# Fiestas & Faith

# Community \* Connections \* Contribution Bayanihan \* Kapwa



# FROM FIESTAS TO FAITH



The colonization of the Philippines began with the arrival of Catholic missionaries whose work made the Philippines the third largest population of Catholics. Religious identity was ingrained in the culture giving Filipinos strong faith and family values and the importance of God. Even religious devotions have been adopted in the diaspora.

Ang kolonisasyon ng Pilipinas ay nagsimula sa pagdating ng mga misyonaryong Katoliko. Bunga ng kanilang trabaho, ang Pilipinas ay naging bansang may pangatlong pinakamataas na populasyon ng Katoliko. Ang pagkakilanlang panrelihiyon ay nakatanim na sa kultura at siyang nagbigay sa mga Pilipino ng malakas na pananampalataya at pagpahalaga sa pamilya at sa kahalagahan ng Diyos. Pati ang mga debosyon sa relihiyon ay dinala ng mga Pilipino sa kanilang pangingibang-bayan.

La colonización de Filipinas comenzó con la llegada de misioneros católicos cuyo trabajo convirtió a Filipinas en la tercera población más grande de católicos. La identidad religiosa estaba arraigada en la cultura dando a los filipinos una fuerte fe y valores familiares y la importancia de Dios. Incluso las devociones religiosas han sido adoptadas en la diáspora.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT WWW.FILIPINOSINSANDIEGO.ORG The colonization of the Philippines began when Ferdinand Magellan claimed the islands in the name of King Philip of Spain. Missionary friars and priests began their conversion of the natives to Christianity and in 1521, the first Mass was celebrated. With over 300 years of Spanish rule and connection to the Spanish Galleon, the Philippines became a predominantly Catholic nation under the jurisdiction of the Diocese of Mexico,

As Filipinos began to migrate to other parts of the world, they brought their religiosity which was ingrained into the culture. Their faith gave them the strong family values and the importance of Church and the religious devotions which molded their Filipino identity.

#### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

### Filipino Catholics in San Diego Reflections On The Past, A Call for Unity, A Call to Mission

By Anamaria Labao Cabato with Charlotte Guarnes Faiardo

Long before the Spaniards stepped began to demonstrate and share of all generations to answer the call The nature were a spiritual people and bring their kababawan together and connect with their sense of kapwa, a to celebrate their faith through their shared identity. Many in the diaspora culture. In the late 1960's, the Church seek community and find their way of the Most Precious Blood hosted the United States since the early 1900's military recruits, professionals in



and numerous town fiestas were

convened Synod II in 1973 ... to update and renew statutes and other guidelines in keeping with Vatican II directives." A Filipino Commission chaired by Delfin Labao was among other commissions convened to advise Bishop Leo T. Maher. "From 1973 to 1975, for the first time, Filipinos, Msgr Dickle with Cardinal Rosales at FAVA Half the Filipinos were given a voice" in the Diocese. "As a result of this representation.

1976 as Missionary, Filipino Catholic

Mission of San Diego at St. Joseph's

Cathedral. He was first assigned to St.

Michael, San Diego then at St. Rita.

With the support of the Filipino priest,

devotions to our Blessed Mother

medicine, education and business, and a resolution was presented . . . to with them came their religiosity. John reflect the situation and need of the Allen, CNN Senior Vatican Analyst, Filipinos in the area." "The Bishop, said after Pope Francis' 2015 visit to recognizing the vital roles of minority the Philippines, "God, love the Filipinos parishioners in today's religious - they are the greatest home court life, approved the resolution which advantage for a Pope on earth." By the provided for a Filipino missionary."\*\*

same token. Filipinos have taken their place in the Diocese of San Diego. Reverend Onofre B. Aurelio was installed at a Pontifical Mass presided by Bishop Maher, September 26,

reception in 1976. Courtery of Evelan Jarge Adrid

Early Filipino Voices in the Diocese. Filipinos organized as early as 1941\*. when A.B. Santos, as an employee of San Diego's Catholic Mercy Hospital. established the Filipino Catholic Society. The Filipino Catholic community continued to grow after World War II. Within their local parishes and communities, Filipinos became part of parish life for families

onto Philippine soil, Filipinos by their devotions from "back home" to family that prays together, stays together,

Filipino Activities and Milestone Events. The longest Christmas season in the world takes place in the Philippines when the "ber" months begin in September. Christmas in the Philippines is one of the most joyous of all the celebrations as it brings family together during the novena of Simbang Gabi or Misa De Gallo. By the 1980's, with more Filipino priests assigned to local parishes, Filipino communities organized the tradition in their own parishes according to their needs. Scheduling varied between mornings and evenings, by the number days and calendar dates. but ultimately bringing the vibrancy and joy during the Advent Season.

