



Lisa Macuja- Elizalde

For her visionary mind that thought beyond her success to contribute to the development of local ballet; making a difference in the lives of others by democratizing ballet through her Ballet Futures scholarship program, outreach performances in provinces, and presenting these for free; her love of country by instilling local literature and song into her later performances; and giving time and attention to other forms of Philippines art and artists in her Sunday radio program Art 2 Art—

*Teresa 's Light Woman of Service for **Culture and Arts***

Uprooted from her family, friends, and country, she withstood the cruel cold of Russia as well as its still communist society, turning difficulties into challenges, Lisa was not overwhelmed. Instead she topped her class, in Addition to being the first foreigner invited to join the prestigious Kirov Ballet Theater. When she came home, she shared her rare talent and technique with local young ballet dancers and formed Ballet Manila. Lisa welcomed into the fold underprivileged talents through her Ballet Futures scholarship and looks after their medical plans, pension and housing. She envisioned a wider range of audiences in the mall, cockpit, arena and gym outside Manila. She translates Philippine Literature and popular OPM into dance, hoping that this trend would reinforce classroom reading and popularize our literature even with foreigners.

Rosario Guanzon – Laserna, M.D.



For helping alleviate poverty in the Philippines by initiating projects in various Fil- American organizations; for spearheading RAP-TAPP, a youth oriented movement that utilizes education as the initial step for instilling heightened respect for the human body and the individual; and, for her unequivocal stand on the delivery of health care —

*Teresa 's Light Woman of Service for **National Development and Community Service***

Though she has made a name for herself in the United States and the Philippines, her underprivileged countrymen of the Philippines still holds a special spot in Sarie's heart. To this end, she has initiated numerous fund-raising activities intended to uplift their quality of living.

Notwithstanding her busy schedule, she allotted time to educate teenagers in Rappahanock, Virginia on the dangers of unwanted teenage pregnancy by educating them on the important life lesson of giving utmost respect for the human body.

As a doctor, she is inspired by the Divine Physician to practice quality health care based on the moral and ethical grounds at all times.

Ma. Rosario Isada - Cabrera



For actively participating in the transformation of the poor, leading them out of a life of helplessness and on to a life of dignity by helping build communities that put God in the center and core of their lives—

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **National Development***

She was on her way to becoming one of America's future top legal eagles when she heeded Jesus' call to "come follow Me". With her husband's support she gave up her law career to work for Gawad Kalinga ANCOP, USA.

More than helping, building houses for the poor in the Philippines and in other parts of the world, Rose envisions building communities where people live in dignity, with Christ as the core of their lives.

Carmencita Noriega – Reodica, M.D.



For her leadership in bringing health care closer to those in most need—

*Teresa 's Light Woman of Service for **National Development***

She holds the distinction of being the first woman Secretary of Health. She had spent most of her life as a public health worker. She brought primary health care to remotest areas in the country including the war-torn areas of Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, and Basilan. In disaster areas, she organized a network of volunteers of health workers as well as “boticas sa barangay” to make affordable and accessible drugs for common diseases. When she was the Department Secretary of Health, she moved the Department actively towards a people-based (in contrast to disease or program-based) approach to public health, focusing programs on specific target age and sectoral groups such as very young children, adolescents and women.

Cecile Guidote- Alvarez



For using theater arts as a catalyst for social change and restoring the dignity of marginalized and differently-abled groups by transforming them into creative and productive citizens bringing message of hope, love and peace-

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **National Development***

As a young woman, she created, produced, and directed a live drama series, Teenagers on Channel 11, as an antidote to juvenile delinquency. Students from public schools and out- of school youth were joined with students from exclusive schools, reflecting together on the needs, problems, and aspirations of the youth. She conceived and organized the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA) as a national theatre movement, encouraging writers to draw power from the language and lives of the people. She also designed a Creative Theatre Training program rooted in the indigenous heritage appreciation. She is the youngest Filipina at age 28 to have received the equivalent of the Noble Prize in Asia for her "leadership of the renaissance in the performing arts, giving a new cultural content to popular life " as well as the Patnubay ng Kalinangan Award given by the City of Manila. She is also the youngest Ramon Magsaysay awardee for public service as she has committed herself to assist in nation building, and in enhancing Filipino national identity through the making and the workings of a national theatre.

Margarita Penson - Juíco



For her integrity as an individual, her strength and fortitude in devising a system to facilitate the delivery of financial and medical assistance directly to the indigent patients—

*Teresa 's Light Woman of Service for **National Development***

She had devoted 29 years of her life to government and public service as Appointment secretary to the late President Cory Aquino and then as Director and later Chairman of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

As Chairman of PCSO, she was responsible for giving back true government assistance to the poorest of the land and giving them back their dignity as they sought help for their medical needs. This she accomplished by re-orienting the delivery of the services and setting right the financial priorities of the Office.

Throughout her years in the government, she conducted herself with excellence, honesty, and dignity. She continues her advocacy work as the Founding Chair and President of the Yellow Ribbon Movement lading it to its new role as a Non-government Organization involved in pro-poor initiatives.

The Late Sr. Mary Pilar Versoza, RGS



For her dedication to the service of God and country as exemplified by her total commitment to uphold the dignity of human life especially the unborn child —

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **National Development***

“Find meaning in your life, identify your priorities- what is of value and important to you, establish relationships with people but focus on God,” STC taught these things to her. From her STC days to Nursing College at St. Paul College, she was involved in social work with orthopedic patients and slum communities. She had dedicated herself to the role of a real shepherd- for unwed mothers, battered women, abused children, and the unborn.



Ma. Cristina Cortez- Estrada

For her unwavering faith in God despite the vicissitudes of life- a faith that enabled her to build a Christ- centered family and to overcome life's challenges -

*Teresa 's Light Woman of Service for **Family Life***

Widowed at 31, with two young children and a three- month pregnancy, she plunged herself not in depression, but in the practice of her law profession and in looking after her three children. Later, she expanded her involvement to include the juvenile cases at her Pasig Court. With her integrity and dedication, she became Associate Justice of the 5th Division of the Sandigan bayan, the culmination of her law career.

Naomí Amagna- David



For her dedicated service in building families for God-

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **Family Life***

A nurse by profession, Naomi is a fulltime pastoral worker who is deeply involved with Couples for Christ as an answer to God's call, through the PCP II, for family renewal for the church of the poor. She is a DSWD licensed foster parent who takes into her name abandoned children, taking care of their needs and preparing them for final adoption.



Marinette Yan-Aglipay

For her unwavering faith in God enabling her not only to build a Christ-centered family in spite of the challenges of life but also to generously involve herself in community upliftment through educational assistance and spiritual guidance to the youth —

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **Family Life***

Instead of lessening Marinette's faith in God, life's challenges have deepened it, enabling her, by example, to build a strong Christ-centered family. She has also taken the opportunity of being the president of a foundation and the wife of a former PNP general to provide educational assistance to 2000 deserving children of policemen who cannot afford to attend college due to their parents' meager salaries. As a result, the scholarship program has inspired the policemen to work harder, shun corruption and perform better in their jobs, aware that an organization is looking after the academic welfare of their children.

She also provided material assistance and spiritual guidance to some 300 "solvent boys" who were housed at the rehabilitation center in Bicutan because she wanted to live up to the Gospel teaching which says, "whatever you do to the least of my brethren, you do it unto me".

Helen Agustín- De Guzman



For her integrity, probity and to community development and service; her passion for justice and fairness particularly for those who have less, leading to the standardization of salaries and retirement funds for school personnel, and her work with and for Filipino soldiers; and inspiring both youth and adults to volunteer for the national causes of freedom peace, justice, truth and love of country —

Teresa's Light Woman of Service for Community Service

A medical doctor, Helen, helped cure the ill and clean up the notoriously dirty local and national elections as a Namfrel Officer for 17 years. The tireless doctora got into government service in 2000 when she became the first Officer-in-Charge/ Medical Director of the Valenzuela City Emergency Hospital, working for its licensure and Philhealth Accreditation. Then, as the concurrent Center Head- Designate of Valenzuela City's Bahay Kalinga and the Mayor's Alternat in the Membership Organization Committee of the Local Council of Women of Valenzuela City, she established the Gender and Development (GAD) Action Center. Earlier, she was elected one of the initial members of the People's Law Enforcement Board (PLEB), a quasi-judicial body disciplining erring policemen.

