



ROUND TABLE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR AND FROM KNIGHTS

We Drank Our Tears



Derrick Atalig plays Rafael Mafnas.



Dylan Santos plays Benjamin Abadilla.

Mount Carmel School and TRIBE Marianas announced that they will present two more installments in the "We Drank Our Tears" film series at the Regal Saipan Megaplex on May 2. As a follow up to last year's Francisco Babauta's story, the two new films will be Benjamin Abadilla's Story and Rafael Mafnas's Story.

All three films are adapted from "We Drank Our Tears", a 2004 oral history of the civilian experience of World War II battles on Saipan and Tinian, published by Pacific STAR Young Writers Foundation. In 1944, some of the final battles of World War II were waged on the Pacific islands of Saipan and Tinian. 933 indigenous Chamorro and Refaluwasch civilians did not survive the battles, and films chronicle three of their stories.

The first film from the series, Francisco Babauta's Story, will kick off the screening on May 2nd. That film won the best local production in the 2017

Marianas International Film Festival and was a finalist for the Made in the Marianas Award at the 7th Annual Guam International Film Festival. Written and directed by school president, Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Francisco Babauta's Story earned acclaim at the festivals and received positive reviews at a few local screenings on Saipan.

Based on the success of Francisco Babauta's Story, Deleon Guerrero decided to move forward with two more films in the series. Benjamin Abadilla's story, which was written and directed by Deleon Guerrero, follows Abadilla as he is separated from his family during the battles and hides out in the jungle tries to find them. Rafael Mafnas's story, which was written and directed by students Angelo Manese and Justin Ocampo, tells of Mafnas's efforts to escape crossfire between American and Japanese soldiers by hiding in a cave with his friend.

While Manese and Ocampo have been involved in numerous film and stage productions, this is their first time directing. Asked why they agreed to direct, Manese referred to the first film, Francisco Babauta's story. "Ever since the first one, I've seen how much passion people have for this project, so I wanted to invest my own passion too."

For Ocampo, he wanted to tell the stories. "When I saw the first 'We Drank Our Tears', I liked how it was just one of many stories to be told. It's all about telling stories."

Both Manese and Ocampo believe everyone should see the films. As Manese put it, "Having lived here all my life, and seeing how World War II affected these islands, the families of the people in these stories need to see their stories about how they were affected."

Ocampo added, "At one point, Francisco, Benjamin, and Rafael were real people who had real stories to be told. I also hope that, deep down, that is something that will resonate with audiences." When asked the same questions, Deleon Guerrero said, "There are just so many important stories to tell, and I felt like we just had to tell them, and more people need to see them." The films' cast and crew



included a wide range of talent from across the island. Both films were produced by Deleon Guerrero, 2005 AlumKnight Rob Travilla and his company TRIBE Marianas, Frankie Eliptico and the Northern Marianas College, and the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

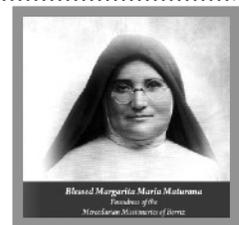
Rafael Mafnas's story features Derrick Atalig as Rafael, Matt Moran as his friend Juan, Seok Jun Run as Takeda, a Japanese soldier, Eric Kiser as Mike, an American soldier, and Rodrigo Castro as the older Rafael. Benjamin Abadilla's story features Dylan Santos as Benjamin, Aysia Adele Duenas Santos as his mother, Martha, Kalea Borja as his aunt, Mariana, and Jeremiah Diaz as his father, Ramon. The cast also includes Mark Toves as the older Benjamin, Joaquin C. Duenas as the older Ramon, and Joyce C. Santos as an older version of Benjamin's sister.

Both films shared a crew, with Quincy Chinen as the unit production manager, Kelvin Cepeda as the first assistance director, Reica Ramirez as script supervisor, Victoria Deleon Guerrero and Joani Paraiso as production designers, and Alvin Palacios as lead cameraman. The crew also included Aldwin Batusin and Ivy Leong assisting with production design, Kyle Bautista operating the boom microphone, and Maverick Irang serving as the crew grip.

"We Drank Our Tears" will be shown on May 2 at the Regal Saipan Megaplex. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the screening will start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Mount Carmel School and TRIBE Marianas

Honoring the MMB Legacy in Poetry

Mount Carmel School is joining the continuing celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the arrival of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, or the MMB sisters, on Saipan.



The school recently held a series of contests that invited students to reflect on the impact of the MMB sisters on Saipan and their school. Winners will be announced during a special May 4th mass for May Crowning. Featured in this article are finalists for the poetry contest are middle school students Robin Alvarez, Lynzey Green, and Hannah Lacap.

Along with Father Arnold Bendowski, the MMB sisters were the founding mothers of the school who served as teachers and administrators when the school opened in 1952. Over the years, the MMB sisters have continued to help as teachers, facilitators for student retreats, and spiritual advocates who keep the school in their prayers.

To honor the work the MMB sisters have done, the school challenged students to reflect on the theme, "The MMB Legacy: Looking Back and Looking Forward, What Will Your Mission Be?"

Legacy
by Robin Alvarez

You have sailed far,
Out into other worlds.
To spread the word of God,
For many centuries to come.

You built many churches and schools,
To teach the children of God.
To know his good deeds,
You inspired many of us.

