



JANUARY 16, 2011

PHILIPPINE FEAST OF THE
HOLY CHILD
-SEÑOR SANTO NIÑO-

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Sto. Niño, the yearly observance that is so dear to the hearts of all Filipino Catholics. This feast brings us back to the beginning of the Christianization of our land. It also enables us to see the relevance of this devotion to our lives today. In a special manner, it forces us to focus on our children and youth, with all the dangers that threaten them, the problems they pose and the hopes they raise. This feast, and especially the Eucharistic celebration, are fresh opportunities for us to entrust our "niños" and youth to the protection and guidance of the Holy Child and to love them as he does. He, who is so much a part of our history and our lives, will surely take care of our children and young people, and will teach us how to do likewise.



THE month of January is Sto. Niño month in the Philippines. Peculiar to this country in the liturgical calendar is the feast of the Sto. Niño on the third Sunday of January. The Pandacan District in Manila already celebrated the feast of the Holy Child last Sunday. Tondo, however, which has the bigger fiesta in Metro Manila, will celebrate the feast on its proper day this coming Sunday. Today, of course there will be the massive celebrations in Cebu, and also the Ati-atihan in Aklan, Iloilo and other cities all over the Philippine Archipelago where the Sto. Niño is venerated.

The devotion to the Sto. Niño is here to stay, and there are truths and values in the Catholic religion which it highlights. First and most basic, the Sto. Niño feast reaffirms the truth we celebrated last Christmas season, that the Child born of Mary was true God from the moment of his human conception and birth. It was the Son of God who was conceived as a human being by Mary and born from her. Jesus was true God and true man from the beginning of his human existence. The Son of God did not start to dwell only later in the human Jesus, as was wrongly taught by people like Nestorius. The human nature formed in the womb of Mary was from the beginning the humanity of the Son of God. That is why the Christ Child is depicted in regal robes, and holds a scepter in one hand and the globe in the other. This Child was God, the king of the world.

The feast of the Sto. Niño also points to our Lord's words that unless we are converted and become like little children we shall not enter the kingdom of Heaven (Mt. 18: 3). The feast of the Sto. Niño is an invitation for all of us, children and adults, to live as children of God, trusting him completely as our Father.

The feast of the Sto. Niño further highlights the Filipinos' love for life and for children. We who love the Christ child must love also our children and take care of them. It would incongruous to take care of the image of the Christ Child while neglecting the children in our midst with whom he identifies himself.

Finally, the feast of the Sto. Niño reminds us that the Son of God, in becoming little, identified himself with the little ones of this world. We should not despise those whom the world considers of little account, but value them highly, remembering Christ's words that whatever we do to one of the least of his brethren we do to him, and whatever we neglect to do to one of these least ones we neglect to do to him (Mt. 25).



Today, we join all devotees of the Infant Jesus in observing His Feast Day.

PIT SENYOR !



What child is this? This child is *light* dawning in the darkness of death. This child is *joy* in freedom from bondage. This child is *peace* in being liberated from war and destruction. This child is *Wonderful Counselor, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. This child is *mighty God*. And this child makes us look differently at every human person as a child of God. In Jesus' time a child was not just a young human being under the age of 12, it was anyone who was without power, without recourse, slaves, outsiders/strangers, the sick, the shunned, the sinner, the poor... and it is they who swarm to the presence of Jesus the beloved Child of God. The kingdom belongs to them first and unless we become like them, needing, having no power but God's and reveling in the presence of God, we will not know either God or the kingdom among us.



YEAR 2011 ENVELOPES – Year 2011 Envelope Boxes are still available from the Bookkeeper, Mr. Carmelo Villanueva and other FCMM Administrators after each Mass or at the FCMM Office. Please discard your Year 2010 envelopes and don't forget to complete all necessary information (NAME and

ADDRESS) when using your new ones !

NOTE :: We encourage you to follow the minimum donation of \$ 5.00 every Sunday and \$10.00 for the monthly pledge.

HELP THE FILIPINO MISSION AND GET TAX CREDITS FOR YOUR DONATIONS !

*Use the envelopes to support the FCMM and get Tax credits from 44% or more from the Federal and Provincial Governments
(Tax Credits computed as follows:)*

FEDERAL TAX CREDIT		PROVINCIAL TAX CREDIT	
First \$ 200.00	15%	First \$ 200.00	20%
Excess of \$ 200.00	29%	Excess of \$ 200.00	24%

EXAMPLE #1: For a donation of \$380.00
(\$5.00 offering x 52 weeks and \$ 10.00 monthly pledge x 12 months)

FEDERAL	PROVINCIAL	Combined Computation	
\$200.00 (15%) \$30.00	\$200.00 (20%) \$40.00	FEDERAL	\$82.20
\$180.00 (29%) <u>\$52.20</u>	\$180.00 (24%) <u>\$43.20</u>	PROVINCIAL	<u>\$83.20</u>
	\$82.20	Total Credits	\$165.40

TOTAL CREDIT IS \$ 165.40 or 43.50 % of your donated amount.

