

Pope Francis visits Canada

For a while, it was not known immediately whether or not Pope Francis would actually visit Canada nor would he be willing to issue an apology on behalf of the Catholic Church after the discovery of 215 unmarked graves last year near the Kamloops Indian Residential School, which operated from 1890 until the late 1970s. Eventually, the pontiff initially announced his plan to visit Canada during a meeting on April 1 with First Nations, Inuit and Métis delegates, who travelled to the Vatican to meet him. The delegates wanted the Pope to issue an apology in Canada for the role the Roman Catholic Church played in operating the majority of residential schools, which would fulfill Call to Action 58 from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Subsequently, the Vatican officially announced Pope Francis' visit to Canada last May 1 which is scheduled in late July.



Pope Francis hands a gift to Inuit delegate Rosemary Lundrigan at the Vatican, on Friday, April 1, 2022 (Vatican Media via Reuters)

Archbishop Richard Smith, the co-ordinator of the papal visit to Canada, said the Pope's trip has been limited to only three "hubs" because of the Pope's mobility issues.

"What's really directing this is the Pope's limited ability to get around," Smith said from Edmonton on Friday, May 12.

"The Vatican was very, very clear: when he comes to a country, he

can't get around by helicopter, he can't be in a car any more than an hour, he cannot be in a different place every night."

In a statement, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau welcomed the papal visit, which is expected to include a formal apology in Canada for the

church's role in operating residential schools.

"This would be an important — and necessary — step for the Roman Catholic Church to continue engaging in dialogue with First Nations, Inuit, and Métis in order to advance meaningful reconciliation for

Indigenous Peoples in our country," Trudeau said.

In 2017, Trudeau travelled to the Vatican to appeal for an apology from Pope Francis. At the time, the

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Health officials wary of Covid 19's 7th wave, recommend public vigilance



Dr. Christian Dubé, Quebec's Health Minister

As Quebec enters the seventh wave of COVID-19, the province's

health minister says the situation is "under control for the moment" but is

urging residents to be "vigilant."

"We are not here at all to reimpose health measures," Health Minister Christian Dubé said Thursday during a news conference. "We've said all along that we need to live with this COVID."

The health minister said that isolating when sick and keeping up to date on vaccinations is key to curbing this latest surge of the virus and protecting the most vulnerable members of the community, including the elderly and those with weakened immune systems.

On the latter, he announced the province will soon release new guidance on its website for people to help them decide when they should seek booster doses of the vaccine to ensure they are protected from the latest Omicron variants that are spreading in Quebec and elsewhere in the world.

Dr. Luc Boileau, Quebec's public health director, joined the health minister for the media briefing Thursday morning.

The province reported on Thursday there were 1,755 new infections from PCR testing, which is reserved for priority clientele. An additional 713 rapid antigen test results were logged with Quebec's public health department, including 655 results that came back positive.

The number of health-care workers absent for COVID-related reasons (including isolating after a positive test or waiting for test results) continues to get bigger. On Thursday, the province said 7,318 workers were off work, up from 7,041 on Wednesday.

The province explained Thursday that while the two subvariants are proving to be more

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From the publisher's desk

How will the visit of Pope Francis impact the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report about residential schools?

Zenaida Ferry Kharroubi

Pope Francis' visit to Canada allows us to reflect on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that we read about but may have never understood its ramifications. Moreover, we wonder how many of its recommendations have been adopted or completed. Many of us can relate to the horrors that children experienced in the residential schools. But are their families and survivors fully compensated for the terrible crimes committed against them?

It has been reported that more than 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were forced to attend residential schools from the 1870s until 1997. In 1894, the Indian Act was amended to authorize the government to remove Indigenous children from their family if it was felt they were not being properly cared for or educated and place them in a school.

Subsequent amendments to the act in 1920 further reinforced compulsory attendance at the schools. Children were removed from their families and culture; forced to learn English, embrace Christianity and adopt the customs of Canada's white majority.

The Catholic Church ran most of Canada's residential schools, which were federally funded institutions meant

to strip Indigenous children of their traditions, language and culture. Thousands of children died from malnutrition, abuse, disease or neglect. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has said Canada's residential school policy was cultural genocide.

The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement (IRSSA) has recognized 139 residential schools across Canada, though that number excludes schools that operated without federal support. Some schools were run solely by religious orders or provincial governments.

The 139 schools operated in all Canadian provinces and territories except Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick and Newfoundland and Labrador. There were also residential schools in N.L. but they weren't included in the IRSSA. In 1931, at the peak of the residential school system, there were about 80 schools operating in the country.

There were also more than 600 so-called Indian day schools that operated across Canada in every province and territory except Newfoundland and Labrador between 1863 and 2000. First Nations, Métis and Inuit children were sent to the schools during the day but remained in their communities. Some who attended the

day schools have reported similar abuses as those that occurred at residential schools.

The last school to close, in 1997, was Kivalliq Hall in Rankin Inlet, in what is now Nunavut.

In 2008, Prime Minister Stephen Harper delivered a formal apology in the House of Commons on behalf of the government of Canada over residential schools and the damage they did to Indigenous people. On November 24, 2017, Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, apologized on behalf of the Government of Canada to the families, loved ones, and communities for the painful and tragic legacy the residential schools left behind.

In 2017, Saskatchewan MP Georgina Jolibois introduced a private member's bill to make National Day for Truth and Reconciliation an official holiday.

September 30, 2021 marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - an annual commemoration honouring the children who died while attending residential schools and the survivors, families and communities still affected by the legacy of the residential school system but not all provinces complied to make this a holiday.

The creation of the new federal statutory holiday was approved by Parliament days after the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation confirmed the discovery of roughly 200 potential burial sites, on May 23, 2021, likely of children, on the site of a former residential school in Kamloops, B.C.

Weeks later, the Cowessess First Nation announced a preliminary finding of 751 unmarked graves at a cemetery near the former Marieval Indian Residential School east of Regina. Since then, more than 300 other potential burial sites have been identified, and searches are underway at sites across Canada.

While the discoveries have shocked many and led to an outpouring of grief and news coverage globally, Indigenous people and advocates say it had long been known and talked about that some of the children who were removed from their families and forced to attend residential schools never made it back home.

Following the discoveries of more than 1,200 unmarked graves at former residential school sites in the summer of 2021, protesters and Indigenous leaders across the country began calling for an apology from the Pope, as well as financial reparations. In 2016, a lawyer for the church said that a

new round of fundraising would not happen, and that many churches were already near bankruptcy. But a report from the Globe and Mail indicated the church's assets in Canada, however, are substantial. In August 2021, the Globe and Mail used tax records to examine its holdings. The analysis revealed that the combined Catholic Church in Canada had net assets of \$4.1-billion in 2019, and that it had received \$886-million in donations, making it the largest charitable organization in the country.

In late September 2021, the Catholic Bishops of Canada apologized for the "grave abuses" committed by the church at residential schools, and vowed to raise \$30-million over five years in a new campaign to support healing and reconciliation for survivors and their communities.

It appears from various reports that out of 94 CTA (Call to Action) recommendations of the TRC report released in June 2015, there are only a few of them that have been realized. With the visit of Pope Francis, will there be more concrete and sincere efforts to implement these recommendations faster than they have been?

In order to memorialize thousands of missing children and aid in the healing process, it is important to get all the documents from the church entities, the National Library Archives, the federal government departments, coroners' reports, and the Vatican. But the whole process of collecting them is a very complicated task not only due to privacy laws but also due to the fact that record keeping is one of the weakest areas in the management of residential schools besides the reluctance of releasing them.

It appears that the whole story about "the stolen lives" of indigenous children will remain incomplete without the records that can show what really happened in the residential schools. Without a complete examination of all records, it will be impossible to have a clear view of the wrong doings that transpired inside these schools.

Pope Francis calls his visit a "pilgrimage of penance" for the "evil" done to Indigenous people which may inspire all those concerned to follow his lead with more actions rather than mere words.

Indeed, we hope that this Papal visit will change minds and facilitate healing of the wounds inflicted on the Indigenous people over the span of 150 years. It is only then that we can "walk together" in peace and make sure this dark history never happens again.

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Protesters march to Parliament Hill in Gatineau at a "Cancel Canada Day" protest in response to the discovery of unmarked indigenous graves at residential schools on Thursday, July 1, 2021. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ Patrick Doyle

VIEWS AND PERSPECTIVES



Alvin Thomas Dahan Veloso

Customs and traditions with some cultural trappings were on display at the "joyful Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving" on June 17, 2022 to celebrate the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines. Approximately more than a thousand devotees came in droves to the Oratory of Saint Joseph to participate in the celebration and thank the Canadian Government for enacting the Filipino Heritage Month to promote and protect the Filipino culture.

Filipinos are one of the fast growing communities, faster than the overall population of the country according to Statistics Canada.

Fifty percent of Filipinos live in Ontario, 21% in British Columbia, 11%

A celebration of faith and pride in the Filipino heritage

in Alberta, 10% in Manitoba and 6% in Quebec. In the Maritimes, 1390 live in Labrador and Newfoundland, 670 in Prince Edward Islands, 3400 in Nova Scotia and 1380 in New Brunswick.

Filipinos work as priests, religious nuns, educators, doctors, health professionals, entrepreneurs, technology experts, engineers, caregivers, garment workers - all contributing to the Canadian economy.

Father Roberto Ruben Elago, M.S.P., pastor of Notre-Dame-des-Philippines Catholic Mission (Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal) presided over the liturgical mass organized by Father Nicolas Matias Sengson, S.V.D., with the collaboration of Father Thomas Xavier Gomes, CSC. of St.



Father Roberto Ruben Elago and Father Nicolas Matias Sengson



The parade of colors - flags of the Philippines, Canada and Quebec

Joseph Oratory. They were joined by Fr. Jessie V. Dimafilis of Saint Edmund of Canterbury Parish in Beaconsfield, by some priests of the Oratory and other parishes where Filipino-Canadians are committed as pastoral collaborators.

Father Nicolas Matias Sengson, the celebration organizer, is an S.V.D, priest (Societas Divini Verbi-Society of the Divine Word) originally from Tarlac, Tarlac, who studied for the priesthood at the Divine Word Seminary in Tagaytay City. He was ordained in June 1980 at the SVD Seminary in Tagaytay, in Cavite, and was sent to Chile in South America for his first missionary assignment.

See Page 4 A celebration



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From Page 3 A celebration

In 2007, he came to Quebec and served in different parishes. He is now serving in the French parish of Sainte Madeleine Church in the City of Outremont. The Society has a community in Granby, Quebec. He taught Liturgy and the Sacraments at the SVD Seminary in Tagaytay in Cavite after his return from Chile. He also taught at De LaSalle University. At the University of Santo Tomas Conservatory of Music, he met the late Benedictine monk Father Manuel Maramba, O.S.B. of San Beda University, also a member of the faculty at the Conservatory.

