

September 17, 2020

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,

Matthew 28:19-20 says, "Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember I am with you always, to the end of the age." The Philippines was christened 500 hundred years ago. For almost half a millennium, it was the only predominantly Christian nation in Asia. More than 86 percent of the population is Roman Catholic

The conversion of the Philippines is the ultimate expression and achievement of the mission that the Lord have given us. It is a cause for celebration. We celebrate birthdays. We celebrate the 150 years of Canada for the whole year. Why? To validate our existence, to be recognized, to celebrate with everyone.

I am requesting, from the elected Trustees, to proclaim and celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Arrival of Christianity in the Philippines for a whole year to put in place the structure, the process and resources to implement it.

This should NOT be an issue about resource allocation. I believe, if there is a will, there is a Way. If one really believes that a matter needs to be done, it will find a way for it to be done. If one does not believe in it, it will find every reason not to do it. Every year CSACs raise money to fund activities like sports, educational trips, etc.

TCDSB has always been supportive of activities from other entities like WE charity and Heart and Stroke Foundations, fundraising for them. I remember that my children would have this permission asking for the parents to sign so they can attend WE events and sometimes is asked for a fee to pay for the transportation. Sometimes we get a letter from the principal for an activity that will raise money for a charity like the Heart and Stroke Jump for the Heart.

In Toronto Catholic we celebrate diversity, recognized and acclaim the history and achievement of people of color like Nelson Mandela. Local activities as held. Why would celebrating 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 an issue?

The conversion happened in the Philippines 500 hundred years ago. Filipinos have become missionaries by virtue of their state as a nation.

I could not find a reason why the elected Trustees are in quandary, after all, "At Toronto Catholic we transform the world through witness, faith, innovation and action."

Respectfully

Paulina Corpuz