Canada to Celebrate First Filipino Heritage Month

Canada is set to honor its Filipino-Canadian community with the first Filipino Heritage Month this June, in the year that marks the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Canada and the Philippines.

The Filipino Heritage Month celebration will be observed throughout Canada for the first time in June 2019 after the Motion 155 bill authored by Member of Parliament Salma Zahid was passed by the Canadian House of Commons in October 2018.

The bill filed in 2017 declares every June as Filipino Heritage month to commemorate the bond be-

(Continued on page 6)

Historic Unveiling of Rizal Monument in Markham, June 9

The unveiling will go as scheduled. Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti confirmed Canada will have its first one-of-a-kind full monument of Dr. Jose P. Rizal and Luneta Gardens on June 9, 2019 in Markham. "It is also so auspicious that as Canada celebrates the first Filipino Heritage Month this June the Filipino Canadian community on this day will have the heritage symbol closest to their hearts. Rizal—our National Hero, unveiled and hon-
ored in this monument right here in our City," the Mayor said.

Markham has again proclaimed the week of June 12 as Philippine Independence Week, as it has done since 1989, "so that the City may join with the Filipino Canadian community in their festivities," according to Alicia Chiu, Chair of the Rizal Monument Project Committee.

(Continued on page 14)

Canada Hires Firm to Ship Rotting Garbage in the Philippines

By Joyce Ann L. Rocamora

MANILA— A Canadian official said Thursday the removal of the exported waste from the Philippines will be completed by end of next month.

"Canada is pleased to announce that it has awarded a contract to bring the waste back promptly and to ensure its safe and environmentally sound disposal," Catherine McKenna, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, said in a statement.

"Canada has amended its regulations to prevent this from happening again and is looking at ways to hold the responsible parties to account," she said.

McKenna said the Canadian government awarded the contract to Bolloré Logistics Canada to safely bring the waste back to Canada as soon as possible.

According to the official website of the Canadian government, the company will begin preparation for shipping in the "coming days."

"The removal will be complete by the end of June, as the waste must be safely treated to meet Canadian safety and health require-

(Continued on page 4)

PH Election Results*: SENATORS

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*based on Comelec’s final, official tally
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MAYOR

Proclamation

Filipino Heritage Month
June 2019

WHEREAS Filipino Heritage Month acknowledges the long and rich history of the Filipino community in the City of Toronto, Ontario and across Canada.

The Filipino community is one of the fastest growing communities in Toronto and their culture and tradition are deeply rooted and reflected in communities across the city.

Filipino-Canadians have contributed tremendously to the socio-economic fabric of Toronto.

Filipino Heritage Month coincides with Philippine Independence Day on June 12, a day that celebrates democracy, freedom and culture. It is a day to reflect on and learn more about the many outstanding contributions Filipino Canadians have made in our society and all over the world.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Mayor John Tory, on behalf of Toronto City Council, do hereby proclaim June 2019 as “Filipino Heritage Month” in the City of Toronto.

John Tory
Mayor of Toronto
Filipino Heritage Month Celebration
June 2019

EVENTS IN THE GTA

**CANADIAN COMMUNITIES**

**June 1**

**June 2**
Philippine Independence Day Council-PIDC "Salu Salo Community Potluck Picnic", 10:00 am, Earl Bales Park, North York (Free)

**June 3**
Canada of the waste material commitment to promptly repatriate the shipping expenses. As of posting, the government will shoulder the shipping expenses. According to Canada, its government will shoulder the costs of preparation, transfer, shipment, and disposal of the waste.

**June 4**
Philippine Consul General-Toronto "A Lecture by Filipino Historian Dr Ambeth Ocampo", 4 pm., Kan eff Tower, York University.

**June 5**
Philippine Advancement Through Arts & Culture "Philippine Heritage Photo Exhibit, Scarborough Civic Centre Rotunda.

**June 8**
Filipino Canadian Association of Vaughan "RP Flag Raising Program", 10:00 am. City Hall, City of Vaughan (Free).

**June 9**
Taste of Manila Sound featuring the live music of 70's Superband (original members of popular bands – VST, WADAB, CINEREELLA, LABUYO & HOTDOG). 7pm, Korean Cultural Centre, 1133 Leslie St., Toronto. For tickets, call 416-278-4102

**June 9**
City of Markham & MFCC, "Official Unveiling of Statue of Cardinal McGuigan Catholic School, Finch Ave. E. Toronto (Free).

**THE WINNERS**
ISO MORENO – former actor, is Mayor of Manila, beating Joseph "Erast" Estrada
VICO SOTTO – son of actors Vic Sotto and Connie Reyes is now the new Mayor of Pasig, take over the seat from incumbent mayor Bobby Eusebio
GIAN SOTTO - son of incumbent Senate Majority Leader Tito Sotto and actress Helen Gamboa, snatched the vice-mayor seat of Quezon city

JHONG HILLARIO – of TV’s Showtime and co-star of Edu Manzano (San Juan governor hopeful) in the

**Online Search for “migrate” surges right after PH elections**

**Canada hires firm to ship back garb...**

(Continued from page 1)

ments. The safe and environmentally sound disposal in Canada of the waste material will take place before the end of summer 2019," it said.

Prior to this announcement, Malacañang said it is willing to shoulder the shipping expenses. As of posting, the Department of Foreign Affairs has yet to comment on this development.