Sister Grace C.S.P. of Saint Kevin, was the over-all coordinator of the Liturgical Committee composed of members from the parishes of Saint



Father Elago celebrating the mass

Montreal.

In a capsule, the 500th anniversary of Christianity in the

Cross planted by Magellan were testaments of early Christianity followed by the Notre-Dame-des-

and parishioners. They were delivered in different languages and Filipino dialects: Alvin D. Veloso, Spanish; Debbie Resurreccion, French; Manny Fausto, English; Jeannette Perignon, English; Cynthia Puray-Pacheco, Cebuano; Fely Rosales, Ilocano; and Merle Valiente, Bicolano.

Mhario Balan, in charge of the Filipino Heritage Mass Choir of Montreal was joined by some members of St. Kevin, St. Malachy and the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal.

Events like these, including the Pista sa Nasyon, the FAMAS independence ball and many others draw the patriotic support of the Filipino community. It is an occasion to display pride in the Filipino heritage



Sister Grace Salvana, CSP, with two other nuns bearing gifts for the mass offerings."

Kevin, Notre-dame-des Philippines Catholic Mission, (Filipino Catholic Mission) Saint Malachy and the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal.

Various committee members worked together namely Au Osdon, Mila Osdon, Joy Marababol and Melle Lugod of Saint Kevin Parish; Fruan Tabamo, Gabriel Balan of Notre-Dame-des-Phiippines; Al Abdon, Jeannette Perignon, Amelia Manon-og of the Filipino Heritage Society of

Philippines was re-lived by presenting a pageantry rich in symbolism starting with a parade of colors of the Philippines, Canada and Quebec.

The golden sun and the three stars in the Philippine flag represent liberty; the three stars symbolize the three regions of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao (LUZVIMINDA).

The procession of the statues was led by the Santo Niño of Cebu. Both the Santo Nino and the Holy



A view of the crowd during the thanksgiving mass at St. Joseph's Oratory

Philippines, the Filipino version image of the Virgin Mary crafted in the Philippines.

The two Filipino saints: San Lorenzo Ruiz, Pedro Calungsod of Cebu, and the statues of the Virgin of Manaoag, and Penafrancia were also part of the procession of saints.

Mass intentions were focused on God's Providence, guidance for the Mother Church, social justice, the sick, peace and justice in the Philippines, and for the departed clergy, religious

and show to the world that "being Filipino is beautiful" worthy of respect, imbued with inalienable rights, liberty and justice.

As part of the Concluding Rites, a Jubilee Song composed for the 500th Jubilee Year of Christian Faith in the Philippines was sung by children from various parishes directed by Mila Osdon of St. Kevin Parish.

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam - For the greater honor and glory of God!

From Page 1 Pope Francis visits

CCCB said the Pope can't personally apologize for residential schools.

Canada's Catholic Bishops welcomed the June 23 announcement from the Holy See providing further details of the itinerary of Pope Francis' historic visit to Canada, July 24 to 29, 2022. This will be the fourth papal visit to Canada and the first since Saint John Paul II's journey in 2002.

The Holy Father's pilgrimage will focus on Indigenous healing and reconciliation while also providing the shepherd of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics an opportunity to encounter the faithful in Canada. Due to his advanced age and limitations, it is expected that participation by Pope Francis at public events will be limited to approximately one hour.

General coordinator of the papal visit to Canada, Archbishop Richard Smith, remarked on the release of the program: "We know that the Holy Father was deeply moved by his encounter with Indigenous Peoples in Rome earlier this year, and that he

hopes to build on the important dialogue that took place. We pray this pilgrimage will serve as another meaningful step in the long journey of healing, reconciliation and hope."

The visit, drawing on the theme of "Walking Together", will include a combination of public and private events, with an emphasis on Indigenous participation throughout the visit.

Ticketing (free) for public events will be announced in the coming days.

A volunteer portal can be accessed at papalvisit.ca or visitepapale.ca for those wishing to share their time and talents as part of the historic visit.

The papal visit planning team will work closely with Indigenous partners as well as federal, provincial and municipal levels of government to dialogue and co-ordinate the significant logistical challenges associated with a visit of this scope and magnitude.

CCCB President, Bishop Raymond Poisson, commented on the



Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 10:15 AM - Holy Mass at Commonwealth Stadium. Edmonton, Alberta

efforts: "So many people are working diligently to organize this very busy schedule for the Holy Father and participants. We pray for the health of Pope Francis and also that his pastoral visit to Canada will bring reconciliation and hope to all those who will accompany our shepherd on this historic journey."

The Holy Father will travel

within Alberta (based in Edmonton) from July 24-27, followed by a visit to Quebec City and Ste. Anne-de-Beaupré, July 27-29.

Pope Francis will visit Iqaluit, Nunavut the afternoon of July 29 before returning to Rome. (Condensed from several news, CBC, Canadian Press, CCCB website)

PIDC to celebrate annual summer Filipino festival

True to its established mandate to promote Filipino heritage and culture in order to foster unity and harmony not only in the Filipino-Canadian community but also in the multicultural communities in Canada's largest province, the Philippine Independence Day Council (PIDC) of Ontario will stage its 24th yearly summer celebration in August 2022. This year's theme is Bangon (Rise), an apt title after more than two years of hiatus from the pandemic's health and social restrictions.

PIDC is a not-for-profit umbrella organization of several Filipino-Canadian cultural, professional and business associations in Ontario.

The 2022 Annual Summer Festival is generously supported and sponsored by TD Canada, Heritage Canada, Imperial World, Scotiabank, and Agnes P. Miranda-WFG Senior Executive Vice-Chairman. Led by its President Agnes P. Miranda, PIDC will offer and stage desirable Filipino culture-centered activities starting on August 7 until August 14, 2022.

According to its Board of Directors and Executive Committee, the one-week celebration will include three major events that are planned and organized to provide cultural understanding and appreciation of all "sights, smell, and sounds" of Filipino heritage and culture on specific dates in selected GTA venues.

Among the main

celebration segments are 1) The Miss/Mrs. Philippines-Canada 2022 Pageant on Sunday, August 7, 2022 at the Premiere Ballroom and Convention Centre in Richmond Hill, Ontario, 2) The "PIDC Gala Night" on Thursday, August 11, 2022 at 6:00 PM, and 3) The "PIDC Mabuhay Philippines Festival" on Saturday and Sunday, August 13 & 14 from 10 am to 8:00 pm. at Nathan Phillips Square, City Hall, Toronto.

The "Miss/Mrs. Philippines Ambassador 2022 Pageant" will include the selection and crowning of the "Filipina Beauty and Talent" competition winners.

The Mabuhay Philippines Festival Gala is to be held at the Premiere Ballroom and Convention Centre and will feature 1) a Philippine-inspired fashion show by popular couturier Renee Salud and top international models, 2) Ms. Chiqui Pineda, 3) performance of Umajam Cultural Ensemble of Loreto Agusan Del Sur, Philippines and other presentations, and 4) a 10-course lauriat dinner@\$100/150 per guest.

The Mabuhay Philippines Festival, PIDC's flagship event will be conducted at Nathan Phillips Square, Toronto City Hall and will feature six on-site presentations. The two-day extravaganza will include two full days of festivities consisting of 1) musical entertainment featuring Fil-Can singer &

actress Joey Albert and local talents, performers and Pinoy bands, 2) colourful parade of Filipino-Canadian community professional and cultural organizations, 3) Santacruzán, a traditional procession to be participated in by faith-based beauty queens and their escorts, 4) cultural fashion show 5) short sports, namely, basketball and volleyball demonstrations, Palarong Pinoy like sipa, patintero, luksong lubid, sungka, etc. and 6) Filipino product displays and vendor booths of "street foods" and culinary delights.

Invited and expected to attend the various events are Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, MP & Public Safety Minister Marco Mendicino, MP & Heritage Minister Pablo Rodriguez, Ontario Premier Doug Ford, Toronto Mayor John Tory, Philippine Consul General Orontes Castro, MPs Rechie Valdez, Marcie Ien, Ya'ara Saks,

Han Dong, Shaun Chen, Rob Oliphant, Jean Yip, and Gary Anandasangaree, MPP Doly Begum and Councillors Rowena Santos, Lisa Bower, James Pasternak, and Kristin Wong-Tam.

It is highly hoped and earnestly expected that this year's PIDC in-person events will result in considerable attendance, attention, appreciation, and acknowledgement of "Pinoy Pride" within the memorable presentations, the collaborative partnerships, inclusive participations of diverse stakeholders joining in the fun for food revelers.

(By Tony A. San Juan, OCT.)

"We may have different religions, different languages, different colored skin, but we all belong to one human race"
Kofi Annan

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Holocaust survivors mark 80 years since mass Paris roundup

By ANGELA CHARLTON and JADE LE DELEY (Associated Press)

PARIS (AP) July 17, 2022 — French President Emmanuel Macron decried his Nazi-collaborator predecessors and rising antisemitism, vigorously vowing to stamp out Holocaust denial as he paid homage Sunday to thousands of French children sent to death camps 80 years ago for one reason alone: because they were Jewish.

Family by family, house by house, French police rounded up 13,000 people on two terrifying days in July 1942, wresting children from their mothers' arms and dispatching everyone to Nazi death camps. France honored those victims this weekend, as it tries to keep their memory alive.

For the dwindling number of survivors of France's wartime crimes, a series of commemoration ceremonies Sunday were especially important. At a time of rising antisemitism and far-right discourse sugarcoating France's role in the Holocaust, they worry that history's lessons are being forgotten.

A week of ceremonies marking 80 years since the Vel d'Hiv police roundup on July 16-17, 1942 culminated Sunday with an event led by Macron, who pledged that wouldn't happen ever again.

We will continue to teach against ignorance. We will continue to cry out against indifference," Macron said. "And we will fight, I promise you, at every dawn, because France's story is written by a combat of resistance and justice that will never be extinguished."

He denounced former French leaders for their roles in the Holocaust and the Vel d'Hiv raids, among the most shameful acts undertaken by France during World War II.

Over those two days, police herded 13,152 people — including 4,115 children — into the Winter Velodrome of Paris, known as the Vel d'Hiv, before they were sent on to Nazi camps. It was the biggest such roundup in Western Europe. The children were separated from their families; very few survived.

In public testimonies over the past week, survivor Rachel Jedinak described a middle-of-the-night knock on the door, and being marched through the streets of Paris and herded into the velodrome in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower.

She recalled her desperate



A memorial is pictured near a train car symbolizing the Drancy camp, at the Shoah memorial Tuesday, July 12, 2022 in Drancy, outside Paris. The Paris mayor and head of the French Holocaust Memorial will mark the 80th anniversary of the roundup of the Vel d'Hiv, the biggest Nazi roundup of Jews in France, visiting the site used as an internment camp during World War II for tens of thousands of people who were then sent on to Auschwitz and other death camps. (AP Photo/Thomas Padilla)

mother shouting at police. Some French neighbors informed on Jews, others wept as they watched them being corralled like livestock.

