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filipino

The Migrants' Newspaper

mirror

Vol. 3 No. 2

The official quarterly organ of the
Bayanihan Center for Filipino Migrants-Denmark®

June 1999

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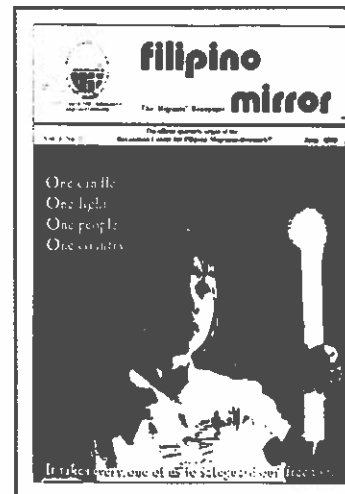
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The Filipino Mirror, registered and authorized a second class mail by Copenhagen Post Office, is distributed four times a year by the Bayanihan Center for Filipino Migrants-Denmark. Opinions expressed in this magazine are those of the writers and persons interviewed and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Bayanihan Center.

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the why of the cover

One candle. One light.
One people. One country.
It takes every one of us to safeguard our freedom. Needless to say, the youth has a lot to offer to this calling.
Youth empowerment. The power to bring out one's potentials and excellence, the power to free oneself from his frailties... hatred, violence, vices, drug addiction, is the role and yearning of every youth. Gaining this power places them in the right direction and makes a brighter future for their generation.
It is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness. Let us all help our youth imprint a positive mark in our community and make a difference in our country's destiny.

In one of the "Peanuts" cartoons, Charlie Brown is leaning against a tree talking to Lucy. She asks: "What do you think security is, Charlie Brown?" He says: "Security is sleeping in the back of the seat of a car when you're a little kid and you've been somewhere with your mom and dad and it's night. You don't have to worry about anything. Your mom and dad are in the front seat and they're doing all the worrying. They take care of everything." Lucy smiles and says: "That's real neat." Charlie Brown, who never seems to know when to stop, gets a serious look in his face and says: "But it doesn't last. Suddenly you're grown up and it can never be that way again. Suddenly it's all over and you'll never get to sleep in the back seat again. Never!" and Lucy replies: "Never!" As they stand there, sensing terrible loneliness that

goes with being adult, Lucy reaches over and says: "Hold my hand, Charlie Brown."

"Hold my hand." Yes, today more than ever we need to know that there is another "who understands me and who will be there for me, standing at my side." Like children we need to know that we individually are loved, and that we can love others and be an important part of their lives. Mother Theresa has said to her Sisters and to us: "The poor need our bread and our care. ...LOVE, love until it hurts, for the poor need, even more that bread, (they need) to know that they are loved."

"Hold my hand." We have just celebrated Easter, the Resurrection of Jesus. In Him sin and death have been conquered. We now look forward to Pentecost, the giving of the Holy Spirit to us, our family and our Church, ... the giving of an advocate, who gives us

By Fr. Carroll Parker, OMI
Chaplain, English-speaking Ministry



Hold my hand, Charlie Brown!

the strength and the courage to deal effectively with the trials, temptations and sufferings in our lives. For us as ordinary people, these trials are not removed as if by a miracle; instead, through every small victory or accomplishment in dealing with our fears, worries and anxieties, we grow stronger in faith and our hopes become real through our outreach to others: spouse, children, family, friends, fellow workers, or those we meet only occasionally. Faith leads to a calmness and serenity of mind and heart. These are gifts of the Holy spirit, which others can see and notice in our behaviour. We become different. We are seen as different. "I hold the hand of another, and the other holds my hand. I am not alone."

"Hold my hand." Do not be afraid of the gruesome events we see on TV, especially concerning the Balkans or in other parts of the world: the children killed in an American school, the bombings in England directed against foreign ethnic groups, the slaying of TV journalists or politicians, who proclaim an end to war who fight for justice. Like Lucy, we can join and hold

hands with one another. Every human life is important. A young lady has said: "What a far-out thing it is to be born and to know life. Each day is so new and exciting. How quickly it passes. How essential it is to live each day in fullness and love. On Sunday I will celebrate my birthday and I hope my parents realize how happy I am to be given this miracle of life."

"Hold my hand." Soon the Philippines and you as a people will celebrate with your countrymen everywhere your "Independence as a nation." And you will do so with joy, just like the celebration of your birthday. You will acknowledge that there is still much to be done in order to create equal conditions of justice and peace for your countrymen at home and abroad. You hear Jesus' words: "I have come to give you peace, but not as the world gives it, ...not with power, riches or world renown, but with faith in God's loving presence with you and with faith in your power to love until it hurts."