According to Canada, its government will shoulder the costs of preparation, transfer, shipment, and disposal of the waste.

Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland said she has already spoken with Foreign Affairs chief Teodoro Locsin Jr last week, to reiterate Canada’s commitment to promptly repatriate the waste.

"As I mentioned to their Foreign Secretary last week, we are committed to resolving this issue as quickly as possible. Today is an essential step forward in accomplishing that," she said.

Both McKenna and Freeland emphasized that Canada values its relations with the Philippines.

"Canada values its deep and longstanding relationship with the Philippines and has been working closely with Filipino authorities to find a solution that is mutually acceptable," McKenna said.

Freeland, meanwhile, highlighted the people-to-people ties of both nations.

"Canada and the Philippines have a deep and valued relationship underpinned by the hundreds of thousands of Canadians of Filipino descent. The Filipino-Canadian community has made huge contributions to Canada," she said.

In 2013 and 2014, Canadian company, Chronic Inc., exported containers labelled as recyclable plastics to two importers in the Philippines. It was found out that these also contained household recyclable plastics to two importers in the Philippines.

Following the repeated calls from the Philippine government to take back its trash, Canada said it issued a request for proposal from Canadian firms on May 10. After a "competitive process", a contract was awarded to Bollore Logistics Canada. (PNA)
MAY 2019

Teresa Torralba, PUBLISHER
Mon Torralba, Managing Editor
Rolando Mangante, Marketing/Account Executive
Office: 1002-650 Queens Quay West, Toronto ON M5V 3N2
For advertising: filipinonewswaves@gmail.com
647 718-1360
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647 707-7201

The Fate of Celebrities in PH Elections

The Fate of Celebrities in PH Elections (Continued from page 4)

popular drama series, “Ang Probinsyano,” won as coun-
ciller of Makati

RICHARD GOMEZ – heart-
throb actor was re-elected as Mayor or Ormoc city.

LUCY TORES-GOMEZ – is on her way to a comforta-
ble win in her bid for reelec-
tion as representa-
tive of the 4th district of
LeYTE, based on partial re-
sults

VILMA SANTOS-RECTO – "Star of All Seasons" Santos has not lost an election since
she entered politics in 1998. She was mayor of Lipa city from 1998 to
2007, and governor of Ba-
tangas from 2007 to 2013.
Once again with a win, Vil-
ma will be the congress repre-
sentative for the 6th
district of Batangas.

LANI MERCADO – While husband, Bong Revilla, is currently sitting at the 11th
spot of the magic 12 sena-
tors, actress-politician Lani is set to retain her seat as
Bacoor, Cavite mayor after
dominating her foe in the
May elections. Mercado (PDP Laban) got 141,848
votes as of 8:12 a.m. from
361 of the total 361 clus-
tered precincts against Jose Francisco’s votes of 18,903.

IMELDA PAPIN – popular
singer/recording artist of the 70’s is set to win as vice
 governor of Camarines
Sur.

TOSCA PUNO – daughter of the late Rico J. Puno is vic-
torious as councillor of Ma-
kat.

LITO LAPIÓ – Pampanga
anos have shown their sup-
port to their cabalen, Lito Lapid, as he is in the middle of
the magic 12 pack for sena-
torial seats.

JOLY REVILLA – Filipino actor, comedian, politician and son of Bong and Lani
Mercado, was uncontested

and will take the seat of vice-governor of Cavite.
Jolo’s aunt, Andrea Bautista
Ynares, is mayor-elect of
Antipolo City while uncle
Betyto Revilla is Cavite con-
gressman-elect.

GERALDINE ROMAN – the
country’s first transgender
politician, gets another
term as Bataan’s first dis-
tric representative.

CELEBRITIES WHO LOST THEIR

BIDS

EDU MANZANO – popular
veteran lost his bid as Con-
gressman for San Juan city.
Manzano’s bid has been marred by a disqualifica-
tion case from a division of the Commission on Elec-
tions over his citizenship —
a decision whose timing he
called “very suspect.”

RICHARD YAP, who rose to
fame with his starring role in the hit series “Be
Careful with My Heart,” was among the celebrities
who lost their respective bids in the midterm elec-
tion. Yap (PDP-Laban) was running against reelec-
tionist Raul del Mar (LP), who was seeking a third
and final term as representative of the 1st district of
Cebu City.

Among the ‘not so lucky’ candidates in race were:
Monshour del Rosario vying
for Makati vice mayor; An-
drea del Rosario (for Cala-
tagan, Batangas vice mayor);
Roderick Paulate (for Que-
zon City vice mayor); Sher-
yl Cruz (for Tondo, Manila
councillor); Jeremy
Marquez (for Paranaque
vice mayor); Boawin Melly
(for Taytay, Rizal council-
or); Domith Ochoa (for
Paranaque councillor).

Also, on the losing side
were comedic Romy
‘Dagul’ Pantrana (for coun-
ciller in Rodriguez, Rizal);
and Gary Estrada (for vice
mayor at Cainta, Rizal).

Former broadcast journal-
list Iggy Manicad, and
‘Anak’ singer and composer
Freddie Aguilar, also failed
in their senatorial bids.