Charismatic movements took off in the 1970's and inspired Filipinos to dedicate themselves to serve in parish ministries while reconnecting weekly to reflect on their walk with Jesus. One individual so changed was Sam Martinez from St. Charles Parish, who became the first Filipino Deacon in the Diocese.



Bicolanos bear Our Lady of Pañafrancia on developed and the Block Rosaries andas with Father Onotre Aurolio presiding in 1976 . Courtery of Chatotte Faiardo

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### Cardinal Sin and Cardinal Vidal making news in the San Diego U-T Sin visit article by Jon Funabiki. Photo credits to John G bbons and Edward Contreras.





The Filipino Carsillo Movement and

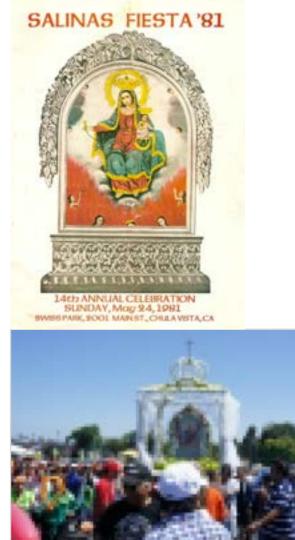
# SANTO NINO FIESTA

Third Sunday of January

The Santo Nino Fiesta is a cultural devotion to the **Holy** Infant of Prague, from Leyte Province. It was first celebrated January, 1972 at the Church of the Most Precious Blood in Chula Vista. They recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the devotion. A grotto of Santo Nino was built at Precious Blood Church and dedicated on January 15, 2017.







# Salinas Tradition Continues



## SALINAS FIESTA, CAVITE Last Sunday in May

Every Memorial Day Weekend the **Salinas Fiesta** has been held in the South Bay since 1961. It has been held at Roca Park, Swiss Park, St. Charles Church in Imperial Beach and Southwestern College and Tooma Park..

The devotion is to the image of the the Madonna with the child Jesus which stories have said was found floating in the water. Although put away each evening, the next day the image was found again in the water. Because of this Salinas (named after the salt making town) the name was changed to Rosario in the mid 1800's.



# **PENAFRANCIA FIESTA** *3rd Sunday of September*

The Penafrancia Fiesta is celebrated in Naga City, Bikol Province. Thousands flock to the river and the City as the image of the blessed mother enters the city from the Naga River.

The Peñafrancia Fiesta was first celebrated at St. Judes Church in 1976 drawing Bikolanos from all over California. This image of the blessed mother has been enshrined at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Paradise Hills since September, 2019



# Simbang Gabi 2019

Simbong Gobi (Filpino for "Right Masses") is traditionally a pre-dawn novena. Massis from December 16-24 culminating at Christmas midnight mass. This radition expresses the lowe of the people for God through His Mother, Marg as hey gather in prayerful anticipation of the Christmas miracle.

Simbong Gob/ straws on Filipino Catholics in the parahes to carry out these pecial gatherings and to share their religious tradition and culture with the whole particle family and community. ALL ARE WELCOME.

In the Diocese of San Diago, Simbong Gabi mass schedules vary dates and mes to accommodate parish community needs. This is a perital list compiled by Ian Diego's Discesson Commission for Filipino Cothelics. Schedules are subject to change: contact the partshes listed or a nearby Catholic Church for Infe.

### San Diego - Central & East

Corpus Christi (Ileniha) 45it Cottal Carton Road 91902 www.corpachristicatholic.org Dec 15, 6:30 a.m.; Dec 16, 7:30 a.m.; Dec 17-22, 6:30 a.m., Dec 23, 7:30 a.m.

San Diego - South

Mater Dei (Otay Ranch) ES71 Magdalena Avenue 90913 www.matendrice.org Dec 15, 7 a.m., Dec 16-20, 6:30 p.m., Dec 21, 5:30 p.m. Dec 22, 7 a.m. Dec 23, 6:30 p.m.

Most Precises Blood (Chula Vista) 1245 Fearth Avenue 97911 inww.precinadiood.lianth.com Dec 16-24, 4:30 a.m.

St. Charles (South San Diego) 990 Saturn Blvd. 92154 www.apietcharlet.org Dec 15-23, 5 a.m.

St. Mary (National City) Parish Center-707 E Avenue 91850 (819) 474-1500; Dec 15-23, Tp.m.

> St. Pigs X (Chulle Vista) 36 E. Napies Street 91911 www.paletplace.org Dec 15-23, 6:50 p.m.

St. Rose of Lima (Chula Vista) 293 H Monet, 91930 where already's came Dec 16-24, w30-a.m.

St. Joseph Cathedral (Desenteen) 1595 Third Avenue 92100 www.silutheitsil.org Dec 15, 5:15 p.m., 16-20, 7 p.m., 21-22.5-15 p.m.; 23.7 p.m.

Mission San Diego de Alcala (Mission Ualler) [0818 Mission San Durps Rd 92108 www.witzienzandloge.org Dec 14-22, 630 p.m.

