

**400th Anniversary of the Arrival in the Philippines
of the Image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
Circular 2018-08**

To: All Parish Priests, Religious Congregations, PPC Officers and Heads of Mandated Organizations

4 May 2018 will be the 400th year of the arrival from Mexico of the Image of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. The Image arrived with the third mission of the Order of Augustinian Recollects (OAR) to the Philippines, as a gift from the Discalced Carmelite Nuns in Acapulco. Upon arrival by ship in Manila, the Image was initially housed at the OAR convent in Bagumbayan (now Luneta). Three years later in 1621, the Image was enthroned at the first San Sebastian Church – now the Minor Basilica of San Sebastian – in Quiapo.

Since the arrival of the Image, devotion to her has flourished throughout our archipelago, as evidenced by the many Filipinos who to this day continue to wear the brown scapular that is associated with it – and the number of parishes and schools named after her.

I encourage you to join the *Salubong at Traslacion*, a reliving of Nuestra Señora's arrival, on the morning of Friday, 4 May 2018. I also request you to announce the event in the parishes.

The *Salubong* will begin at 5:00 AM with a fluvial parade in Manila Bay and end with a Mass at the Quirino Grandstand; the *Traslacion* will immediately follow the Mass with a procession from Rizal Park to San Sebastian Basilica, where the image will be ceremonially re-enthroned.

With this *Salubong at Traslacion*, we hope to strengthen the devotion to Our Lady, drawing strength from her – and from each other's presence that day.

I hope to see you all on the early morning of 4 May, a First Friday. Those who will join in the celebration stand to benefit from a Plenary Indulgence, approved by the Vatican. Let us also take this occasion to pray for healing and reconciliation in our land, and to consecrate our country to Mama Mary.

Given in the Chancery in Fairview, Quezon City, 13 March 2018.

Most Rev. Antonio R. Tobias, DD
Bishop

Attested by:

Rev. Fr. Reynaldo Percival S. Flores
Chancellor