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Onette recently completed 29 years with Canada Life as an In-
formation Technology (IT) Manager. Her vast experience in the
IT Field coupled with her amazing interpersonal skills has led her
to a new chapter of opportunities in the Financial Service
industry.

With entrepreneurial spirit yearning to help others, Onette has
since completed her government licenses and opened her very
own office in Etobicoke.

She has embarked on providing an
opportunity for individuals willing to learn, be trained, and ob-
tain a government license, and more importantly, the ability to
earn lucrative income.

In a short period of time, Onette has made great strides in her
new role and has been requested as special speaker at semi-
nars in the GTA. You know what they say, “when someone is
soaring with success, one must latch on for the ride.”

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Filipino Restaurant Week kicks off in New York

NEW YORK — Filipino Restaurant Week kicked off at the high bar rooftop in New York City.

But you don’t have to be in the Big Apple to experience this annual Filipino cuisine sampling in five states in the East Coast, thanks to the emerging popularity of Filipino cuisine.

Participating restaurants now span 24 restaurants in 7 states from Massachusetts to Virginia.

Consul Arman Talbo said now there is more opportunity to showcase the best the Philippines has to offer.

“We are creating so much buzz on social media, in mainstream media, in Philippine-American media and promoting it not only to the Filipino community but to mainstream American communities as well, elevating the level of Filipino food in the United States,” he said.

Diners have a chance to win free roundtrip air tickets. (Continued on page 7)
YOU ARE ALL INVITED
MONTHLY DEVOTION TO OUR LADY OF PENAFRANCIA

2019 Our Lady of Penafrancia Novena
Our Lady of the Assumption Church
2565 Bathurst St., Toronto ON

For next month’s schedule call Paeng Nebres 416 618-1352

Filipino Restaurant Week in New York
(Continued from page 6)

to the Philippines using food passports. “Inside the food passport are the participating restaurants. We encourage the clients to go to at least three participating restaurants, have their name stamped and when they collect three stamps, they get to win prizes including two roundtrip tickets to the Philippines.” Talbo added.

Among the new restaurants joining this year is Asia, serving traditional Filipino cuisine in Caldwell, New Jersey. “Caldwell is a predominantly non-Filipino area but that is our purpose, to push what Philippines is. We are so proud of being Filipinos and we want to showcase what the real Filipino food is. We want to elevate it to a higher level,” said restaurateur Queenie Pena Banez.

Ugly Kitchen chef Aris Tuazon, who has been participating in the Filipino Restaurant Week since 2015, said shining a spotlight on Filipino restaurants shines a brighter light for more people to discover and enjoy Filipino cuisine.

“It’s really a big difference now. When I see customers in the restaurants who are non-Filipinos they already know what to order. That means we are really being recognized nowadays,” Tuazon said.

Inspired by the New York Restaurant Week, participating Filipino restaurants will serve set meals of at least three courses.

Filipino Restaurant Week runs until May 26.
Ten Simple Ways to Serve Your Local Community

So, you decided to volunteer. Congratulations! We know serving others is not just about altruism or feeling good about yourself. Helping others is a simple way to learn, teach, and bring people together. Here are a few suggestions that differ from the ordinary “soup kitchen” ideas:

1. Work at events.
Help set up or tear down for concerts, a community theatre, or youth sporting events. Though venues usually hire professionals to handle the sound and heavy equipment, volunteers could run cables, set up folding chairs, or operate the concessions stand. Triathlons and 5k or 10k races need extra hands to track time, hand out water, or direct competitors.

2. Drive for others.
If you have a car, offer to pick up a neighbor’s child for school or take someone to work. The elderly with poorer vision may appreciate a driver accompanying them to the grocery store and a strong arm to carry their purchases.

3. Visit those in need of company.
It is common for folks in local senior living facilities to only get visitations from out-of-area family seasonally on holidays. Taking the time during a leisurely summer day to stop by a retirement community and talk to people (or just listen) can do wonders for lonely souls. The same goes for those in hospice or veterans.

Alternatively, the local youth are always in need of constructive company in the form of tutors and mentors. This may cater to your own academic strengths or provide a group of kids with someone to hang with after school while their parents work late.

It’s usually best to ask permission first but surprising your busy neighbor by mowing their lawn, trimming hedges, or shoveling their walkway can be a great surprise that encourages community service.

5. Give food.
Whether or not cooking is your specialty, everyone appreciates a good meal. Drop off a prepared frozen meal or ask them a good time to bring by a hot meal for their family (tip: beforehand, check they have no specific food allergies). Food banks are always looking for either volunteers and canned goods if you tend to bum anything you cook. Neighborhood firefighters would always appreciate a few pizzas delivered during a night shift.

6. Offer your skills to others.
From carpenters to musicians, accountants to seamstresses, nearly everyone has a valuable skill they can share with others free of charge. However, be mindful that performing the same tasks you do at your job as a volunteer may cause burnout.

7. Build a home.
You don’t need licensing, an architect degree or a power saw to help build a home. Habitat for Humanity operates in cities all over the world building homes and communities for those in need. If you can swing a hammer or use a screwdriver, you can help them.

8. Spring clean.
Donate gently used clothes and shoes, kitchen utensils and furniture to places like the Salvation Army or Goodwill. PickUpPlease will pick up your unwanted furniture and give it to veterans.

