WHAT IS THE FILIPINO MINISTRY?

The Filipino Ministry of St. Columba, also known as "Fil-Ministry", is a religious – cultural organization within the Parish of St. Columba, in the Archdiocese of Washington, under the patronage of Saint Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, the first Filipino Saint.

MISSION:

To serve and inspire the Filipino Catholic members of St. Columba parish so they can fully participate in the life and mission of the church. To illuminate and promote better appreciation of Filipino Culture through religion and to establish communication networks with the Filipino Community within and outside the Archdiocese of Washington.

OBJECTIVES:

To effectively fulfill its obligations and commitments to the community and the church, the Fil-Ministry set the following objectives as their guiding principles:

- To create, inspire and demonstrate leadership in the Filipino Community for all matters related to the religious and cultural life in the parish of St. Columba;
- To serve as coordinating body under the Parish Council on matters related to all Filipino church - related programs, activities and organizations;
- To promote better appreciation of the Filipino culture;
- To network with Filipinos and other ministries within and outside the Archdiocese of Washington.

MEMBERSHIPS:

The Filipino Ministry is composed mainly, but not limited to, Filipino Catholics residing within the parish of St. Columba Church. Membership is open to all practicing Roman Catholics of Filipino descent aged sixteen and above, or any nationality married to Roman Catholics of Filipino descent, and duly registered parishioners of St. Columba.

The governing body of the Fil-Ministry is composed of twenty one Regular members whose term is for two years, and is classified as Appointed and Designated.

Regular membership meetings are held at 7:00 pm every first Monday of the month. Special meetings are called from time to time when the need arises.

OFFICERS OF THE FIL-MINISTRY:

The Fil-Ministry is being led by five officers who are elected every two years. These officers are the following:

1. CHAIR
2. VICE-CHAIR
3. SECRETARY
4. TREASURER
5. PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

REGULAR ACTIVITIES:

From among the many prestigious celebrations traditionally held every year by the Filipinos, the Fil-Ministry is sponsoring the following annual activities at St. Columba church:

- Santacruzan in May;
- Mother of Perpetual Help Triduum in June;
- Feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz in September;
- Family Rosary in October;
- Simbang gabi in December;
- Visita Iglesia or Church visits on Lent season.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

The following are the committees provided for in the by-laws of the Fil-Ministry:

- Youth
- Senior Citizen
- Socio-Cultural concerns
- Parish Memberships
- Newsletter
- Liturgy

APPEAL:

We need new members to help run the day to day activities of the Fil-Ministry. Those who are interested in joining please talk to any of the Fil-Ministry members or any of the MCST Sisters and they will be more than happy to give more information if needed.

Or you may call any of the following numbers:
(301) 839-7751 – MCST Convent
(301) 292-7288 – Gus Blancaflor

THE PATRON SAINT OF THE FILIPINO MINISTRY:

SAN LORENZO RUIZ

The most improbable of Saints

"Deny your faith and we will spare your life," his persecutors said. To which Lorenzo Ruiz answered, "I will never do it. I am a Catholic and happy to die for God. If I have a thousand lives to offer, I will offer them all to God."

THE FILIPINO MINISTRY OF ST. COLUMBA

"The immigrant members of the Church, while freely exercising their rights and duties and being in full ecclesial communion in the particular Churches, feeling themselves Christians … must be able to remain completely themselves as far as language, culture, liturgy, spirituality and particular traditions are concerned, in order to reach that ecclesial integration which enriches the Church of God, and which is the result of the dynamic realism of the Incarnation of the Son of God……"

- Pope John Paul II in his message during the World Migrant's Day in 1985.

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