



the CAROLINIAN

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OUR COVER

*The Image of the Holy Child Jesus
venerated in Santo Niño Church,
Cebu City, Philippines is over four
hundred years old.*

*This Image was found in Cebu on
April 28, 1565 and was given to
the Augustinian Fathers for guard-
ianship.*

... Editorial ...

The Christianization of the Philippines four hundred years ago marked a turning point in the history of our country.

By the logic of persuasion, our forefathers abandoned their gods and their idols and embraced the Catholic Faith which we now cherish. By the application of necessary compulsion or otherwise, the petty independent states which we call **barangay** were welded into a geo-political unity, out of which later on would spring the Filipino nation. And largely by the efforts of the early missionaries our people were introduced to a new western culture which at that time was already steeped in the arts and sciences, in government and in law. Into this culture, happily blended with our own, were born and raised the Philippines' foremost heroes and leaders who one day would play the leading role in the drama of her political independence. Christianity, therefore, not only brought us our Faith and made of us a chosen people; it not only welded our people and prepared them for nationhood directly or indirectly; it brought us culture and enriched our own.

With these benefits in mind, the Fourth Centennial Celebration of the Christianization of the Philippines should, therefore, be a day of great spiritual rejoicing and thanksgiving amongst our people. We have many things to be thankful immensely to God, who in His Providence has chosen us to be the bearers of His Word in this part of the globe. Let us show our gratitude to Him by actively participating in the celebrations and make the event truly a great spiritual success.