Chantal Blaszk's aunts and uncle were among the children rounded up: 6-year-old Simon, 9-year-old Berthe, 15-year-old Suzanne. Their names are now engraved on a monument at a garden where the velodrome once stood, along with some 4,000 other children targeted in the raids. Photos of the children hang from tree trunks, the result of years of painstaking research to identify and honor the long-anonymous victims.

Of the children deported from the Vel d'Hiv 80 years ago, only six survived.

"Can you imagine?" Blaszk asked, pointing at the names and shaking her head. "Can you imagine?"

Serge Klarsfeld, a renowned Nazi hunter whose father was deported to

Auschwitz, spoke Saturday in the garden, calling it an "earth-shaking testimony to the horrors lived by Jewish families." Klarsfeld, 86, stressed the urgency of passing on memories as more of the war's witnesses pass on.

On Sunday, Macron visited a site in Pithiviers south of Paris where police

passed through the Drancy camp.

The Drancy Shoah memorial actively documents the Holocaust, especially for younger generations. This work is especially important at a time when Jewish communities are increasingly worried about rising antisemitism in Europe. France's Interior Ministry has reported a rise in antisemitic acts in France over recent years, and said that while racist and anti-religious acts overall are increasing, Jews are disproportionately targeted.

Anxiety has worsened for some since the far-right National Rally party made a surprising electoral breakthrough last month, winning a record 89 seats in France's National Assembly. Party co-founder Jean-Marie Le Pen has been convicted of racism and downplaying the Holocaust. His daughter Marine, who now leads the party, has distanced herself from her father's positions, but the party's past still raises concerns for many Jews.

During the campaign for this year's French presidential election, far-right candidate and pundit Eric Zemmour propagated the false claim that Adolf Hitler's Vichy collaborators safeguarded France's Jews.

It took France's leadership 50 years after World War II to officially acknowledge the state's involvement in the Holocaust, when then-President Jacques Chirac apologized for the French authorities' role in the Vel d'Hiv raids.

"The policy, from 1942 onward, was to organize the murder of the Jews of Europe and therefore to organize the deportation of the Jews of France," said Jacques Fredj, director of the Paris Shoah Memorial. "Most of the time, the decisions were made by the Nazis ... but the management was French."

Macron spelled it out clearly Sunday: "Let us repeat here with force, whether self-styled revisionist commentators like it or not."

None of France's Vichy wartime leaders, he said, "wanted to save Jews."

sent families after the Vel d'Hiv roundup, before sending them onto the Nazi camps. A new memorial site honoring the deportees was inaugurated, including a plaque that reads: "Let us never forget."

The president urged vigilance: "We are not finished with antisemitism, and we must lucidly face that fact."

"It is showing itself on the walls of our cities" when they are vandalized with swastikas, he continued. "It is infiltrating social networks ... it inserts itself into debates on some TV shows. It shows itself in the complacency of certain political forces. It is prospering also through a new form of historic revisionism, even negationism."

Another ceremony was held at the Shoah Memorial in the Paris suburb of Drancy, home to a transit center that was central to French Jews' deadly journey to Nazi camps. Most of the 76,000 Jews deported from France under the collaborationist Vichy government

From Page 1 Health officials

contagious, they don't appear at this time to be more virulent than previous variants. This is the bar Quebec is using to decide whether or not to bring back more public health measures, Boileau told reporters.

"If there's a variant that shows that it's a deadly one, that we calculate that there's a risk of increasing the risk for the system and the people, their mortality, morbidity, then it will certainly bring back some very new [measures]," Boileau said.

"But this is not what what we are facing right now."

Quebec public health has unveiled new vaccination guidelines for Quebecers as the province wades into its seventh pandemic wave.

In a graphic released Friday (see below), Quebecers with varying vaccination statuses can see suggested dose schedules based on how recently they had their last dose or infection.

Here are the recommendations from public health officials:

For those aged 18-59:

- If you've had three doses, you don't need to get another one for now, unless you want to.

- If you've had two or fewer doses, you should get one, as long as it's been at least three months since your last shot.

For those aged 60 and up:

- If you've had four shots, you don't need to get another one for now, unless you want to.

- If you've had fewer than four shots and your last dose was more than three months ago, you should get another one.

For those over 12 on dialysis or those with compromised immune systems:

- If you've had five shots, you don't need to get another one for now.

- If you've had fewer than five, you should get a shot, as long as you got your last dose three or more months ago

For those who recently caught COVID-



Pour moi, on est dans une 7e vague », a fait savoir le Dr Luc Boileau, directeur de la Santé publique, lors d'une conférence de presse tenue avec Christian Dubé, ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux, à propos de la COVID-19 au Québec.

19:

- If you caught COVID-19 recently, regardless of immunization status or age, wait three months from the date you became infected before getting a shot.

Quebecers can book a time to get their

vaccines on [Quebec.ca/vaccinocovid](https://quebec.ca/vaccinocovid).

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Quebec church abuse victims ask Pope for 'swift justice' ahead of visit

(July 14, 2022 - Canadian Press)

Victims of sexual abuse by Catholic clergy members in Quebec are calling on Pope Francis to deliver "swift justice" to them ahead of his visit to Canada at the end of the month.

Lawyers for victims said Thursday they issued the request directly to the Pope in a letter, noting more than 2,500 people who were abused by clergy are still waiting to obtain justice before the courts in Quebec.

Law firm Arsenault Dufresne Wee Avocats argues some religious congregations in the province have used "manoeuvres" to delay legal proceedings for more than 10 years.

They insist victims of abuse expect more than prayers and are asking the Pope to give "precise instructions" to



dioceses and congregations across the province on how to provide justice to victims.

Pope Francis is scheduled to visit Canada July 24-29, travelling to Alberta, Quebec and Nunavut.

He is set to meet Indigenous groups, visit a former residential school and attend a mass at the shrine of Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, northeast of Quebec City.

Enough seats for survivors at Pope's mass in Quebec, says papal visit planning team

Planning committee promises survivors front-row seats inside the Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica

There will be enough seats for all First Nations survivors who want to attend Pope Francis's big reconciliation mass in Quebec after all, the planning committee for the papal visit has confirmed.

"We will be able to respond to the request of every single survivor of residential schools who would like to attend this moment," said Jasmin Lemieux-Lefebvre, who is part of the committee.

The announcement follows a meeting between Indigenous leaders

Indigenous leaders in Quebec had expressed uncertainty and disappointment these past weeks about how many seats would be available for survivors

The space inside the basilica is limited to 1,400 seats, and 70 per cent of them will be reserved for First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

The Church is also setting up an additional 10,000 seats outside the basilica, of which 7,000 seats are set aside for Indigenous people.

Lemieux-Lefebvre said residential school survivors will be seated right in front of the Pope.

"I think that if we're not putting



Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica

and the planning team, during which the two parties discussed the number of survivors in Eastern Canada who want to attend the mass, which will take place on July 28 at the Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré Basilica, about 30 kilometres northeast of Quebec City.

"We've got enough of a margin now to see that yes, we'll be able to accommodate everybody," Lemieux-Lefebvre confirmed.

[them in front], we'll hear from Pope Francis himself," he said. "I think he made it clear that his priority is to meet them."

Picard said making sure spots are fairly distributed among First Nations in Eastern Canada and deciding who gets an indoor or outdoor spot is challenging.

He said it will be up to each

Striking the right tone for Pope's visit 'a big challenge,' says Quebec archbishop

In Quebec, Pope Francis will focus on reconciliation, being able to 'walk together'

Émilie Warren · CBC News · Last Updated: July 7

Finding a balance between healing and celebrating when Pope Francis visits Canada later this month is "a big challenge," said Quebec Archbishop Gérard Cyprien Lacroix, Canadian primate of the Roman Catholic Church, at a news conference Thursday.

While some people are excited to meet the pontiff, it's also a dark and traumatic moment for many Indigenous people, Lacroix said.

The Pope's pilgrimage to Canada, from July 24 to 29, comes in the wake of his apology to First Nations, Inuit and Métis representatives in April for the harm done by residential schools that were run by the Catholic Church.

Given that, the archbishop said it is important to strike the right tone for Pope Francis's visit and acknowledge the occasion with respect and sensitivity.

"Some people don't have the heart to party," Lacroix said. "It can't be too festive, but at the same time it's not a funeral."

The Quebec and Labrador regional chief for the Assembly of First Nations, Ghislain Picard, said the visit is not a festive one, and it should be up to the survivors to determine if and how any cultural ceremony happens.

"We definitely have to stay away from any kind of celebration," he said. "Hopefully we can have talks with the people responsible [for the visit] to make

nation to determine who within the community gets the coveted seats. "I think it's only fair," he said.

The assembly is now working on making sure Indigenous communities have the most up-to-date and accurate information possible, because there has been a lot of confusion and misinformation, Picard said.

Concerns about logistics remain

One issue that remains to be addressed is accessibility at the site, according to Tania Courtois, a community health co-ordinator for Ekuanitshit, an Innu community on the North Shore.

Courtois told Radio-Canada's

sure that everything that happens will respect the wishes of the survivors."

The Quebec archdiocese is planning to set up designated safe spaces where residential school survivors or anyone who needs support will be able to access professional help from social workers, psychologists and community workers, in partnership with Indigenous Services Canada.

A visit in 3 phases

Pope Francis will make three stops in Canada, and each represents a symbolic phase, Lacroix explained.

His stop in Alberta will focus on recognizing and acknowledging the harm done to Indigenous people by the Catholic Church. Lacroix said the Pope chose Edmonton as his first stop because Alberta had more residential schools than any other province in the country.

The Pope's time in Quebec will emphasize reconciliation.

"Now that we've got the truth out there, and we've expressed the truth, we've recognized what happened and we [own up to it] — now, how are we going to reconcile and be able to look at each other face to face and walk together?" Lacroix asked.

"In Quebec, everything will be about that."

The Pope's last stop, in Iqaluit, will focus on hope for the future.

Lacroix said the work of the Catholic Church to make amends with

See P. 18 Striking the right balance

Espaces Autochtones that details about transportation to and from the site remain very unclear.

"We will be going with elderly people, sick people who need helpers and we are not enough," she said. "We don't know how transportation will work. It's hard, we try to organize ourselves and help each other, but [the information] is blurry."

Picard echoed Courtois's concern, saying many survivors are elderly people who require assistance to move around.