Everyone needs a home. If you’re a stable adult with extra love to give, consider opening your home to others. This doesn’t just apply to children. PETA and ASPCA let you adopt or foster kittens, puppies and full grown animals until they find a forever home.

10. Write a note.
Sometimes, the best thing you can give is a word of encouragement to someone: a struggling single parent, a depressed teenager, or the owner of your favorite local diner.

www.operationwarm.org

Filipino Heritage Month: Let’s be one in celebrating us!
June 1, 2019—9am-11pm—Albert Campbell Square
Scarborough Civic Centre, 150 Burough Drive, Scarborough

Happy Birthday

Rei Ching, MAY 18
Lolo Joe, MAY 16

The movers and shakers of the first Durham Filipino Heritage Festival. (L-R) Egay Gonzales, Mike Paeng Nebres, Teri Barker, Teresa Torralba (adviser), John Aki and Rose Ami (Executive Director). The festival will be held on Sunday, June 2 (9am-9pm) at Pickering High School, 180 Church St. North in Ajax.

Happy Birthday

Tristan De Juan (front center) received his First Holy Communion on May 11. He is surrounded by his siblings, parents and grandma Tess Cusiapag, publisher of Balita newspaper.
LET’S BE ONE IN CELEBRATING US

LOTS OF FOOD, FUN & LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

featuring our very talented cultural dance groups, musical performers, live bands and special guest entertainers.

Saturday, June 1, 2019
10am - 11pm
Albert Campbell Square
Scarborough Civic Centre
150 Borough Drive, Scarborough

DURHAM FILIPINO HERITAGE FESTIVAL
SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2019 9AM-9PM
PICKERING HIGH SCHOOL, 180 CHURCH ST. N A JAX, ON L1T 2W7

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La Loma 'Lechon Festival'

By Ma. Teresa Montemayor

MANILA -- Every year, the third Sunday of May is an oily, greasy yet tasty day for the people of La Loma in Quezon City as scores of lechon (roasted pig) and other pork dishes are given to tourists and residents taking part in the Lechon Festival.

"Iba kami sa mga lechoneros na nagluluto ng pakain sa lahat ng mga tulong dumadayo dito sa taytay. Mayroon kaming niluluto kare-kare, dinuguan, bukod sa lechon at bilang pasasalamat namin sa lahat ng biyayang natanggap namin (We are one of the lechoneros cooking pakain for all people attending the festival. We cook kare-kare, dinuguan, apart from the lechon and this is to show our gratitude for all the blessings we've received)," Aling Nelia of Aling Nelia's Lechon told the Philippine News Agency (PNA).

A resident of Caloocan City takes his pick from a row of medium-sized lechon (roasted pigs) displayed by one of the lechoneros in La Loma. He says he's been buying lechon in La Loma for over ten years now because of its taste and good quality. (Photo by Ma. Teresa Montemayor)

A tasty history

The first Lechon Festival happened in 2000 when Monchie Ferreros, former president of the La Loma Lechoneros Association (LLA) and owner of Monchie's Lechon, launched the "Parada ng mga Lechon". Lechoneros participating in the parade dress their lechon in different costumes and place them in floats for everyone to see.

In support of Ferreros' initiative, former Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. declared La Loma as the

(Continued on page 15)
FYM FOUNDATION PROJECTS TO FIGHT AGAINST POVERTY

CANADA, May 2019 - Every event of the Felix Y. Manalo (FYM) Foundation’s Aid for Humanity is rooted in the values of compassion, selflessness, and philanthropy. These events reflect the faith and belief to do good to those who need it, which is the motivating factor behind these compassionate endeavors.

In Canada, members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) or Church of Christ are in support of its charitable arm—the FYM Foundation—and moved to establish six (6) sites—Winnipeg, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Alberta, Burnaby to gather people from their community—for people who were affected by short-term economic disruption, life-changing circumstances, or by severe natural calamities.

The events are as follows:

May 19, 2019, Sunday, between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM, Turtle Island, 510 King Street, Winnipe, MB R2W 3Z5

May 20, 2019, Monday, between 3:00 PM and 6:00 PM, DoubleTree by Hilton, 1255 Jeanne Mance Street, Montreal, QC H3B 1E5

May 21, 2019, Tuesday, between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM, Horticulture Building, 1525 Princess Patricia Ottawa ON K1S 5J3

May 22, 2019, Wednesday, between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM, National Event Centre, 1000 Finch Ave W, North York, ON M3J 2V5

May 25, 2019, Saturday from 2:00 to 5:00 PM, Howard Buffalo Memorial Center, 2A AB-611, Maskwacis, AB T0C 1N0

May 26, Sunday from 5:00 until 8:00 PM, Burnaby chapel compound, 5060 SE Marine Drive, Burnaby, BC V1E 1A2

The INC district leadership in Canada invited non-profit organizations and expressed a profound appreciation for their dedicated work throughout the years of helping people in need.

Community organizations continuously work hard to volunteer their time and efforts to address this issue, to do what is in their power to help and to empower those made to feel helpless.

According to them, many of their people have no support, economically or emotionally, and even more are faced with the hardships of exclusion, abuse, poverty, illiteracy, and other health issues, notably diabetes. These Centers and Shelters offer them relief and most importantly, hope.

