

Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J.: Always a Humble Hero - MabuhayRadio

Written by Jeejee Loteria-De Lima, a "Reuter Baby"

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{xtypo_quote} Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J., is "A Jesuit, who became a hero. A writer, who became an icon. A teacher, who became an inspiration. (Nunez, editor of "Legacy" Selected Works & Writings of James B. Reuter, S.J., 2006). {/xtypo_quote}

The "Reuter Babies," a group of former theatrical students who have been involved in his musicals for many years calls him "Papa Bear" or "Tatang." A special bond lies between this great media icon and this group of people. When he is happy, it is a joyous occasion. But when he is down, everyone is affected, and like a mother who will protect its child, we will try to nurture and lift his spirits up. However, we have been taught well. We are taught to look at every situation in a positive light and never to hurt anyone in words nor in action. Most importantly, to always keep God in the center of our lives.

We have known Fr. Reuter for many years. We have looked up to him as our mentor, teacher, coach, musical director and counselor. He has always been a vision of hope, strength and courage. We are saddened to hear about the current situation regarding Xavier House and its residents. And it also breaks our heart that even though Fr. Reuter is taking this in stride and showing a brave front, he has become more fragile and frail. We could only imagine him in a stupor, devastated in his heart and mind.

However, as we know this great man, "in his heart of hearts Fr. Reuter is a genuine Jesuit ... detached to material things, and obedient to his Superiors." He is a Jesuit who takes his vow of obedience seriously. He will leave and go where they send him. This is what makes him unique and stand above the rest, a simple priest and a humble hero! Xavier House is where he has lived most of his Jesuit life and this is where he envisioned himself to be, when the time comes that he joins our Lord God in Heaven.

Fr. Reuter will be 94-years-old in May and he is not in the best of health. Moving out from one's home is considered to be one of the top ten most stressful changes for anyone to go through.

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The proposed move is certain to hasten his death. We are praying that Father Reuter will be at peace during the last remaining days of his life in the familiar comfort of his home. Xavier House is where his writings, beautiful music, service to the Lord, outstanding contributions to the Society of Jesus and to the Philippine nation have transpired.

* We ask that friends of Fr. Reuter sign our petition to let him stay at Xavier House until his last breath. Please sign, circulate and promote! <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/Letreuterstay/>

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