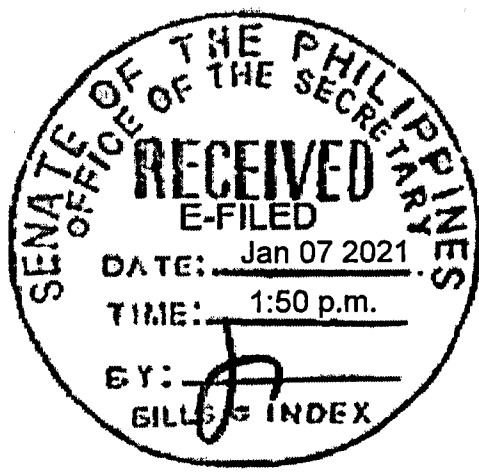


**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**
Second Regular Session

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SENATE

P.S. Res. No. 606

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

RESOLUTION
**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO JOIN THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE FAITHFUL IN THE CELEBRATION OF FIVE
HUNDRED (500) YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

1 WHEREAS, on numerous occasions, Senate of the Philippines has expressed
2 solidarity with and commemorated momentous events of various religious
3 organizations and recognized their important contribution in the development of our
4 society;

5 WHEREAS, the Catholic Church will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the arrival
6 of Christianity in the Philippines in 2021 with the theme "Gifted to Give";

7 WHEREAS, the Philippines is a predominantly Catholic country, where 81% of
8 the population are Catholics. The country has the biggest Catholic population in Asia,
9 and has the third highest number of Catholics in the world;

10 WHEREAS, President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order No. 55 on 8 May
11 2018 which constituted a steering committee for the commemoration of the
12 quincentennial of the arrival of Ferdinand Magellan in the Philippines, the victory of
13 Lapu-Lapu in the Battle of Mactan and other historic events that happened from 1519
14 to 1522. The issuance was later amended by Executive Order 103 (s. 2020) which
15 reconstituted and strengthened the National Quincentennial Committee and espoused
16 that all government initiatives related to these celebrations will be Filipino-centric,
17 multidisciplinary, and communicative and transformative;

18 WHEREAS, on 31 March 1521, the First Easter Sunday Mass was celebrated by
19 Fr. Pedro Valderama, chaplain of the Magellan expedition, in Limasawa Island,

1 Southern Leyte. Thereafter, Magellan introduced Christian symbols to the local
2 inhabitants and erected a large wooden cross on the highest hill in Limasawa¹;

3 WHEREAS, on 14 April 1521, Fr. Valderama baptized Rajah Humabon as Carlos
4 and the Rajah of Mazaua as Juan, along with 800 people in Cebu. The event is
5 recognized as the earliest recorded Christian baptism in the Philippines. Thereafter,
6 Magellan gave Queen Juana, Humabon's wife, a statue of Santo Niño (Christ the Child)
7 as a gift, which is now known as the Sto. Niño de Cebu;

8 WHEREAS, since the introduction of Christianity in the Philippines, the Filipinos
9 accepted the gift of the Christian faith, and adapted its doctrines, principles and values
10 into our way of life;

11 WHEREAS, the Catholic church has been a major force in shaping and enriching
12 Philippine history, culture and society, as seen in its involvement and influence during
13 the revolutionary years up until the present day, as it propagates the values of love,
14 compassion, resilience, and hope amid the onslaught of natural disasters and disease
15 outbreaks;

16 WHEREAS, the Christian faith endured and remained strong long after the
17 Spanish colonization of the country, and is deeply ingrained in the character and
18 identity of many Filipinos today;

19 NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate, to
20 express the sense of the Senate of the Philippines to join the Catholic Church and the
21 faithful in the celebration of Five Hundred (500) years of Christianity in the Philippines.

Adopted,


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

¹ Sitoy, T. Valentino, Jr. "The Initial Encounter Volume 1 – A History of Christianity in the Philippines." 1985.