



# NEWSLETTER

## MESSAGE FROM OUR COORDINATOR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am filled with joy and gratitude as I share some wonderful news and updates about our ministry.

First, I am honored to announce that I have been appointed as a Deacon to provide pastoral care at the Garden of Gethsemani and other Archdiocesan cemeteries. To fulfill my ministry at the Altar, I will also exercise liturgical duties at Precious Blood Parish, with the Pastor's consent, whenever I am available. These significant opportunities allow me to serve our community in various capacities, ensuring that our faith and traditions remain strong and vibrant.



Second, I am immensely grateful for the unwavering support and dedication of our Core Group. Their assistance enables me to fulfill my duties as the Coordinator of the RCAV-Filipino Ministry. Together, we have accomplished much, and there is still so much more we aim to achieve.

Lastly, I would like to highlight some of our recent activities, ongoing efforts, and exciting upcoming events. Recently, we held the Cenaculo, our annual reenactment of the Passion of Christ, which was a profound and moving experience for all participants and attendees. We also had a beautiful and solemn ceremony enshrining St. Pedro Calungsod, deepening our connection to this beloved Filipino saint and asking for his intercession in our lives. Our Matthew Intercessory Prayer Group continues to meet regularly, providing a wonderful opportunity for us to come together in prayer, seeking guidance and support for our community and beyond.

Looking ahead, we have several exciting events planned. These include an Inter-Apostolic Youth Event, a Mass Wedding to celebrate the sacrament of marriage for couples in our community, and a special Sto. Niño Mass dedicated to fostering our devotion and celebrating our shared faith. These activities are essential to our ministry's mission to deepen our faith, strengthen our community bonds, and support one another in our spiritual journeys.

I encourage your continued prayerful support and active participation in our ministry. There are many ways you can get involved and contribute, whether it is through volunteering, attending events, or simply spreading the word about our activities. Your involvement is crucial to the success of our mission and helps us to create a vibrant and inclusive community.

Let us continue to walk in faith together, supporting one another and growing closer to Christ through our shared experiences and devotion. Thank you for your continued prayers and support.

In Christ's service,

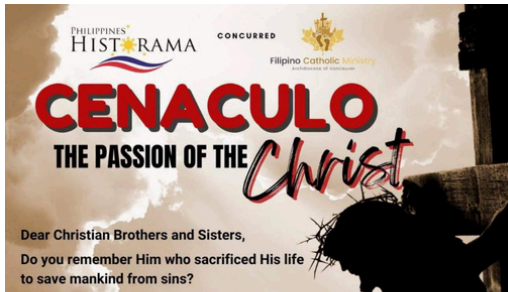
Deacon Raul Abella  
Coordinator, RCAV-Filipino Ministry  
Archdiocese of Vancouver

# PAST EVENTS

Second Quarter  
June 2024

## CENACULO 2024

Written by Mike Calingo and Michelle Marie C. Aprecio



On March 17, the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby, BC, provided a powerful backdrop for the theatrical production "Cenaculo: The Passion of the Christ," organized by the Filipino Catholic Ministry in collaboration with the Philippines Historama Society of BC. This profound portrayal of Christ's suffering and sacrifice, known as the Cenaculo, served not only as a cultural event but also as a unifying force for our community.



Through this vivid enactment, we were not mere observers but active participants in a sacred narrative that resonates deeply with our beliefs. The experience prompted us to contemplate the significance of Christ's ultimate sacrifice and its enduring relevance in our lives today. It was a moving reminder of His love and selflessness in redeeming humanity from sin.



The event, aimed at supporting the Archdiocese's ministry programs, highlighted our collective commitment to faith and community. Proceeds from the production were used to partially fund the Archdiocese's various ministry programs and activities.

As we reflect on this transformative experience, let us carry forward its messages of faith, love, and redemption into our daily lives. May it inspire us to emulate Christ's example of compassion and empathy year-round, not just during the Lenten season.





# ST. PEDRO CALUNGSOD ENSHRINEMENT

*Written by Harvey Inahid and Michelle Marie C. Aprecio*



The Cebuano Society of Canada, in collaboration with the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, celebrated the enshrinement of Saint Pedro Calungsod's image on April 19, 2024, at Saint Monica Parish in Richmond, BC. Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, led this significant event, which was attended by hundreds of Filipino Catholics.

Saint Pedro Calungsod (1654–1672) was a young Filipino saint, missionary catechist, and martyr. Beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012, his legacy inspires youths, catechists, migrants, and evangelists.

