

Mr. Joseph Martino
Chair, Board of Trustees
Toronto Catholic District School Board
80 Sheppard Avenue East, Toronto.

RE: In support for the TCDSB Proclamation of the Quincentennial Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines (QJCP) and ensuring the implementation of this year of celebration alongside the Filipino Heritage Day and Filipino Heritage Month.

Dear Trustee Martino and TCDSB Trustees,

I am Ben Corpuz, father of three children that started and completed Catholic education in TCDSB. I am the Chair of the Filipino Workers Network, Vice President Internal of the Philippine Independence Day and Treasurer of the Kababayan Multicultural Centre.

In a time where Christianity and Catholic values are besieged from many fronts, and, in the current desperate times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the *500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines celebration* brings good tidings, joy, a breath of fresh air, and hope.

As we always say in Toronto Catholic, we “*Rooted in Christ. we belong, we Believe, we Become.*” Here is an opportunity to celebrate, witness and proclaim our Catholic faith. In this difficult pandemic time, we all need to be reminded of our sustaining faith. God will always be with us to the end of days but as humans, it is easy to forget once strife and challenges come our way. We need to be reminded always of Christ’s sacrifice and the sacrifices of early Christians, in the name of God.

I am here to request the good elected trustees to

1. “Proclaim 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.
2. To celebrate it all year long and

3. To ensure the implementation of the key activities by,” 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

Respectfully,

Ben Corpuz Chair, Filipino Workers Network and External Vice President,
Philippine Independence Day Council Treasurer, Board of Directors, Kababayan
Multicultural Center Vice-President, Governance, Canadian Multicultural Council,
Asians in Ontario