Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 1643

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Representative MICAELA S. VIOLAGO

RESOLUTION COMMENDING ALL THE DIOCESES OF THE PHILIPPINE CHURCH IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE 500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR IMMENSE CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNANCE AND NATION-BUILDING

WHEREAS, Christianity was brought to the Philippines in 1521 when the Portuguese explorer, Ferdinand Magellan, first set foot in what is now Cebu province, heading a Spanish expedition in his bid to reach the East;

WHEREAS, like the proverbial grain of the mustard seed sown in fertile earth, the growth and development of the Church and the Philippines were the fruits of the labors of missionary friars, sustained by an indigenous clergy, and made vibrant by a faithful people;

WHEREAS, in a February 25, 2021 decree issued to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), Pope Francis granted plenary indulgences to Filipinos visiting one of 537 Jubilee Churches any time until April 22, 2022 across the country to mark 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines in 2021;

WHEREAS, for Catholics, an indulgence is a special blessing that removes God's punishment for sins that have already been forgiven, that, when an indulgence is "plenary," it involves the total removal of punishment, as opposed to a partial indulgence;

WHEREAS, the Vatican requests pilgrims going to the Jubilee Churches to pray "for the fidelity of the Filipino people to their Christian calling, for the increase of priestly and religious vocations, and for the defense of the family, concluding with the Lord's Prayer, the profession of faith, and an invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary";

WHEREAS, aside from granting a plenary indulgence to Filipino pilgrims, to mark the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines, the Pope has also declared a special Jubilee Year in Cebu starting April 4, 2021;

WHEREAS, the Pontiff is also scheduled to lead a Mass to celebrate the event at Saint Peter's Basilica on March 14, 2021;
WHEREAS, Archbishop Romulo Valles, president of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of the Philippines will formally inaugurate the jubilee year at the national level by opening the pilgrim churches’ “holy door” on Easter Sunday, April 4, being the day, the first recorded Eucharist was celebrated in the land;

WHEREAS, Manila Auxiliary Bishop Broderick Pabillo, chairman of the Episcopal Commission on the Laity, said the 2021 observance is a reminder of how Filipinos embraced the Catholic faith, ‘It is not a reminder of how we were colonized but of how Filipinos embraced Catholicism,’ and that ‘colonization and the arrival of Christianity in the country are two different things;

WHEREAS, the year-long celebration will conclude on April 18 to 22 in 2022, to coincide with the 2nd National Mission Congress in Cebu City;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, to commend all the dioceses of the Philippine Church in the celebration of the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines and acknowledge their immense contribution to governance and nation-building.

ADOPTED.

[Signature]
MICAELA S. VIOLAGO