

Fiestas & Faith

Community * Connections * Contribution
Bayanihan * Kapwa



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.

30th Anniversary

Philippine Catholics in San Diego

Reflections On The Past, A Call for Unity, A Call to Mission

By Anamaria Labao Cabato with Charlotte Guarnes Fajardo

Long before the Spaniards stepped onto Philippine soil, Filipinos by nature were a spiritual people and connect with their sense of *kapwa*, a shared identity. Many in the *diapora* seek community and find their way to the bosom of the Catholic church. Waves of Filipinos migrated to the United States since the early 1900's - *pensionados*, farm workers, U.S. military recruits, professionals in

begin to demonstrate and share their devotions from "back home" to bring their *kababayan* together and to celebrate their faith through their culture. In the late 1960's, the Church of the Most Precious Blood hosted the Feast of the Santo Niño, the Bicolano association celebrated the Peñafrancia, and numerous town fiestas were coming to life throughout San Diego.

of all generations to answer the call: *The 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.

The Filipino *Cursillo* Movement and 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 Peñafrancia on *angas* with Father Onofre Aurelio presiding in 1976. Courtesy of Charlotte Fajardo

"The Diocese of San Diego 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 13 other commissions convened to advise Bishop Leo T. Maher. "From 1973 to 1975, for the first time, the Filipinos were given a voice" in the Diocese. "As a result of this representation, a resolution was presented . . . to reflect the situation and need of the Filipinos in the area." "The Bishop, recognizing the vital roles of minority parishioners in today's religious life, approved the resolution which provided for a Filipino missionary."¹

Reverend Onofre B. Aurelio was installed at a Pontifical Mass presided by Bishop Maher, September 26, 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 developed and the Block Rosaries became part of parish life for families



Filipinos, Msgr Dickie with Cardinal Rosales at FAMA Hall reception in 1976. Courtesy of Evelyn Jerga Abrid

medicine, education and business, and with them came their religiosity. John Allen, CNN Senior Vatican Analyst, said after Pope Francis' 2015 visit to the Philippines, "God, love the Filipinos - they are a greatest home court advantage for a Pope on earth." By the same token, Filipinos have taken their place in the Diocese of San Diego.

Early Filipino Voices in the Diocese. Filipinos organized as early as 1941², 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

From the archives . . .

CONSIDER IN GREAT AND BREVITY APPROX. THE FOLLOWING
lines for action to be considered here

RECOMMEND

WHEREAS, the Filipino Commission of Synod II under the CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE V. REVEREND ARCHBISHOP OF SAN DIEGO, and the need of a strong spiritual leader;

WHEREAS, there are no more FILIPINOS in the Diocese that are not active in their respective parishes;

WHEREAS, the present in our local parishes are not consistent with our culture, customs and traditions;

WHEREAS, there is a spiritual leadership Filipino priest who never has continued in our Diocese (such as Cardinal Maher);

WHEREAS, he is known to be in the Diocese, that the most Rev. Bishop Leo T. Maher, request from his office, a spiritual and progressive Filipino priest from the Philippines, as a Filipino priest who would be in the United States who will seek the qualification of an intellectual and a strong leader, and who will have experience for his FILIPINO brethren;

Now therefore, BE IT ORDERED THAT the Bishop will seek the assistance for the spiritual part of this project, for the fulfillment of the objectives as follows:

1. Education
2. Liturgy
3. Social action
4. Cultural
5. Spiritual of the appropriate obligation of the Filipino in parishes with their respective parishes

Delfin Labao
Delfin Labao, Chairperson
FAMA, Inc.
Filipino Center, San Diego

Onofre B. Aurelio
Onofre B. Aurelio, Secretary
FAMA, Inc.
Filipino Center, San Diego



DIocese of San Diego
San Diego, California
1969



Sin makes local appeal for Filipino unity
The San Diego office of the National Council on the Philippines (NCP) is calling for a united front among Filipino Catholics in the Diocese of San Diego to address the issue of the 'sin' of the 'Ber' months. The NCP is urging the local Filipino community to work together to ensure that the 'Ber' months are celebrated in a way that is respectful of the local culture and traditions. The NCP is also calling for the local Filipino community to work together to ensure that the 'Ber' months are celebrated in a way that is respectful of the local culture and traditions.

RECORDED
The Reverend Leo Cardinal Maher, Bishop of San Diego, has been elected as Chairman of the Philippine-Catholic Committee for San Diego County. It is the intention of the Diocese of San Diego to have a Filipino priest in the Diocese of San Diego. The Diocese of San Diego is pleased to have a Filipino priest in the Diocese of San Diego. The Diocese of San Diego is pleased to have a Filipino priest in the Diocese of San Diego.

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



Filipino contribution
Cardinal Vidal of the Philippines honors the Eucharist with Bishop Leo Suarez (left) and members of the 'Penafra' about group during a special Mass in celebration of the Philippine national day. The group is in St. Rita's Church in St. Rita's Church.

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 FIESTA '81



14th ANNUAL CELEBRATION
SUNDAY, May 24, 1981
SWISS PARK, 3001 MAIN ST., ORLANDO, CA

Salinas Tradition Continues



The traditional procession at Imperial Beach on the eve of the fiesta, preceded by a mass at Saint Charles.



Park decoration: Ale Luning Abueg, Retlie Jimenez, Yvette Ferrer and Emmy.



Philippine Fair 1989



People dancing to the lively tunes of the Rosarian Band at the "Karakol".

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.





PC:Cha

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

Simbang Gabi (Filipino for "Night Masses") is traditionally a pre-dawn novena of Masses from December 16-24 culminating at Christmas midnight mass. This tradition expresses the love of the people for God through His Mother, Mary, as they gather in prayerful anticipation of the Christmas miracle.

