



Archdiocese of Caceres

Naga City, Philippines

MESSAGE



Most Rev. PEDRO P. SANTOS

Once again, the day when the Bicolano people as a whole honors their Mother and Patroness is here. Bicolandia celebrates again the feast of our Lady of Penafrancia.

This devotion of ours to God's Mother, who is also our Mother, must flower forth not from sentimentality, not so much even from mystery as from knowledge and insight. We must know Mary, unique creature that she is, so that our devotion to her may have a meaning in our daily life as Christians.

In the Mother of God, who is also ours, we encounter in human form God's plan for man. But in her we glimpse not so much God's design for a single human being, as His plan for all human beings. Mary is essentially representative of humanity redeemed; she symbolizes in her person what God intends for the whole Church. What the Mother of God is, the Church is and is destined to be.

And what does this mean to us?

Since the Church is us — the baptized — we must, like Mary, be redeemed and be totally redeemed. Like her, we must be more and more conformed to the Life and death of our Lord. We must live up to our baptismal promises of dying daily to sin and to Satan, his pomps and his works, and rising in the new life of God's goodness and mercy and love and life. We must imitate Mary in letting God take possession of us more and more and letting His love work its wonders in us.

Let us, then, ask of our Lady of Penafrancia, whom we honor in great rejoicing, to learn to be nothing, like her, but totally receptivity — an active receptivity so that when we hear God's word, we welcome it within us. On this depends our holiness, our oneness with God — the openness, the freedom with which we can answer "Amen." "May all that you have said be fulfilled in me." (Lk. 1:38)

(Sgd.) **Pedro P. Santos**  
Archbishop

MESSAGE



CONG. JUAN F. TRIVINO

Through Bicolandia's most durable weekly, THE BICOL STAR, I extend my warm welcome to the pilgrims and devotees who will once again flock to the City of Naga to join the solemn festivities in honor of the Blessed Virgin of Penafrancia.

This annual blessed event is without parallel in the Bicol region. For on this occasion, Bicolanos from all parts of the country pray as one in intercession and in thanksgiving for the Almighty's blessings.

I hope that this unity enkindled by the Blessed Virgin of Penafrancia will spur the people of the region towards a better and greater political and economic goals.

(Sgd.) **JUAN F. TRIVINO**  
Congressman  
1st Dist., Camarines Sur

History of Virgin of Penafrancia

by *Mrs. Fr. Florencio C. Yllana, V.G., D.P.*  
of the Diocese of Sorsogon

Contrary to what its name seems to indicate and the claim of some writers, the Penafrancia devotion is not of French origin. History tells that the primitive image of the Virgin of Penafrancia as now venerated in Bicolandia was found on the slopes of Sierra de Francia, a mountain range situated between Spain's two famous Provinces: Salamanca and Caceres.

It is a noteworthy coincidence that while the primitive image was found near CACERES, in Spain, its carbon copy has come to stay in NUEVA CACERES, in the Philippines.

While the place where the image was found is a Spanish territory, the one who found it was a French citizen. Simon Vela, the man singled out with this special favor by heaven, was the sole heir to a rich French family. With his heart burning in great anxieties to dedicate himself to the service of God, he turned his back on the turmoil of the world and entered the convent. Simon became famous very soon among the members of his community for his exceptional devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

One night he heard a voice saying: "Simon, do not sleep; go to Pena de Francia; on the part where the sun sets (a la parte del poniente) and there you will find an image of the Virgin which shall be afterwards an object of great devotion."

Simon lost no time and after putting on the clothes of a pilgrim, he began to search for the image.

The words "Pena de Francia" and on the part where the sun sets induced Simon to believe that the image was to be found on a place situated in the western part of France. So to this place he directed his steps.

After 5 long and weary years of futile quest in these parts, he decided to write "finish" to his mission and give it up. One night however, he heard again the divine voice saying: "Simon, do not stop. A great reward awaits a great sacrifice and yours will be great."

So Simon renewed again his trips. After visiting all the western part of France, torn and tired, without any success, he was again tempted to give up. But the voice was so inspiring and the message so sublime that he deemed it wise to obey rather than to ignore it. So he went on with his mission.