In the fight to alleviate hunger and poverty amongst the vulnerable and economically challenged families and individuals, thousands of care packages consisting of staple food items and necessities to those in need. It is through hard work, dedication, and care that government services and non-profit organizations have given and have given this fight a chance and a higher purpose. The FYM Foundation is here to add armour and support to this ongoing fight in hopes to have a profound effect in reducing poverty and hunger in the world, starting with our own cities and communities.

Even in developed countries, there is a sheer reality of poverty and homelessness that exists, more so with the growing disparities between the rich and the poor.

Understanding this, the FYM Foundation, a non-stock, non-profit, and non-political organization, coordinates the charitable projects of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church of Christ), a religious organization, now visible in 151 countries all over the world.

FYM Foundation envisions being one of the leading charitable institutions in the world by providing services for people to lead healthy and productive lives and promoting community development. For as long as there are people in need, the FYM Foundation will continue to fulfill its pledge of extending help through aid and services, promoting education, socio-economic well-being, environmental awareness, and health improvement.

The Foundation was formally registered in the Philippines in February 2011, in the United States in May 2012, and in Canada in February 2013. Anchored in their Christian faith, the Church of Christ commenced the “map” (Aid to Humanity) Program under the banner of Felix Y. Manalo Foundation.

The Aid for Humanity project has been one of the INC’s key programs since INC Executive Minister Eduardo Manalo took over the leadership of the church in 2009. It has set historical records of Worldwide Walks for charity which benefitted hundreds of thousands of people.

The FYM Foundation, since then, has spearheaded many large charity events across the globe worldwide, including Kenya, South Africa, Canada, and the Philippines to name a few, as well as anywhere else that help is needed.

INC members have found opportunities to render help with a record donation of 53K of staples to food banks, assistance at the evacuation centers after the May 2016 historic fires in Fort McMurray, Alberta; 431 registered blood donations to...
FYM FOUNDATION ...TO FIGHT POVERTY...

(Continued from page 10)

Canadian Blood Services; distribution of care packages and sandbagging efforts in Gatineau and Montreal during a massive overflow of Ottawa River in May 2017. The foundation also made a total donation of $10,000.00 to the 10 Toronto Shelters and Care Centers in September 2018 at the Queen Elizabeth Bldg in CNE compound.

In the past few years, Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) members, thru FYM Foundation have rigorously engaged and connected within their communities which suffered from the effects of environmental disasters and hardships.

Within the crowd of INC volunteers, one will find a deep sense of brotherhood, community engagement, and a vibrant network that supports and reaches out to people who are temporarily challenged by economic distress and unfortunate circumstances.

INC General Auditor Glicerio B. Santos, Jr. says that under the leadership of Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, "much emphasis has been placed on the Church's outreach and socio-civic activities, which seek to benefit not just INC members, but also less fortunate communities around the world who need help."

"We have been faithfully following the mandate given to us as a Church and the path laid out by INC Executive Minister Eduardo V. Manalo. We are very thankful for this unique opportunity to uplift the lives of people in our own small way."

ABOUT:
The Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) or Church of Christ is a global Christian Church that upholds Bible-based Christian teachings. It comprises more than 6,000 local congregations and missions in 151 countries and territories (In US and Canada, there are around 380 local congregations and missions), and its membership consists of 147 ethnic groups and nationalities.
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Pope Francis tells medical professionals to defend life

By Courtney Grogan

Pope Francis Friday encouraged medical professionals to defend and promote life, highlighting the practice of conscientious objection in today’s healthcare environment.

“Defend and promote life, starting from those who are most defenseless or in need of assistance because they are sick, or elderly, or marginalized,” Pope Francis said May 17.

The pope met with the Italian Catholic Association of Healthcare Workers in Vatican’s apostolic palace and encouraged their commitment to pro-life healthcare.

The pope stressed that just because a medical technique is technologically possible does not mean it is necessarily ethical.

“Any medical practice or intervention on the human being must first be evaluated carefully to see if it actually respects life and human dignity,” he said.

The practice of conscientious objection ... can be a sign for the healthcare environment in which we find ourselves, as well as for the patients and their families,” he explained.

Francis said that in extreme cases where human life is endangered, conscientious objection based on one’s ethical convictions should be sought with respect and humility in order to prevent misunderstandings.

“Always seek dialogue, especially with those who have different positions, listening to their point of view and trying to transmit yours,” he advised.

Pope Francis critiqued the “corporatization” of healthcare systems today, commenting that healthcare workers must treat patients as people, not numbers.

“The corporatization ... has fundamentally changed the approach to illness and to the patient himself with its preference for efficiency often preceding attention to the person, who needs to be understood, listened to and accompanied, as much as he needs a correct diagnosis and effective treatment,” Francis said.

He said that this corporatization also has an effect on medical workers leading to “burnout,” with many struggling to cope with long work shifts and a stressful working environment.

To guard against these pressures, Francis emphasized the importance of prayer and prioritizing one’s own spiritual life, commenting that this is what sustained the many dedicated saints who served the sick with love.

“To keep your spirit alive, I urge you to be faithful to prayer and to nourish yourself with the Word of God: always with the Gospel in your pocket,” the pope advised.

“Healing, among other things, passes not only from the body, but also from the spirit,” he said.