EXAMPLE #2: For a donation of \$1000.00

FEDERAL	PROVINCIAL	Combined Computation	
\$200.00 (15%) \$30.00	\$200.00 (20%) \$40.00	FEDERAL	\$262.00
\$800.00 (29%) <u>\$232.00</u>	\$800.00 (24%) <u>\$192.00</u>	PROVINCIAL	<u>\$232.00</u>
	\$262.00	Total Credits	\$494.00

TOTAL CREDIT IS \$ 494.00 or 49.40 % of your donated amount.

EXAMPLE #3: For a donation of \$2000.00

FEDERAL	PROVINCIAL	Combined Computation	
\$200.00 (15%) \$30.00	\$200.00 (20%) \$40.00	FEDERAL	\$552.00
\$1800.00 (29%) <u>\$522.00</u>	\$1800.00 (24%) <u>\$432.00</u>	PROVINCIAL	<u>\$472.00</u>
	\$552.00	Total Credits	\$1024.00

TOTAL CREDIT IS \$ 1024.00 or 51.20 % of your donated amount.

As shown above, give \$380.00 and get 43.5% tax credit;

Give \$1,000.00 and get 49.4% tax credit;

Donate \$2,000.00 and get 51.5% tax credit.

WE URGE YOU AGAIN ::: USE THE ENVELOPES !

**GIVE MORE, GET MORE "TAX CREDIT" AND MOST IMPORTANTLY,
YOU HELP THE FCMM !**



❖ **YOUR NEWS BULLETIN**

We are always finding ways to refresh, revamp and revitalize the FCMM NEWS BULLETIN. We are alive and growing and it is ever more important now to make sure that we communicate best through the lines of common experience; the Good News is heard; and others are invited to join our vibrant community. We are committed to provide you with important information about our ministries and programs and help you find out when things are happening, and whom to contact, as well as give

general information.

We thank all those who paid for advertisements at the back of this publication. You make our bulletin possible. Thank you for your support. And to our readers, please continue to patronize the advertised products or services our members offer you. It would be good to mention that you read their ads in our Sunday Bulletin.

All articles, announcements and features you wish to be printed can be submitted to the FCMM Office a week in advance or e-mail the editor at jhnaracena@gmail.com. E-mailed articles should be done in Microsoft Word or Publisher. If you submit an article via e-mail, you should receive a confirmation e-mail. If you do not receive such confirmation, please contact the FCMM Office by phone(514-387 5292)

Any article can run for three consecutive weeks or two consecutive weeks, take a week break, then another two consecutive weeks. If the article is revised and resubmitted, it will be treated as a new article. All articles are subject to editing and will be published at the discretion of the Pastor. No guarantees can be made as to the size or placement of the article.

Articles are normally due the Wednesday (5:00 p.m.) before the Sunday that you want your article to appear. THANKS !



OFFERING

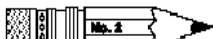
STEWARDSHIP

Your Offerings for the week ending January 09, 2011 totaled \$ 1,627.50

Thank you for your continuing generosity !
God bless you always!!!



The **SANCTUARY LAMP** this week is burning for the **GLORY OF GOD** and **AS THANKSGIVING** offered by **MARCY ELLASUS**.



From The Editor

Our regular Hospitality Corner will be back next week. Thanks !



THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

It has long been a tradition to devote the month of January to our Lord's childhood — and His Most Holy Name! The letters IHS are an abbreviation of *Jesous*, the Greek name for Jesus. "Jesus means in Hebrew: 'God saves.' In a world of fiercely guarded corporate names and logos, it should be easy to understand this feast. At the Annunciation, the angel Gabriel gave him the name Jesus as his proper name, which expresses both his identity and his

mission. Since God alone can forgive sins, it is God who, in Jesus his eternal Son made man, will save his people from their sins.' In Jesus, God recapitulates all of his history of salvation on behalf of men. The name of Jesus is at the heart of Christina prayer. All liturgical prayers conclude with the words, 'through our Lord Jesus Christ.' The Hail Mary reaches its high point in the words 'blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.' The Eastern prayer of the heart, the Jesus Prayer, says, 'Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' Many Christians, such as St. Joan of Arc, have died with the one word, 'Jesus' on their lips." (CCC: 430 & 435)

WINTER IS A MESSY SEASON ... PLEASE HELP US MAINTAIN THE CHURCH CLEAN. MAKE SURE THAT YOU LEAVE YOUR PEWS TIDY.