At that time a great number of pilgrims bound for the tomb of Santiago de Compostela, the Patron Saint of Spain, were passing by the street commonly known as the "paso Frances." (The French road) Simon who went with them asked for Pena de Francia from whomsoever he met but nobody could give him a satisfactory answer.

Having heard of the famous University of Salamanca and hoping perhaps to ask about Pena de Francia from the wise professors of that institution of learning there he went. He reached Salamanca on a market day. Here accidentally, or rather, (Cont. on page 17)

Message



Pres. MACAPAGAL

I join the people of the Bicol region in honoring their Patroness, the Blessed Virgin of Penafrancia, on the occasion of the Regional Fiesta of the Bicol Region.

This event should afford the people of this region an opportunity to give thanks for the benefits and blessings that the year just past has brought them. This gesture is appropriate not only because of the deep-rooted attachment of the people of Bicol to the Virgin of Penafrancia, but also because gratitude has long been one of the cherished virtues of the Filipino people.

It is my hope that the Virgin of Penafrancia will continue to guide the people of Bicolandia in their effort to promote their welfare and happiness. May this be happy and holy celebration.

(Sgd.) **DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL**  
President of the Philippines

Message

Warm regards and best wishes to the good people of Bicolandia on the occasion of their annual celebration of the Bicol Regional Fiesta this year.

I also extend my greetings and congratulations to the editorial staff of the Bicol Star for making possible the publicity of a souvenir program of the affair.

Fiesta celebration marks the day of reckoning for all. It is an eventual day of pleasure and enjoyment after having successfully passed another year of continuous struggle for survival. In effect, it maybe considered the turning point of progressive and better tomorrow for our country and people.

It is my fervent hope, therefore, that the good residents of Bicolandia will continue to aim for much better endeavors and bigger things and keep faith with the traditions and ideals handed down to us by our founding fathers. For it has been my avowed policy to let our people strive for the best in everything and nothing less.

Godspeed!

(Sgd.) **FERDINAND E. MARCOS**  
Senate President

MESSAGE

Greetings to the "Bicol Star" on the occasion of its special issue in honor of the Penafrancia Fiesta (Bicol Regional Fiesta) on September 11-20, 1964. Your weekly newspaper is a proud possession of a community that cherishes, and lives by, the concept of freedom.

I observed that the Bicol Star has maintained a fresh, frank and fearless approach to important issues and thereby not only strengthened public acceptance of the paper itself, but also provided proof that there is freedom of the press in this country.

I hope the Bicol Star will give its readers the kind of independent journalism that wins both prestige and patronage and continue to demonstrate that one of the precious boons of our way of life, that of freedom of the press, is alive and real.

With your full cooperation, I am sure the Bicol Regional Fiesta will be a real success. May I wish the editor and staff members more success in their earnest endeavors to serve the community they have chosen.

**CORNELIO T. VILLAREAL**  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

**Religious**

Professor, Minor Seminary  
 Reverend Ludwig Pimentel  
 Professor, Naga Seminary  
 The ABELLA FAMILY  
 donates the "PAGODA" of  
 the Virgin of Peñafrancia  
 and the Divino Rostro. The  
 Ateneo de Naga Band will  
 play during the procession  
 up to the Bicol River bank.

**DONORS OF THE  
 PAGODA:**

- Mrs. Bibiana Diaz Guy-  
sayko
- Engr. Domingo Diaz y  
Abella
- Atty. Ramon Diaz y  
Abella
- Mrs. Aida Abella de  
Felipe
- Mrs. Socorro Abella  
de Soriano
- Dr. Manuel Abella
- Dr. Domingo Abella
- Mrs. Renee Abella Lim
- Mrs. Magdalena Abella  
Jimenez

At the Peñafrancia Landing,  
 the Sacred Images will be  
 received by:

His Excellency, the Most  
 Reverend Pedro P. Santos,  
 D.P. Archbishop of Caceres,  
 assisted by the Very  
 Reverend Teotimo C.  
 Pacis, C.M. Rector of  
 Naga Seminary, together  
 with some Vincentian Fa-  
 thers.

