

## *Fred Manansala and Catherine Salangsang - - - A True "Maalaala Mo Kaya" Love Story*

**OXON HILL, MD., Nov. 11 (PinoyGlobal)** - Fred C. Manansala and Catherine N. Salangsang are townmates born and raised in Minalin, Pampanga, a town nearby Angeles City, a major city of Pampanga. They both studied and finished their elementary and high school in Minalin public schools. During their early school days, both had been attracted to one another. Unfortunately, due to differences in status of their family's livelihood, Fred managed to suppress his romantic feelings for the beautiful maiden of Minalin.

"The Manansala family were poor, while Cathy's kins were affluent," narrated Fred. Somehow, they separated ways. Fred went to the big city, Manila, to pursue his higher education and through perseverance and hard work, he managed to acquire two degrees: Bachelor of Science in Accounting and Bachelor of Science in Engineering at Far Eastern University in Manila. After Fred finished his studies, he was instrumental in assisting and supporting his siblings in obtaining their college education as well.

While working at an accounting firm, Fred met his lovely wife Cora, who was also an accountant. They were blessed with three children. As professionals, the Manansala were able to migrate to the United States under the third preference immigration quota.

Cathy and Fred never crossed paths for 47 years. In 2002, Cathy came to the United States to visit her married daughter who was residing in Tampa, Florida. Then in 2004, Cathy's husband passing away, left Cathy a widow. A year after her husband's death in 2005, Cathy decided to make her home base in Tampa with her daughter and family.

For the meantime, Fred and Cora were able to establish a comfortable life, free from financial burdens with their high paying incomes as accountants. They bought a house in Alexandria, Virginia and raised three children. In August 2007, Cora was taken ill and she passed away, leaving Fred a widower.

Relatives and friends of Fred were informed of the untimely passing of Cora. Fred's old friends and townmates from all over the world, offered their sincere condolences and through one of Fred and Cathy's childhood neighbors in Minalin, the sad news reached Cathy.



### *To Have And To Hold*

Father Jaime Noel Deslate, Ph. D., Associate Pastor of St. Ignatius Church officiating wedding of Fred and Cathy Manansala. Witnessing were from left: Principal Sponsors Patricia B. Jocson; Emilie G. Dearing; bride Catherine N. Salangsang; groom Fred Manansala; and Sponsor Claudio "Jun" Pedery, Jr. (*Exclusive PinoyGlobal Photo*)



### *The Newly Wed*

Father Jaime Noel Deslate introduced Mr. and Mrs. Fred C. Manansala. (*Exclusive PinoyGlobal Photo*)

After more than 47 years of not hearing from each other, Cathy telephoned Fred to convey her sympathy. The telephone call sparked the need to awaken and rekindle their true love for each other that started during their younger days. Both now claimed that it was not puppy love between them when they were in their youth. But true, unexpressed and unrequited love---"*just like in the movie,*" kidded Fred.

Rev. Father Jaime Noel Deslate, Associate Pastor of St. Ignatius Church of Fort Washington/Oxon Hill parish, in his Homily during the solemn wedding ceremony last Sunday, he noted that he accepted to do the honor of officiating the ceremony because "*you made the bond of marriage a holy mystery, a symbol of Christ's love for His Church. True. Honest. Sincere.*"

And soon a beautiful Sunday Fall afternoon, Fred and Cathy exchanged vows "*to love and to hold, until death....*" Father Deslate officiating with Filipino nuns from Tayabas, Quezon's *Missionary Catechists of St. Therese (MCST)* who are doing missionary tasks, provided the music.

Wedding parties included Dr. Ferdinand Q. Magno, best man; Jose S. Manansala and Monica L. Cruz, parents of the groom; Emilie G. Dearing, Atty. Jesus Gagui, Amancia Gagui, Patricia B. Jocson, Dr. Cornelio Naguit, Jr., Dr. Paulita Pacia, and Claudio "Jun" B. Pedery, principal sponsors; John Frederick Q. and Gigi V. Manansala, candle sponsors; James Q. and Mary Cres R. Manansala, veil sponsors; Lorenzo Rosales, Jr. and Maria Teresa D. Rosales, cord sponsors; James Alfred R. Manansala, coin and ring bearer; Rachel Rosales and Tracy Jennifer Q. Manansala, bridesmaids; Gabrielle Ann Manansala and Jacqueline Isabel Magno, flower girls; Florentino P. Salangasang and Paz V. Nuguit, parents of the bride.

Immediately after the wedding ceremony, a dinner reception was held at the social hall of St. Ignatius Church. A sumptuous dinner, complete with "lechon" and champagne toasts followed the reception.

"A love story with God's blessings," according to Father Noel. "A Filipino version of "Romeo and Juliet," added Jun Pedery.

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### ***Mr. & Mrs. Fred Manansala And Their Family***

From left: John Frederick Q. and Gigi Manansala; Mary Cres R. and James Q. Manansala; Claudio "Jun" Pedery; Father Jaime Noel Deslate; bridegroom Fred Manansala; bride Catherine N. Salangasang Manansala; sponsors Emilie

G. Dearing and Patricia B. Jocson; bridesmaid Tracy Jennifer Q. Manansala; and guest Bennet Ricard; in front James Alfred R. Manansala, ring bearer; Gabrielle Ann Manansala, flower girl. # *(Exclusive PinoyGlobal Photo)*



***Mr. & Mrs. Fred Manansala With Religious Friends***

Providing choir singing backup at the wedding were nuns from *MCST*, among them. Sister Edna Merle, Sister Michael Angela Rivera, Sister Edna Vasquez, Sister Helen Sumander and Sister Leilana Dumaliang. Also in the

photo is Father Jaime Noel Deslate, Tracy Jennifer Q. Manansala, bridesmaid; James Alfred R. Manansala, ring bearer; Gabrille Ann Manansala, flower girl. #*(Exclusive PinoyGlobal Photo)*



**First Dance Of The Newly Wed Couple**



**First Bite Of The Wedding Cake**