

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

Filipino Ministry



gifted to give
500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES



LIVING WITH DEVOTIONS

by Marie Pacheco

One of the memories I have from my late lola was a tattered booklet of her favorite novena devotions wrapped in a small Ziplock inside her bag. She carried it everywhere she went. She had a novena to answer every need; from finding a lost key, praying for a partner or a good husband, asking for good weather, safe travels, or healing for someone battling cancer. Over the years I began to understand that no matter where we are in our faith journey, we have at our disposal a rich and wide selection of saints we can call upon. It doesn't even have to be during times of crisis or need.

Starting a devotion means getting to know these holy men and women through prayer and readings; and relying on their help to remember important truths about our journey with Jesus.

As we all look back at 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines, we also remember the many devotions that have been passed to us from generation to generation. It could also be a devotion introduced to us by a mentor, friend or a teacher; or one we have shared with family and friends we hold dear. Know that there is no invitation more powerful than the testimony of an answered prayer from a devotion.

Following is a list of devotions the *Filipino Ministry* is sharing as part of the celebration of 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines. Many of these devotions are similar in nature and vary simply from their places of origin. It is not an exhaustive list but rather selected as focus for each month. May these devotions help strengthen our faith and guide us in our mission to share Jesus' love to others.

January ~ Sto. Nino - a devotion to the Holy Child or Infant Jesus traditionally held on the 3rd Sunday of January. It looks back on the locals' conversion to Christianity and is widely venerated as miraculous by many Filipinos.

February ~ Our Lady of Lourdes - a devotion to the famous Marian apparition in Lourdes, France where the Blessed Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette a total of 18 times. She asked Bernadette to dig and find a miraculous spring; its water is believed to have cured and healed many people ever since.

March ~ Annunciation/ St Joseph - novena for the feast of the Annunciation when the angel announced Jesus' birth to Mary, and she agreed. It is prayed beginning March 16th on the feast of the Annunciation, or about 9 months before Christmas.

A devotion to **St. Joseph**, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Foster Father of Jesus. Given his roles, St. Joseph is a powerful patron for husbands and head of the family, and his intercession has been sought for work, protection and a happy death since he died in the arms of Jesus and Mary. [Pope Francis also declared 2021 as the Year of St Joseph]

April ~ St. Pedro Calungsod - Filipino saint who was a migrant, sacristan and missionary catechist and was persecuted in Guam. He is known as a patron for Filipino youth and overseas Filipino workers.

May ~ Flores de Mayo / Mary - a month long devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and ends with the Santacruzán at the end of May. It started as a tribute to the Blessed Mother for the beneficial rains she brings that make flowers bloom after the dry summer.

June ~ Our Lady of Perpetual Help - another devotion to our Blessed Mother for numerous prayer requests that have been granted through her intercession. The National shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help in Baclaran, Paranaque, Philippines is witness to thousands of devotees that flock to the shrine especially every Wednesdays.

July ~ St. Ignatius of Loyola - a Spanish priest who founded the Jesuit order and is known for his missionary, educational and charitable works. A devotion to St. Ignatius of Loyola includes a daily examen or a deep reflection of God's movement in all the people

Heaven and Earth. It reminds us of Mary's important role throughout Christian history even after her death; and why we continue to hold her dear in our prayers for intercession.

September ~ St. Lorenzo Ruiz - known as the first Filipino saint, a devotion to St. Lorenzo Ruiz is for the country's protection and unity as a people. He is also looked upon for courage to proclaim one's faith and readiness to defend it at all costs.

Our Lady of Penafrancia is a special devotion to the Marian patroness of the Bicol region, affectionately referred to as their "Ina" or mother. Many miracles and cure have also been attributed to a devotion to Our Lady of Penafrancia.

October ~ Our Lady of the Holy Rosary/ La Naval - a devotion to praying the Holy Rosary every day, considered to be the most powerful prayer to Our Lady. It consists of prayers and meditations in the life of Jesus and Mary. Those devoted to Our Lady of the Holy Rosary believe in the promises of the Rosary which include special protection and graces.

November ~ Our Lady of Namacpacan - a devotion to the Blessed Mother originating from the small town of Luna (formerly Namacpacan) in La Union, Philippines. Several miracles have been attributed to her including the healing of a girl who could not walk.

December ~ Immaculate Conception - a devotion focused on Mary's conception without original sin. It reminds us to reflect on Mary's life, and imitate her as an example of pure love and grace from God.

[Thanks to Daniel Zayco for helping compile this list. Visit filipinoministry.ca for the novena prayers for each month.]

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#500YOC

We need volunteers and donors for our Quarterly Virtual Celebration of the 500th Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines. Offer your gifts now and email: filipinoministry@rcav.org for more information.

Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade

Join us for the Filipino Ministry
Monthly Intensive Prayer Session

Sunday, 28th February, 2:00-5:00 pm



<https://tinyurl.com/y423xwah>



<https://youtu.be/64HRR1uLah8>

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