



**INAUGURAL SPEECH  
50<sup>TH</sup> INDUCTION & TURNOVER CEREMONY**

10 July 2020, 12 noon  
Via Zoom

To our honoured dignitaries from the Rotary International District 3860 under the dynamic leadership of our Transforming District Governor Rodel Riezl Reyes and of course to the Champion Past District Governor Philip Tan, to my immediate family, dear Rotarians and guests, friends, a pleasant afternoon to all of us.

Let me start this message with the word from the famous American business executive, Richard Daly and I quote, *"Every new opportunity in life remains only potential until you take that first step forward"*.

And I am now taking that first step forward, believing that along the way in my journey as your humble club president, would find doors that are widely open for many opportunities especially in our work in helping the communities.

It was in 2012 that I was being introduced into the rotary world through the effort of my sponsoring Rotarian and mentor, PP Momoy Soco who has invited me to few rotary meetings prior to my induction. I have to admit that my first year in the rotary was neither rewarding nor productive, per se. But, as time went by, through active participation on some service projects and fellowships which eventually made me comfortable and enjoy the rotary meetings and activities.

Being in the rotary has contributed so much in moulding my being as a person. I have been your Chair for Youth Service, now called as New Generation, for quite number of years and being your Club Secretary for 5 times already (with 3 years straight in a row) was such a tough job, and I cannot forget with pride the "Rotarian of the Year Award" which was given to me during the term of PP and now PAG Hermie Go and I really appreciated it so much. Once again, thank you PAG Hermie!

This rotary year with the theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities" is a very challenging year to all of us brought about the unprecedented Covid 19 pandemic. At first, I was hesitant to lead the club being your "covid" club president because of the many apprehensions during this ongoing health crisis. So many questions...Am I capable enough?

But I know deep in my heart, that this is my call in the service in the rotary, and I would gladly accept it, knowing that I will be able to survive, having a strong faith in My creator and most especially, working along with these Rotarian leaders, who are always here with me, to support and guide me on this journey. To that, I am so grateful.

An Austrian neurologist and psychologist, Victor Frankl once said *"When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves"*.

This is now what we are really doing, adapting to change, adapting the new normal.

Limited face-to-face activities - mostly on digital platforms, flexible work schedule, travel restrictions, and many others.

In Rotary, we are now into virtual meetings and limited Rotarian-volunteers on service projects.

This is now the new normal and we should learn to embrace and adapt.

My dear Rotarians, I invite you to take this journey with me. If we tried to look back at our past, there might be a gap between what we wish we would have done versus what we did, and perhaps leaving us a painful regret of missed opportunity. We cannot change the past, but today, as Rotarians, we have the opportunity to change the lives of others.

Together, as Rotary Club of Mandaue, let us continue to serve...let us continue to touch someone's lives...and let us continue to transform the community by creating opportunities that will put our service ideas into action and eventually improving the lives of those in need.

Once again, thank you ug maayong hapon!

  
**DANILO A. DIONSON**  
Club President  
RY 2020 - 2021



**JULY 2020**