Lemieux-Lefebvre said more details about logistics will be announced Friday. (CBC News, July 14, 2022)

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ONTARIO Community News

By Tony A. San Juan
OCT-Retired

Ontario's Philippine Chamber of Commerce Hosts Business Forum in Toronto

True to its established mission and mandate "to encourage and promote bilateral economic ties between Canada and the Philippines and bring together people who share a strong common interest in building

Parliament for Scarborough North Shaun Chen, and MP for Scarborough Centre Salma Zahid (represented by her executive assistant, Nestor Arellano), Member of Provincial Parliament and Ontario Minister for



Forum Guests & Organizers, L-R: Dennis Legazpi, Michele Serrano, PCG Orontes Castro, MPP Raymond Cho, Hon. Arnold Atienza and Steve Pagao

their business locally as well as internationally", the Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto(PCCT) has organized and sponsored a business conference in Toronto on June 24, 2022. The event was conducted in collaboration with the Philippine Investment & Trade Centre(PITC) of the Department of Trade and Industry(DTI) and the Philippine Consulate General -Toronto. With its theme "Uncover the Philippine Economic Perspective", the first series of "2022 Post Pandemic Business Forum" was held at the Filipino Centre Toronto-FCT Social Hall, in Scarborough, Toronto, Ontario.

The PCCT business forum included the purposeful participation of official delegations from the Philippines such as the Clark Development Corporation (CDC) and the Philippine Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) led by CDC Vice President Dennis S.Legazpi and DICT Undersecretary Arnold i. Atienza, respectively.

Attended by several guests from the government, diplomatic, community, and business sectors in Ontario, those who graced the occasion and gave their warm greetings and "pep talks" were the Philippine Consul General of Toronto, Orontes V. Castro, Member of

Seniors and Accessibility Hon. Raymond Cho, Member of Provincial Parliament for Scarborough Southwest Doly Begum, Ajax Councillor Lisa A. Bower (represented by social entrepreneur Christine Santos), and TCDSB Ward 8 Trustee Garry Tanuan.

In attendance too were leaders of the Filipino-Canadian business and communities in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) including Monina Lim-Serrano of FFCO, Agnes Miranda and Danny Orbillo of WFG & PIDC, Ramon Estaris of Megaworld, Mary Ann San Juan, Theresa Lumanlan & Frank Cruzet of FCT, Wendy Arena of Folklorico, Rose Tijam of PPCO, Arlene Martinez of CANNEX, AI Tupe of ABC Accountants, Lapulapu & Ligaya Cana of the Knights of Rizal-Canada Region, Joseph & Lorelei Redoblado of FHHC, and Jocelyn Acuna San Juan of CNAC-O. The proceedings were aptly covered by Carlos Unas, publisher of the Filipino Bulletin, Joey Baking, publisher of Little Manila Confidential and Rose Ami of MyKapitbahay.

MPs S. Chen and S. Zahid and MPPs Raymond Cho and Doly Begum presented their respective Congratulatory Scrolls to PCCT President Steve Pagao who delivered the opening remarks with a backgrounder on the brief history and accomplishments of the 31-year-old



Ontario Minister and MPP Raymond Cho with PCCT's Steve Pagao and Michele Serrano.

Philippine Chamber of Commerce-Toronto. S. Pagao warmly welcomed the delegates and the special guests on behalf of his organization. Michele Serrano, PCCT First Vice President, ably served as the master of ceremonies for the business conference and admirably moderated the three-hour meeting.

The Clark Development Corporation (CDC) delegation in Canada is part of its promotion to "bolster trade, investments, and business opportunities" in the former

explained the best incentives, great business opportunities, and bright prospects for investment and for "good living in Clark". He stressed CDC's mission to transform the Freeport Zone into the "premiere logistics, light industry, and service center in Southeast Asia." Citing CDC's slogan "It Works. Like a Dream", D.Legazpi enumerated what "Clark can offer to the world". Hon. Arnold I. Atienza, the Undersecretary of Government Digital Broadcast Television and the Digitation of the Entertainment Industry Sector of



Ontario MPP Doly Begum presented a Certificate of Recognition to PCCT.

U.S.Clark Air Base located in Pampanga, Philippines. Operating and known as Clark Freeport Zone. CDC aims to "transform it into a preferred business and tourism destination in the Asia-Pacific Region and enable long-term investments."

A highly informative and interesting presentation, with graphic slides, was carried out by Dennis C. Legazpi, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Engineering Services Group of the Clark Development Corporation. D. Legazpi outlined and

the Philippine Department of Information and Communications Technology, also briefly reported on the significant challenges for the planning, development, promotion, and future of digital broadcast, digitization programs and strategies being pursued in both the government and industry sectors in support of national development in the Philippines".

The event concluded with the usual acknowledgements, personal introductions, pleasantries, photo ops, goodbyes, and light refreshments.

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Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal celebrates Philippine cuisine through Inasal cooking contest

June 18, 2022, Saturday. 09:30 hours. At the appointed time, the members of the FHSM (Filipino Heritage Society Montreal) Inasal Committee started to arrive at the Place Jose Rizal, MacKenzie King Park in Montreal. As predicted, it was raining, but only lightly. Looking up the sky, one can see that the sun was trying to shine through. As the chairperson for the Inasal-cooking contest committee, I had received numerous messages whether or not, we would cancel the contest due to the prediction of rain. I opted not to cancel, knowing how unreliable weather predictions are specially in our city. But on one condition - I requested and messaged all of the Inasal cooking committee members to stay close and stick together during the contest and we would decide on what to do as the day progressed. And so we did. The Inasal Committee members are: Paul Imperial, Amy Manon-og, Rcardo Ribaya, Al Abdon (FHSM Cairman), Jeannette Perignon, Dolly Blandres and Editha Fedalizo (Chair)

Upon arrival, Ricardo, put his bags on the ground, and started putting up a shelter, using tarpaulin, for the contestants

announcement of winners' ceremony. It was nice to see an authentic bayanihan spirit, a common cultural tradition of Filipinos wherever they are.

I kept a close eye on the rain. It would trickle, then the sun would shine, and alternately thereafter. And so we continued. The guests, the judges, and the contestants seemed to be having fun in spite of the weather.

As of 12 noon, the participants were all ready with their Inasal for the contest. Our judges were Elsa Montealegre, representing the Kahirup organization, Ellen Morales, Tennis Association, and Sonny Moroz, our judge chosen randomly from the crowd, were all ready. Ricardo our team member in charge of the judging criteria and judging procedure distributed the forms needed for documenting the scores for the contestants.

Under the third tent, our small but very attentive crowd gathered for the results. We had some short talks from the Inasal committee members, Amy told the story about the beginnings of the Inasal business in Bacolod. Ricardo explained the criteria and the judging procedure. And off



Souvenir photo of the inasal cooking contest with the participants, judges, guests and members of the FHSM, MacKenzie King Park

continued to shower lightly alternately with the sun shining brightly. But the weather added to the cozy, friendly ambience. There was warmth all around. And everyone showed interest to continue with such activities for next year's June Heritage Month. We'll try to make it bigger and better!

About half an hour later, Côte-des-Neiges/Notre dame de Grace Borough

eye of the beholder" but in this case, "the best taste is in the taste buds of the taster." Congratulations Kendrick! You will be given a certificate for your efforts. It can serve as an important part of your resumé for the future.

Despite the unstable weather, the event was a success. Communication was the key! We announced the timeline, the procedure and the criteria early. And



Sonny Moroz checks carefully what he is tasting so he can make his verdict in choosing the best inasal while other judges are writing down the scores.

- Kendrick del Carmen, Raquel Trinidad, and Nila Torcuator - to protect them from the rain while they are barbecuing their inasal.

At the same time, Tata Bert Abierra with his two friends and volunteers, Alfredo Erguiza and Patrick Godera, put up the tent for the pot-luck lunch to be held after the contest. Another tent, the third one, was put up by the Knights of Rizal group for the

we proceeded to the winners' announcement: First prize (\$150.00) went to Raquel Trinidad; second prize (\$100) went to Nila Torcuator; and third prize (\$50) went to Kendrick del Carmen. All prizes were courtesy of the FHSM (Filipino Heritage Society, Montreal). The cheques were handed to the winners by FHSM treasurer, Minda Mazzone. After the winners' ceremony, we proceeded to the potluck lunch tent for food and socials. It

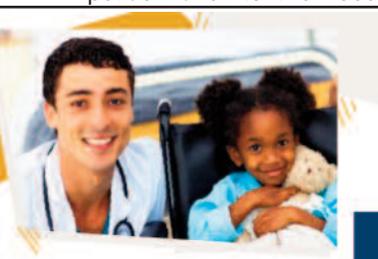


CDN-NDG Borough Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa tasting the inasal.

Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa arrived. She had promised that she would participate in this Inasal contest by giving recognition to the best tasting Inasal chicken according to her taste and choice. She wanted to call it "the best tasting Inasal piece". So she went to the tasting table, artistically prepared by Amy Manon-og, in charge of the logistics for the contest. Unexpectedly the third prize winner, Kendrick del Carmen, won the coveted prize. They say, "Beauty is in the

everyone came on time and did his/her part accordingly. Bravo to the Inasal contest committee whom we called PARAJADE (a given name to ease communication among the members). Mabuhay ang FHSM. Mabuhay ang kulturang Pilipino!

By Editha Fedalizo (Chair)
FHSM Committee, Inasal Contest

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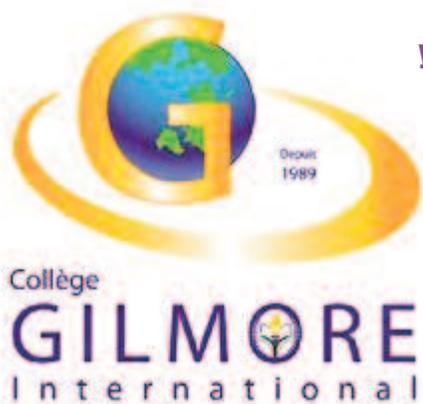
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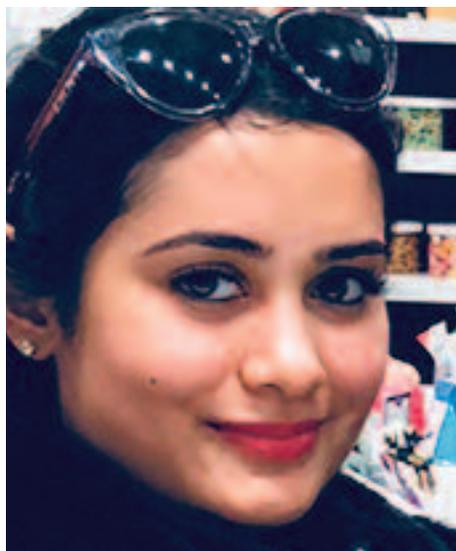
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Filipino Language Students



Clara Aubin and Marianne Metivier took a 45-hour course in beginner level in Filipino in 2021. They said they plan to continue before their visit to the Philippines.



Rachelle Awakim and Robin Hunter studied two levels of Filipino language course before the Covid pandemic.



Richryan Sabroso, 9 year-old student in the 30-hour Introductory course for young learners, March 27-June 12, 2022.



French class 2019 Levels 1 and 2 Proficiency Certificates presentation
 These students continued to complete level 3, but only 4 completed Level 4.



