

Let these three masses our spring board, the quest for truth and justice continues!

Written by manuel sarmiento

Saturday, 31 May 2008 22:13 - Last Updated Thursday, 15 January 2009 19:19

In light of the current intensification of the political crisis and the growing movement calling for Truth and Justice, PINAS FIRST initiated three masses dedicated to the search for Truth & Justice in the Philippines. These masses were already successively held in different venues:

- Fr Ron Sandoval officiated a Mass on 16 April 2008 at Donau City Church 1220 Vienna attended by more than 200 faithfuls.
- It was followed by another Mass officiated by Fr Mars Sahulga on 17 May 2008 at Pfarre Breitenfeld, Florianigasse 70, 1080, Vienna with more than 100 faithful attendees. This was co-sponsored by Kapulongan ng mga Bisaya sa Austria (KBA).
- The latest was held last Sunday, May 25, 2008, 11:00 am at Pfarre Maria vom Berge Karmel at Stefan Fadinger Platz 1, 1100 Vienna attended by 400 faithfuls and was officiated by Fr Cyril Villareal.

In all these masses the message is clear and crystal, the truth and justice has yet to come. The homilies of the three fathers unanimously calls to all migrant Filipinos in Austria and in other parts of the world to continuously pray so that the truth and justice will soon prevail in our country. As the Scripture says:

"Whatever is hidden away will be brought out into the open, and whatever is covered up will be found and brought to light." (Mark 4:22 & Luke 8:17).

"You will know the truth and the truth will set you free";(John 8:32)

In was in the 17 May 2008 Mass officiated by Fr Mars Sahulga that was presented creatively. There was a power point presentation of the revelation of truth and justice! Community leaders, from KBA and PINAS FIRST were also allowed to speak on their respective reflection. The reflection of Bro Manny Sarmiento of PINAS FIRST focused on the (problems) current situation in the Philippines:

- There is historic joblessness and family income worst in the last seven years, and that 71% of Filipinos are poor.

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- Landlessness remains to be the major problem of farmers.
- There is diaspora of migrants going abroad, the result of government promotion of the policy of exporting and commodifying labor. Along with it is the extortion and criminal neglect of migrants and their families
- Corruption and bribery in the government is at its height as reflected in the NBN-ZTE affair.
- The greatest blunder of this administration is the continuous subservience to the IMF-World Bank policies and the failure to adopt and develop genuine economic independence through national industrialization and genuine agrarian reform.
- Both current Philippine President and that of the incumbent US President and their respective governments as responsible for gross and systematic violation of human rights, economic plunder and transgression of the Filipino people's sovereignty in the verdict of the Permanent People's Tribunal last March 2007.
- The legitimacy of the Philippine presidency is seriously under question because of the "Hello Garci" scandal and other critics say, this President is an illegitimate.
- A new brand of people power could develop into a strong political storm against the immoral, corrupt and illegitimate current administration as more than 75,000 strong Filipinos expressed indignation last 29 February 2008.
- NDF firmly believe that the incumbent administration itself remains the biggest obstacle to peace.

On the other hand, the reflection Sis Evelyn Mejares, President of KBA was in her recommendation on how to solve the current situation. She explained: There is a crystal message that the incumbent administration is clearly unfit to remain! It is high time that we demand truth and justice and morality from our country's leaders. The present administration have to answer for all of these! The involvement of each and everyone of us will make a critical difference.

She suggested the following initial steps:

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- An individual sincere prayer for the revelation of truth and justice is a good starting point.
- Group prayer and community prayer with this as focus would even be better
- Pray for church and government leaders as they seek the Lord's will for the nation“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up“; (Galatians 6:9).
- Let us organize and mobilize in numbers to express outrage against corruption, puppetry to foreign interests, commodifying and exporting labor, gross human rights violation and moral bankruptcy.
- That together, let us raise our collective action and chart our own destiny towards a peaceful, progressive, democratic and corruption-free society!

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Pinoy in Austrian Society For Integrity, Reforms and Social Transformation

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