

## *Never Alone*

**By FIDEL ABRENICA NOMBRE**

I AM Fidel, born April 20, 1955, in Manila. So, I am now 69 years old. I am a college undergraduate with a course in Hotel and Restaurant Management at the University of the East. I did not finish my studies because of financial problems. Besides, I was too excited to have a job because I was eager to help my parents.

But that dream hardly came true.

Unfortunately, my father suffered from various hypertension and diabetes, among other ailments. He passed on before I could fully serve him. Sadly, after several years, my mother also suffered from the same illnesses as my father did, and she eventually passed away too.

*Please turn to page 15*



## *Cheers!*

WE planned to feature him in our first quarter issue. But we needed additional materials about him. Cheers! Sis. Arcie Binohhi, Anawim Center administrator, completed the story of Lolo Fidel Abrenica Nombre which we share with you now. Thank you, Sis. Arcie!

Cheers! Bro. Hermie Morelos, chairman of our Light of Jesus Mercy Ministries, reports on Anawim's 29<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary, *pages 2-6*.

Cheers! Tribute to Bro. Omar Florencio, our featured caregiver, *page 13*.

Cheers! We honor with deep gratitude our numerous donors, *pages 7-12*,

Cheers to you all, our Anawim! We truly believe God is Present here and He blesses you with His mercy and unconditional love.



May your dreams come true,

*Bo Sanchez*

**Bo Sanchez**



## ANAWIM YEAR 29: *And Then There Is Light*



YOU are looking at a couple of cottages of our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly. *At left, 29 years ago. At right, nowadays.*

We started in the early 1990s. Some members of our faith community, the Light of Jesus Family, wanted to serve the Lord and become missionaries, even ready to give up their lucrative jobs.

God was more than ready to grant their wish, providing them a mission field on a five-hectare land located at Sitio Tañag, Barangay San Isidro, Montalban, Rizal...

And by Divine Grace, Bro. Bo Sanchez, founder of the Light of Jesus, was led to put up a haven for abandoned elderly, calling the home *Anawim*-- after the Hebrew word which means *God's poor*.

In December 1994, Anawim Lay Missions was born, putting up our Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly.

Yes, we started in a dark forest-- now as bright as the smiles of our lolos and lolas.

## We Are the Light

Fast forward to June 19, 2024. On this day, we celebrated the 29<sup>th</sup> Founding Anniversary of Anawim Home for Abandoned Elderly centering on the theme *Ikaw, Ako, Tayo ang Liwanag na Mula Kay Kristo -- You, I, We are the Light Emanating from Christ.*

Here, we share our photo story...



**THANKSGIVING MASS** presided by Fr. Joseph Pumihic (*left*) with co-celebrant Fr. Benoit Bambili



At the frontline, *from left*:  
Sis. Reng Morelos and husband Hermie Morelos, president, Anawim Lay Missions and head, LOJ Mercy Ministries; Bro. Bo Sanchez.  
*Behind them*, Sis. Marowe Sanchez, and her mom, Sis. Linda Lopez.

## Unconditional Love



Fr. Joseph thanked sponsors, donors, and workers for their service: “You have made our elderly feel loved and accepted.”

He pointed out: “Anawim is a fruit of God’s love.”

Abandoned by those who were supposed to take care of them, lolas long for affection which they express here in the now popular Korean sign for love. And with unconditional love, standing behind them, *from left:* Bro. Bo; Bro. Eng Si, Anawim Board Member, and his wife Nimfa; Bro. Vic Español, Anawim Board Member and region head, Feast International which well supports our Mercy Ministries; Bro. Hermie Morelos, president, Anawim Lay Missions Foundation and chair, Light of Jesus Mercy Ministries, with wife Sis. Reng Morelos; Bro. Bo’s wife, Sis. Marowe Sanchez, also affirming with the love sign.

Yes, they need to know someone cares...Like Sis. Marowe hugs Lola Nila while Bro. Bo bends down to care for Lola Leony.



...Someone like Bro. Hermie who thoughtfully holds the wheelchair of Lola Violy in place as she sings *Ang Anawim ay Isang Paraiso (Anawim Is a Paradise)*, composed by one of the elderly residents.



### Love Reciprocated

Our grannies reciprocate their benefactors' love with a beautiful program led by Sis. Arsenia 'Arcie' Binohhi and Sis. Stella Marie Josefa Apao as emcees. *At right, they join Anawim Employees in this dance dubbed Mamang Sorbetero (Ice Cream Peddler) led by Angelo Banatao and Stella Marie Josefa Apao.*



Anawim Nursing Caregivers present a dance depicting the mission of Jesus played by Oliver Biccay.



Lola Cathy belts out Frank Sinatra’s *Strangers in the Night*.  
And not to be outdone, lolas show off action song  
*We Will Rock You*.

And if it’s action you want, an Anawim event is not complete without Lola Fely’s Dance-for-All challenge. Just happy to accept the challenge are our Jeremiah girls, under the loving care of Jeremiah Foundation Executive Director Sis. Jing Saavedra Apuhin. Deepest thanks, Sis. Jing!



