

REMARKS OF H.E. ALBERT DEL ROSARIO
PHILIPPINE AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES
AT THE GIFT OF LIFE, INC. DINNER DANCE
Westchester Marriott Hotel
670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, N.Y.
19 February 2005

Distinguished Guests,

Fellow Rotarians,

Friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am truly honored to have been invited to continue this close association with the Gift of Life. Having been deeply moved by the selfless work of my brother Louie and his wife Barbara and the many other members of the Rotary, ~~I could not but accept the invitation with~~ ^{it was difficult not to accept the invitation and I do so with} ~~look forward to being~~ ^{look forward to being} humility and ~~proceed to~~ be a small part of this great altruistic effort that is the Gift of Life. In modest recognition for the invaluable help extended to children of the world especially children of my country, the Philippine Government presented the Gift of Life with the Ambassador's Award a few months ago in Washington, D.C. Let us all applaud you for that.

When I look out to you from where I stand, what I see is a gathering of very happy people who at the same time enjoy the distinction of being extremely successful. As you know, success and happiness

are not a natural combination: many people are successful but are not necessarily happy.

I truly believe you are successful and happy because you have made other people very happy. More specifically, you have given of yourself generously ~~in the creation~~^{by creating} of hope for many young children when there would have been ~~no hope were it not for you~~^{more without you}. More than this, you have built bridges of friendships throughout the world by giving both the gift of life and the gift of love.

There is this world renowned heart specialist, Dr. Magdi Yacoub who operates on the tiny hearts of babies in the first days of life. I understand he once said and I quote: " Operating on patients with heart disease leads you to ask, why did this organ go wrong in the first place?"

I do not know the scientific answers. What we can reasonably surmise is that the gift of life is a gift of the Lord and, throughout man's history, we are given a chance to demonstrate our humanity. ^{for example} ~~a~~ One less-than perfect situation in one ^{'s} person's life presents an opportunity for another ^{person} to show compassion. When that happens, the world then becomes a better place.

Thank you dear Rotarians for helping to make this a great world to live in.