



Republic of the Philippines
CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

MC No. 15, s. 2000

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR

TO : ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS, BUREAUS AND AGENCIES OF THE NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND STATE UNIVERSITIES

SUBJECT : ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THE COLLEGIAL ACT OF CONSECRATION BY THE BISHOPS OF THE COUNTRY

In the light of the fighting in Mindanao that has affected thousands of innocent civilians, the Laiko ng Pilipinas or the Council of the Laity will be spearheading a Collegial Act of Consecration by the bishops of the country on August 5, 2000 at 9:00 a.m.

This Act of Consecration, which will be held simultaneously nationwide in the bishops' and priests' respective cathedrals and parishes, is aimed at consecrating our nation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to attain the peace we are all longing for.

Considering the noble objective of this undertaking and in pursuit of the Commission's goal towards a God-centered bureaucracy, all departments, bureaus, and agencies are enjoined to encourage full participation of government employees to said Act of Consecration.

Attached hereto is the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, for your ready reference.


JOSE F. ERESTAIN, JR.
Commissioner

28 July 2000

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19 July 2000

N. 3237

Your Eminence,

Pax Christi!

Following up on my letter of 17 July 2000, and upon the instructions of His Excellency, Archbishop Giovanni Battista Re, Substitute of the Secretariat of State, I have the honor to convey to Your Eminence the following message:

"Having learned that on August 5 next in the Archdiocese of Manila and throughout the Philippines prayers will be offered for peace and the nation will honor the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the Mother who brought the Prince of Peace into the world, I join you and the Filipino Bishops and people in invoking an end to the violence which is causing so much suffering and is incapable of leading to a just and harmonious society in which the rights of all will be respected and guaranteed. I am aware that in the next few days you will meet with Muslim leaders in order to encourage all efforts to bring peace and I ask Almighty God to bless this initiative with success. Entrusting the whole Filipino people to Mary's intercession, I impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and joy in the Lord.

IOANNES PAULUS PP. II"

Renewing my sentiments of highest esteem as well as the assurance of a remembrance in my prayers, I remain, Your Eminence,

Sincerely yours in the Lord,

✠ Antonio Franco
Apostolic Nuncio

His Eminence
Jaime L. Cardinal Sin
Archbishop of Manila
121 Arzobispo Street
Intramuros
MANILA

ACT OF CONSECRATION OF THE FILIPINO NATION AND PEOPLES TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

(Adopted from Pope John Paul II's consecration of the world)

1. "We have recourse to your protection, holy Mother of God!"

As we utter the words of this antiphon with which the Church of Christ has prayed for centuries, we find ourselves today before you, Mother, in the Great Jubilee Year of our Salvation.

We find ourselves united as Pastors of the Philippine Church in a particular bond whereby we constitute a domestic church united with the see of Peter.

In the bond of this union, we repeat the words of the present Act, uttered by our Holy Father Pope John Paul II when he consecrated the world to your Immaculate Heart, in which to include the hopes and anxieties of the Filipino nation and people.

Our Filipino people are before our eyes today, Muslims, Christians, and Lumads as we enter into the Third Millennium, as a divided nation in a crisis of unpeace. Yet we are a nation called to mission in the world, "to proclaim the Good News, to carry the light of Christ to the nations."

And therefore, O Mother of individuals and peoples, you who know of our sufferings and our hopes, you who have a mother's awareness of all the struggles between good and evil, between light and darkness, which afflict our nation, accept the cry which we, moved by the Holy Spirit, address directly to your Heart. Embrace, with the love of the Mother and Handmaid of the Lord, this human world of ours, which we entrust and consecrate to you, for we are full of concern for the earthly and eternal destiny of our nation and its people.

In a special way, we entrust and consecrate to you ourselves and all our people, Christians, Muslims and Lumads, leaders and ordinary citizens, combatants and civilians, those who perpetuate war and the victims of war, all those that need to be thus entrusted and consecrated.

"We have recourse to your protection, holy Mother of God"; despise not our petitions in our necessities.

2. Behold, as we stand before you, Mother of Christ, before your Immaculate Heart, we desire, together with the whole Church, to unite ourselves with the consecration which, for love of us, your Son made of Himself to the Father. "For their sake", he said, "I consecrate myself that they also may be consecrated in the truth." (Jn17:9). We wish to unite ourselves and our Filipino people with our Redeemer in this consecration for the world and for the human race, which, in his divine heart, has the power to obtain pardon and to secure reparation.

The power of this consecration lasts for all time and embraces all individuals, peoples and nations including our own. It overcomes every evil that the spirit of darkness is able to awaken, and has in fact awakened in our times and in our land,