

Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

Filipino Ministry



... in the footsteps of the Lord



WHAT THE CHURCH NEEDS

500YOC Filipino Vocations

by: Marie Pacheco

"There are so many Filipinos going to Church because of tradition but are hardly involved in the Church."

This was the picture shared by Chito Goco, head of the Vocations Committee from the Filipino Ministry in the Archdiocese of Vancouver, when he talked about the need for Filipino priests. Goco explained how a 2018 conference by the Filipino Ministry confirmed the gap among the impressive number of churchgoers from the community versus the lack of involvement by many. Instead of focusing on the problem however, the goal was to create programs to make Filipinos more involved. One of them is coming up with somebody to pastor them, or priestly vocations.

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Personal
500YOC Prayer



Heavenly Father, thank you for your gift of faith to the Filipinos 500 years ago. As beneficiary of this gift, grant me the grace, to generously share my giftedness to the community and encourage others to do the same. This I ask through Senyor Santo Niño. Amen.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.



Filipino Catholic Ministry
Archdiocese of Vancouver

Why the need for a Filipino priest?

Goco says language plays a big barrier for many "kababayans" who are more comfortable talking to their pastor in our own language. Whether it's Tagalog or another dialect, having the same language makes it easier to talk with their pastor. He adds some are also intimidated by foreigners, given the Philippines' history of being colonized by other countries in the past. "Kung may Pilipinong priest, makikita mo may community talaga. Na-e-engganyo nila," said Goco. In the more than 77 parishes in the Archdiocese, less than 10 parishes have priests of Filipino descent. It doesn't help that priests in general are dwindling by the number these days. We rarely hear of people wanting to enter the priesthood.

Where the Filipino Ministry Can Help

Two new programs are being introduced next month, "Come and See" and "Come Follow Me". "Come and See" is a faith accompaniment program, to allow them to deepen their encounter with Jesus and translate that relationship into concrete life activities; "Come Follow Me" is a discernment challenge to help develop priestly vocations among Filipinos.

Goco explains there are a lot of challenges that's why the programs are split in different age groups and level of readiness relative to priestly vocations. Common examples are pressure from friends or family, the obligation to support their parents, economic uncertainties and more. He says it is important to start by creating a support group for those who are interested.

"If we find people in that group, we have to nurture it through a series of teachings and form a community among them. They become buddy-buddies with each other so pag may question sila, they can bounce it off each other. Alam nila meron silang kasama."

The program will consist of monthly meetings for the next ten months that will include practical life skills and discipleship topics.

We are Gifted to Give

After a pilot program last year, this year's launch also ties with the community's celebration of 500 Years of Christianity in the Philippines. With the theme **Gifted to Give**, we are reminded of many ways we can give back to our community, one of which is the possibility of having more priestly vocations. Goco believes the community is such a ripe field and the numbers are there. But he says vocations are not a priority even for many Catholic lay organizations because vocation is really hard. Yet with the whole community's support, he is optimistic. There is a step forward in helping the youth know more about Jesus and how they can develop a relationship with him.

The ministry has a bold vision to pray and work for the ordinations of 40 Filipino priests in the Archdiocese in the next 20 years.

An ambitious goal, but it's what our Church needs.

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Matthew 7.7 Prayer Brigade

Monthly Intensive Prayer Session
of the Filipino Ministry

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

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



FEBRUARY 28TH

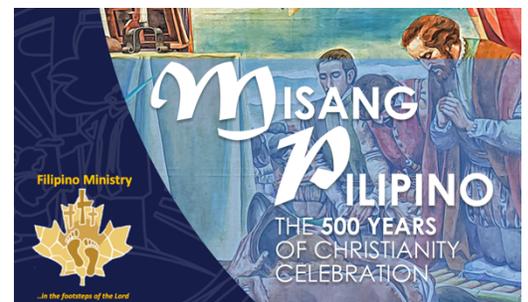
Join our 3-hour prayer session

Via Zoom:

<https://tinyurl.com/y423xwah>

YouTube:

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



MARCH 15TH

Livestream at 7 pm from All
Saints Parish, Coquitlam, BC
Celebrant: Rev. Amador Abundo

YouTube:

https://youtu.be/1j06eS_sdzY