"Hold my hand, Charlie Brown."

The peace of the Lord be with you and bless you. ☀

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

Pedro G. Jacinto
who passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on 23 February 1999

wish to express our heartfelt and sincerest appreciation to all those who consoled with us in our hour of bereavement.

CORA MAGPANTAY & FAMILY
ELENA ESCANDOR & FAMILY
NELLY JACINTO

PHILIPPINE LENTEN TRADITIONS

Colorful Catholic Customs

Cuaresma, or Lent, is a period of 40 days' penitential preparation for Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection.

The 40 days is said to represent the duration of Christ's fasting in the desert. The origin of Lent goes as far back as the third century, when a short period of fasting, about one or two days preceded the festival.

The Philippines, predominantly a Catholic country, observes this period of penitence with much fervor.

Cuaresma begins on *Miercoles de Ceniza* (Ash Wednesday). On this day, the faithful flock to church and have their foreheads marked with a cross of ash to remind them that they came from, and shall return to, ash. Days of fasting and abstinence are observed, until the 40th day.

The *Semana Santa* (Holy Week), the focal point of the Lenten celebration, starts with *Domingo de Ramos* or Palm Sunday. It is on this day that Catholic devotees reenact the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, waving palm fronds which the priest blesses.

It is during the Holy Week that signs of repentance may be evidently witnessed. Various regions hold *Cenaculos* or the dramatization of Christ's passion.

Most Catholics practice the *Via Crucis* or

the Stations of the Cross. Some prefer to reflect on the fourteen stations within the confines of the church. Most of the time, however, towns hold a procession, with images of the saints and other characters in Christ's life atop respective *carrozas*.

Individuals or groups sponsor a *Pabasa*, the chanting of Christ's passion which usually lasts 24 straight hours.

On *Hueves Santo* (Holy Thursday), twelve members of the community are chosen to represent Christ's apostles, to reenact the symbolic washing of their feet and Last Supper. A short procession of the Blessed Eucharist follows, transferring it to an Altar of Repose, a tabernacle situated on one side of the church, adorned with lights and flowers.

There is also the *Visita Iglesia*, where religious devotees visit several churches to adore the Blessed Eucharist. The more adventurous, however, traverse, on foot, to hilly Antipolo just in the outskirts of Metro Manila. The trek is taken by groups of families or friends. They often start in the evening, hoping to reach Antipolo shrine by dawn of Good Friday.

The *Penitencia* or flagellation takes place on the morning of *Viernes Santo* (Good Friday). Flagellation varies in style and method. Some practice self-flagellation while others al-

low another person to whip them with a *barillo*, a homemade whip that is almost similar to the one used on Jesus when He was scourged.

The penitents walk the streets barefooted, half-naked, faces covered with cloth and heads crowned with thorned vines. After the flagellation, the penitents end up in a river or in the sea water where they soak themselves.

There is another kind of *penitencia* - the reenactment of Christ's crucifixion - where the penitent is actually nailed to the cross.

While the *penitencia* is held outside, the *Siete Palabras*, a reflection on the seven last words of Jesus Christ, is held inside the church. The procession of the *Santo Entierro*, the image of the dead Christ, follows after His symbolic death at three in the afternoon.

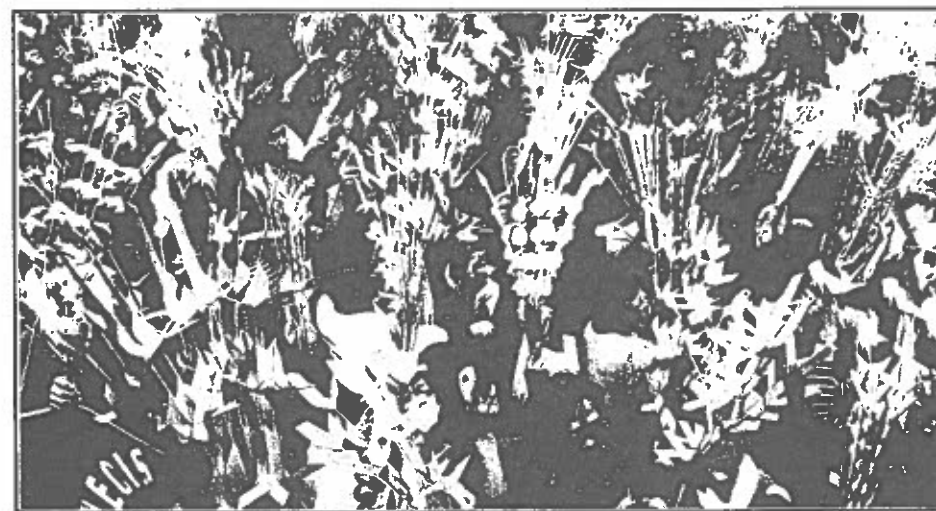


All these penitential acts are done as signs of man's reparation for his sins. He becomes aware of his weakness and the capacity of God to forgive his sins.

