

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

Filipino Ministry



"Gifted to Give," the theme the Catholic Church of the Philippines chose for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the Philippines in the year 1521, is depicted in the logo also known as 500YOC.



Rev. Francis Galvan, OSA

500YOC: WHAT'S IN A LOGO?

Fr. Francis Galvan, OSA, pastor of Sacred Heart, Delta, talks about his Filipino roots shaping his mission to share Jesus.

-- First in a series about 500YOC by Marie Pacheco

It was a weekend in September when Fr. Francis shared a lively conversation on how he ended up becoming a priest in Canada from a small town in Negros Occidental. Like many kababayans, it was poverty and the hard life of planting palay in the province, that made this *Ilonggo* go to Manila to study and find a job. There he met God's instruments that paved his entry to a seminary in Isabela, to college at Christ the King in QC and to pursue further studies in Theology at the University of Toronto.

He wasn't sure what waited for him in a new country, but his faith has always been strong. With only \$200 in his pocket, his prayer was simple: "*Mama Mary, san man ako dalhin, kayo na po bahala.*"

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Join us on September 27th 2 - 5 pm for our Covid-19 Intensive Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration: https://youtube.com/watch?v=IH2YGC5_b5c

... what's in a logo

He was ordained as priest in 1996. Thirty years after arriving in Canada, Fr. Francis has served as an assistant pastor and pastor, a Provincial Secretary and Superior of the Agustinians in Canada.

He shares that the image of the priest baptizing the native was the first thing he noticed about the 500 YOC logo. While it served as an entry point for Spain to colonize the Philippines, he sees it more as a reminder of the gift we've been given half a century ago. It is the same gift we continue to bring as Filipinos abroad. *"Yung faith natin nagbibigay-buhay, it's the same faith which the Spaniards brought 500 years ago, which is the same faith Jesus passed on 2000 years ago. Baptism is our common gift... Tayong mga Pilipino, blessing in disguise dahil sa kahirapan ng buhay sa Pilipinas, lumayas tayo at marami pa tayong natulungan. Marami tayong napasaya."*

A closer look at the logo shows us a figure from Fernando Amorsolo's painting of "The first baptism in the Philippines". The colors of the Philippine flag are apparent; but blue is also symbolism for the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove, and the Filipinos' devotion to Mary as seen in the beads of the rosary. There is also a cross, a ship, and the "Ichtus" (a symbol which means Jesus).

Fr. Francis believes the cross and boat are particularly significant for Filipinos abroad. The boat is moving because our faith is dynamic. It did not stay in Cebu where the colonizers first landed; our faith does not stay in the Philippines as well. *"We cross oceans also and dala natin yung dynamism ng spirit, yung buhay ng cross na yun. Because we come from a poor country, dahil sa cross na yun nakaka-relate tayo what it means to suffer, what it means to look at Jesus who was a poor man with the power of God."*

He says the 500 YOC in the Philippines is not only a reason to celebrate. It is a reminder that we have the gift we can share here in Canada as well as the rest of the world. *"Dala-dala natin ang Panginoon, dala dala natin yung tradition. In a very secular, God-less society like here—they don't care about the Lord. Tayong mga Pilipino, we may not be smart when it comes to intellectually discussing God, but we carry it through our day-to-day celebrations. Yung value ng faith, nakikita sa atin. Nag-survive tayo kahit mahirap kasi lahat ng ginagawa natin is for the Lord."*

[The Filipino Ministry has lined up various activities to celebrate 500YOC. To find out more go to filipinoministry.ca]

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay is a monthly publication by the Filipino Ministry Office of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, BC, Canada

filipinoministry.ca



500YOC COMPETITIONS



**Two categories: Celebration
Theme Song and Mass Settings -
Deadline: November 7**

Open to all Catholics 13 years old and above, For more information: email askmymusic@rocketmail.com



**Express yourself on canvas and
add to the understanding of the
500YOC Theme**

Deadline: November 7

Open to all Catholics, 13 to 25 years old. For more information: email rosettecorea@gmail.com