THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO
CHURCH OF CHRIST
TODAY
EDITOR’S NOTE

Welcome to this special issue of Pasugo: God’s Message, the official magazine of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ). As part of the Church’s intensive campaign to inform everyone about its beliefs and activities, the pages of this issue are extensively devoted to photographs to visually present the INC today and the multifarious activities it conducts worldwide. We are hopeful that through these photographs, you, our reader, would have a visual experience of what life in the Church is like—a glimpse of what it means to be an Iglesia Ni Cristo member.

It is said that “a picture is worth a thousand words.” These photographs, taken in real time, capture the Iglesia Ni Cristo members’ joy and zeal in upholding and practicing their faith. Words are not enough to show that they are proud to be members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo.

Most of these photographs were taken in the past seven years, during which the Church experienced tremendous growth under the administration of Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the current Executive Minister of the Iglesia Ni Cristo. Shown here are the recent major campaigns and milestones of the Church: from the intensive propagation of God’s words to the socio-civic programs that have helped our fellowmen; from the construction of houses of worship to the edification activities that have strengthened the hope and faith of its members. These are only some of the many works and activities that the Church endeavors.

As the Church approaches its 103rd anniversary on July 27, 2017, we members will keep on pressing onward to fulfilling these works. May this special issue be of help to you in getting to know more about the Iglesia Ni Cristo.

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We thank the Almighty God for, through His guidance, the *Pasugo: God's Message* remains a valuable complement to the *Iglesia Ni Cristo*’s task of preaching His holy words. As the Church this year has further stepped up its mission of proclaiming the Good News of salvation, this publication is as staunch as ever in its commitment to impart to all by means of its printed pages the teachings of the Bible that we uphold.

As a supplement to the regular May 2017 issue, this special issue of our magazine offers a view of these biblical tenets being applied to daily living. The photo essays it contains portray how Church Of Christ members live the true faith wherever they are and in whatever situation they may be. The photographs it contains aim to paint the vitality of a Christian brotherhood bound together by one spirit and purpose as they carry out their God-given duties. Also, they provide a window into the present stature of this Church and how far and wide its work has expanded.

All in all, the photo essays provide a visual representation of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo* in constant forward motion, as the members strive to lead a life worthy of God’s fellowship and carry out the spiritual training required of Christians to reach perfection and, thus, the heavenly kingdom. This calls to mind Apostle Paul’s pronouncement: “... *He has already given us a taste of what heaven is like.* ... *He planned that we should be holy and without blame as He sees us. God already planned to have us as His own children.* ... *He gave this loving-favor to us through His much-loved Son*” (Eph. 1:3–6, New Life Version).

Thus, we cordially invite our readers to explore through this magazine the “world” of the *Iglesia Ni Cristo*, even as we proclaim the amazing deeds God has done for this Church. As has always been the sentiment of His people, “*Generation after generation stands in awe of your work; ... Your marvelous doings are headline news; ... They shall publish the memory of the abundance of thy sweetness ...*” (Ps. 145: 4, 6, The Message; 145:7, Douay-Rheims Bible).

May your perusal of the pages of this and other issues of the *Pasugo: God’s Message* open greater opportunities to live the genuine Christian life that leads to the eternal life God has promised.

EDUARDO V. MANALO

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WELCOME

TO THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO (Church Of Christ), a Christian religion whose primary purpose is to serve and worship God based on His teachings in the Bible.
The Iglesia Ni Cristo is an independent church that is neither affiliated to any federation of other churches nor itself an assembly of smaller religious bodies. It is not a denomination or sect but a church that is for everyone who will heed the call of God and embrace its faith—regardless of his or her nationality, cultural background, social standing, economic status, and educational attainment.
“What's the Difference?”

What we believe and why

Basic Teachings of the Bible

Upheld by the Iglesia ni Cristo

What's the difference?" is the usual remark we hear from some people when the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ) is introduced to them. It is a perfectly sound and legitimate question to ask considering that there are so many religions today vying against one another, and making claims and counterclaims that theirs is the best church to affiliate one's self with.

Many people had joined one religion after another without having noticed any substantial difference among those religions. Some of them even felt they had been tricked or downright deceived. From such sad experiences, some of them make a sweeping conclusion that all religions are the same. And depending on the degree of their disillusionment they become indifferent to religion or overly cautious or altogether shy away from any religion. Some of them even become anti-religion. Such should not be the case.

While there are so many false religions in the world today, this fact alone does not warrant the conclusion that all religions are false. There is a true religion, one which worships and serves the true God based on His true words written in the Bible. Everyone owes it to God and to himself to find this true religion. And one may start searching by asking how one religion differs from the other.

So what indeed distinguishes the Iglesia Ni Cristo from other religious groups? There are many ways of answering this question. Here, we intend to show that what gives distinction to the Iglesia Ni Cristo is her belief.

We maintain that the set of beliefs that a religious organization upholds is of vital importance in determining its genuineness and truthfulness. Certainly, any religion that preaches the doctrines of the devil is not of God. To be of God the least one can do is uphold the doctrines of God written in the Holy Scriptures.

And here lies the uniqueness of the Iglesia Ni Cristo: it upholds the pristine teachings of the Bible.

One God, the Father

We believe that the one and only true God is the Father, the Creator. We hold this belief because this is the doctrine taught by our Lord Jesus Christ and His Apostles (John 17:3, 1; I Cor. 8:6). God is a spirit (John 4:24), and, therefore, He has no flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).

There is no trinity of persons in God. Though the Bible speaks of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, never does it refer to all of them as gods nor as three persons in one God; rather, it points to the Father alone as the true God.

The Son Himself emphasized that only the Father is the true God (John 17:3, 1) and that He Himself is a man telling the truth which He received from God (John 8:40).

The prophets also taught that we have only one Father who created us (Mal. 2:10; Isa. 64:8). He alone is God, there is no other God and no one is like Him (Isa. 46:9).

God is from everlasting to everlasting, with no beginning or end (Ps. 90:2), immortal (I Tim. 1:17), and does not tire or become weary (Isa. 40:28).

He alone is the Creator of heaven, the heavens of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things therein, and the seas and all that is in them (Neh. 9:6).

The Lord Jesus Christ

The Iglesia Ni Cristo believes that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God (Matt. 3:17), is the one and only Savior given by God (Acts 13:23). Christ is the sole mediator between God and man (I Tim. 2:5) and the only way to God (John 14:6).

But we do not subscribe to the belief that Christ is a God-Man. He is man in nature according to His own testimony (John 8:40) and the teachings of His Apostles (I Tim. 2:5; Matt. 1:18).

The attributes of a human being are found in Christ. He hungered (Matt. 4:2), thirsted (John 19:28), became weary or tired (John
4:6), slept (Matt. 8:24), and died (Matt. 27:50; I Cor. 15:3). However, Christ as distinct from all men, is the only One Who did not sin (I Pet. 2:21-22; Heb. 4:15).

He has been exalted by God and given a name above all other names, that at the name of Christ every knee should bow, those in heaven, and those on earth (Phil. 2:9-11). He has been placed by God far above all principality, power, might and dominion, and every name that is named, and all things have been put under His feet (Eph. 1:21-22). Christ will eventually subject all His power and authority to the true God (I Cor. 15:27-28). He had in so many instances introduced Himself as the Son of God but never did He appropriate the title “God” nor “God the Son” for Himself because He is not God but a man.

The Holy Spirit
We believe that the Holy Spirit is the power (Acts 1:8) sent by the Father in the name of Christ, to teach and remind His messengers of all things that Christ said (John 14:26).

Christ also sends the Holy Spirit to help us in our weaknesses and infirmities (John 15:26; Rom. 8:26). The Holy Spirit strengthens, edifies, and Comforts the Church Of Christ (Eph. 3:16-17; John 14:26). And although the Holy Spirit is a spirit, never does the Scriptures refer to it as “God the Holy Spirit” because it is not God but one of the spirits being sent by God.

The Holy Scriptures
We believe that the Bible is the sole basis of faith and service to God. The Gospel is the power of God unto salvation to those who believe, for in it the righteousness of God is revealed (Rom. 1:16-17). The Holy Scriptures is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for doctrine, for refutation, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished for all good works (II Tim. 3:15-17).

God has purposely hidden His words in mystery (Rom. 16:25), so that men who strive to understand the Scripture through their own worldly knowledge can never come to know the truth (II Tim. 3:7). The gospel preached by those who are not sent by all God is called by the Apostles “another gospel” (Gal. 1:6-7). And the use of the Gospel which deviates from the truth or from its true meaning will ineluctably lead to perdition (II Pet. 3:15-16).

