

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

filipinoministry.ca



Archdiocese of Vancouver



Above, the very first branding used by the Filipino Ministry in 2016 reflecting the direction it was to take.

SEASON 1 - WITH GOD'S GRACE, WE DID IT!

The RCAV Filipino Ministry Story

by: Eric Inigo

What a journey it has been! In 2016, Archbishop J. Michael Miller set the wheels in motion when he created the Filipino Ministry Office. Deacon Greg Barcelon was assigned this task soon after he was ordained among the pioneer cohort of Permanent Deacons in the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Deacon Greg shared that he expressed his commitment to serve in whatever capacity but did

not imagine the colossal challenge that was put on his shoulder.

In a meeting with the Filipino Catholic Associations in 2017, Archbishop Miller laid down the challenge as follows: "The Filipinos, being in fact the strongest and most numerous - you have a particular responsibility for the overall spiritual and missionary welfare of the whole church of

Vancouver."

Deacon Greg laid down the actions that enabled us to carry out the key Filipino Ministry mandate, i.e., Helping pastors in their work with Filipino parishioners, Creating a Council of Filipino Catholic Associations, Establishing a leadership program for Filipinos, and Hosting periodic large public events.



Cardinal Luis Tagle at the first Big Event held at Queen Elizabeth Theatre in Vancouver in 2018.

The foundation was set with teams of volunteers who did an amazing job in leading and supporting the various initiatives, by working together in the spirit of "Bayanihan." The collaborative work our Filipino Catholic Associations have proven that we can produce successful big events – such as the visit of Cardinal Tagle, 500 Years of Christianity in the



Fr. Abundo celebrating the opening mass for the Music and Arts Festival at Towne Centre Park, Coquitlam last August

Philippines quarterly celebrations and the 2022 Summer Music and Arts Festival, by working together.

A good number of Filipinos from various parishes have completed a Leadership Program (Mamuno Tulad ni Hesus) anchored on discipleship by following the footsteps of Jesus. We continue to propagate our Filipino traditions with the Simbang Gabi, Lenten activities, Devotions and Misang Pilipino by working with the different parish groups and their respective pastors.



Leadership programs geared towards forming Missionary Disciples joyfully poured out into proclaiming the Good News

With the move of Deacon Greg and his wife Ivy, to join their children and grandchildren in Calgary, **Season 1** is drawing to a close, and we thank them for steadfastly leading while accompanying us in this journey. And we welcome Deacon Raul Abella as he takes over the leadership of the ministry.



Filipino Deacons Greg and Raul, assisting Cardinal Luis Tagle at the Holy Rosary Cathedral

Abangan ang susunod na kabanata!