St. Michael (Denador Hills) 2643 Homobile Street 92139 www.steakhadaandlege.org Dec 15, 6 p.m., Dec 16-21, 7 p.m. Dec 22, 6 p.m.; Dec 23, 7 p.m.

St. RHa (Southeast Son Diegs) 5124 Churchward Street, 92314 Dec 15-25, 6:50 p.m.

St. John of the Cross (Lovue Gene) 80% Student Arenue #1956 www.skipsinish.com Dec 15-23, 7 p.m.

Asomsion (Terrorania) 11292 Claimmont Mesa Wed 92124 www.ascroom.al.org Saturday, Dec 22, 5:30 p.m.

San Diego - North

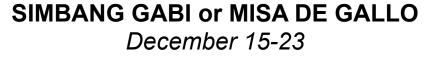
Good Shepherd (Miss Missi) 8200 Gold Coast Drive 92126 www.gashinphotpartih.set Dec 13 & 22, 5 a.m. (Sundawi): Dev 16-21 & 23, 5:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel (Rancho Penanguitta) 13341 Stoney Creek Road 92129 www.aleccandlept.org Dec 15, 5 p.m.; Dec 16-28, 7 p.m.; Dec 21, 11 a.m.; Dec 22, 8 a.m.; Dec 23, 7 p.m.

> St. Mark (him Maxin) 1147 Discovery 5t, 92078 stream waterlied with org Dec 16-24, 4:30 a.m.

St. Michael (Provid) 15548 Pisterrado Road 92064 Investment of Dec 16-21, Dec 25-34, 6:15 a.m.





Simbang Gabi is a Philippine Christian devotional novena, and held nine days before Christmas, Farmers and fishermen would attend mass at 4:00 AM before work, where the mass was also called Misa de Gallo. mass of the rooster

The first Simbang Gabi held in the region was in 1985 at St. Rita Church in Encanto. It was led by the first Filipino Associate Pastor Dennis Macalantinal who became the first Filipino Pastor in the Diocese at St. Mary Church, National City in 1988.

Today, Simbang Gabi is a family tradition celebrated throughout the Diocese and other Christian denominations. Eight South Bay Parishes host the Simbang Gabi and for some have become part of the community preparation for Christmas..



First Simbang Gabi Decembr, 1985 at St. Rita Parish celebrated by Fr. Dennis Macalintal who became the first Filipino pastor in the Diocese of San Diego





### Filipino Catholics here and abroad

### Cursillo director Christianizes his world

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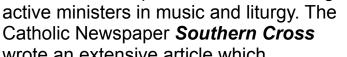
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wrote an extensive article which references to Fr. Dennis Macalintal, first Filipino pastor in the Diocese of San Diego, and lay leaders from St. Charles Church, Imperial Beach.

By the 1980's many Filipinos integrated



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# First United Methodist Church National City

The Rationale further stated, "it is not difficult to realize that the condition of these two groups does not illustrate a potent posture, one which would allow them to be in effective ministry in a complex society which groans for the church" ministry...A united church can reap the benefits so aptly captured in the maxim, 'In union, there is strength. "

The chartered congregation of First United Methodist Church of National City had welcomed many new members prior to this time, many of them came from Methodist congregations in the Philippines. These members gave the church a solid introduction to Pilipino culture and their church. Among early families you will find the Academia family, the Virata family, the Ravancho family, and others. Bautista, Mas, Alegre, Quidasol, Adamos, Fontillas and Alcantara.

Meanwhile, under the leadership of Alex Pangilinan, aided by Rosario Pangilinan and Gene and Beth Ablola a Filipino American United Methodist Association was organized. Then, working with the late Max Bravo and Pastors Benny Nicholas, Tom Tangonan and Robert Ekvall the Association took the first step toward a Filipino American United Methodist Ministry. The resulting Rationale for Union, as cited earlier was adopted and on Sunday, January 2, 1994, the chartered congregation of First United Methodist Church in National City welcomed the Filipino American United Methodist Ministry and thus began a new era, continuing the FAUMM dream and the history of this great institution.



The Rev. J. Thomas Taylor, 1982-1985, speaking at the 100th anniversary celebration of this church, proposed these thoughts: "Each pastor...[in the long list of those who have served this congregation]...continued to build upon the shoulders of the pastors who came before. The continuing congregations must continue to build upon the shoulders of over 30 generations of church members who have gone before them." They gave our present congregation, not just a building but an established course in our journey of faith for the next 100 years".

For the past 125 years we have been serving the people of National City and the greater San Diego area. Ten years into this new millennium, as we celebrate as we did at 50 years, 75 years and a Centennial year in 1985, The First United Methodist Church understands and continues its calling to reflect the great richness and diversity of God's creation." Iglesia Ni Cristo 8th Street,National City Filipino Seventh Day Advent Bonita Road, Bonita