



Garry Tanuan
Trustee Ward 8

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To: Corporate Services Committee Meeting, September 10, 2020

From: Garry Tanuan, Trustee Ward 8

Subject: Consideration of Motion - TCDSB Proclamation of the Quincentennial Jubilee Celebration of Christianity in the Philippines

MOVED BY: **Garry Tanuan**, Toronto Catholic District School Board

WHEREAS: The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) proclaimed and celebrates June 12 as *Filipino Heritage Day* and June as *Filipino Heritage Month* in the TCDSB annually, with elementary and secondary schools encouraged to mark the auspicious *Filipino Heritage Day* with their own in-school celebrations through various educational, cultural, and religious activities throughout the Board;

WHEREAS: The year 2021 marks a milestone in the history, cultural, and religious identity of the Filipino diaspora in Canada with the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, as well as the 123rd Anniversary of the Proclamation of *Philippine Independence* in 1898, the proclamation of the month of June as *Filipino Heritage Month* by the *Toronto City Council* on November 8, 2017, and the proclamation of the month of June as *Filipino Heritage Month* across *Canada* by the Parliament of Canada, on October 30, 2018;

WHEREAS: The Philippines' rich cultural heritage and vibrant devoted passion for our Catholic faith greatly enhances the TCDSB's mission and vision which would encourage and engage our Catholic schools, especially those with plans to offer in-school events during the June *Filipino Heritage Month* and throughout the year;

WHEREAS: The Consul General of the Philippines in Toronto, Consul General Orontes V. Castro has requested on August 17, 2020 that the 500th Anniversary (*Quincentennial Jubilee*) of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, be celebrated at the Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) which was received and approved by the Board on August 20, 2020; and

WHEREAS: This will be a unique Once-in-a-Lifetime opportunity to highlight the importance of the commemoration and celebration of the *Quincentenary Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines* during TCDSB's celebration of *Filipino Heritage Day* on June 12, 2021, and *Filipino Heritage Month* in June 2021; where milestone events and activities will be made to encourage the active participation of young Filipino-Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA).

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: The TCDSB hereby proclaims to centrally and locally celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines, alongside and highlighting its celebration of June 12 as *Filipino Heritage Day* and June as *Filipino Heritage Month* at the TCDSB in 2021, with all our elementary and secondary schools encouraged to mark the auspicious *Quincentenary Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines (QJCP)* and Filipino Heritage Day/Month with their own in-school celebrations through various educational, cultural, and religious activities throughout the Board;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The TCDSB, hereby proclaims the year-long celebration of the *Quincentenary Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines (QJCP)* in close collaboration with the Philippine Consul General's office in Toronto, Archdiocese of Toronto, Toronto Organizing Committee - 500th Year of Christianity in the Philippines and Catholic community stakeholders for school year 2020-2021 commencing from the *PH500 Quincentenary Jubilee Art Exhibit* launch in October 2020 at the Catholic Education Centre, thence followed by a couple of historic landmark events in March/April 2021, key associated activities accentuating the celebration of the Filipino Heritage Day on June 12 and Filipino Heritage Month in June 2021; and culminating in a *Catholic Community Jubilee Mass* by His Eminence Thomas Cardinal Collins to highlight the Closing Celebration in August 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: TCDSB immediately establish a *Quincentenary Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines (QJCP)* Task Force to appropriately manage and coordinate the key events and activities marking the 500th

Anniversary of Catholicity celebrations and to further nurture, embrace, and commemorate our shared Catholic Faith and devotion amongst the faithful in our diverse ethnic Catholic communities across the GTA. The TCDSB QJC Task Force will be composed of a Trustee, Director/designated senior Staff Superintendent, Lead Community Relations Coordinator, Student leaders, Filipino-Canadian Advisory Committee & Parents/Teachers/Faculty/Staff Association representatives, Philippine Consul General, Toronto Archdiocese, Parish & GTA School Board Trustees/Representatives, and other prominent leaders of various Catholic communities.

Garry Tanuan, Trustee Ward 8