



Cory at Ninoy: Mananatili kayong buhay sa aming paninindigan

In August of 1983, from the seeming darkness and emptiness of the shameless and gruesome murder of Ninoy Aquino, there opened a path of hope for our people to unite and put an end to the Marcos dictatorship in a non-violent manner. It was the gift of Ninoy's bravery and generosity in laying down his life amidst the brazenness and brutality of the Marcos regime that catalyzed what became the unstoppable force for democratization in the country. But the leadership of this movement fell on the shoulders of what people thought then to be his "simple housewife": Cory Aquino. Her steadfast faith, selfless determination and pure sincerity symbolize everything that the enemies of democracy are not -- both during and after the Marcos government.

Today in August of 2009, we mourn the passing of our beloved President Cory, condole with her loved ones, and commend her to our Lord's eternal embrace and consolation which she so richly deserves. But we also thank her and celebrate her life of constancy and commitment to bring about and defend democracy in the country. Restoring and protecting democratic institutions has been Cory Aquino's mission and legacy to our people. And thus to show our deep gratitude for this gift, amidst the persistent political crisis, threats to democracy and dangers of disempowerment and disengagement in our country, we say:

***Cory, Hindi ka Nag-iisa!
Itutuloy namin ang iyong laban.
Mananatili kang buhay sa aming paninindigan.
Tulad mo, magtataya kami para sa Diyos at bayan!***

We are well-aware that the young people we work closely with today in our educational and social apostolates have no personal memories of the struggle for democracy in the 1970s and 1980s. Thus they may not fully appreciate the distinctive sacrifices and unique significance of Ninoy and Cory Aquino in our history. That is why we pledge today to honor and keep alive their legacy through continuing education and organization for responsible political stewardship and engaged citizenship towards genuine democracy. This task includes our work to safeguard the Constitution, to uphold truth and accountability in governance, to oversee and participate

meaningfully in elections, and to promote wide-ranging social reform and inclusion, environmental protection and a just peace, particularly in Mindanao.

The challenge of continuing Ninoy and Cory Aquino's mission is enormous and difficult. But we are also heartened by the outpouring of prayers, grief, tributes and love for President Cory which we are witnessing today. As in 1983, we know and deeply believe that a life of profound faith and unwavering commitment has the power to inspire people and transform society beyond death and across generations. In that sense, Cory like Ninoy, will live in our individual and communal resolve to give ourselves in service to our country.

***Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang iyong pamana, Pangulong Cory!
Ipagtatanggol namin ang demokrasyang ipinaglaban mo nang buong katapatan!***

August 4, 2009