Graduation of PAB Batches 9 and 10, October 7, 2012 at La Cucina Restaurant, Sherbrooke West, Montreal

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Recipes selected from various sources

Cooking with love provides food for the soul.

Spanish influence on Philippine cuisine recipes



Arroz à la valenciana

Ingredients

1/2 lb. chicken thigh or breast chopped
3 pieces chorizo de bilbao sliced diagonally
1/2 cup malagkit glutinous white rice
1 cup Jasmine rice
2 tablespoons tomato paste
1 medium red bell pepper cut into strips
1/2 cup raisins
1/2 cup frozen green peas
1 teaspoon paprika
2 cups chicken broth
1 cup coconut milk
1 medium tomato diced
1 medium yellow onion diced
3 cloves of garlic crushed
3 boiled eggs
3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
a pinch of Spanish saffron
Salt and pepper to taste

Instructions

Combine the glutinous rice and jasmine rice. Wash with water twice and then drain. Set aside.
Heat the olive oil in a paellera or wide pan.
Saute the garlic, onion, and tomato until the onion and tomato becomes soft.
Put-in the chopped chicken. Cook for 3 minutes.
Add the chorizo de bilbao. Cook for 2 minutes.
Add-in the salt, pepper, saffron, and paprika. Stir.
Pour-in the chicken broth and coconut milk. Stir and let boil.
Add-in the washed rice. Stir. Let boil.
Add the tomato paste. Stir. Cover and simmer for 5 minutes.
Put-in the raisins, and green peas. Cover and simmer for 8 minutes.
Add-in the red bell pepper. Continue to simmer until the rice is fully cooked. Garnish with sliced boiled egg. Serve.



Pork Pochero

Ingredients

canola oil
2 saba bananas, peeled and cut into chunks
2 medium potatoes, peeled and quartered
1 large carrot, peeled and cut into chunks
2 pieces Chorizo de bilbao, cut into chunks
1 onion, peeled and chopped
2 cloves garlic, peeled and minced
2 pounds pork belly, cut into 2-inch cubes
2 medium tomatoes, chopped
1 tablespoon fish sauce
4 cups water
1 can (42 ounces) pork and beans
2 bunches pechay, ends trimmed and leaves separated
salt and pepper to taste
8 pieces green beans (Bagiuo beans), ends trimmed

Instructions

In a deep pot over medium heat, heat about 2 tablespoons of oil. Add saba bananas and cook, turning as needed, until lightly browned. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels.
Add potatoes and carrots and cook until lightly browned. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels.
Add Chorizo de bilbao and cook until lightly browned. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels.
Remove excess oil except for about 1 tablespoon. Add onions and garlic and cook until softened.
Add pork belly and cook until lightly browned.
Add tomatoes and cook, mashing with the back of a spoon, until softened and release juices.
Add fish sauce and cook for about 1 to 2 minutes.
Add water and bring to a boil, skimming scum that floats on top. Lower heat, cover and simmer for

about 30 to 40 minutes or until meat is tender.

Add pork and beans, potatoes, carrots, and Chorizo de bilbao.

Continue to simmer until vegetables are tender.

Add green beans and saba bananas and cook for about 2 to 3 minutes.

Add pechay and cook for another minute.

Season with salt and pepper to taste. Serve hot.



Empanada

Salted Egg Shrimp Empanada

Ingredients

2 cups all-purpose flour, more for rolling
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup unsalted butter, cubed, cold
2 large egg yolks
tablespoons cold water, or as needed
1 large egg, for egg wash
2 tablespoons fresh milk, for egg wash
3 inches oil, for deep frying
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
1/2 kilo medium shrimp, shelled and deveined
1/4 cup unsalted butter
1 pinch chili flakes
6 salted egg yolks, mashed
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon fish sauce (patis)
1/3 cup bamboo shoots, rinsed, finely diced
salt, to taste
ground black pepper, to taste

How to make Salted Egg Shrimp Empanada

Make the dough: In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Then, add and cut in butter and egg yolk using a

fork or ricer until you have a grainy texture. Add cold water and knead into dough. (You may use less water at first then add more water as needed if the dough is too dry to form into a ball.) Form into two discs and seal in plastic wrap. Let rest in the refrigerator for at least an hour.

Meanwhile, make the filling: In a large pan, melt butter on low heat. Add shrimp and turn until both sides are evenly pink. Drain and set aside. Dice when cool enough to handle.

In a large pan over medium heat, add remaining butter and chilli flakes. Once butter has fully melted, add mashed salted egg yolks and let it bubble for at least 2 minutes. Add and combine patis, salt, brown sugar, and evaporated milk with the salted egg mixture. Add bamboo shoots and saute for 3 minutes. Add diced shrimp and mix in for a few seconds and turn off heat. Season to taste with salt and ground black pepper, and stir to mix. Set aside to cool for at least an hour in the freezer.

Shaping the empanada:

Generously flour a clean surface and roll out one portion of chilled dough with a rolling pin until evenly 1/8-inch thick. Cut out 6-inch circles. Flour each circle, pile together, and chill in the freezer. Bunch together leftover dough and set aside. Repeat process of shaping with the next portion of dough. Combine the two leftover dough and form into a disk. Chill in the freezer and shape after at least half an hour.

To assemble: Fill each round piece of chilled dough with 2 tablespoons of the filling. Fold into half moons and pinch edges together. Press the tines of a fork to seal the edges. Repeat with remaining dough circles and filling.

In a large frying pan, heat 2 inches of oil on high heat. While the oil is heating, lightly whisk egg and fresh milk together in a bowl for your egg wash. Brush egg wash on both sides of formed empanadas. Once oil is smoking hot, lower the heat. Fry empanadas, flipping occasionally until evenly golden brown. Serve hot.

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Social Tidbits

Montreal Community News

Fely Rosales Cariño

Smile everyone. It's summer! Right now, it seems as if there's no end to the sun shining from morning till dusk. What a welcome change. Let's all heave a sigh of relief.

Let's get on with our social activities. First off the bat is the Knights of Rizal (KOR), Eastern Canada Region who celebrated Dr. Jose Rizal's 161st birth anniversary at the Dr. Jose Rizal Park on Côte -Sainte- Catherine, Montreal. Chapter members who participated in the event are from the West Island, Notre-Dame-de-Grace and Côte-des-Neiges. The Parade of Colors kicked off the event with Sir John Bueno (KCR, LM, Chancellor), Sir Rolando Villanueva (KCR, LM, DSC) and Sir Francisco Bernabe (KCR, LM, Chapter Deputy Commander). Lupang Hinirang was performed by Sir Julius Abad (KCR, LM, DSC, Area 2 Deputy Commander). This was followed by the singing of O Canada by Sir Edmour Valdez (KGOR, LM, DSC, Regional Auditor). The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by Sir Dante Tabamo (KCR, LM, DSC, Area 1 Commander). The Invocation was done by Sir Hadjal Gattoc (KCR, LM, DSC, Chapter Commander). The welcoming of members and guests was delivered by Sir Dario Boco (KGOR, LM, DSC, Eastern Canada Regional Commander). Inspirational messages were given by Gracia Kasoki Katahwa (Borough Mayor of Montréal's Côte-des-Neiges-Notre-Dame-de-Grâce), Anthony Housefather (MP, Town of Mount Royal), Stephanie Valenzuela (Councilor, Darlington District), Sonny Moroz (Councilor, Snowdon District), Sir Bert Abiera (KGOR, LM, DSC), Sir Felix DeLuna (KGOR, LM, DSC), Sir Gerry Danzil (KGOR, LM, DSC, Area Commander), Sir Julius Abad, and Sir James de la Paz (KGOR, LM, DSC, Regional Chancellor). The exciting number of the program was the Chartering Ceremony of the Côte-des-Neiges Chapter. The Oath of Office was administered by Sir Rey Balansi (KGOR, LM, DSC, Pursuivant).

Here are more names! The following took the Oath of Office: Sir Adolfo Nicolas (KCR, Chapter Commander), Sir Kelly Owen Florendo (KCR, Deputy Commander), Sir Paterno Zacarias (KCR, LM, Chancellor), Sir Francis Lajeunesse (KR, Pursuivant), Sir Martin Chaloux (KR, Exchequer), Sir Jose Acosta (KR, Archivist), Sir Dionisio de los Reyes (KOR, Auditor), Sir Pedro Danzil (KCR, LM, DSC, Trustee), and Sir Ernesto Galeon (LM, DSC, Trustee).

Still more names coming up! The recipients of Plaques, Medals, and Lifetime Certificates were Sir Ali Ansagay (KCR, LM), Sir Hunio Bona (KCR, LM) and Sir Teofilo Alvarado (KCR, LM). The Distinguished Star Medalists were Sir

Teddy de Dotee (KOR), Sir Pedro Danzil and Sir Paterno Zacarias. Then came the wreath-laying/flower offering to the bust of Dr. Jose Rizal. Lunch was taken cared of by the able hands of Ladies ClaireBoco, Linda Danzil, Cherry Palmos, Annie Galang and many more. Host was Sir Edmour Valdez.

Now let's turn the spotlight on the Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal (FHSM). On June 18, 2022, on Chairman Sir Al Abdon's watch, the FHSM held a first time ever Inasal Contest at Dr. Jose Rizal Park. The intermittent showers didn't dim the enthusiasm of the crowd and the contest went better than expected. Thanks to the hardworking members who set up the tents, lit up the barbecue pit, prepared the tables and saw to it that everything was in order for the contest. And let's give it up for (yes, more names!) . . . drum roll please . . . Bert Abiera, Ricardo Ribaya, Patrick Gotera, Freddo Erquiza, Amy Manon-og, Jeannette Perignon, Dolly Belandres, Rebecca Aguilar, Fely Bisares, Kim Gultia, Eppie Gevero, Valent Lloyd-Hughes, Paul Imperial, Minda Mazzone, Nene Favia, Edith Fedalizo, Rebecca Aguilar and Elma Bolatao. Since this was a contest, the judges were Elsa Montealegre, Ellen Morales, and Sonny Moroz. This must have been a fun task. First prize went to Racquel Trinidad, second prize to Nila Torquator, and third prize to Patrick del Carmen. Gracia Kasoki Katahwa and Councilor Stephanie Valenzuela were there to cheer up the crowd. This event was hugely successful; members unanimously agree that this should be a yearly occurrence.

On June 26, 2022, the FHSM was busy once more with the closing party for their month long celebration at 6767 Côte-des-Neiges, Montreal. Aply hosted by Dolly Belandres, this party began with FHSM Chairman Al Abdon's welcome address. Inspirational speeches were given by Mayor Gracia Kasoki Katahwa, Darlington Councilor Stephanie Valenzuela, and Snowdon Councilor Sonny Moroz. Musical numbers were given by Manny Rosello, the Yoyoy of Montreal. Dance numbers were performed by the Ati-Atihan Dance Group of Montreal and the Pamana ni Luzviminda Dance Group (Karitog Dance). The highlight of the afternoon was the Kuratsa number delightfully performed by Jeannette Perignon and Sonny Moroz. Sonny can dance! In between the performances were the raffles and the public's turn to dance. Snacks were served by Baby Castillo. The event ended and everybody went home entertained and happy.