At the break of dawn of *Domingo de Pascua*, or Easter Sunday, church bells peal, signaling the glorious resurrection of Jesus. Two processions emerge from the church - one led by the *Mater Dolorosa* or the mourning image of Mary, Mother of Christ, veiled in black, and the other led by the Risen Christ.

The two processions meet at a designed place, and the veil of the mourning mother is lifted by an angel. This is the *Salubong* (meeting) procession.

Indeed, some of the Philippines' most colorful rites are witnessed during Holy Week. Some even say that these festivities are carried with so much climax-building intensity, that it is almost similar to celebrating the Christmas season. The numerous festivities being held simultaneously all over the country certainly allows you to experience for yourself the drama and variety of the Filipinos' way of religious devotion. ☀



MODSÆTNINGSFORHOLD

af Diana Ranile Baluyos



"EFFI BRIEST"

Filmen følger Theodor Fontanes roman fra 1895 nøje. Det handler om det mange andre ligesom Effi Briest, tilhører i højere borgerskabet i Tyskland, der har en anelse om deres mange muligheder og deres behov og alligevel accepterer det herskende system i deres hoved ved deres handlinger og dermed stabiliserer det og fuldstændigt bekræfter det.

Filmen er i srsr/hvid. Manuskript og instruktion af Rainer Werner Fassbinder, Tango Film Produktion, 1974. Filmen regnes for et af Fassbinders hovedværker.

PERSONERNE:

Effi Briest: 18-åriges rigmands datter.

Baron Instetten: før han var 20, blev han husar. Tog sin afsked og begyndte at studere jura.

Frau Briest: Effis mor, der i visse tilfælde godt kunne være ukonventionel. Har et tæt forhold med datteren. Havde ansvar for Effis fri opdragelse.

Herr Briest: Effis faderen, ejede Hohen-Cremmen gods, et sted hvor familien Briest bor.

Major Crampas: soldat, halvt polak. Ifølge Baron Instettens beskrivelse, er han en mand man ikke kan stole på. Lidenskab er hans vågen mod kvinder, især ensomme kvinder som Effi.

Rowitha: Katolsk, fattige dame, ansat som barnepige til den fabelagtige Effi og suveræn

Baron Instettens eneste og endnu fantastisk datter, som hjulpet Effi, til det sidste øjeblik hun dør. Hun forventer at "få noget" af det fra Effi, derfor var hun trofast!

Johanne: en skarp, kold tjenestepige som støtte Effi i hendes ensomme liv, mens hun bor sammen med sin mand. Hun blev nærmest Effis anden mor og sørger for Effis daglige behov og husholdning. En barsk og grov tysker dame, som leve op til det hvad man kalder ariske racer.

Den 18-årige Effi, en sød, frivillig, et naturbarn, bliver bortgiftet til den mere end dobbelt så gamle Baron von Instetten. Hun keder sig, selv om hun er godt tilfreds med sin mand, der nærmest opdrage hende til at være tapper og bestemt som han selv. Og Effi måtte beherske sig og retter sig efter hans vilje. Han lader hende være så alene, for han trods alt er landråd og stræber ved endnu højere magt. Han er den man kalder en rigtig mand med vilje og disciplin og lad ingen kvinder styret ham. Han er travlt og engang imellem rejst væk fra Effi, og det gjorde hende endnu mere usikre. De fik en datter, som begge var meget stolte over.

En morgen fik Effi og hendes mand et besøg fra Major Crampas. Deres møde var en begyndelse til Effis nedtur. Baron Instetten kunne ikke lide majoren, advarede sin unge kone imod ham. Fredi-

gihed er det bedste, mente baronen, og det allerbedste er karakter og fasthed og hvis han må bruge et så stivbenet ord: en ren sjæl. Effi blev ked af det for inderste inde, holdt hun meget af Crampas. De så hinanden og talte meget sammen om begær og elskov, mens baronen er væk på rejse. Deres venskab blev til noget mere - et lille sidespring. Det opdager baronen senere hende, som udfordrer majoren til duel, dræber ham og blev rigtige galt på Effi. Han kunne aldrig TILGIV Effi for det hun gjort, og hun måtte forlade ægteskabet. Sammen med Ro-

witha, havde hun bor alene og fik lov at se datteren når baronen sagde, at det er i orden. Effis mareridt var at hendes tidligere mand opdrager barn imod hende. Presset kunne stakkels Effi ikke tåle. Til sidst blev hun syg og nedbrudt og dør. Effi Briest liv startede som et eventyr og endte med et uheldigt skæbne. Et lille sidespring kostede hende ære, formue og livet.

