

# Balitang Nagbibigay Buhay

filipinoministry.ca



Archdiocese of Vancouver



## SALAMAT 2: RECEIVING THE GIFT...

*God, in His wisdom, brings good out of the evil of colonization*

by: Marie Pacheco

*"When the gift is separate from the giver, we take it for granted."*

If there was only one take-away from The Filipino Ministry's 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter SALAMAT event, it would be this. The virtual celebration held July 9<sup>th</sup> focused on "Receiving the Gift", as a follow-up to last April's event about the "Giver". It reminded us that to be able to fully receive the gift, we should always remember who the Giver is.

Fr. Dennis Flores' exhortation took us back to the history of colonization. He said that while the gift of faith came to the Philippines because of not-so-noble reasons, like colonizers taking our land and our ancestors losing their freedom, God still brought good out of it. One sees this from the perspective of why God, the Giver, "allowed it".

*"Out of the darkness of historical events, came forth the gift of faith. The gift of God, of himself*

*thru Jesus Christ, and in his own divine wisdom, it came to us through the Sto. Nino."*

He added this underscores that our faith as a people, will be as simple and naïve, as basic yet as true and faithful, as that of a trusting child.

### TRUSTING THE GIVER

Fr. Denis said the key to receiving the gift is having the same temperament as that of our Mother Mary when the angel first appeared to her. There is humility and gratitude in letting it "be done according to thy word".

*"He is our creator; we are His creatures. Just like Mary, we magnify the Lord, and our spirit rejoices in God our Savior. We are lowly and He has done marvelous things for us."*

In many ways, the Filipinos' faith has been a living example of this. In colonization, Filipinos took it in stride and still welcomed those who landed in our soil to oppress us. In natural disasters and man-made catastrophes, Filipinos simply yield. No matter what happens to us, we say this popular line with trust and confidence: "Bahala na ang Diyos."

Fr. Denis said this is the same faith that has guided many Filipinos all over the world. Over years—our colonized history has taught Filipinos to be resilient which combined with the basic faith of "Bahala na ang Diyos"—prepared us for the global village, which came as the unfolding future.

### STO. NINO SHRINE IN AGASSIZ, BC

"Receiving the Gift" also introduced us to the Sto. Nino shrine project in Agassiz, BC where Fr. Denis is the pastor for St. Anthony of Padua Parish. He appealed to the generosity of viewers as they work towards the goal of \$400,000 for the project which will hopefully result in the early completion of a pilgrimage shrine to the Sto. Nino.

*"Our inspiration is the vision of seeing thousands of Filipinos and non-Filipinos alike, travelling each year to Agassiz to pray and celebrate with us. We know with Sto. Nino, there will be many miracles that will happen by way of healing, restoration of well-being and life-changing conversions to those who will come and participate with us."*

The next SALAMAT event will be about "Treasuring the Gift" in September.



**FEAST DAY MASS**  
**ST IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA**



July 22 - 30, 2021

10:30 am, Sat  
31<sup>st</sup> July 2021  
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey



Ignatius 500  
Filipino Catholic Ministry  
Link to the Novena Prayer

### Misang Pilipino sa DLGC



**Novena for the Feast of the Assumption**  
**August 6 - 14 Get Novena Booklet:**  
<https://tinyurl.com/4n4hyas4>

### AUGUST 22ND

Join our 3-hour prayer session at  
Our Lady of Good Counsel, Surrey  
email: [murallafem@gmail.com](mailto:murallafem@gmail.com)

**SALAMAT-3**  
Save the DATE

JOIN US ON  
SEPT. 17, 2021

TREASURING THE GIFT  
Friday, 6:00-7:00pm PST  
Online meeting details to follow, stay tuned for further announcements.



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