

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

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Archdiocese of Vancouver



DEDICATED
TO THE
STO. NIÑO
OF CEBU

COMING TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY

Can you help build the Sto. Niño Shrine in Agassiz, BC?

by: Marie Pacheco

Six months since fundraising started to build a Sto. Niño shrine at the St. Anthony of Padua parish in Agassiz, British Columbia, almost \$270,000 have been raised out of the \$400,000 goal.

It is an amazing feat considering the limitations brought by the ongoing pandemic. It is also a testament to the generosity of many Filipinos who want to share the famous Sto. Niño shrine of Cebu in the Philippines here in Canada.

"It is a gift from the Filipino people, they are the ones largely giving the funds. Everything from \$5 to \$50,000. They have a real devotion and gratitude to the Sto. Niño," says Beccie Bokenfohr who is Fr. Dennis Flores' administrative assistant at the parish.

A native of Cebu, Fr. Flores is among those leading the efforts to build the Sto. Niño shrine.

The shrine is being built as a gift of the Filipino



Envisioning the Sto. Niño Shrine at St. Anthony of Padua, Agassiz

community to the Archdiocese of Vancouver, as a permanent commemoration of the significance—500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines which was celebrated last year. The image of the Sto. Niño will be coming directly from Cebu. It is scheduled to be enthroned at the shrine in August of 2022.

Sto. Niño devotee Lourdes Cerino is among those actively working to raise funds for the project. Also from Cebu, she grew up surrounded by family who were devotees to the child Jesus. Praying to the Sto. Niño has always been a part of her life.

“The Sto. Niño has been known to be somebody who is miraculous. Growing up, I’ve heard stories from my grandpa and grandma about Sto. Niño showing up and people seeing the child Jesus. Praying to the Sto. Niño has been engraved in our hearts since we were young,” shared Cerino.

Cerino herself had a powerful story about Sto. Niño’s miracle in her life.

“When I got married, I had a problem conceiving. I would go to Sto. Niño almost everyday and pray. I’ve been undergoing treatment over a year and did not get pregnant. On my first try after undergoing treat-

ment, I had my first baby.”

She adds there are many devotees of the Sto. Niño here in the Lower Mainland and it’s one of the reasons why they are all excited about having a shrine in Agassiz. She says there will be pilgrimages and celebrations, and it would also be helpful especially in passing their devotion to future generations.

From calling on different parishes, creating Christmas parols (*lanterns*), dinners for a cause and more, the funds raised so far is because of the successful collaboration of many Filipino groups like Bisdak Vancouver, Cebuano Society, United Leytenons and Knights of Columbus just to name a few. Donations have been received from different parts of Canada and the United States. But more is still needed to reach their goal.

Donations can be sent via e-transfer to stonino-agassiz@shaw.ca. Tax receipts are available for everything above \$5. For other ways to donate, please check St. Anthony of Padua in Agassiz’ [website](#).

As we leave 2021, we want to say *Thank You* to our

- 500 YOC Team
- Communications Team
- Devotions Team
- Matthew 7.7 Brigade
- Simbang Gabi & Pilipino Mass Team

Novena from February 2 to 10

[Download the prayers here](#)

or follow video on the Filipino Ministry FaceBook Page

Feast day Pilipino Mass
6 pm, February 11th
St. Bernadette Parish
With: Fr. Amador Abundo

NOVENA AND FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES