

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

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Archdiocese of Vancouver



CELEBRATING OUR GIFTS

Launch of the 500 YOC Celebration in Misa, Awit at Pasasalamat

by: Marie Pacheco

Misa, awit at pasasalamat. These were the three elements that made up the Filipino community's official launch of this year's celebration of 500 Years of Christianity (YOC) in the Philippines livestreamed from the All Saints Parish in Coquitlam last March 15th.

"Misang Pilipino" was officiated by Fr. Amador Abundo to commemorate the exact day (March 16 in Manila) explorers headed by Ferdinand Magellan arrived in the Philippines 500 years ago and introduced Christianity. In the homily given by Deacon Greg Barcelon from the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, he talked about how celebrations often had three parts.

First was the achievement being celebrated, second was the gathering of the community, and third was using the occasion to wish for something better. We celebrate that our faith is still strong and very much alive after 500 years. We celebrate the opportunity to gather virtually despite the pandemic. The more important part however was 'what are we hoping to make better, for the future, with our celebration'?

And we are back to this year's theme of "**Gifted to Give**". Deacon Greg asks us if we are gifted and if we know what our gifts are?

Because if not, he pushes us to think deeper with his message: *“Kawawa ka kung hindi mo naiintindihan ang pangunahing regalo na naibigay sa iyo. Hindi mo kilala pa kung sino ang nagbigay ng regalo sayo. Hindi mo na re-realize na kailangan mong ibahagi ang gift na ito para mas marami ka pang matanggap...”*

The message also ties with what Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle said when he thanked Pope Francis after celebrating mass at the St. Peter’s Basilica for their own 500 YOC celebration. Cardinal Tagle said the coming of Christianity to the Philippines was a gift. He adds that the faith was received and given a Filipino character is God’s gift. And that the Philippines now has the third largest number of Catholics in the world is also God’s gift. But it doesn’t end there. *“The gift must continue to be a gift. It must be shared. If it is kept for oneself, it ceases to be a gift,”* said Cardinal Tagle.



Above: Cardinal Tagle expressing his gratitude to Pope Francis after the 500YOC Mass at St. Peter’s Basilica on March 14, 2021. (photo from Vatican Media)

We witnessed examples of gifts shared in the mass with the Pilipino Mass Setting (sung parts of the mass) which is the winning composition of Michael Goco of St. Monica Parish. We also heard the singing of the 500 YOC – Gifted to Give theme song by the choir as the recessional hymn which is the winning composition of Vicky Benjamin from the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

We are celebrating our gifts in the Archdiocese of Vancouver through 4 quarterly events beginning April 16th, with the first being called **“Salamat: The Giver”**, where we know more about the Giver and how our faith started 500 years ago. The event will be hosted by Joey Albert with Rev. Francis Galvan, OSA as a resource person. Register for the free event at <https://tinyurl.com/yg9dpdlj>

Gifted Givers will also have the opportunity to donate and support NASSA/Caritas Philippines, the humanitarian and advocacy arm of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

As Deacon Greg said in his homily, let us explore what it really means to be gifted. Hopefully, we make the years ahead better than how our ancestors lived their giftedness in the past 500 years.



 <https://tinyurl.com/3wyrh57w>
 https://youtu.be/i5OuCk1_Oak

Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade

Monthly Intensive Prayer Session of the Filipino Ministry
Sunday, 28th March, 2:00-5:00 pm

Ask and it shall be given.
Seek and ye shall find.
Knock and it shall be opened.
Matthew 7:7



MARCH 28TH

Join our 3-hour prayer session

Via Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/3wyrh57w>

YouTube:

https://youtu.be/i5OuCk1_Oak



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gifted to give
JOIN US ON
APRIL 16, 2021
 Friday, 6:00-7:30pm PST
 Register for this FREE event at
<https://tinyurl.com/yg9dpdlj>
 or scan our QR code



APRIL 16TH

Quarter One Virtual Event to Celebrate the 500th Year of Christianity in the Philippines. Register to get the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/yg9dpdlj>