Now on to something different – the Solemn Thanksgiving Mass on June

17, 2022. The venue was the world-famous St. Joseph Oratory Basilica on St. Mary Road, Montreal. This mass celebrated the Filipino Heritage Month and the many years of Christianity in the Philippines. The theme was "Gifted to Give." Father Ruben Elago, MSP, of the Filipino Catholic Mission of Montreal (FCMM) was the main officiating priest. Assisting him were Father Nicolas Sengson (SVD) of Église Catholique Sainte-Madeleine in Outremont, Father Thomas Gomez (CSC) of St. Joseph Oratory, Father Jess Dimapilis of St Edmund of Canterbury Parish in Beaconsfield, Father Herbert Schulz and Father Anthony Atansi, both of St. Kevin's Parish in Côte-des-Neiges. During the service, one enjoyed the melodious sounds coming from the joint effort of the choirs from FCMM, St. Kevin's and St. Malachy's (on Clanranald, Montreal), led by Mario. Friends were happy to see the participation of Ramon Vicente and Ricardo Ribaya. And it was a delight to see the liturgical dance performed by the FCMM children, directed by Mila Osdon. The two young commentators were Francisca Abante Rodriguez from St. Kevin's Church and Jun Diaz from FCMM. Attendance was through the roof, standing room only. Au Osdon, a member of the Liturgy Committee, together with Melle Lugod and FHSM Chairman Al Abdon, strongly encouraged Father Thomas to have this celebration held again. This would remind others of the declaration of the Heritage Month which began in 2018. Do you know why the Church Basilica was 'standing room only'? It was because there was an overwhelming number of organizations who participated.

Now fasten your seatbelts as I try to do justice to this massive list. Let's start with the FLAG BEARERS: Rey Foz of FCMM, Clemente Bernardo of St. Kevin, and FAMAS President Romeo Remigio. Here are the STATUES held during the offertory: Santo Niño (by Marlene Birao), Our Lady of the Philippines (by Leo Pacheco), Our Lady of Manaoag (by Rey Ballares), Our Lady of Penafancia (by Mr. & Mrs. Bernie Oason and Vivian Geronimo), San Lorenzo Ruiz (by Jonathan Beltran), and San Pedro Calungsod (by Joselito Lalic). Following the statues were the PHILIPPINE HISTORICAL GROUPS represented by Ati-Atihan Kids, BIBAK, Lillian Belino and Claire David. Candles

were carried.

The CHURCH RELIGIOUS GROUPS with their representatives were next in line: Catholic Women's League (Lorna Litan), Couples for Christ (Joy & Raul Marababol), Legion of Mary (Lourdes Cortez & Vicky from STK, Kim Suarez & Mercy (Padua from FCMM), Saint Anthony Fraternity (Emma, Nena, Juana Carbon, Mod Estoque), Knights of Columbus (Borris & Fruan of FCMM), Groups at OSJ (Father Thomas) and Daughters of Isabela St. Malachy (Cora Baclig, Regent).

The following were VARIOUS TRADES and their representatives: Gilmore College International/North American Filipino Star (Zeny Kharroubi), Health Care Doctors (Emily Espiritu) Health Care Nurses (Nurses' Guild, Dolly Belandres, Fruan, FCMM), Health Care LPN (Maribel Lim), Health Care PAB (Gina Padilla, Gloria Bobot, Mylene Ciencia), Early Childhood Education (Susan Trinidad with kids, Jayjay Villanueva), JFL Flag Donors (Lilibeth Lopez), Food Industry (Chef Fernando, Marie Leni Belino), SM Services (Mei Mendoza, Lan Bebilone, and Nino John), Rowel Pangilinan, Baby & Ding Castillo, and Emma de la Cruz (George Souvlaki).

Next came the COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS and their representatives: Council of Filipino Canadian Associations of Quebec, CFCAQ (Dario & Clarita Boco), Filipino Association of Montreal & Suburbs (FAMAS Board), Samahang Makabayan (Cesar & Tess Manuel), Filipino Canadian Nurses Heritage Guild, FCNHG (Amy Manon-og), Filipino Golden Agers, FILGA (Lilia Esguerra), Filipino Heritage Society of Montreal, FHSM (Rebecca Aguilar & Elma Bolatao), Filipino Nurses Association of Quebec, FNAQ (Grace Ocampo Goldenberg), Kahirup Hiligaynon (Elsa Montealegre), Seniors of West Island & Suburbs, SWIS (Lolit Odulio), Novo Ecijanos Association (Renna del Rosario Alvaro), Filipino Family Services Montreal, Tarlac Association (Danny Valdez), Ilocano Association (Nida Quirapas), Caregivers (Juan Junio), Panday Tinig Choral Ensemble (Mynia Peñaranda), Filipino Parents Association of Quebec (Leetha Martinez), Laya Quebec (Thelma Castro), Knights of Rizal, Montreal Chapter (Gerry & Linda Danzil, Bert Abiera, James & Rose de la Paz), Filipino Heritage of Montreal.

See Page 18 Social Tidbits

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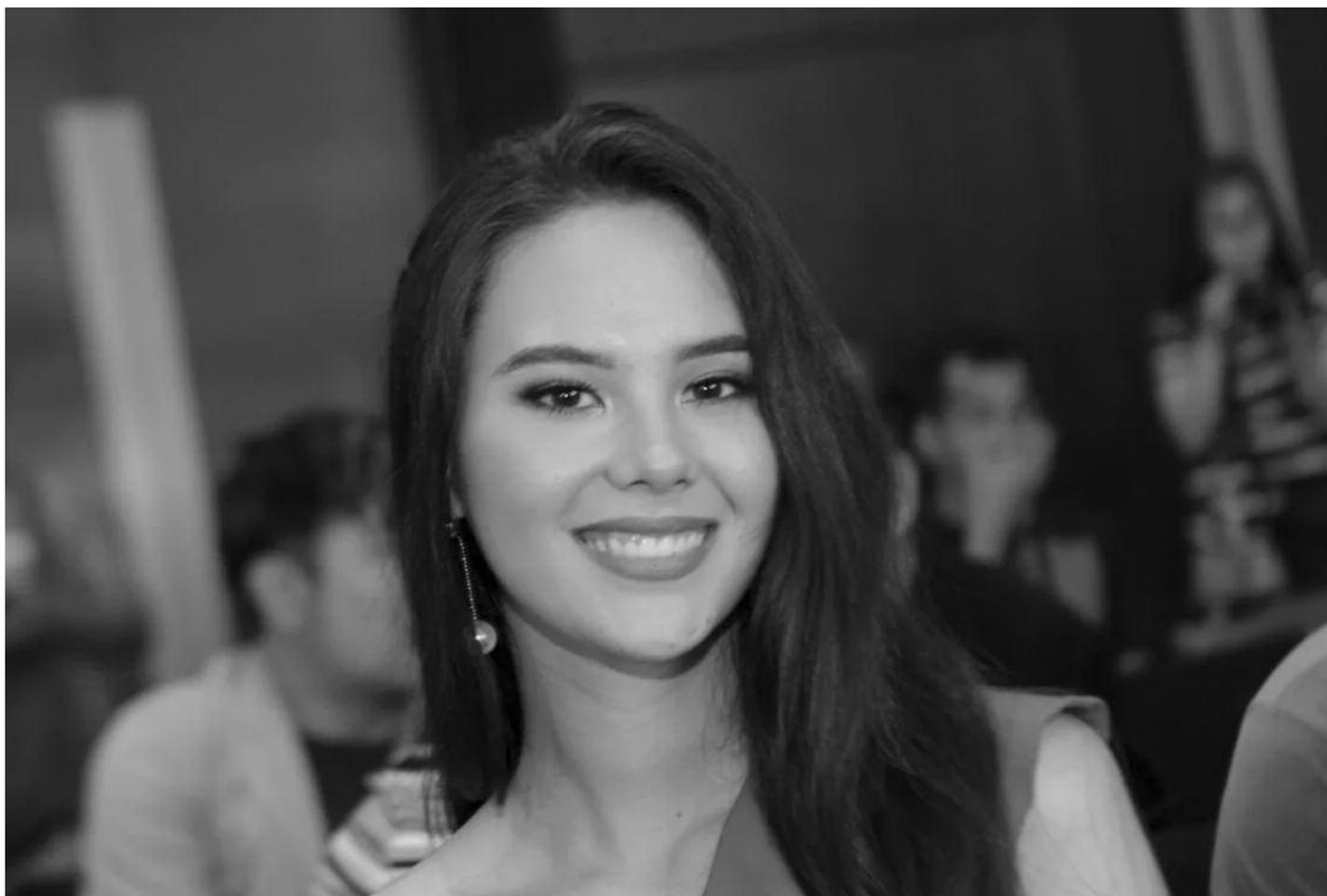
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FILIPINO STAR

SHOWBIZ GOSSIP

From Miss Universe to musician: Catriona Gray's advice on a career start or restart



Catriona Gray

If you're just starting your career or switching careers, Miss Universe 2018 Catriona Gray has an empowering message to help you set yourself up for success.

The former beauty queen recently released her version of the song Raise Your Flag (RYF), which was originally performed by KZ Tandingan and Kritiko and inspired by Catriona's own words at the Miss Universe pageant.

"I've loved singing ever since I was little. I just never thought I had what it takes to be a singer up until I was about 18 years old," Catriona said in an interview.

"I would just sing a lot at the house, I would always love listening to music. all throughout my academic life, I would always be in choir in school, and be part of musicals and recitals, and I was lead of my jazz band in high school," she shared.

Catriona, however, admitted that as a recording artist, she still considers herself "such a newbie".

Asked to give advice to someone who is just starting their career in music or in any career she

offered the following:

"I want to encourage you that I think that everyone starts that way. I don't believe anyone started at being an expert or professional at anything. It always starts from the ground up. So I hope to encourage you with that.



Just like being on stage in pageantry. I did not walk like that five years ago. It was something that I had to learn step by step. And it's just like that with any career.

As long as your action plan really involves you know trying to find educational resources and trying to work on and improve your skills in any way you can, that way you are

preparing yourself and setting yourself up for success.

There's something that I've always resonated with and that is the formula of preparedness plus opportunity equals success. So in whatever way you can prepare, that could be talking to people in the field that you are hoping to go in, and getting their advice and experience. You'll find that there are a lot of people who are more than happy to pass on their wisdom or their knowledge to someone and be a mentor to someone. I think mentorship is a very valuable resource.

