

BNA U.S.A., MINISTRY, INC.

OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD VOYAGE (BIRHEN NG ANTIPOLO)

The Annual National Filipino Pilgrimage to Our Lady Peace and Good Voyage

(Birhen ng Antipolo)

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Washington, D.C. USA



Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception,

Washington D.C.



[Inside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception](#)

Birhen ng Antipolo U.S.A., Inc., a non-profit organization headed by Eduardo D. Caparas, President & Chairman,, is the ministry who sponsors and coordinates the National Annual Pilgrimage celebrated at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, the house of Mary Our Mother, in coordination with the different religious groups in the United States.



Eduardo D. Caparas – BNA USA Ministry President & Chairman with wife Alma.

Every year the ministry invites Filipino Cardinals or Bishops as Eucharistic celebrants and Homilist:

In 2014 BNA Pilgrimage, The Main Celebrant and Homilist was His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila



*His Eminence
Luis "Chito" Cardinal Tagle*



2014 BNA Pilgrimage
Homilist : His Eminence
Luis "Chito" Cardinal Tagle

06/28/2014 13:30



2014 BNA Pilgrimage
Homilist : His Eminence Luis Antonio
Cardinal Tagle

In 2016 BNA Pilgrimage, the principal Eucharistic Celebrant and Homilist was His Eminence Orlando B. Cardinal Quevedo, Archbishop of Cotabato:





This year we are honored and privileged to have His Excellency Archbishop Bernardito C. Auza , Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations as our homilist and principal celebrant in the Concelebrated Mass during the Annual Pilgrimage on June 24, 2017, The Mass was highlighted by the latest pronouncement of the Holy Father on the subject of the Year of Divine Justice.

The day's celebration includes Novena prayer at 10:00 a.m. followed by the sacrament of reconciliation, recitation of the Holy Rosary led by young adults, Serenata and Procession of various Marian images. The festivity ended with a procession to the Oratory of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Birhen ng Antipolo) immediately following the final blessing



His Excellency Archbishop Bernardito C. Auza, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations



For 20 years now our very own Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Birhen ng Antipolo) has served as a silent testimony of the faith, devotion and peace-loving nature of the Filipino people for the world to see. We hold the National Annual Pilgrimage during the month of June to show the world our strong Marian devotion and dedication to the Mother of God.

HISTORY:

His Eminence James Cardinal Hickey of the Archdiocese of Washington and the Most Reverend Protacio Gungon of the Archdiocese of Antipolo in the Philippines dedicated the Oratory in June 7, 1997. The first National Annual Filipino Pilgrimage was held in June 1998.



The Birhen ng Antipolo Enshrined at the Basilica Crypt

The Birhen ng Antipolo Ministry through its evangelizing arm, the Koinonia Foundation, now KFI-M.E. Ministry, Inc. holds and conducts seminars and conferences throughout the east coast.

The start of the merger and working relationship of BNA ad hoc committee and the Kononia Foundation, Inc. (erstwhile The Jesus and Mary Catholic Renewal Ministry).

Looking back in time, it was in July of 1994, during the Life in the Spirit Seminar at the Corpus Christi Parish in East Brunswick, NJ, when Bro Conrad Felix met with the Birhen ng Antipolo ad hoc committee. The committee was charged with the responsibility of overseeing the construction of the Oratory in accordance with the mandate of the Iconography committee, of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, as well as the challenging and delicate task of raising funds to finance the construction. The meeting and eventual merger of the two groups marked the beginning of a very meaningful, significant and productive relationship. It paved the way for a smooth and lasting relationship between the two organizations that exist to this time. A bond that can only be strengthened and prayerfully not broken. The Koinonia Foundation, Inc. (erstwhile The Jesus and Mary Catholic Renewal Ministry) now The “KFI M.E. Ministry, Inc.” an Evangelizing community in the USA with the late Bro Conrad Felix, the acknowledged head of the of the group and his family pledged their unqualified support in promoting and propagating devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary by merging with the BNA ad hoc committee and committing to help BNA in their project of building the Oratory of Mary at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

The merger and working relationship of the BNA ad hoc committee and the Jesus and Mary Catholic Renewal Ministry was received with enthusiasm and eagerness. The union was announced in several states in the east coast – New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Ohio and North Carolina where the Felix family held Praise Concerts in several parishes of each states involving

different Charismatic parish prayer groups, thereby propagating the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through the Birhen ng Antipolo (Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage) as its Patroness.

In October 24, 1997, the same year the Oratory was officially inaugurated and dedicated, the Birhen ng Antipolo, USA, Inc. Ministry was also officially formed.

