

## **GOODBYE, LINA CORDOVA**

**From Inday Pronstroller**

It was almost suddenly that past CFM National President, Rosalina “Lina” Cordova left us. If there were one good reason why she hesitated, it was out of concern for her beloved husband Ramon, “Bingcoy” to those of us who knew them from long ago!



Lina, Bingcoy and I were in the Legion of Mary of the Immaculate Conception Parish (now Cathedral) in Cubao. The prayer life was nurtured, the thirst for souls in the Lord’s vineyard ever present, we moved on to married life and renewed friendships in the Christian Family Movement. Unlike Rene and I who resided on New York Street for many years, Mon and Lina moved many times and came in and out of our lives. Each time we found them, we absorbed them into our CFM unit.

It was when they were quite settled that we invited them to serve with us in the original Marriage Encounter. They joined us for many weekends until they too, were elected CFM National President-Couple for 1998-1999. After their term, more challenges came into their lives that made us drift apart again for many years until we found each other again in the Cubao Diocese sponsored Pre-Judicial Marriage Counsellors class. We persevered and continued on to serve in the Family and Life Ministry.

Our last meeting was at the 1st Marriage Summit of our Diocese last September 2019. We talked about the complications of married life nowadays and agreed that we have to reinforce our prayer life and continue to bring the Good News of God’s love especially to the least, the lost and the last.

I never thought that Lina would leave so soon but then I know that her prayers are even more powerful now for Bingcoy, their children and grandchildren and CFM! \*\*\*

### **From Jorge and Josie Santamaria**

1. Our first encounter with Mon and Lina Cordova was sometime in the latter 1990’s when they made a visitation during one of our CFM Unit meetings in Merville, Paranaque during their term as President-Couple of the Christian Family Movement of the Philippines. It was indeed one of those rare opportunities when a CFM Unit was visited by the President of CFM and we felt honored.
2. After that event, the next time we met each other was during the CFM Christmas party in 2017 held in the 4th floor of the Nazareth Home where the blessing of the partially completed DOVES PANLASIGUI HALL took place. They actively participated in the various activities and program during the

whole evening. In fact, when they were introduced, they stood up and sang a duet love song.

3. To our great surprise, the next time we saw Mon and Lina was at the Batasan during the Committee hearing on the proposed Divorce Law which was practically being rail-roaded by our congressmen/women. Mon and Lina were among the first to arrive and be counted among the CFMers and others who came to manifest our stand against the Divorce Law which our CFMer Alex Lacson presented before the House Committee. What great inspiration to find Mon and Lina, past President of CFM in their senior years still actively involved and making a stand to protect the integrity and sanctity of marriage.
4. Our next encounter with Mon and Lina was in June 2018, when we attended the Board of Trustees meeting of the CFM Foundation. They were among the nine couples elected to the Board. We got elected as President-Couple of the Foundation. More frequent contacts and interactions with each other followed during our Quarterly Board of Trustees meetings which they regularly attended and participated actively.
5. During the Christmas Party, Mon and Lina were among those who participated in the various activities, including singing of a beautiful duet. They were always full of life!
6. In a sharing portion of a seminar we had in CFM, a participant stood up to share her frustration that despite being a very faithful servant of God, her prayer has not been answered and she continued to suffer. Lina stood up to share how her intense grief at the death of her son made her angry at and resentful to God. She had stood beside the coffin of her dead son and with her fist raised to God, she cried out to Him and asked "Why . . . ." she glanced at the coffin and saw, not the face of her son but the bloodied face of Jesus! She fell on her knees and begged for forgiveness. That was the beginning of her conversion and the start of her strong faith in God! She also shared how they lost all their wealth –and they had nothing but their faith and hope in the Lord in Whom they placed their trust.
7. On one occasion, during the 80th birthday of Mon, we were invited to their home where we met some of their very close friends—priests, nuns and several parish workers—and came to know their deep involvement in their Parish as PREX Coordinator and how much they were loved and appreciated in their Parish. One of their greatest joy, Lina shared, was their trip to Canada where they witnessed the installation of their son, Michael, as Deacon in his Parish.
8. During the wake of Lina we witnessed a huge number of parish workers from the Diocese of Cubao who came to express their love for her and express their condolence to her family.

Goodbye, dear Lina. Rest now in the loving arms of Jesus, your Lord and your God. He will take care of your beloved Mon.