Also thrilled to rock and roll here is no less than Bro. Bo, pulled to the dance floor by the irrepressible Sis. Babes Zambrano, Anawim spiritual ministry head.

Forever thank you, Bro. Bo!  
Yes, it was a fun, awesome celebration of Anawim Year 29!

He did not dance because he was busy-busy managing the event. Yes, behind the flawless festivity was Anawim Executive Bro. Carlos Dimson.

Salutes and heartfelt gratitude to you and your team!  
All glory to God!



# HIS MERCIES NEVER CEASE!

*The faithful love of the Lord never ends.  
His mercies never cease. Great is his faithfulness.  
His mercies begin afresh every morning. -Lamentations 3:22-23 NLT*



Thank you, Eulogio Rodriguez Elementary School!



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Thank you, Lacanlale Family!

# IN GOD'S VINEYARD

*Yes, I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I, in him, will produce much fruit. --John 15:5*

## *A Strong Branch*

A VINEYARD produces grapes. Our Lord Jesus used the vine of grapes to point out His relationship with us: He is the Vine that has branches. As long as the branches are connected to the vine, they live and produce fruit-- the grapes. And the branches are us. As long as we remain in Jesus, we will produce fruit-- good works that spread His Good News of salvation and eternal life for mankind.

Omar Florencio is one branch of the Vine blessed to produce fruit: inspiring people under his care to live the Gospel as disciples of Jesus.

Born on July 9, 1980, Bro. Omar is now 44 years old, living in San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal. And today, he serves as a caregiver in Anawim.

He has been well prepared for this mission through various jobs in his younger years. He started as a tricycle driver for three years. Then as a factory worker for Evans Corporation at the Greenwich Pizza Commissary. He also worked in a plastic factory. He even worked as a garbage collector for two months.

In these jobs, he developed various skills for his future life as caregiver. He was inspired to be a caregiver when he found his way to Anawim through his cousins Ryan Cruz, a volunteer caregiver in Anawim, and Jemalyn San Pascual, a nursing aid also in Anawim.

Eventually, Omar followed their footsteps. He studied Caregiving at Roosevelt Rodriguez, graduating in 2008. So, Anawim employed him as caregiver in the Nursing and Caregiving Services section.



## Responsibilities

Omar is responsible for morning and evening care for the elderly. He assists in administering medicines such as oral, topical, and suppositories, accompanies patients to the hospital for check-up, treatment, or confinement.



Taking care of the well-being of the elderly, he makes sure they have proper hygiene, proper diet, and always exercise.

Omar is also responsible for proper monitoring and custody of elderly supplies as well as residential equipment, furniture, and fixtures assigned to him.

He enjoys helping the elderly house caretaker in decorating and maintaining the cleanliness and orderliness of elderly cottages as the need arises.

And he participates in teaching demonstration and supervision of student trainees assigned to his area of responsibility.

## Blessings

Now, married, Omar is grateful that his job helps him well to provide for his family. *Here*, Omar with wife Raziel and children Russel Andrei, Grade 8, and Luke Alessandrace, Grade 6.



A blessing he well appreciates is the Anawim Feast Light led by Feast Builder Bro. Hermie Morelos, held every Wednesday.

“Here, I have a happy spiritual family,” Omar says.

And here he learned the Bible verse that inspires him every day, Philippians 4:13: *For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.* A strong branch, indeed, in God’s vineyard.

## *Never Alone... from page 1*

Unfortunately, my father suffered from hypertension and diabetes, among other ailments. He passed on before I could fully serve him. Sadly, after several years, my mother also suffered from the same illnesses as my father did, and she eventually passed away too.

I decided not to get married and to this day, I enjoy my life as a bachelor. I wanted to be alone-- but I would soon realize, all my life, I've never been alone.

I have had a string of jobs. But my income was not enough for my needs. So, I decided to work abroad. I was financially stable but still I felt lonely.

With that, I decided to come back home to the Philippines. I rented a house in Barangay San Rafael, Rodriguez, Rizal, and worked as a waiter at Harrison Plaza Hotel. But the Coronavirus Disease (COVID) Pandemic happened in 2020, and the restaurant decided to lay off workers. Unfortunately, I was one of them.

I was able to survive because of my savings and my good neighbors helped provide for my needs. Also, I found a job as cook in a carinderia.

Then, in June 2023, I experienced a cloudy area in my eyes, later diagnosed as cataracts. A few months later, I could hardly see, so I decided to quit my job.

By God's amazing grace, one of the officials of Barangay San Rafael, Serafin 'Tatay Apen' Garibay, used to serve in Anawim Lay Mission Foundation Inc. He kindly referred me to Anawim. And Anawim admitted me on October 27, 2023.



In Anawim, I enjoy a secure life-- a home in a comfortable cottage, plus medical care, giving me hope that I can see clearly again.

A priceless blessing is I feel the love of God through the unconditional caring of the Anawim leaders and personnel.

Here, I learned my favorite Bible verse, Romans 5:8: *But commandeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*



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***Go and make disciples of all men.***

— Matthew 28:19