God's election
The Iglesia Ni Cristo believes that since ancient times, God has set apart His people to serve Him. Outside this election, man cannot render services acceptable to God (Ps. 4:3; Prov. 1:28).

Those whom God had chosen in the patriarchal times were Seth, Noah, and Abraham. Then He set apart the Israelites. But the Israelites did not remain faithful to the covenant of God (Gen. 17; Dan. 9:11).

After the fall of Israel, she was replaced by the Church Of Christ (I Pet. 2:9, 3-5; Matt. 16:18; Rom. 16:16; Acts 20:28, Lamsa Translation). Eventually, after the death of the Apostles, this Church which was established by Christ in the first century departed from the true faith. It was apostatized (Matt. 24:3, 11; Acts 20:29-30; I Tim. 4:1-3).

In these last days, God sent His messenger to administer man’s return to the true teachings of the Church. And it is in the Philippines (in the Far East) where God sent an angel or messenger to preach the true and pure Gospel of Christ to the people in order to bring them back to the true Church (Rev. 7:2-3; Isa. 43:5-7).

The Church and salvation
The Iglesia Ni Cristo believes that membership in the Church Of Christ is the only means to man's salvation in the Christian era. All men need salvation, for all men have sinned, hence, all of mankind should die in the lake of fire, the wages of sins (Rom. 5:12; 6:23; Rev. 20:14). For man to be saved, he should enter in by Christ, by becoming a member of His body or Church (John 10:9; I Cor. 12:27; Col. 1:18) because it is
His Church that Christ will save (Eph. 5:23).

Christ will not save anyone outside the Church Of Christ because it would be against the law of God. His law requires that sinners should pay for their own sin (Deut. 24:16; Rev. 20:14).

**On baptism**
We believe that the baptism commanded by Christ (Matt. 28:19) and preached by the Apostles is done by means of immersion (Rom. 6:4; John 3:23; Acts 8:36-38).

To qualify for baptism, one should be taught the words of God, believe in them, repent, and renew his life (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38). Since an infant cannot do these things, therefore infant baptism is not practiced in the Church Of Christ. Infants or little children should be offered to God for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these (Matt. 19:13-15). Their baptism comes after they shall have qualified for it.

**The Christian way of life**
We believe that all those baptized in Christ should put on Christ (Gal. 3:27). It is Christ who should live in them and no longer they themselves (Gal. 2:20).

Those who are truly in Christ should lead a righteous life based on the moral teachings of the Bible (II Cor. 5:17; II Tim. 3:15-17).

Members of the Church Of Christ are prohibited from eating blood under pain of expulsion (Acts 15:28-29; Lev. 17:10).

Mixed marriage is strictly prohibited in the Church Of Christ because since the very beginning, God has been against marriage between those who are His people and those who are not. In the sight of God, mixed marriage is a great evil and an act of treachery (Deut. 7:3-4; Neh. 13:27). It was the major cause of the great deluge that destroyed the ancient world (Gen. 6:1-2, 5, 7).

**Worship of God**
The Iglesia Ni Cristo believes that it is the whole duty of man to worship God and keep His commandments. Worship of God is man's inherent obligation, because He created us, hence, we do not belong to ourselves but to God (Ps. 95:6-7; 100:3).

Worship of God should be done in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). God's name should be worshipped—this is worship in spirit; and His will should be done in heaven by obeying His words—this is worship in truth (Matt. 6:9-10; John 17:17).

The Church Of Christ in these last days, or the Iglesia Ni Cristo, in Filipino (like the first-century Church Of Christ), observes the worship service which is characterized by psalms and hymn singing, prayers, studying the words of God, and offerings (I Cor. 14:26, 15; 162).

The Iglesia Ni Cristo performs offerings and contributions as God's commandment that should not be forgotten and with which God is well pleased (Heb. 13:16). Every member of the Church Of Christ should give according to the dictates of the heart, for God loves a cheerful giver (II Cor. 9:7). The contributions should be prepared beforehand so that they may be voluntary and not compulsory. The faithful sets aside and keeps a certain sum proportionate to their gain or the blessings that God bestows upon them (I Cor. 16:1-2; Deut. 16:16-17).