Because of your doings,
We had our only Catholic school on island.
We got to know you well,
From a place on the other side of the world.

God has called you,
To be his servants.
That your one and only job,
Is to teach us about our mysterious God.

It has been 90 years since your voyage,
To travel around the world.
We hope you will do this,
For many centuries to come.

Continued on back

Announcements

3 Days Left for Early Bird Discount!

Please note that there is only 3 days left for the 2018-2019 Early Bird Registration Discount of \$200 (normally \$400), which is May 1. To apply online, simply access the admissions link on our school website, mountcarmelsaipan.com. Once there, use the same username and password you used last year. If you need assistance, contact our Information Technology Director, Jonathan "JC" Clark, at jc@saipantech.com.

We Drank Our Tears

Mount Carmel School and TRIBE Marianas proudly present "We Drank Our Tears", a trilogy of short films about World War II that will be shown at the Regal Saipan Megaplex on May 2. As a follow up to last year's Francisco Babauta's story, the two new films will be Benjamin Abadilla's Story and Rafael Mafnas's Story. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the screening will start at 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$10 and are on sale at the MCS Business Office and at TRIBE Marianas.

Spring Band Concert

Mount Carmel School proudly presents a Spring Band Concert, featuring the MCS Concert Band and the Saipan Pacific Winds Concert Band, conducted by Julian Greening and Atsuko Eck, May 4 at 6:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm) at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

In the Future

AP Testing

May 1-11

STUCO Elections

May 2: Candidate Speeches
May 3: Election Day
May 7: Inauguration Day

May Crowning Mass

Friday, May 4

First Holy Communion & Confirmation

Sunday, May 6

Sports Calendar

CCOPSA Varsity Volleyball

MCS Girls 2 vs ACS @MCS at 3:30	Monday, April 30
MCS Boys vs SSSH @SSHS at 3:30	
MCS Girls 1 vs SSSH @SSHS at 4:30	
MCS Boys vs SIS @SIS at 3:30	Wednesday, May 2
MCS Girls 1 vs SIS @SIS at 4:30	
MCS Boys vs KHS @MCS at 3:30	Thursday, May 3
MCS Girls 1 vs KHS @MCS at 4:30	
MCS Boys vs ACS @ACS at 3:30	Friday May 4
MCS Girls 1 vs ACS @ACS at 4:30	

ESLR of the Week

#5. Appreciate traditions, customs and beliefs of diverse world-wide community.

MMB Poetry

continued from front

Missionaries

by Lynzey Green

A community of devoted women,
who gave up everything to travel land and sea;
to spread the good news;
to implant seeds of God in people; to grow beautiful
human beings.

A community of loving, nice, helpful women,
who had nothing to gain
but helping others grow and prosper
become stronger in their faith.

They traveled all over
to a small island called Saipan;
They traveled all over
to lend a helping hand

Like a four leaf clover,
special and rare
they worked so hard they had no time to spare.

On March 4, 90 years ago
Five women far from home arrived on Saipan and got
right down to task.
No time to waste; time raced
with a new mission at hand
they planned to do as God commanded
to teach, to preach, to let others know,
give young girls knowledge to grow, grow, grow!

They have made many achievements here on Saipan;
being the building blocks of our island's Catholic faith,
creating institutions that still lie here today.

They were fierce, brave, dependent woman,
their work of pilgrimage will never be forgotten;
it holds a special place in our hearts,
that set them apart from the rest to be the best of the
best!

Love

by Hannah Lacap

The love of God is what they believed in
The love that Christ gave them
The love that inspired them to keep moving forward

Moving everywhere, spreading the word
Of God
Gaining followers from around the world.
Wanting to spread His teaching even more
They moved to Saipan.

It was a struggle trying to stay safe.
War and danger surrounded them.
Dodging bullets and bombs everywhere
They went.

Many lives were lost and some injured.
Yet they still kept on going
Knowing that God was still with them.

If the war couldn't stop them
What could?

Many years later, we students visit
Their home to build a strong
Relationship with God every year

And ever since then,
We have always enjoyed our time
With the sisters

They've taught us how to love
And forgive
They've taught us how to work together
And maybe inspired some of us to
Be like them

Their work is very important to our school
They inspire us with the amazing deeds
They've performed
Showing us that anything is possible with the
Help of our Lord

And that He can help
Us with our calling to our true vocation

And ever since then,
They've been one of Mount Carmel's
Greatest friends.



The MCS AlumKnight Association AlumKnight Association recently presented contributions to Mount Carmel School for new school furniture, to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for vocations, and to the Sisters of the Mercedarian Missionaries of Berriz, or MMB, for their Maturana House. AlumKnight Association chair, Charles Cepeda (far left, front row), association vice chair Priscilla Dela Cruz (second row, second from left), and association member Aysia Adele Duenas Santos (second row, second from right) presented the checks to (front row, left to right) School President Galvin Deleon Guerrero, Sr. Narcie Penaredonda, SJBP who received the contribution on behalf of Bishop Ryan P. Jimenez, and Sr. Kathy Bromwell who received the contribution on behalf of MMB. 6th grade students and Student Council officers joined them as the contributions were presented. The funds were raised during the association's annual "Night with the Knights" fundraising banquet held earlier this year.