HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1637

Introduced by Representatives Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Joseph Stephen “Caraps” S. Paduano

RESOLUTION

CELEBRATING THE CATHOLIC FAITH AND COMMEMORATING THE 500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEREAS, the year 2021 marks the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines, wherein Christianity was introduced to the Filipinos in 1521 by Spanish missionaries and settlers during an expedition headed by Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan;

WHEREAS, the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), an organizational assembly of bishops in the country, announced a year-long celebration of the 500 years of Christianity due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic;

WHEREAS, in preparation for the quincentenary celebration of the Catholic faith, the Philippine Church has embarked on a 9-year journey with each year focusing on a specific theme and aspect of the Church and faith life: Integral Faith Formation (2013); the Laity (2014); the Poor (2015); the Eucharist and the Family (2016); the Parish as a Communion of Communities (2017); the Clergy and the Religious (2018); the Youth (2019); Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue (2020); and Missio Ad Gentes (2021);

WHEREAS, on April 14, 2021, the CBCP will commemorate the first Christian Baptism; the First Easter Sunday Mass on April 17, 2021; and hold the culmination of the celebration on April 2022;
WHEREAS, the celebration of the Christian faith, through the fidelity of the Catholic Church, is also a thanksgiving for missionaries, priests, religious and laypeople, among them were our ancestors, who passed on the faith from generation to generation;

WHEREAS, being the only Christian country in Asia and the third country in the world with the most number of Catholics, estimated to be around 84 million Filipinos or about 85% of its population, the Philippines is widely recognized for its strong Catholic faith which greatly influence the culture and character of the Filipinos;

WHEREAS, this quincentenary celebration is not just an ecclesial celebration but also a recognition of the valuable contribution of Christianity in inspiring, educating, and lifting the moral and spiritual values of the people who look forward with great hope and strengthened motivation to go out and share the gift of the Catholic faith: Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, To celebrate the Catholic faith and commemorate the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines.

Adopted,

LORD ALLAN JAY Q. VELASCO

JOSEPH STEPHEN “CARAPS” S. PADUANO   FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