The mass featured various clergy, including Rev. Gilbert Nunez, Rev. Amador Abundo, Rev. Rufo Sarate, Rev. Nestor Silva, Rev. Francis Galvan, Rev. Dennis Flores, Rev. Salvador Reyes, Rev. Vicente Miguel, and Rev. Mark Bautista. The deacons present were Rev. Wilbur Victoria, Rev. Raul Abella, and Rev. Vic Gallamos.

The Cebuano Society and the Filipino Ministry expressed deep gratitude to Archbishop Miller and all participants. Special thanks were given to Cebu Catholic Television Network (CCTN-47) for donating the image of Saint Pedro Calungsod. They also extended their appreciation to religious organizations including the Catholic Women's League, Couples for Christ, El Shaddai, Bukas Loob Sa Diyos (BLD), Seniors Intercultural Society of British Columbia (SISBC), Diversity Inclusion Support Group of British Columbia, Knights of Columbus, Knights of Columbus Honour Guards, Legion of Mary-Saint Monica Parish, Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, and Saint Monica 11:30 morning Choir.

Thanks were also extended to sponsors such as Booster Juice Ironwood Plaza, Larry & Beth Kwan, Star Box Cargo, Pinay Mortgage Broker, Reyford Media, Pampang's Cuisine, Floyd Lechon Cebu YYC, and the Limchua family. Additional thanks were given to Saint Monica Parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund & Lailani Tumaneng of the City of North Vancouver School District, Mable Elmore, MLA of Vancouver Kensington, Mayor Democrito "Aljun" Diamante and the Municipality of Tuburan delegation, Jerry and Zenia Rentuza, Mary Ortega, Mr. and Mrs. Mary and Ken Elmore, and Ms. Bebs Socorro Newland, who served as emcee.

"Daghang Salamat" (Thank you very much) was the heartfelt message from the event convenors, expressing their deep appreciation for the community's support.



Priests from various religious orders gathered for a photo with the main celebrant, His Excellency Rev. Michael J. Miller, CSB



Anthony Ortega (left) of Cebuano Society in Canada assisted the Enshrinement ceremony of St. Pedro Calungsod during the mass.



The enshrinement ceremony of St. Pedro Calungsod, led by His Excellency, Most Rev. J. Michael Miller, CSB, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver, took place at St. Monica Parish in Richmond, BC.



The members of the Cebuano Society in Canada with the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver along with Mable Elmore (center), Member of the Legislative Assembly, Vancouver Kensington.



Filipino Catholic Ministry  
Archdiocese of Vancouver

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Written by Michelle Marie C. Aprecio

## August

### Sto. Niño de Cebu Anniversary Celebration

Agassiz, BC, is preparing for a special event this August - the Sto. Niño de Cebu Anniversary Celebration. This event is a time for the community to come together in faith and tradition. The celebration starts on August 15 with an Opening Mass at 6 PM, led by Vancouver Archbishop Michael J. Miller, CSB. This mass marks the beginning of nine days of prayer and reflection.



From August 15 to 23, the community will gather every day at 5:15 PM for the Rosary, Novena, and Mass. The Rosary is a prayer that honors the Virgin Mary, while the Novena is a set of prayers asking for the help of Sto. Niño, the Child Jesus. Each day will end with a Mass, where people can receive the Eucharist.

The celebration will conclude with a big event on August 24 at 4 PM - the Dedication Anniversary Mass. This mass will be led by Bishop Alberto Uy from Tagbilaran, Bohol. This is a very special moment for many Filipino-Canadians who have a deep devotion to Sto. Niño.

The Sto. Niño de Cebu Anniversary Celebration is more than just a religious event. It is a time for Filipino-Canadians and the whole community to come together. It is a chance to celebrate faith, tradition, and unity. For many in the Filipino community, this event is a way to feel closer to home and their heritage. It is a reminder of the vibrant traditions and deep faith that they bring to Canada.

As Agassiz prepares for this important event, the spirit of community and devotion is strong. Whether you are part of the Filipino community or just interested in sharing in the celebration, all are welcome. Join us for the Opening Mass on August 15, the daily Rosary, Novena, and Mass from August 15 to 23, and the special Dedication Anniversary Mass on August 24. Let us come together in faith and celebrate the Sto. Niño de Cebu.



