strengthen programs, expand reach, and create greater impact in the community.

Hotel Partners

Community Beneficiaries

Our community beneficiaries and supported organizations represent the heart of our mission. These groups, institutions, and communities are the focus of our programs and outreach efforts. Through sustained support, resources, and collaborative initiatives, we aim to uplift lives, strengthen capacities, and create lasting positive change.

CLUB AT GLANCE

Rotary Club of Cebu Fort San Pedro Chartered: January 10, 2010

Club ID: 82846

Meeting Schedule: Friday, 6:00 PM Venue: Big Hotel, Mandaue City Club Email: rccfsp@gmail.com

Facebook Page: Rotary Club of Cebu Fort San Pedro

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President: Josephus Gonzales
President-Elect: Dean Monares
President-Nominee: Rizza May Tan
Vice President: IPP Mary Grace Catarata
Secretary: Rizza May Tan
Assistant Secretary: Dean Monares
Treasurer: Marifi Gerona
Auditor: Myrna Bancale
Sergeant-at-arms: Rey Neri

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Membership & Vocational Service: Frederick Rizon
Public Image: April Jane Dunque, Khristina Pestaño
Community Service: Jesus Rodinas, Jr.
International Service: Daniel Mercado
The Rotary Foundation: Mary Grace Catarata
Club Administration: Lady Hanna Shen Monares
Learning Facilitator: Khristina Pestaño
Young Leaders Contact: Cherryl Robles

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

Myrna Bancale - PHF Mary Grace Catarata - PHF+1 Marifi Gerona - PHF+8 Josephus Gonzales- PHF Elizer Lao - PHF Daniel Mercado - PHF+4 Eldein Monares - PHF Lady Hanna Shen Monares - PHF Rey Neri - PHF Janel Obnimaga - PHF+1 Khristina Pestaño - PHF Frederick Rizon - PHF+2 Cherryl Robles - PHF Jesus Rodinas, Jr. - PHF+1 Lilia Rodinas April Jane Dunque Rizza May Tan Flordelis Velayo Primitivo Deiparine Haide Cañete Liwayway De La Pieza Ranell Blanco Richard Anthony Badayos





La Fuerza is the official bulletin of the Rotary Club of Cebu Fort San Pedro.
This comeback edition renews our commitment to share projects,
celebrate service, and inspire our community.