María Carmen Aquino-Sarmiento



For using her talent as a writer to call attention to the culture of impunity in Philippine society; living the exhortation of Mother Marie Louise De Meester to “let your heart be wide that the whole world finds room in it” through more than a decade of being a DSWD volunteer foster mother; upholding the needs of the marginalized Filipinos through her work with the PAL foundation; and advocating freedom and justice through her representation in the international PEN Writers in Prison Committee and volunteer work with groups such as Artista Kontra Korapsyon (AKK) and Babae Laban sa Katiwalian (BABALA) —

Teresa’s Light Woman of Service for Community Service and Culture & Arts

During the ICM Centennial, Menchu wrote about the Transient House in the Inquirer, helping to draw attention to the patient’s plight. One of her US-based friends donated mattresses for all 30 beds and others, moved by her article, donated funds to renovate the House. She won a Supreme Court decision on the right of every Filipino citizen’s right to access government records for legitimate purposes. She also champions Freedom of Expression. Menchu became a licensed DSWD Foster Parent. Being an Executive Director of the Philippine Air Lines Foundation, she made use of innate pragmatism to come up with Corporate Social Responsibility programs that made strategic use of the airline’s core business: passengers and cargo. She creatively conceptualized the PAL Medical Travel grants which gives free tickets to charity patients and their companions so they can go to where they will get free care for serious medical conditions. Medical specialists were also flowed in by PAL, to transfer knowledge, technology and expertise to Filipino doctors. She liaises with Parents of the Visually Impaired for the distribution of their donations to the Filipino visually impaired.

Lourdes Veronica Jopson - Lagman



For her passion for justice and truth; and for her selfless and untiring effort to uplift the spirit and ease the burden of the poor and marginalized in society through her work in skills training and housing various communities—

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **Community Service***

As a university student, she joined the activities of the UP Student Catholic Action in the barrios of Laguna, where farmers were trained in new technologies, the women were taught parenting skills and complementary income activities. And the community was engaged in values education. It was in these barrio work activities where she was confronted with the realities of poverty and oppression. She has been promoting breastfeeding as a basic right of working women and their babies, through the NGO ARUGAAN.

When the Philippines was known as the second most corrupt nation in the world, she organized the National Movement for Righteousness and Transformation to instill love of God and country.

After the typhoons Winnie and Yoyong ravaged the provinces of Aurora, Quezon and Nueva Ecija, she organized Operation Compassion, a development organization involved not only in immediate relief but also assistance to the communities so they rise from the devastation by having alternative sources of income and enlightened community leaders... still actively advocating, organizing and providing for those who have less in life.



The Late Sr. Soledad Perpiñan, RGS

For her commitment to uplifting the lives of the exploited and abused women —

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **Community Service***

Sr. Sol as she was known, was a Good Shepherd sister by vocation; an educator and writer by profession; an eco-feminist, peace activist and social servant by conviction. She began her work with migrant women in Rome. She then counseled women in crisis intervention centers, initiated the Third World Movement Against the Exploitation of Women, the first time sex tourism was addressed in organized protests in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. She devoted her time fighting for sexually exploited women and had presented, through her writing, Third World feminist issues on peace, development, environment, equality, and spirituality both local and international.

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Susan Serrano - Villar

For her charismatic leadership in civic and philanthropic activities, believing the potentials of the youth, imbuing in them spirituality and the values of diligence, honesty, and integrity —

*Teresa's Light Woman of Service for **Community Service***

She grew up in a family filled with the Christian spirit not only for each other but extending it to others in need through many charitable acts of generosity. She convinced her parents to put up a school in honor of her father, Felixberto Serrano, hospital named after her mother, Conchita Serrano, and she herself established a Street Children Center in St. Francis Church, Lingap Center in Pasig, Altar Society in Las Villas de Valle Verde. Up to the present, she still organizes various groups to extend themselves wherever and whenever needed. She sits in the Board of Directors of the Philippine International Convention Center, Yellow Ribbon Movement and has been a very active member of Zonta.

Gloria Castro – Zappia, M.D.



For organizing fundraisers and trips with Filipino- American medical communities to treat the less fortunate in various provinces in the Philippines; for actively involving herself with Kilos Kalusugan, the health program of Gawad Kalinga; and for inspiring people around her to share their blessings and be a blessing to all —

Teresa's Light Woman of Service for Community Development / Mission Work

As president of the MSMT medical mission of Texas for the past seven years, she has shared her invaluable skills as a physician without remuneration. Her various outreach programs and projects is proof to the vast love she holds in her heart which she shares with so many people in need. Dr. Zappia has sponsored her own Gawad Kalinga (GK) village in memory of her mother. She is an active volunteer of Kilos Kalusugan, the health program of GK to extend medical services to the poorest of the poor. "...her missionary spirit inspires everyone to do whatever she is doing, sharing her blessings to be a blessing to all especially to the poorest of the poor."