Christ Himself highly regards the assembling together of the Church Of Christ in congregational worship services, because every time His Church congregates, He is there in their midst by means of His Spirit (Matt. 18:20; Gal. 4:6).

Congregational worship service is of extreme importance in the Church Of Christ: that is why, members are strictly forbidden to forsake it. To willfully forsake it is a grave sin (Heb. 10:25-27).

**The brotherhood**
The Iglesia Ni Cristo believes that members of the true Church Of Christ should observe the brotherhood. Christ established a brotherhood inside the Church Of Christ (Matt. 23:8). That is why members of the Church address one another as brother and sister. Iglesia Ni Cristo members should love one another as commanded by Christ and as
taught by the Apostles. This shows that they are the true disciples of Christ (John 13:34-35; I Pet. 2:17).

It is evil to hate any brother in the Church. Whosoever hates his brother in the faith is considered a murderer and shall not attain everlasting life (I John 3:15).

To maintain the love for brotherhood in the Church, members who have misunderstanding or disputes are commanded to reconcile (Matt. 5:23-25; Eph. 4:22).

The Christian unity
The Iglesia Ni Cristo subscribes to sacred unity. This is absolute unity, for in this unity, God, Christ, and the Church are joined together or united (John 17:23, 21).

We observe this unity in the name of Christ, to the glory of God (I Cor. 1:10, 10:31). Division or schism is strictly forbidden because Christ is not divided. Divisions and strife are earthly, sensual, and devilish (I Cor. 1:10, 13; James 3:14-15).

The Iglesia Ni Cristo observes unity even in electing public officials (Phil. 2:2-3; I Cor. 1:10). This is not to interfere in politics, but to obey God's commandment. This unity is never betrayed by a true member of the Church Of Christ, even if some might be displeased.

The resurrection of the dead
The Iglesia Ni Cristo believes that the dead will be resurrected. Christ would not have been resurrected if there were no resurrection of the dead (I Cor. 15:12-13).

There are two kinds of resurrection: those who have done good will rise and live, and those who have done evil will rise and be condemned (John 5:28-29; Rev. 20:14).

The dead members of the Church Of Christ will be resurrected at Christ's second coming (I Cor. 15:23) and those faithful members who are alive when He returns shall without dying, meet Christ in the air to be with Him in the dwelling place that He has prepared for them (I Thess. 4:16-17).

The Second Coming of Christ and Judgment Day
We believe that Christ will come again. Christ Himself promised that He will return (John 14:1-3).

Here lies the uniqueness of the Iglesia Ni Cristo: it upholds the pristine teachings of the Bible.

This promise was echoed by the Apostles (I Thess. 4:15-16).

Members of the Church are commanded to prepare for the second coming of Christ for no one knows the exact day and hour of His coming, except God, the Father (Matt. 24:36, 42, 44).

Christ, however, knew and told us the signs that herald His second coming and these are wars, famines, earthquakes in different places, as well as increasing hardships and wickedness which shall cause the love for God of many to wax cold (Matt. 24:6-8, 12).

The Second Coming of Christ is the day of Judgment and destruction of ungodly men. On this day, the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire and be burned up (II Pet. 3:7, 10). The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter, the mighty man cries aloud there. Neither silver nor gold shall be able to deliver man on the day of the wrath of the Lord (Zeph. 1:14, 18).

The Holy City, New Jerusalem
The Iglesia Ni Cristo believes that there is a Holy City being prepared by Christ and promised to His disciples to which He will bring them on His return (John 14:2-3).

The Holy City is glorious, having the glory of God (Rev. 21:10-21). This is the future home of the members of the Church Of Christ who stay faithful up to the end. Life in the Holy City is perfect—no need for sun and moon and no night (Rev. 21:23-25; 22:5), no food and water shortage (Rev. 22:1-2), no more curse (Rev. 22:3), no hunger, thirst, sorrow, pain, death, evil (Rev. 7:15-17; 21:4).

Only those given by the Father to Christ can enter the New Jerusalem (John 17:12). And those given to Christ are called by God into the fellowship with Christ (I Cor. 1:9) and this calling is done by means of the Gospel as preached by God's messengers (II Thess. 2:14; II Cor. 5:19-20). Those who are called are gathered in one body (Col. 3:15 which is the Church (Col. 1:18) called the Church Of Christ, Iglesia Ni Cristo in Filipino (Rom. 16:16; Acts 20:28, Lamsa Translation).
The Iglesia Ni Cristo Central Temple
Quezon City, Philippines
MISSION

The Church Of Christ endeavors to:
• share the gospel of salvation to all people by following Christ's command to "go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation" so that "whoever believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:15-16, English Standard Version).
• edify the faith of its members through constant and effective religious instruction, "admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom" in order to "present everyone perfect in Christ" (Col. 1:28, New International Version).