The Blessed Virgin's Image  
 will be placed on the altar,  
 at the Peñafrancia Kiosk,  
 where a LOW MASS will  
 be said by:

Rt. Rev. Msgr. Florencio  
 C. Yllana, D.P.  
 Administrator, Diocese of Sorsogon  
**Altar Service**---Seminarians  
 of Naga Major Seminary  
**Mass Donor**---Mr. and Mrs.  
 Felix Bellen

Phil, Camarines Sur  
**SUNDAY, September 20:**  
 3:00 a.m.---LOW MASSES  
 begin at the Shrine and at  
 the Peñafrancia Kiosk.

6:00 a.m.---SOLEMN PON-  
 TIFICAL MASS---(Peña-  
 francia Kiosk)

**Officiating**---His Excellency  
 the Most Rev. Pedro P.  
 Santos, D.D.  
 Archbishop of Caceres  
**Deacons of Honor**---A Vin-  
 centian Father  
 Naga Major Seminary  
**A Vincentian Father**  
 Naga Major Seminary

**Assisting Presbyter**---Very  
 Rev. Teotimo C. Pacis,  
 C.M.  
 Rector, Naga Major Seminary  
**Deacon**---Reverend Quirino  
 Duran  
 Assistant Priest, Iriga, Camari-  
 nes Sur

**Subdeacon**---Reverend Rustico  
 Recepcion  
 Assistant Priest, Nabua, Camari-  
 nes Sur

**Preacher**---Reverend Jaime  
 San Andres, B.S.E.  
 Professor, Naga Minor Seminary,  
**Master of Ceremonies**---Rev-  
 erend Jesus Larraneta, C.M.

**Altar Service**---Seminarians  
 of Naga Major Seminary  
**Choir**---Minor Seminarians of  
 Naga Minor Seminary  
 under the direction of  
 Reverend Honorato Badilla

8:00 a.m.---SOLEMN HIGH  
 MASS by the Rev. Msgr.  
 Dominador Perez, D.P.  
 Rector, Naga Minor Semi-  
 nary

7:30 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Con-  
 cordio Sanchez, D.P. Prin-  
 cipal, Naga Minor Seminary  
 (Kiosk)

8:00 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Justi-  
 niano Valeza, D.P. Parish  
 Priest, Ligao, Albay (kiosk)

8:30 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Jose  
 Belleza, D.P. Parish Priest,

**History of**

providentially, a discussion  
 arose between two vendors  
 about the quality of the coal  
 they were selling and one  
 of them vouched that they  
 were of good quality because  
 they were taken from the

Tabaco, Albay (kiosk)  
 9:00 a.m.---SOLEMN MASS  
 by the Rt. Rev. Msgr.  
 Antonio Reganit, D.P.  
 Vicar Forane and Parish  
 Priest, Daet C.N.

9:00 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Very Rev. Msgr. Vi-  
 cente Vargas, P.C. Parish  
 Priest, Bubi, Camarines  
 Sur (kiosk)

9:30 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. De-  
 metrio Valeza, D.P. Parish  
 Priest, Guinobatan, Albay  
 (kiosk)

10:00 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Very Reverend Jesus  
 Varela, JCD Secretary and  
 Chancellor, Archdiocese of  
 Caceres (shrine)

11:00 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Very Rev. Msgr. Por-  
 firio Iigan, P.C. Oecon-  
 omus, Archdiocese of Caceres  
 (shrine)

12:00 noon---LOW MASS...  
 AFTERNOON: (shrine)

4:00 p.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Very Rev. Msgr. Al-  
 frede Yllana, P.C. Vicar  
 Forane and Parish Priest,  
 Libmanan, C.S.

4:30 p.m.---LAST DAY OF  
 THE NOVENA

**Officiating**---Rt. Rev. Msgr.  
 Pedro Lanuza, D.P. Vicar  
 Forane and Parish Priest  
 Iriga, Camarines Sur

5:00 p.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Flo-  
 rencio Yllana, D.P. Ad-  
 ministrator, Diocese of  
 Sorsogon

5:30 p.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Pedro  
 Lanuza, D.P.