Presently, it has His Eminence Donald Cardinal W. Wuerl S.T.D. Archdiocese of Washington as Honorary Chairman of the Board; Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, Archdiocese of Manila and Archbishop William Edward Lori, Archdiocese of Baltimore, MD as Episcopal Moderator and Ex-Officio Members of the Board; Rev. Msgr. Godfrey Mosley as the Spiritual Advisor.

Eduardo D. Caparas as the first President and Chairman up to the present together with the other Officers and Directors. Our very own Brother Conrad Felix was appointed as the Special Liaison & Area Coordinator for East Coast since the formation of the BNA, USA, Inc. until his death in 2015, and after then in 2016, BNA Board of Directors appointed Brother Charlie Abalos as the new BNA Special Liaison and Area Coordinator for East Coast, in place of Bro. Conrad Felix.

KFI draw a big participation in the entire pilgrimage event. Not only that KFI encouraged and bring a lot of devotees to the Basilica by chartered bus, but also has three permanent choir groups who sings at the Serenata event of the pilgrimage. And from time to time, additional community choir group were asked to participate.

THE THREE PERMANENT KFI CHOIRS:

- 1). The KFI Alleluia Choir – Serenata, 2017 BNA Pilgrimage.





2). The Families of Jesus, Mary and Joseph Prayer Grp. Choir – Clifton New Jersey



3). KFI Youth Choir





2017, Filled-in Choir group: The Filipino Apostolate of South Jersey Choir:

Furthermore, every year, KFI is asked to assign its members to participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist such as scripture readers; gift Bearers; prayer for the faithful and many more.

KFI also owns a big image of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Birhen ng Antipolo) which is maintained and taken cared of by The Calvis' family. The image is kept and housed placed on a glass walled crate-box.

The same image of Our Lady of Antipolo is brought to the pilgrimage event every year, by the Families of Jesus, Mary and Joseph prayer group. The image is beautifully decorated with flowers and glaring lights that catches the attention of the whole devotees at the Basilica during the procession of the images.



2014 BVA Pilgrimage

06.28.2014

Looking back, Bro. Charlie started helping Bro. Conrad in the communication with BNA USA Ministry a couple of years back. Bro. Charlie and Sis. Connie go with Bro. Conrad & Sis. Bing, as part of the coordinator's delegation in the Friday night dinner reception to meet the Bishop or Cardinal who will be the main celebrant for the pilgrimage mass. After the Pilgrimage (Saturday) event, the Felixes and the Abalos use to stay a couple of hours to have fellowship with the Families of Jesus, Mary and Joseph prayer group who are staying and spending the whole weekend in Washington/Maryland area as their group annual get-away event. After the fellowship, the Felixes and the Abalos' still drive home late to New Jersey and it was really a challenge to drive home that late with all those limited night sleeps before and after the event.

Two years before the Felixes moved to Florida, Bro. Conrad officially introduced Bro. Charlie to Eddie Caparas, Bro. Charlie was designated to be the main contact on all the communications from BNA USA Ministry to KFI.

In 2010 Antipolo Pilgrimage, Bro. Charlie introduced the idea of having an evening get-together and fellowship instead of going home late after the Saturday pilgrimage event. The idea is to allow everyone to have the opportunity to fellowship with one another and have some sort of community bonding. The idea was overwhelmingly received by the community members and the first "Overnight Get-together" happened at the Hyatt Summerfield Suites Hotel in Maryland in 2010, and that was well attended.

And every year thereafter, we continue to have this get-together up to this date. We averaged from 40 to 50 people who join the gathering every year. It is so exciting that more and more brothers and sisters from the community are joining the joyful get-together. Also, for the past three years now, the KFI community of Florida have joined the group to fellowship. Since the gathering was enjoyed by most, so we intend to continue such fellowship every pilgrimage year. Of course, the primary purpose of the trip was the Pilgrimage, to pay homage and devotion to our Blessed Mother and the social gathering was just secondary.



The first BNA Pilgrimage evening fellowship held at Hyatt Summerfield Suites Hotel in Maryland, 2010



2012 BNA Pilgrimage community evening fellowship at Marriott hotel in Alexandria, Virginia.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

A brief history how the Birhen ng Antipolo came about:

Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Spanish: Nuestra Señora de la Paz y del Buen Viaje), also known as the Virgin of Antipolo (Filipino: Birhen ng Antipolo), is a 17th-century Roman Catholic wooden image of the Blessed Virgin Mary venerated in the Philippines. The image in its form of Black Madonna represents

the Immaculate Conception, and is enshrined at Antipolo Cathedral in Antipolo city.