Pope Francis urges De La Salle Brothers to bring renewed hope to Catholic schools

By Courtney Grogan

On the 300th anniversary of St. John Baptist de La Salle’s death, Pope Francis urged the Lasallian Brothers to continue their educational mission with the zeal of their founder.

“Dear spiritual children of St. John Baptist de La Salle, I urge you to deepen and imitate his passion for the least of these and the rejected,” Pope Francis told the Brothers May 16 in the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace.

The pope called the brothers to bring a “culture of resurrection” into the schools where they serve, especially in contexts where the “culture of death” prevails.


St. Jean-Baptiste de La Salle, Founder of the Institute of the Brothers of Christian schools

“Teaching cannot be just a job, but a mission,” Pope Francis said as he described St. John Baptist de La Salle’s founding impediments.

St. John Baptist de La Salle, a 17th century French priest, established a lay community to offer a Christian education to the children of the poor that later grew into a new form of consecrated life, the “religious brotherhood,” in which “lay religious” take vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience without ordination.

Pope Francis praised La Salle’s bold reforms of teaching methods, calling him a “pioneer in the field of education.”

La Salle was one of the first pedagogues to emphasize classroom teaching in the vernacular rather than Latin. He also divided pupils into learning groups for more effective work, set up Sunday schools for adults, and rehabilitative programs for juvenile delinquents and prisoners, Francis explained.

“He dreamed of a school open to all, so he did not hesitate to face extreme educational needs, introducing a method of rehabilitation through school and work,” the pope said.

Three centuries later, more than 4,000 Christian Brothers continue La Salle’s mission educational mission with a “preferential option for the poor” in 79 countries in conjunction with the Lasallian Sisters, the Guadalupana Sisters de la Salle.

“Do not get tired of looking for those who are in the modern tombs of loss, degradation, discomfort and poverty, to offer new life hope,” Pope Francis said.

In addition to La Salle himself, 14 Christian Brothers have been canonized and 150 beatified. St. John Baptist de La Salle is the patron saint of teachers.

“The impetus for the educational mission, which made your founder a teacher and witness for so many of his contemporaries, and his teaching, can still today feed your projects and your action,” the pope said.

One of the Lasallian Brothers says the impetus for the educational mission was caused by the “need to educate the children in the slums, in the slums of the city, the slums of the city of a student of the poor, who needs to be cared for, who needs to be accompanied, as much as he needs a correct diagnosis and effective treatment,” the pope said.

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“Healing, among other things, passes not only from the body, but also from the spirit,” he said.
The regular observances will be held on June 9th with the unveiling as the highlight of the day. It will start with a public parade to the site, led by the Philippine Heritage Band, and participated in by the Mayor and his Council, the Philippine Ambassador to Canada and the Consul General in Toronto, Filipino Canadian organizations, and other celebrities and guests.

Assembly for the parade will begin at 9 a.m., with free parking provided at Boxgrove Bypass and Rouge Bank Dr. at the northwest corner. Participants are advised to come early as Boxgrove Bypass will be closed at that time for the parade between Rouge Bank/Coppercreek Dr. and 14th Ave. Those who wish to wait at the site may park at Rizal Ave. and the nearby streets. The parade starts promptly at 9:30.

In lieu of the traditional flag-raising and program that is held annually at the City Hall grounds to commemorate Philippine Independence, this time the Filipino flag will be in its position of honor in the parade. It will be borne by an Honor Guard squad in front and at center with other flags, but at City Hall the Filipino flag will still be flown in its place of honor at the flag poles for the whole week.

The unveiling program will feature ceremonial blessings for the monument from an indigenous elder, and a multi-faith preacher, followed by greetings and remarks from officials, then the unveiling.

"Filipino heritage is the hot topic now among Filipino Canadians. What is more Filipino than celebrating our Hero in this Rizal monument? Filipinos are watching us. We need to show up in force for this unveiling to display our pride, or none of it. So we will see," said Alex Chiu, retired Markham Councillor who spent his whole life promoting Filipino Heritage in Markham in many projects, with the Rizal monument as the culmination of his efforts.

The Rizal monument and Luneta Gardens project is a joint partnership between the City of Markham and the Filipino Canadian community. It was commissioned in 2017 as part of the Filipino community’s contribution to Markham’s Canada150 celebrations, to be gifted to the City of Markham as a significant addition to Markham’s public art portfolio.

To the groups and organizations participating in the parade, please RSVP the organizers asap indicating how many of your members are coming so you may be included in the parade list, to Alicia Chiu at chiu.alicia@gmail.com or Tessie Ting at tctting11@hotmail.com.

(Continued from page 1)

The AID FOR HUMANITY program of the Felix Y. Manalo (FYM) foundation, with the help of members of Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) or Church of Christ, held another well-attended event in Toronto on May 23. With FYM’s mission of helping the needy, representatives of non-profit organizations received cheques as donation to help in their cause. Several white bags containing care packages were distributed to the attendees.

Michael Levitt, MP for York Centre, was guest speaker at the Aid For Humanity event held May 23 in Toronto.
Davao Icon 2019 Invites Canadian Businesses

May 10, 2019, Toronto, Canada – The Philippine Trade and Investment Center-Toronto is pleased to announce the forthcoming Davao Investment Conference (Davao Icon 2019) on June 20–21, 2019 at the SMX Convention Center, Davao City, Philippines.