[Have] further education, even if it is just a free resource online like reading and then just continue working on yourself. If the opportunity hasn't yet presented itself, have faith that it will, in God's perfect timing. Because there is a small aspect of luck there. But if you are prepared and the opportunity does come along, I really am confident that you'll be successful because you have done that work prior." ■

Bela Padilla celebrates first anniversary since moving to Europe



Bela Padilla

Bela Padilla reminisced about the past year as she marked the first anniversary of her move to Europe.

In a lengthy Instagram post, Padilla said she flew to Europe with the intention of living in London by September 2021 and she's proud to have done it.

To commemorate the year that passed, Padilla said she went back to Zurich, Switzerland, which was the first place she visited last year.

"One year after and I'm not afraid to get into cold water anymore," she wrote.

"When I'm asked what I do for a living, I often joke that I'm jobless or that I'm on a sabbatical. But in the last year, I released my directorial debut '366,' wrote two scripts that are now in preproduction, invested in things and people I believe in, started a business (@amberandaqua) with my friend, met amazing people who do what they love, I attended events I would only just see on social media, travelled to cities and countries I only imagined in our taping tents and have experienced life more than I ever have before," she added.

Now 15 years since she was "discovered" to become an actress, Padilla said she's finally experiencing what it is truly like to be herself and not just her characters.

"I have such a great group of people around me constantly pushing me forward. I celebrate this move with an even more persistent drive, looking forward to what's next," she said.

Addressing her social media followers, Padilla advised: "Take this as your sign to go to uncharted territories and to really live your life!"

Luis Manzano admits he had thoughts of quitting showbiz: 'People will never understand it'



Luis Manzano

Luis Manzano opened up on his experiences of being in the showbiz industry for many years now, admitting that thoughts of quitting already crossed his mind.

The actor-TV host talked about this while doing the lie detector challenge with fellow actor Francine Diaz, as seen in a vlog on the latter's YouTube channel last Saturday, July 16. Diaz asked him if there was an instance when he wanted to quit showbiz, to which he responded "yes." The lie detector device supposedly implied that the TV host was lying but Manzano pointed out that its results were not accurate.

"Pero totoo — 'yung ibang mga tao talaga hindi alam kung papaano ang industriya. Ang nakikita nila most of the time ay 'yung glitz and glamour na

lang, 'yung finished product na masarap maging artista, maganda ang income," he explained. "Pero kung alam niyo lang kung gaano rin — I mean hindi na ako magloloko, matanda na ako — kung gaano rin kadumi ang industriya."

(But it is true — other people really do not know how the [showbiz] industry works. Most of the time, what they only see is the glitz and glamour, the finished product that [gives off the impression that] it feels good to be a celebrity, and the income is good. But if you only knew — I mean, I am not one to mislead anyone as I am already old — how dirty the industry is.)

Manzano also confessed having friends who make fun of the lives of celebrities, and that their actions made him think if he is also a laughing stock to other

people.

"People will never understand it. Akala nila na madali tayong pag-usapan," he stated. "Siguro kung hindi ka malakas both [sa isip at puso], makakain ka nang hindi oras. 'Pag mga ganyan na bumubuhos na ang mga negativities, mapapaisip ka rin talaga na, 'Bakit ba hindi na lang ako mamuhay nang tahimik?'"

(People will never understand it. They think that it is easy for us to be talked about. Maybe if you are not strong mentally and emotionally, it will eat you up in no time. When

negativities are pouring in, you really cannot help but think, "Why can't just I live in peace?")

Despite these thoughts, Manzano stressed that celebrities are still blessed to be given the ability to make their fans happy, noting that such a blessing fuels him to continue in the showbiz industry.

Meanwhile, Manzano recently revealed that there were offers for him to run for a public post, but he declined as he is still committed to showbiz. He also stated that he has a goal for his family which he will not be able to achieve if he enters politics. ■

Fil-Am rapper Saweetie honors Filipinos with first pitch at Dodgers game



Saweetie

Filipino-American rapper Saweetie stood up the mound to throw the first pitch for Filipino Heritage Night being celebrated by the Los Angeles Dodgers.



Prior to the Dodgers' game against the Chicago Cubs last July 7, the Grammy-nominated singer was

tapped for the ceremonial pitch in front of 52,000 people.

Saweetie was dressed in a customized Cubs jersey bearing her name with the No. 1 and white snakeskin Christian Louboutin heels, with four-inch long bejewelled nails and silver blings on her wrist and necklace.

The accessories did not prevent the California native from tossing a decent lob that bounced towards the Dodgers' star right fielder Mookie Betts. The fielder would go on to unload two home runs in a Dodgers 5-3 win to start the series.

The rapper spoke to Vibe regarding her pitch, "It meant [Filipino pride] not only for just Filipinos but especially Bay Area Filipinos." To Spectrum News she said, "I know my Grandma, my Lolo, my Lola is really proud of me. I'm just really grateful." ■

Showbiz Gossip Continued from p.15

Ruffa Gutierrez denies kicking out household help



Ruffa Gutierrez

Ruffa Gutierrez denied the allegations that she had fired or thrown out her household helpers.

Former Comelec Commissioner and P3PWD Rep. Rowena Guanzon mentioned the actress on her Twitter post on July 7 about an alleged incident of two helpers who were thrown out of a first class village without being paid of their salaries.

"Hello Ms. Guanzon, No it's not true," Ruffa replied.

She added that security was called after a situation occurred at her house while she was shooting a movie. She explained that she had to ensure her children's safety.

Ruffa shared what she knows of the incident and the background of the two household helpers in a series

of tweets addressed to Guanzon.

According to the actress, the two helpers were fighting with her 68-year-old senior "mayordoma." The mayordoma has been under her employ for more than 18 years while the two helpers were recent hires.

She stressed: "Let me make it clear po: I did NOT fire anyone. They wanted to leave on their own accord. I have rarely been home shooting everyday, all day, all night."

The former beauty queen said that she has always been "very generous" to those who work for her. Most of her helpers have been with her for 13 to 35 years.

"We are FAMILY. Through thick and thin, ika nga. My lawyers are on top of the situation. Thank you and have a great day po," Ruffa shared. ■

Enrique Gil set to make showbiz return after 2 years



Enrique Gil

Enrique Gil appears to be making his return to TV and films for the first time in two years, as he recently met with executives of ABS-CBN.

The actor can be seen with Star Magic and ABS-CBN's TV production head Laurenti Dyogi, along with other creative staff and executives of the network, as seen on ABS-CBN Films head Kriz

Gazmen's Twitter and Instagram pages on July 14.

"So [excited]! Look who's back #ItsAboutDamnTime," Gazmen teased.

Gazmen did not give further details about Gil's comeback, though fans still expressed excitement over the possibility of it happening soon. ■

Zoe Saldana is all praises for Philippine adobo: 'It's an experience of its own'



Zoe Saldana

Another international actress has been added to the growing list of foreigners loving Philippine adobo.

In an interview with Nelson Canlas for "24 Oras Weekend" Sunday, Zoe Saldana revealed that adobo is mainly the reason why she would want to visit the Philippines soon.

"I grew up in New York. I went to school with a lot of Filipino-Americans. I have eaten Filipino food and I love it," she

said. "The adobo is like my thing."

"I remember always learning about adobo and I'm like, 'It's just like Latino adobo and it's slightly similar, but it's completely different. It's an experience of its own and it's wonderful,'" she added.

The "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "The Adam Project" actress is just one of many Hollywood stars who had been open about their love for adobo, such as Vanessa Hudgens and Selena Gomez. ■

Janine Gutierrez swears by this 4-step beauty regimen



Janine Gutierrez

Janine Gutierrez is not a fan of the famed 10-step skincare routine. The lovely actress, in fact, swears by just four easy steps that help her keep her radiant, youthful-looking skin.

For the "Marry Me, Marry You" actress, all it takes is cleansing, toning, moisturizing and taking care of the eyes to achieve that beautiful glow.

"I know none of us have time for those 10-step skincare routine anymore. I can share my skincare routine in four, easy steps," Janine said.

impurities but one that doesn't give an uncomfortable feeling by having a tight face after a wash.

As someone who has a busy schedule now that her new drama "Dirty Linen" had been recently announced, Janine appreciates it when she has one less skincare routine to do.

Her preferred a toner that actually functions as a 2-in-1.

"Hitsura pa lang, it's really tempting na. This is really something that I end up running out of, agad-agad because I really love using this product," she said of



For her cleanser, Janine opts for a wash that doesn't leave her skin tight. She advised to find a cleanser that not only removes all

BioScience's BioGold Gold Water.

"It's a serum and a toner in one. So sulit na sulit. You get to skip

another extra hassle step on your skincare routine. This is what I use to keep fine lines, wrinkles, and premature aging away. I also like this because it feels very hydrating," she said.

Her moisturizer from the same line is another 2-in-1 product, she said. The BioGold Day Cream is packed with SPF25+.

One important skincare routine that has recently gained ground in popularity is eyecare. Janine, who possesses a pair of beautiful eyes, shared that the eyes are the first facial features that catch her attention. It is also important for her to take care of her eyes because she is often "puyat" or lacking in sleep, due partly to her work schedule.

The actress shared that she has been a fan of BioScience, in particular the BioGold line that features 24K gold flakes, because it makes managing her skin less daunting.

The brand said that its

products are made for the Asian skin. Its Bio Energy Complex formula increases the skin's oxygen intake by 39%. This helps the skin absorb bio-nutrients that keep it healthy, energized and youthful. Bio Science products are available in Watson's, LOOK, Shopee, Lazada and BeautyMNL.

Apart from keeping zen from all the daily stresses and maintaining her youthful skin, Janine keeps herself busy with her many projects.

She is happy to announce that she is set to work in a Cinemalaya movie. Her long-delayed movie with "Marry Me, Marry You" leading man Paulo Avelino titled "Ngayon Kaya" is scheduled for release in cinemas soon. It was supposed to be part of the first Metro Manila Summer Festival in April 2020 but the festival was canceled due to the pandemic. ■

Piolo Pascual clarifies that he is not quitting showbiz



Piolo Pascual

Actor Piolo Pascual clarified that he has no intentions of quitting the showbiz industry despite his earlier pronouncement that he wanted to retire before 40.

In a press conference for Sun Life Philippines on Saturday, Pascual said this has always been postponed.

"Actually, I said that before I turned 40. I'm 45, and I was talking to Direk Cathy Garcia, we did a Kumuserye and she just signed with ABS-CBN for a couple of years," he told reporters.

Pascual said that what he felt at that time might be part of a mid-life crisis and burnout.

"I love what I do and being in this business gives me meaning so I guess I was being immature, feeling burnt out back then. You can call it a midlife crisis because you're too

loaded up with work," he said.

He added that it has always been his passion to be in the industry and he will keep on doing it for as long as he can.

"And I told her, 'Direk, huwag na tayong magsasabi ng retirement kasi parang hindi rin naman natutuloy.' For me, this is my passion," the actor said.

"At this point in my life, I just wanna continue doing what I'm doing and this is something that I really appreciate, being in this business, being in front of you guys, and just sharing my life," he added.