The image was brought to the Philippines by Governor-General Juan Niño de Tabora from Mexico via the galleon El Almirante in 1626. His safe voyage across the Pacific Ocean was attributed to the image, which was given the title of "Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage". It was substantiated later by six other successful voyages of the Manila-Acapulco Galleons with the image aboard as its patroness.

The statue is one of the most celebrated images of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the Philippines, gaining devotees since the mid-19th century, having been mentioned by Jose Rizal in his writings. From May to July each year, the image attracts millions of devotees from all over the country and abroad. Pope Pius XI authorized her Canonical coronation on 13 June 1925, which occurred on 26 November 1926.

Let us come together every year in this pilgrimage to pay homage to Our Blessed Mother in the month of June.

For 21st Annual National Filipino Pilgrimage, it will be held on Saturday, June 23, 2018. Our Main Celebrant and Homilist will be:

His Excellency Francisco de Leon, Bishop of Antipolo

For 22nd Annual National Filipino Pilgrimage will be on Saturday, June 29, 2019. Kindly mark your calendars.

Our goal every year is to reach out to as many Filipino-American Catholics, our brothers and sisters in the KFI community and other Filipino religious communities, to invite as many devotees to celebrate the Mass and pray for special intentions together.



Our past celebrants and homilist of the Annual National Filipino

- 1st pilgrimage (1998): Most Rev. Bishop [Teodoro J. Buhain, Jr.](#), Auxiliary Bishop Emeritus of Manila
- 2nd pilgrimage (1999): Most Rev. [Ramon C. Arguelles](#), D.D., Archbishop of Lipa
- 3rd pilgrimage (2000): The Most Rev. William E. Lori with Msgr. [Sabino Vengco](#), president of the Kadiwa Foundation for Priests
- 4th pilgrimage (2001): Most Rev. [Teodoro C. Bacani, Jr.](#), Bishop Emeritus of Novaliches
- 5th pilgrimage (2002): Most Rev. [Camilo Gregorio](#), Bishop Prelate of Batanes
- 6th pilgrimage (2003): The Rev. Msgr. Ruben Dimaculangan, First Counselor of the Vatican's UN mission

- 7th pilgrimage (2004): Most Rev. [Gabriel Reyes](#), the Bishop of Antipolo
- 8th pilgrimage (2005): The Rev. Msgr. Ruben M. Dimaculangan (in lieu of Msgr. Cecilio Julian B. Rotor, First Secretary of the Apostolic Nunciature, who was in Manila for the burial of Cardinal Sin)
- 9th pilgrimage (2006): [Most Rev. Luis Antonio 'Chito' G. Tagle, D.D.](#) , the Bishop of Imus and concelebrating with him: The Rev. Msgr. Godfrey Mosley, Pastor of Saint Ann's Church, and The Rev. Msgr. Ruben M. Dimaculangan
- 10th pilgrimage (2007): His Eminence [Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales](#), Archbishop of Manila
- 11th Pilgrimage (2008): His Excellency, Bishop [Oscar Azarcon Solis](#), Auxiliary Bishop of Los Angeles
- 12th Pilgrimage (2009): The Rev. Msgr. [Sabino Vengco](#), president of the Kadiwa Foundation for Priests
- 13th Pilgrimage (2010): His Excellency, Bishop [Honesto F. Ongtioco](#), D.D., Bishop of Cubao
- 14th Pilgrimage (2011): His Eminence, [Donald Cardinal Wuerl](#), D.D., Archbishop of Washington
- 15th Pilgrimage (2012): The Rev. Msgr. [Walter R. Rossi](#), Rector of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception
- 16th Pilgrimage (2013): His Excellency Most Rev. [Jose Corazon Tala-oc](#), D.D., Bishop of Kalibo
- 17th Pilgrimage (2014): His Eminence [Luis Antonio G. Cardinal Tagle](#), Archbishop of Manila
- 18th Pilgrimage (2015): His Excellency [Jose F. Advincula, Jr.](#), Archbishop of Capi, P
- 19th Pilgrimage (2016): His Eminence [Orlando Beltran Cardinal Quevedo, O.M.I.](#), Archbishop of Cotabato

- 20th Pilgrimage (2017): His Excellency The Most Reverend [Bernardito C. Auza](#), Titular Archbishop of Suacia, Apostolic Nuncio, Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the United Nations and Permanent Observer of the Holy See to the Organization of American States