According to the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA), Davao Region is expected to sustain its strong economic performance as its gross regional domestic product is projected to grow between 9.5% and 10.5% in 2019.

With the theme “Davao: Your Southeast Asian Investment Destination,” the international conference will showcase investment opportunities in tourism, infrastructure and real estate, information and communication technology, and Halal trade and tourism. It aims to encourage investments in Davao Region and connect Davao to other parts of the world as a strategic and suitable place for investors.

The conference is in cooperation with the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Mindanao, Inc., the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines.

“We encourage Canadian businesses and overseas Filipino investors to explore opportunities in Davao and register for the conference,” announces Senior Trade Commissioner Maria Roseni M. Alvero who heads the Department of Trade and Industry’s representative office in Canada. “They will be matched with local businesses and will have the opportunity to feature their products and services”, STC Alvero added.

For further information, please e-mail us at toronto@dti.gov.ph or you may call telephone number +(416) 855 1775. You may also contact Davao Icon 2019 Secretariat at +63 (82) 222 1402 or email to marcwales@davaochamber.com or davaicon@davaochamber.com.

La Loma Lechon Festival...

(Continued from page 9)

Lechon Capital of the Philippines due to numerous establishments selling roasted pigs in the area.

The city government, under outgoing Mayor Herbert Bautista, also classified La Loma as a major tourist destination. In connection, the city councilors pushed for the creation of a centralized slaughterhouse for improved sanitation and increased tourism in the area.

In an earlier interview, current LLA President and owner of Ping Ping’s Lechon William Chua said he sees that lechon business will stay in La Loma.

“It was lechon that has become a source of respectable livelihood for us here in La Loma,” he said, adding that festivities nationwide would be incomplete without lechon.

A lechonero’s livelihood

Aling Nelia echoed the same sentiment as she shared how her “comparatively small” business started in 1997.

“When we got here, there’s already Mila’s, Ping Ping, Mang Tomas, Balacenas, Monchie’s. So ako ang pinakabago sa kanila (I’m the newest). We’re 22 years now,” she said.

Remembering the challenges as neophyte in the lechon business, Aling Nelia said strong will is needed to survive a cut-throat competition.

Aling Nelia, owner of Aling Nelia’s Lechon, checks the quality of her lechon (roasted pigs) on display. She says it is necessary to wipe the pig’s skin with oil to keep it crunchy and moist. (Photo by Ma. Teresa Montemayor)

“Every store here has its own roasted area. I don’t have one, nagbabayad lang ako ng 30,000 a month na renta sa lutura (I only pay 30,000 rent a month for the use of the roasting area),” she added.

Aling Nela recalled her lechon store started to pick up on its fifth year.

“I didn’t earn during the one, two, three, four years. Magbabayad ang ibang customer ng tseke pero talbog, nagbabayad ng dollars pero fake pala tapos bingiyan ko pa suki na cash at natanay nila ang anim na lechon ko, slam mo inipuhan ko yan (Some pay but with bunging check, some paid fake dollars and I even gave a change it cash and they took six of my roasted pigs, you know I cried over it),” she said.

Aling Nelia said she is able to keep them from ending in the freezer. Aling Nelia said she is able to sell the chopped and frozen lechon but she won’t be able to make much money out of them anymore.

The city councilors pushed for the creation of a centralized slaughterhouse for improved sanitation and increased tourism in the area.

“‘There are caterers in Makati, in San Andres who buy from us. Iyong canteen sa Senate, kamukha ko sa aming (The canteen at the Senate, buy from us) 60 kilos twice a month,” she said.

Since most Filipinos find lechon expensive, Aling Nelia said most lechoneros don’t even hit break even from January to November.

“Nakaka-pick-up lang sales namin kapag December, simula iyan December 15 to 31, iyong lagi namin ng halos isang taon, nabalawi namang sa loob ng 15 days lang, totoo iyan sa lahat sa aming dito (Our sales pick up come December, starting December 15 to 31, so our loss for almost a month, we’re able to get it back in just 15 days, that’s true for all of us here),” she said.

Being a David in a land of Goliath lechoneros, Aling Nelia makes sure that her lechon and sauce are beyond compare to those of the big names in the business.

“Sapatos lang ang ilang kapatid pero hindi ko babago, aling nina (But they’re the same, but I can’t change),” she said, adding that she often sells her lechon at a lower price to keep them from ending in the freezer.

(Continued on page 16)
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**La Loma Lechon Festival...**

(Continued from page 15)

only share with my family. Hindi totoo ang sinasabi ng iba na pare pareho ang lasa ng lechon at sa sarsa lang nagkakaiba (It is not true what others day that all lechon taste the same and it’s only the sauce that makes them taste different-ly),” she said.

Aling Nelia added she dedicates a lot of time and effort in managing her lechon store since it is her only source of income.

“Hands on ako dito, kasi dito ko napag-aral ang aking mga anak at apo, at naipag-amot ang asawa ko na nagkasakit. Hindi ko pinapeabaya so, tawhan kaya sana tumagal pa ang tinilahan ko hanggang kaya ko pa pumawa (I’m hands on in managing this store, through this, my children and grandchildren finished school, and supported my sick husband’s medication. I don’t let my employees manage this so I hope my store lasts until I’m able to work),” she said.

