



February 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

On behalf of the Archdiocese of Toronto, I congratulate the Filipino faithful in our diocese on the occasion of the commemoration of the 500th year (Quincentenary) Jubilee of Christianity in the Philippines.

The Jubilee is not just an ecclesial celebration but also a celebration of an integral part of the history and culture of the Filipino people. The fervor by which Filipinos have embraced the Christian faith bore fruit through the flourishing Filipino faith communities not only in the Philippines but all over the world, the countless devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, the missionary zeal of Filipinos overseas as new evangelizers, and the canonization of two Filipino saints – San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod.

I am glad that one of the themes for the Jubilee is devoted to the “*Missio Ad Gentes*”, or mission to the nations. Many Filipinos who have set out from home and settled in various countries, including Canada, brought with them their strong Catholic faith. Filipinos in our own parishes continue to positively impact the growth of the Church by selflessly sharing their time, talent and treasure. They proclaim their faith from the heart and live it with love and joy. I am sincerely thankful for their dedication and commitment to the faith.

I look forward with joy and gratitude as our diocese join the Church in the Philippines on a year-long celebration of its Quincentenary Jubilee. Here in Toronto, the Filipino religious and lay groups will spearhead a series of events, which will start on August 2020.

I strongly support and encourage our Filipino faithful to consider participating in the planned activities as a way of commemorating the necessary work of continuous evangelization. I myself look forward to being part of the planned celebrations for this memorable event.

It is indeed an occasion for remembering how Christianity came to the Philippines five hundred years ago, but more importantly, an opportunity to grow the faith further and deeper amongst generations to come.

I wish our Filipino brethren an abundance of blessings on this joyous milestone.

Sincerely in Christ,

† Thomas Card. Collins

Thomas Cardinal Collins
Archbishop of Toronto