VISION

As the Church Of Christ is envisioned to be a "radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless" (Eph. 5:27, New International Version), the Church Of Christ pursues the perfect unity of faith and practice among its members, that each one will be devoted to a life of holiness and service founded on true Christian teaching.
GROWTH AND EXPANSION

Registered with the Philippine government on July 27, 1914, the Church Of Christ was first administered by Brother Felix Y. Manalo. From its pioneering years in Manila, the Church quickly spread throughout this archipelago in the Far East. When its first Executive Minister was laid to rest in April 1963, the Church already had ecclesiastical districts in more than half of all the provinces in the country.
In 1968, the Church Of Christ, then led by its second Executive Minister, Brother Eraño G. Manalo, successively established the first two local congregations in the USA—in Honolulu, Hawaii and in San Francisco, California. Thus began the Church's expansion in the Far West and the rest of the world.
The continuation of the Gentile mission in 1997

The scroll signing in Jerusalem in 1996
Today, under the leadership of its present Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the Church Of Christ has an international membership comprising 114 nationalities. It maintains about 6,000 congregations and missions grouped into 137 ecclesiastical districts in over 130 countries and territories in all the inhabited continents of the world.
ACTIVITIES

The Church Of Christ involves its members in faith-building and faith-sharing activities, which mainly include:
Worship service

A solemn gathering of the faithful usually held twice a week in the house of worship and consists of hymn-singing, prayers, and the study of God’s words to guide the true Christians in their daily living.
Home visitation
Conducted regularly by the Ministers, Ministerial workers, and Church officers for prayer and edification of every household and individual member.

Prayer meeting
Held weekly by each group of neighboring households for further instructions in the faith and announcements about Church undertakings.
Children's Worship Service
A weekly worship gathering for children aged 11 years and below, using age-appropriate methods of spiritual guidance and biblical instruction.

Bible studies on doctrines
Biblical instructions for those intending to join the Church to learn about its basic doctrines.
Evangelical mission
Gathering for the proclamation of the gospel, to which members invite and bring guests to introduce them to the biblical beliefs of the Church.
“Coming here was a really good experience for me to understand that this is not just another denomination but a really lovely family feel, that people can come together from many different cultures and hear the word of Christ.”

Heeren Kaur
Guest, Evangelical Mission
Canterbury, Australia

“I feel the love in this congregation.”

Colin Malakou
Guest, Evangelical Mission
Canterbury, Australia
PROGRAMS

Concerned with the welfare not only of its members but also of society in general, the Church Of Christ initiates programs that promote its Christian values in its various fields of endeavor.

**Family**

Through its Christian Family Organizations—Buklod (which means “bond”) for married members, KADIWA (“Kabataang May Diwang Wagas” or “Youth with a Noble Intent”) for the single members 18 years and older, and Binhi (“seed”) for 12- to 17-year-old members—the Church Of Christ conducts seminars, get-togethers, and other activities that uphold the biblical ideals on marriage, parenting, and family relationships.
Health
Promoting good health and clean living, the Church Of Christ mounts free medical-dental missions, blood donation drives, health care seminars, and other related campaigns. Its New Era General Hospital not only caters to the concerns mostly of its ministers and members but also helps in mobilizing volunteers for the Church's medical missions.
Education

The Church Of Christ’s support on education has given rise to the New Era University (right).

Through the Iglesia Ni Cristo School For Ministers (far right) the Church Administration trains men to help in overseeing and in propagating God’s message for man’s salvation.
Sports
Recognizing the value of sports not only for personal development but also for building up team spirit and unity, the Church constantly holds sports activities under the banner of Unity Games.
Outreach
The Church Of Christ Aid to Humanity program has benefited multitudes of people in need, from calamity victims to indigents and indigenous peoples. Through its implementing arm, the Felix Y. Manalo Foundation, the Church gives assistance to the needy in all parts of the world.