Simbang Gabi draws on Filipino Catholics in the parishes to carry out these special gatherings and to share their religious tradition and culture with the whole parish family and community. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

In the Diocese of San Diego, *Simbang Gabi* mass schedules vary dates and times to accommodate parish community needs. This is a partial list compiled by San Diego's *Diocesan Commission for Filipino Catholics*. Schedules are subject to change; contact the parishes listed or a nearby Catholic Church for info.

San Diego - South

Corpus Christi (Riverside)
480 Corral Canyon Road 91902
www.corpuschristi-catholic.org

Dec 13, 6:30 a.m.; Dec 16, 7:30 a.m.;
Dec 17-22, 6:30 a.m.; Dec 23, 7:30 a.m.

Mater Dei (Otay Ranch)
1571 Magdalena Avenue 91913
www.materdei.org

Dec 13, 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 Precious Blood (Chula Vista)

1245 Fourth Avenue 91911
www.mostpreciousbloodchurch.com

Dec 16-24, 6:30 a.m.

St. Charles (South San Diego)

990 Saturn Blvd. 92134
www.sancharles.org

Dec 13-23, 5 a.m.

St. Mary (National City)

Parish Center - 707 E. Avenue 91930
(619) 674-1500; Dec 13-23, 7 p.m.

St. Pius X (Chula Vista)

36 E. Naples Street 91911
www.stpiusx.org

Dec 13-23, 6:30 p.m.

St. Rose of Lima (Chula Vista)

283 H Street, 91900
www.stroselima.com

Dec 16-24, 6:30 a.m.

San Diego - Central & East

St. Joseph Cathedral (Downtown)
1535 Third Avenue 92101
www.stjosephcathedral.org

Dec 13, 5:15 p.m., 10-20, 7 p.m.,
21-22, 5:15 p.m.; 23, 7 p.m.

Mission San Diego de Alcalá
(Mission Valley)
10818 Mission San Diego Rd 92108
www.missionsandiego.org

Dec 14-22, 6:30 p.m.

St. Michael (Poway Hills)
2647 Homestead Street 92139
www.stmichaelsandiego.org

Dec 13, 6 p.m.; Dec 16-21, 7 p.m.,
Dec 22, 6 p.m.; Dec 23, 7 p.m.

St. Rita (Southeast San Diego)

3124 Churchward Street, 92114
Dec 13-23, 6:30 p.m.

St. John of the Cross (Lemon Grove)

8086 Broadway Avenue 91956
www.stjohnparish.org

Dec 13-23, 7 p.m.

San Diego - North

Ascension (Ferransville)
11292 Clairemont Mesa Blvd 92124
www.ascension-sd.org

Saturday, Dec 22, 5:30 p.m.

Good Shepherd (Aliso Mesa)
8209 Gold Coast Drive 92126
www.goodshepherdparish.net

Dec 13 & 22, 5 a.m. (Sundays);
Dec 16-21 & 23, 5:30 a.m.

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
(Rancho Penasquitos)
13341 Stony Creek Road 92129
www.ourladyofmtcarmel.org

Dec 13, 5 p.m.; Dec 16-20, 7 p.m.;
Dec 21, 11 a.m.; Dec 22, 8 a.m.;
Dec 23, 7 p.m.

St. Mark (San Marcos)

1187 Discovery St. 92078
stmarkcatholicchurch.org

Dec 16-24, 6:30 a.m.

St. Michael (Poway)

13546 Pinnerado Road 92064
www.stmichael.org

Dec 16-21, Dec 23-24, 6:15 a.m.



Contact the Diocesan Commission
for Filipino Catholics for
information on these other Filipino
Catholic activities: Alejandra Diaz
ADiaz@diocatholics.org
(619) 480-8306



SIMBANG GABI or MISA DE GALLO December 15-23

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



SOUTHERN CROSS

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Filipino Catholics here and abroad

Cursillo director Christianizes his world



By Dennis Egan
 Fr. Dennis Macalintal, a Filipino priest, is spreading the message of Jesus Christ to the people of the world through the Cursillo movement. He is the director of the Cursillo movement in the United States and is currently in the Philippines on a mission to promote the movement.



Fr. Dennis Macalintal is a Filipino priest who has spent most of his life in the Philippines. He is currently in the United States on a mission to promote the Cursillo movement. He is the director of the Cursillo movement in the United States and is currently in the Philippines on a mission to promote the movement.

By the 1980's many Filipinos integrated into the Catholic parishes and becoming active ministers in music and liturgy. The Catholic Newspaper **Southern Cross** 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.



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A look at Filipino Catholics It's difficult to estimate population

By Dennis Egan
 It's difficult to estimate the population of Filipino Catholics in the United States. The population is growing rapidly, but it is difficult to estimate the population because many Filipinos do not register their marriages in the United States. This makes it difficult to estimate the population because many Filipinos do not register their marriages in the United States.



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Catholic Filipinos cling to culture, celebrate feasts

By Dennis Egan
 Catholic Filipinos in the United States are proud of their culture and celebrate their feasts. They are proud of their culture and celebrate their feasts. They are proud of their culture and celebrate their feasts. They are proud of their culture and celebrate their feasts.

Calvin Fung is a Filipino and a member of the Provincial Council for Foreign Missions. He is a member of the Provincial Council for Foreign Missions. He is a member of the Provincial Council for Foreign Missions. He is a member of the Provincial Council for Foreign Missions.



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Killing protested in Manila

Manila, Philippines (AP) - About 500 people, including priests and nuns, protested the presidential order in Manila to allow a military operation to kill Communist leaders. The protesters were in Manila to protest the presidential order to allow a military operation to kill Communist leaders.

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, Quindasol, 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