



PHILIPPINE: OPEN TO GOD-WITHIN AND GOD-AMONG

ON THIS YEAR'S FEAST OF PHILIPPINE, THE WORLD-WIDE FAMILY OF THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART WILL BEGIN A YEAR-LONG, 200TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OUR GLOBAL FAMILY AS A GLOBAL FAMILY. WE ARE ABLE TO DO SO BECAUSE 200 YEARS AGO NEXT MARCH, MOTHER ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE GOT ON A BOAT, LEFT EVERYTHING SHE LOVED AND ALL THAT WAS FAMILIAR, TRAVELLED 70 DAYS ACROSS AN OCEAN AND 40 DAYS UP A RIVER AND, DESPITE THE CHALLENGES OF COMMUNICATION, REMAINED FAITHFUL TO HER CONNECTION WITH MOTHER BARAT AND THE SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART IN FRANCE. SO, IN THIS COMING YEAR, AMONG ALL THE MANY BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS, WE WILL REMEMBER AND HONOR THE WOMEN WHO HELPED TO MAKE WHAT WAS A FRENCH CONGREGATION DEVELOP INTO WHAT WE NOW EXPERIENCE AS A GLOBAL FAMILY OF GOD'S HEART. WE CELEBRATE SAINT ROSE PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE NOT JUST TODAY BUT WE DO SO THROUGHOUT THIS COMING YEAR OF BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS!

AS WE CELEBRATE AND REMEMBER PHILIPPINE, I INVITE US TO REFLECT ON ONE PARTICULAR VIRTUE WHICH IS NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER IN OUR 21ST CENTURY WORLD: PHILIPPINE'S **OPENNESS!**

AS IS SYMBOLIZED IN THE ABOVE IMAGE OF PHILIPPINE'S OPEN HAND TO JESUS, PHILIPPINE'S PRAYER LIFE OPENED HER TO THE GOD SHE DISCOVERED IN THE DEPTH OF HER BEING. WE ALL KNOW THE STORIES PASSED DOWN TO US ABOUT THE HOURS THIS 'WOMAN WHO PRAYS ALWAYS' SPENT IN SILENCE WITH HER DIVINE MASTER. THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE PHILIPPINE AND GOD WERE UNITED IN LOVE. PHILIPPINE'S OPENNESS TO THAT JOURNEY TO GOD-WITHIN-HER WAS, I WOULD PROPOSE, THE SOURCE AND SECRET OF HER **COURAGE.**





ALSO, AS IS SYMBOLIZED IN THE IMAGE OF PHILIPPINE'S OTHER HAND WHICH IS OPEN TO THE NATIVE PEOPLES, SHE WAS COMPLETELY OPEN TO THE FACE OF CHRIST SHE DISCOVERED IN OTHERS. AGAIN, WE KNOW THE STORIES OF HER WORK WITH THE STREET CHILDREN OF GRENOBLE, WITH THE AMERICAN CHILDREN ON A FOREIGN FRONTIER AND WITH THE NATIVE AMERICANS AMONG WHOM SHE SO LOVED LIVING. WE ALSO KNOW THAT SHE ACHED TO WORK WITH THE NATIVE NATIONS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, AND WITH THE PEOPLE OF CHINA AND IN JAPAN. PHILIPPINE'S OPENNESS TO GOD-AMONG-HER WAS, I WOULD PROPOSE, THE SOURCE AND SECRET OF HER COMPASSION.

IN HONOR OF OUR SAINT, ON THIS DAY AND THROUGHOUT THIS SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY YEAR, LET US STRIVE TO OPEN OURSELVES IN THESE SAME TWO WAYS FOR THE SAKE OF OURSELVES AND OUR WORLD.

MAY WE OPEN OURSELVES TO THE JOURNEY TO DISCOVER GOD-WITHIN-US (AND HOPEFULLY LIVE LIVES OF EVER MORE COURAGE).

MAY WE OPEN OURSELVES TO THE JOURNEY TO DISCOVER GOD-AMONG-US (AND HOPEFULLY LIVE LIVES OF EVER MORE INCLUSIVE COMPASSION).

OUR WORLD WOULD ONLY BENEFIT!

HAPPY FEAST!

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