



GIFTED TO GIVE TORONTO - 2021

Celebrating 500 years of Christianity
in the Philippines

Archdiocese of Toronto parishes to host virtual Simbang Gabi

The Archdiocese of Toronto, in unity with the Filipino faithful in the diocese, will commemorate next year the 500th year anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines.

To start the Toronto celebration of the Quincentennial anniversary and in preparation for the birth of our Savior, Rev. Fr. Sherwin Holandez, Pastor of Our Lady of Assumption Parish, and head of the Organizing Committee, announced the online airing of a nine-day “**Simbang Gabi**” (Filipino for "Night Mass") and Novena from various participating parishes. It will be held from Dec. 15 to 23 at 7:00 pm.

Simbang Gabi is a much-revered Advent tradition by Filipino Catholics. This year’s theme, “Bringing God’s Light to the World – Isang Pag-aalay ng Ating Pananampalataya” is reflective of how we Filipinos have become missionaries of our faith all over the world.

Everyone, regardless of nationality, is welcome to join virtually, in reflection and preparation for Christ’s joyous birth.

According to Fr. Holandez, “The Masses will livestream online at www.ph500toronto.com and at: www.facebook.com/500yocTO. Toronto’s Auxiliary Bishops, some clergy, religious and a layman will share their short, pre-recorded reflections prior to each Mass. His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins will deliver the reflection on the last day of the Simbang Gabi”.

With the blessing of Thomas Cardinal Collins, the Archbishop of Toronto, a Volunteer Organizing Committee was formed to organize faith-filled events to make the celebration meaningful to the Filipino faithful. The committee is spearheaded by Rev. Fr. Holandez with volunteer lay people as members.

For details and the schedule, please refer to the poster or , visit: www.ph500toronto.com/events.html. More updates on the events leading up to the celebration will be posted online and on Facebook. The virtual talks will be uploaded on YouTube. Maligayang Pasko (Merry Christmas)!

For questions and information, please contact the “PH500 Celebration Toronto” Organizing Committee:

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