Livet leves forlæns, men forstås baglæns.

Med venlig hilsen, Kong Gustavs børn

REDAKTIONEL MEDDELELSE

I Filipino Mirror, Vol. 3, Nr. 1, marts 1999, s. 26 brage vi en artikel af Diana Ranile Baluyos, der havde overskriften "Danmark, vågn op".

Hidtil har det været redaktionens linie, at der ikke skulle udøves censur overfor læserindlæg, derfor bragte vi Dianas indlæg. Vi skal på Bayanihans og Filipino Mirrors vegne beklage, at vi bragte ovennævnte indlæg.

Vi tager skarpt afstand fra indholdet i artiklen og kan på ingen måde understøtte eller have sympati for indlæg af racistisk karakter.

Vi er en solidaritetorganisation, der hjælper filippinerne og forsøger at fremme integrationen i det danske samfund og fremme forståelsen mellem filippinerne, danskere og alle andre nationaliteter.

Vi giver en uforbeholden undskyldning til det jødiske folk og fordømmer enhver forbindelse til nazistiske og neo-nazistiske kredse. Vi har intet tilfælles med folk af denne observans.

Vi forstår ikke, hvad Dianas ærinde egentlig er, og vi må tilskrive hendes udtalelser hendes unge alder, en højere grad af forvirring og en komplet mangel på forståelse for den historiske udvikling, herunder kolonialisme og undertrykkelse, for nazisternes umenneskelige gerninger mod det jødiske folk og for nationalismens ansvar for krige og misgerninger i verden.

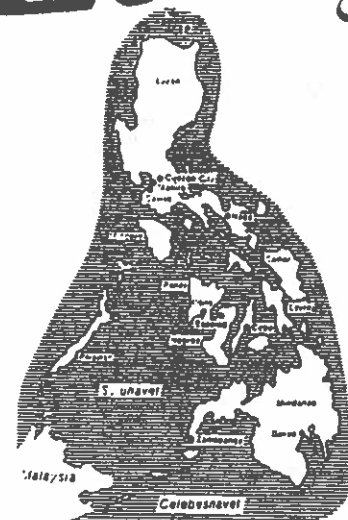
Bayanihan og Filipino Mirror bekæmper den slags ugeminger og vil fremover sørge for, at den slags udgydelser ikke bringes i dette blad.

EINER LYDUCH, BCFM Adviser



Et Eventyr

Af Violy Cebuma



FISKEN OG HELTEN

I 1521 kom Ferdinand Magellan, en portugiser og lederen af en jordomrejse under den spanske krone, til de filippinske øer. Han erklærede øerne for en spansk koloni og kaldte den "Filipinas" efter deres konge, Kong Felipe. Befolkningen under en lokal høvding, Lapu-Lapu, sloges med de spanske soldater. Endelig, efter nogle dage med krig, blev Magellan dræbt af Lapu-Lapu, og de spanske soldater blev drever ud af øerne.

Alligevel forblev Filippinerne under spansk herredømme helt frem til 1898. Det var ikke krydderier, der gjorde landet til en spansk koloni, men beliggenheden som en sikker havn mellem Kina og Mexico. Den spanske indflydelse levede videre i arkitektur, sprog, navne, musik, kultur og religion.

I 1892, blev en bevægelse der ønskede en fredelig løsning grundlagt. Lederen af bevægelsen "Liga Filipina" var en berømt forfatter og fysiker, dr. Jose Rizal. Spanierne svar herpå var en masse henrettelser og arrestationer i de følgende år. Deriblandt var Rizal. Efter et ophold i fængsel blev han henrettet i 1896. Rizal er i dag vores nationalhelt og hans dødsdag den 30 december bliver altid fejret som en national fridag.

Men hvordan var det med Lapu-Lapu? Han var glemt i historiebøger og han har ingen ære faet. Han skulle også blive en nationalhelt fordi han var den første der forsvarede sit fædreland, men det var ikke sådan. Lapu-Lapu, som vi filippinerne ved, er et navn på en slags fisk (den ligner en torsk), som spises ved mange specielle anledninger.