On May 19, La Loma celebrated its 19th Lechon Festival. Its highlight was the Parada ng mga Lechon where roasted pigs in national costumes and firefighters’ uniforms roamed the area on top of floats.

It was followed by the procession of La Loma’s patron, Nuestra Señora de Salvacion, and other activities -- street dance competition, culinary competition, boodle fight, and fireworks display in the evening. (PKA)
Pacquiao vs Thurman title fight set for July 20

"People’s Champ" Manny ‘Pacman’ Pacquiao is set to return to the ring on July 20.

The eight division world champion (61-7-2, 39 KO) will be fighting against undefeated and reigning WBA Super Welterweight World Champion Keith Thurman in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Pacquiao will also be returning to the ring after a 22-month off due to an elbow surgery following his match with Joselito Lopez to defend his title.

"Later this year if that fight presents itself, I would definitely be open for negotiations and I would love an opportunity to fight a legend," Thurman said in an interview after his match with Lopez. ■

WBC NABO lightweight champ Duno gets hero’s welcome

By Lito DeLos Reyes

DAVAO CITY— Newly-crowned World Boxing Council (WBC) North American Boxing Organization (NABO) lightweight champion Romero “Ruthless” Duno on Thursday received a hero’s welcome in his hometown in General Santos City.

The 23-year-old Duno won his title against Juan Antonio “Mozo” Rodriguez of Mexico on May 16 at the Fantasy Spring Casino in Indio, California.

"It feels great to be home with my loved ones. It feels even better than I have a new belt with me," said Duno who was welcomed by his family, SanMan team and fans at the airport.

He said he will continue to work hard so that he is prepared anytime an opportunity comes.

Duno improved his ring record to 20-1 with 15 wins via knockouts.

SanMan CEO Jim Claude "JC" Manangquil commended Duno for his victory.

He said SanMan is preparing again for a huge event next month.
Ako’y Isang Pinoy
Music/Lyrics: FLORANTE DE LEON

INTRO: D-A-G-A-(2X)

VERSE 1

D A G D
Ako’y isang Pinoy sa puso’t diva
G F#m7 Em A7
Pinoy na isinilang sa ating bansa
D A G D
Ako’y hindi sanay sa wikang mga banyaga
G F#m7 Em-A-G-D A-G-A
Ako’y Pinoy na mayroon sariling wika.

CHORUS

G F#m7 Em A7 D
Wikang panlaban ang ganitong kahalagahan
G F#m7 Em
Bayan kong sinilangan
Em
Hangad kong naglingon ng Kalayaan

VERSE 2

D A G D
Si Gat Jose Rizal nuo’y nagwika
G F#m7 Em A7
Siya ay nagpangaral sa ating bansa
D A G D
Ang hindi raw magmahal sa sariling wika
G F#m7 Em-A-G-D A-G-A
Ay higit pa ang amoy sa mabahong isda.

(Repeat CHORUS)

(REpeat 1st stanza except last word)
D-A-G-A-D

Handog Ng Pilipino Sa Mundo
Music/Lyrics: JIM PAREDES

Intro: Bb(9) – Eb11/Bb — vamp —
Bb – F/Bb - Eb/Bb - F/Bb - Eb/Bb (2x)

VERSE 1

C#(9) F#(9) C#(9)
Magpakapatibisig libo-libong tao.
C#(9) G#(9)/C C#(9) - G#(9)/C
Kaya sarap palaging maging Pilipino.
Bbm
Sama-sama isa ang adhikain.
F# G#sus – G#7
Kelan man ‘di na paaliitin.

CHORUS

F#(9) G#7/F#/ Fm7 – Bbm7
Handog ng Pilipino sa mundo,
Eb7 G#7sus C# - C#7
Mapayapang paraang pagbabago.
F# G#7/F# Fm7 Bbm7
Katotohanan, kalayaan, katarungan
Eb7 G#11 Bb7sus – Bb7
Ay kayang makahinto na walang dahas.
Eb7 C#/F F# G#sus Bb
Basta’t magkai__sa tayong lahat.

Instrumental:
Bb – F/Bb -Eb/Bb – F/Bb – Eb/Bb | Bb – Eb/Bb

VERSE 3

Bb F/Bb Eb/Bb Bb
Masdan ang nagaganap sa ating bayan.
Bb F/A Bb – F/A
Nakipagtutulungan ang maburi at mayaman.
Gm Dm
Kapit-bisig madre, pari, at sundalo.
Eb(9) F7sus – F7
Naging Langit itong bahagi ng mundo.

VERSE 4

C#(9) F#/C# C#(9)
Huwaing muling payagang umhir ang dibir.
C#(9) G#(9)/C C#(9) - G#(9)/C
Tingin nag bawat tao’y bigyan ng pansin.
Bbm
Fm
Magkakapatid lahat sa Panginoon.
F# G#7sus – G#7
Ito’y lagi nating tatandaan.

(repeat CHORUS 2X replacing last line)

Ebm7 C#/F F# G#sus C# C#7sus
Basta’t magkai__sa tayong lahat.

(repeat CHORUS in accapella)

(repeat CHORUS except last line)

Ebm7 C#/F F# G#11 F#m7 – BM7 – EM7
Basta’t magkai__isa tayong lahat!

A(9) – D(9) – C#(9)

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