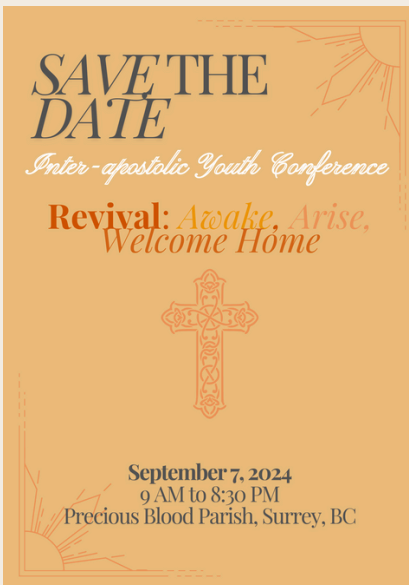
Filipino Catholic Ministry  
Archdiocese of Vancouver

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Written by Michelle Marie C. Aprecio

## September

### Inter-Apostolic Youth Conference



The Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese of Vancouver is pleased to announce the upcoming Inter-Apostolic Youth Conference, a dynamic event designed to inspire and rejuvenate young members. Scheduled for September 7, 2024, from 9:00 AM to 8:30 PM, this all-day conference will be held at Precious Blood Parish in Surrey, BC.

This year's theme, "Revival: Awake, Arise, Welcome Home," reflects the mission to ignite a profound spiritual renewal among youth. Youth leaders from various apostolic groups, including Bukas Loob sa Diyos, Couples For Christ, El Shaddai, Families for Christ Community, Light of Jesus Family, and Missionary Families of Christ, have joined forces to plan this impactful event.

The conference's objectives focus on three core elements. Firstly, the goal is to **awaken** the spiritual journey of the youth by fostering spiritual awareness, deepening scriptural understanding, and promoting personal growth, encouraging them to connect with God through prayer and worship. Secondly, the aim is to **arise** by empowering youth to overcome challenges, develop leadership skills, and engage in service and outreach, instilling courage and boldness in their faith. Lastly, the objective is to **welcome home** by building a welcoming community, facilitating reconciliation and healing, celebrating faith through joyful worship and fellowship, and commissioning the youth to share Christ's love and make a positive impact in their communities.

All youth are invited to attend this day of spiritual awakening, empowerment, and community. The conference promises profound personal and spiritual growth, offering a renewed sense of purpose and a deepened connection with God and each other.

For inquiries, please contact Michelle Aprecio at 236-591-1974 or [mchelle74@gmail.com](mailto:mchelle74@gmail.com). Let everyone come together to "Awake, Arise, and Welcome Home" in faith and fellowship.





Filipino Catholic Ministry  
Archdiocese of Vancouver

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Written by Michelle Marie C. Aprecio

## September

### Mass Wedding 2024

On September 21, 2024, a grand Mass Wedding ceremony will take place at St. Paul's Parish in Richmond, where the sanctity of marriage will be celebrated in a liturgical setting.

The Mass Wedding will commence at 1:30 PM, with Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, presiding over the solemnization of the Marriage Rites. This event marks a profound moment for the couples involved, as they seek to strengthen their unions under the blessings of the Church.

As of now, 24 couples have registered and are diligently completing their final marriage requirements. These couples, each with their unique love stories, have chosen to affirm their commitment through the holy sacrament of matrimony. The event is expected to grow in participation, potentially including up to 30 couples who wish to have their civil marriages blessed and recognized by the Church.

We humbly request the prayers of our community for these couples as they prepare to embark on this significant spiritual journey together. Your prayers and support will greatly enrich this sacred occasion, providing blessings and strength to the couples as they enter into the sacrament of marriage.

Archdiocese of Vancouver

**MASS WEDDING**  
FOR CIVILLY MARRIED COUPLES

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**  
**JULY 21, 2024**

Saturday, **SEPTEMBER 21, 2024** at 1:30pm  
SAINT PAUL PARISH, RICHMOND  
8251 St Albans Rd, Richmond, BC V6Y 2L2

filipinoministry.ca

Archdiocese of Vancouver

For more information or to register,  
please contact parish office or  
call Deacon Raul Abella (778-512-9163)  
or email [filipinoministry@rcav.bc.ca](mailto:filipinoministry@rcav.bc.ca)

## FEATURE



# FILIPINO MINISTRY CORE GROUP

At the heart of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Vancouver's Filipino Ministry lies a dedicated Core Group committed to enhancing parish life and evangelization efforts. Led by Deacon Raul and Monette Abella, Eric and Cherry Iñigo, Mike and Esper Calingo, Ted and Lourdes Lim, and Alvin and Michelle Aprecio, this group advises and supports the Coordinator in developing programs that engage Filipino Catholics more deeply in their faith and community. Their mandate focuses on fostering inclusivity, supporting evangelization initiatives, and nurturing spiritual growth through a range of activities aimed at strengthening bonds within the community and welcoming newcomers into the fold. With their combined passion and expertise, the Core Group is instrumental in shaping a vibrant and connected Filipino Catholic community within the Archdiocese.