"As long as I feel that I'm needed in this business or there is something that I can contribute and I will stay on."

Pascual is currently in the series "Flower of Evil" with Lovi Poe.. ■

From Page 7 Striking the right balance
Indigenous peoples won't end with the
papal visit.

"It's important that we put the few days that the Pope will be here in Quebec into perspective," he said. "These few days will certainly give us a boost. They'll give us more direction, but it's not the only moment."



Quebec City Mayor Bruno Marchand, right, Quebec Archbishop Gérald Cyprien Lacroix, centre, and deacon Benoît Thibault attended a news conference on Thursday about the logistics and preparations for the Pope's visit in Quebec. (Sylvain Roy Roussel/CBC News)

"We have relationships with many communities across Canada, and so we will continue to do that. There will be an 'after' this visit, where we'll continue walking together."

Quebec City Mayor Bruno Marchand said the municipality is expecting tens of thousands of people to flock there for the visit and has been preparing for a variety of scenarios.

The city will be restricting traffic and securing two outdoor areas where people can watch the Pope's mass on July 28 on big screens.

That mass will take place in Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré, 30 kilometres northeast of Quebec City, in the basilica that is one of Canada's five national shrines. The service will be open to the public, but space in the church will be limited.

Picard said so far the information about how many spots will be available

From Page 13 Social Tidbits

Last but not least are the RELIGIOUS NUNS from CONGREGATIONS of St. Kevin's Parish (Sister Grace Salvana, SPC) who offered Ciborium and FCMM Sisters offering Cruets.

Yes, what an exhaustive list. Why do I bother, you say? Well, I want to honor their benevolent spirit that defines us, Filipinos. Everybody is busy but these gracious and big-hearted people keep the community going. They enable us to be spectators and enjoy the events. They carry the burdens that we might not be inclined to share. Kudos!

Aren't you just dying to hear about Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.? He is reported to be the first majority-elected president since democracy was restored in 1986. PBBM, President Bong Bong Marcos, as he is commonly known, was inaugurated in spectacular fashion at the National Museum of Fine Arts. The ceremony began with the singing of the national anthem, Lupang Hinirang, an interfaith prayer, and a full military and civil parade. PBBM then took his Oath of Office to become the 17th President of the Philippines. A 21-gun salute was fired, after which he delivered his inaugural address. His wife, Liza Araneta-Marcos, and his three sons, Ferdinand Alexander (Sandro), Joseph Simon, and William Vincent, accompanied him to Malacañang

for First Nations in Quebec remains unclear, but that "the priority should be the survivors."

"I think the church needs to understand that this has to be respected," he said.

He said many of the survivors and their families were interested in attending the mass and have been asking the assembly how they can secure a spot, and that it is important to prioritize

them first.
Marchand said another important part of the planning is to ensure Indigenous pilgrims will have easy access to the sites, by providing public transportation, for example.
The mayor said the city expects the visit to cost between \$1 and \$2 million, but he said it doesn't yet have an exact price tag. The federal government will reimburse the city for most of those costs, he said.
He said the city's economy and tourism sector will greatly benefit from the visit.
The Quebec archdiocese expects to spend about \$3 million on the Pope's visit, with much of that funding coming from donations, according to Benoît Thibault, the deacon in charge of the planning committee for the Pope's visit in Quebec.
(With files from Sandra Hercegova)

Palace, the official residence of the President of the Philippines. Newly sworn PBBM administered the oath-taking of his son Sandro as Congressman of Ilocos Norte. This moment in time is rich in history as Senator Imee Marcos (serving since 2019), the elder sister of PBBM, was in attendance as well as other Marcoses serving in the government. Not to be missed was the presence of Imelda Marcos, mother of PBBM and former First lady. That was a sight to behold! Congratulations, PBBM! You do have die-hard supporters here in Montreal. Sometime this month of July, we will celebrate your victory. Mga kababayan, abangan at sumali kayo. This news was shared by Pastor Orlan Racacho, a previous Personality of the Month in this newspaper. Looking forward to this event, Pastor.

Let us pray for "competent leaders who respect God and are trustworthy and honest" (Exodus 18:21), both here in Canada and in our beloved Philippines. And can we dare hope that they would adhere to a biblical principle, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave — just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 20:26-28) -- a tall order indeed.

Until next issue and God Bless!

July News Photos



Israeli President Isaac Herzog, at left, and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid, center, receive U.S. President Joe Biden upon landing at Ben-Gurion Airport on July 13, 2022



In this photo released by the Saudi Royal Palace, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, right, welcomes President Joe Biden upon his arrival at Al-Salam palace in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on July 15, 2022. | Bandar Aljaloud/Saudi Royal Palace via AP



Ivana Trump arrives for the amfAR Cinema Against AIDS benefit at the Hotel du Cap-Eden-Roc, in Cap d'Antibes, southern France, Thursday, May 20, 2010. Ivana Trump, who formed half of a publicity power couple in the 1980s as the first wife of former President Donald Trump and mother of his oldest children, has died in New York City, her family announced Thursday, July 14, 2022. She was 73. (AP Photo/Joel Ryan, File)

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Young Fil-Am lawyer makes history, wins “Miss Texas” title

By Gus Mercado

All Filipino-Americans in our state, especially in the DFW Metroplex, brimmed with pride when our very own Averie Danielle Bishop won the Miss Texas crown last Saturday, June 25th. From North Texas to the Miss America stage in December, she is making history as the first Asian-American

their elementary schools. Her impressive credentials also include serving as legal intern for the President and Vice President of SMU, addressing higher education policy in third world countries, Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation Fellow, and Texas Women’s Museum



A stirring song from “Les Miserables” won her Most Talented award

woman ever to win the Miss Texas title. Averie put herself through college, earning double degrees from the prestigious Southern Methodist University, including a Bachelor degree with double major in Political Science and Human Rights, and a JD

Woman of the Year awardee. She was appointed by the Mayor of Dallas as council member of their new Anti-Hate and Discrimination Advisory Council. In an impromptu interview, she said serving the community is her way of paying back, “growing up in very



Feeding the poor in her native village in Cotabato

law degree with a 3.9 GPA. She is a first-generation Filipino-American, born to a Filipino immigrant mother Marevi Sabalilang and fourth generation Texan Danny Bishop. Her younger brother Teddy is in the U.S. Army.

Beneath all the successes and encomiums that have come her way, she has humanitarian blood running in her veins. She and her mom built Tulong Foundation, providing education, livelihood and scholarships to poor children in their native village in Banga, South Cotabato, Philippines. Their foundation has supported 45 poor students including 7 full scholars in different colleges in their province. With funding from SMU and some friends, she worked to build potable water systems for the community and

challenging circumstances with parents who sacrificed so much for me to become the force of nature that I am today.” Averie spent a sometimes painful childhood in Prosper where she was confronted with bullies and hateful language. “From the way I spoke, the shape of my eyes, my flat nose, my upbringing, the financial situation that I grew up in, sometimes the way my Mom spoke,” she recalled.

Some people say rude things because they just don’t understand what they don’t know.” My mission as Miss Texas and as a person is to try to teach everyone in our state that a Texan can look like me and feel equal and welcome.”

When she was Miss Dallas, before she became Miss Carrollton



The crowd went wild when she was declared “Miss Texas”

and went on to win as Miss Texas, we saw greatness in this articulate but unassuming and down-to-earth young Filipina. At our last PACC Texas Awards Night, Consul Ethel Mercado and I honored her with our Founders’ Award as “Most Outstanding Young Leader in Texas.”

In addition to her amazing intellect and stunning beauty, she is

who have embraced me.”

Averie is looking forward to her very hectic duties as Miss Texas while preparing for the Miss America pageant in Connecticut in December. Watch out, Miss America crown. Averie is on her way to claim you!

Watch this short clip of her powerful answer to one of the judges’ questions: “Five or ten years from now,



Miss Dallas Averie Bishop receives PACC Founders’ Award as Outstanding Young Leader

also an excellent singer and dancer. Her stirring song from “Les Miserables” won her the Most Talented award in the preliminary round. Explaining her wardrobe, she said: “I know wearing this costume is not typical wardrobe at a pageant. But my choice was a reflection of how far I’ve come in life. I am proud to have worn hand me downs, thrifted clothing, and torn up shoes as a child. To me, this costume was not a costume. It is a celebration of the rags I have shed, thanks to the village and the people

what legacy would you hope people will remember you by?” <https://www.facebook.com/allaboutme/videos/587018376135304>

About the Author: Gus Mercado is a well-known business and civic leader in Dallas, Texas. He is a recipient of the Presidential BANAAG Award for Outstanding Community Leadership. (Photo credits to Mel Krater)

Philippines' 17th president begins new era of Marcos rule



Bongbong Marcos takes his oath as he is sworn in as the 17th President of the Philippines, 30 June 2022 (By Avito Dalan, Philippine News Agency)

Marcos Jr scored a rare landslide Victory in last month's (May) election, helped by what his critics see as a decades-long effort to alter public perceptions of a family

The son and namesake of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos was sworn in as President of the Philippines on Thursday, completing a stunning comeback for one of Asia's most

famous political dynasties, 36 years after it was ousted in a popular uprising.

Marcos Jr scored a rare landslide victory in last May 2022 election, helped by what his critics see as a decades-long effort to alter public perceptions of a family that lived lavishly at the helm of one of the world's most notorious kleptocracies.

In a speech that echoed his campaign slogans of unity, Marcos Jr, better known as "Bongbong", vowed to take the country far on his watch with policies benefiting everyone, and thanked the public for delivering what he called "the biggest electoral mandate in the history of Philippine democracy".

congresswoman, seated close by. Marcos Jr, 64, also praised his late father's rule but said his presidency was not about the past, but a better future.

"I once knew a man who saw what little had been achieved since independence ... but he got it done sometimes with the needed support, sometimes without," he said.

"So will it be with his son? You will get no excuses from me." He added: "No looking back in anger or nostalgia."

The elder Ferdinand Marcos ruled the Philippines from 1965 for two decades, almost half of it under martial law, helping him to extend his grip on power until his overthrow and his



Vice President Sara Duterte is all smiles as she is called onstage for a photo opportunity with President Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. and First Lady Liza Araneta Marcos at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Manila on Thursday, June 30, 2022, following Marcos' oath-taking. DANNY PATA



Phil. Pres. Ferdinand 'Bongbong' Marcos Jr. son of the late president Ferdinand Marcos, his mother and former First Lady Imelda Marcos and wife Liza gather with other family members for a group photo during Marcos' inauguration ceremony at the National Museum grounds in Manila, Philippines 30 June 2022.



The National Museum. (Photo courtesy of National Museum official Facebook page)

"You will not be disappointed, so do not be afraid," he said at his inauguration ceremony, surrounded by his immediate family and with his sister Imee, a senator, and 92-year-old mother Imelda, a former four-time

family's retreat into exile during a 1986 "people power" revolution.

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