6:00 p.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Nica-  
 nor Belleza, D.P. Vicar  
 General, Archdiocese of  
 Caceres

6:30 a.m.---LOW MASS by  
 the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Jose  
 Sanchez, D.P. Vicar Gen-  
 eral, Diocese of Legazpi

7:00 p.m.---LOW MASS...  
 7:30 p.m.---LOW MASS...  
 8:00 p.m.---LAST LOW  
 MASS...

slope of Peña de Francia.  
 Simon heard these last words  
 and without uttering a word  
 he followed the vendor on  
 his way home.

When he reached San  
 Martin de Castañar, a vil-  
 lage at the foot of Peña de  
 Francia, he immediately ap-  
 proached some people and  
 fortunately, he was able to  
 get information about the  
 exact place of Peña de  
 Francia, the very place where  
 afterwards he found the  
 object of his pilgrimage.

Just as he began to dig in  
 the place indicated to him,  
 in a dream he had the night  
 before, a divine voice coun-  
 selled him not to go to the  
 mountains without compan-  
 ions who would serve as  
 witnesses. The heavens, it  
 seems, would like to remove  
 any possibility of doubt  
 with regards to this miracle.

So Simon went down and  
 brought with him Antonio  
 Fernandez, Juan Pascual,  
 Pascual Sanchez, Juan Fer-  
 nandez and Benito Sanchez,  
 the "escribano" of the place,  
 and finally on May 19, 1434,  
 as they removed a big stone,  
 following a divine inspiration,  
 they found the most coveted  
 image of the Virgin of Peña-  
 francia.

Right there and then all  
 these men received special  
 graces from the Virgin. Si-  
 mon Vela's wound in the  
 head was instantly cured;  
 Pascual Sanchez' defect in  
 the eye disappeared; Juan  
 Fernandez got rid of his  
 ten years old stomach trou-  
 ble; Antonio Fernandez  
 who was deaf began to hear  
 and finally, Benito Sanchez'  
 finger which was defective  
 from birth, recovered its  
 normal stage.

The official document of  
 these miracles and this dis-  
 covery, duly signed by those  
 present and the Notary  
 Publico of the place, is re-  
 served in the archives of  
 San Martin de Castañar to  
 serve as eloquent, if mute,  
 witness to the past, present  
 and future generations of  
 the veracity of this wonder.

**OUR OWN PENAFRANCIA**

Way back in the 17th  
 century, a Spanish family  
 from San Martin de Casta-  
 (Con't. on page 18)

development plans of various  
 scenic and historical sites  
 in the province.

Mrs. Adkins said that  
 there are many potential  
 tourist attractions not only  
 in Sorsogon but in the  
 other Bicol Provinces which  
 could be developed to order  
 for the tourist trade.---J.D.D

newsmen that feelers have  
 been sent to him for a 1965  
 draft and that admirers have  
 opened a campaign head-  
 quarters for him in Manila.  
 He said, he closed the  
 campaign office and told his  
 friends to forget politics in  
 the meantime.---J.D.D.

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D. CRUZ---Mgr. Concepcion, Naga City

VIVA LA VIRGEN!  
 on the occasion of Her Festival  
**OUR FIESTA OFFERING**

**Alex Theatre**  
 Sept. 14---20, 1964  
 Bernard BONNIN --- Amelia FUENTES

**Ang Duwende Sa  
 Kampanaryo**

**Bichara Theatre**  
 Sept. 15---21, 1964

MGM's ACTION DRAMA

**Secret Seven**  
 ---ALSO---

**Maciste Against the Sheik**

**Vic Theatre**  
 Sept. 15---21, 1964

JESS LAPID

**Ang Pinakakilabot**  
 ---Naga City---

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 Administrator and Surgeon Obstetrician

Dr. Nobile P. Arroyo - Associate  
 Dr. Romeo O. Barina - Associate  
 Dr. Napoleon C. Punsalan - Resident Physician  
 Dr. Erlando E. Romero -  
 Mrs. Rafaela F. Domasing - Dietician  
 Mrs. Minnie T. Arroyo - Pharmacist

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 Dr. Salvador Felipe - Anesthesiologist

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