“We had no idea that we'd receive help from an organization like the Church Of Christ. We will never forget the wonderful thing that you did for us.”

Hironori Nishimura
Mayor, Kumamoto, Japan
"It’s just a blessing to see them here. The community certainly remembers in their time of need, they had the Church Of Christ come here with their families and their good values to be able to instill and raise the hopes of the Bundaberg community.”

Jack Dempsey
Mayor, Bundaberg, Australia
Environment

Tree-planting activities and clean-up drives form part of the Church Of Christ's ongoing program on environmental protection and preservation.
**Arts and culture**

The Church Of Christ helps its members hone their creative talents through programs that serve specific interests in music and the arts. The Church conducts competitions and presentations to showcase its members' creative works that highlight the true Christian way of living.
PROJECTS

The Church Of Christ engages in infrastructure and other developmental projects, from small- to large-scale, that address the needs of its members and their fellowmen. Worth mentioning are the following:

**Houses of worship**

To meet the needs of its constantly increasing number of worshipers, the Church Of Christ carries out a vigorous chapel construction program. This also includes the purchase of closed-down buildings of other religions and the renovation of such properties into the Church's houses of worship. Through the recent years, the Church has built about 5,000 houses of worship worldwide.
**Offices and other buildings**

Aside from houses of worship, the Church Of Christ also constructs other buildings for worthy purposes. Some of these are the Church's main offices in the USA, England, and Japan; the administrative offices within its Central Office complex in Quezon City; and the Philippine Arena, which is the world's largest indoor arena, and the Philippine Sports Stadium in Ciudad de Victoria in Bulacan.

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*Europe Main Office*  
Sunbury-on-Thames, England

*Japan District Office*  
Tokyo

*United States West Office*  
Burlingame, California

*United States East Office*  
Washington, D.C.
Resettlement and livelihood

The Church Of Christ establishes resettlement communities consisting of housing units, livelihood sites, and houses of worship. Recently established are those in Sitio Langit, Alangalang, Leyte, Philippines for the displaced survivors of Typhoon Haiyan; in Paracale, Camarines Norte for the Kabihug; and in Barangay Danlag, Tampakan, Cotabato South for the B’laan (both indigenous peoples in the Philippines).
“The Iglesia Ni Cristo now permeates the globe. In North America, aside from the United States, the INC is also thriving in Canada and Mexico. INC believers are scattered throughout Africa, Europe, the Pacific Islands, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and Central and South America.”

Asian American Religious Cultures

“We have considered the Iglesia Ni Cristo as an outstanding example of the world-wide independent church phenomenon ... On the world-wide scene its significance is great, primarily, because of its size and wealth. The Iglesia Ni Cristo is the largest (non-mission related) independent church in Asia.”

Arthur Leonard Tuggy
Author
Iglesia Ni Cristo: A Study in Independent Church Dynamics

“The [Iglesia Ni Cristo] has been transformed into the most dynamic and powerful indigenous belief system in the Philippines. Growing at a phenomenal rate ... this upstart community of faith may have recently surpassed Islam as the nation’s second largest religion .... Indeed, the INC ... may be the most successful form of ‘indigenous Christianity’ emanating from the Third World in this century.”

Robert Reed
Editor
Pattern of Migrations in Southeast Asia

“At the rate it’s going, the INC, under the leadership of its new Executive Minister, Brother Eduardo Manalo, is showing no signs of slowing down in its effort to contribute to society’s spiritual growth through its evangelism and edification campaigns.”

Manila Bulletin
February 18, 2010
http://mb.com.ph/articles/243969/more-inc-ministers-ordained

“A tightly knot religious organization, INC has significantly contributed not only to the spiritual development but also the shaping of the destiny of the Filipino nation ... INC has inspired high moral values and socio-civic leadership among its members and the community where INC locales are found. Its disciplined members have also contributed to the maintenance of peace and order of the community where INC congregations exist, thus helping promote the stability of the nation.”

Crispulo J. Icban Jr.
Editor-in-Chief
Manila Bulletin, Editorial, January 2, 2004
“Being a Filipino Church, for that matter, it has gone beyond the borders of the Philippines, establishing a kind of dimension that has never been reached by any indigenous church. In fact, a lot of the international ecclesiastical organizations are really foreign-based. So, I think this is one phenomenal example of a success story as far as the Church is concerned.”

**Samuel Tan, Ph.D.**
Former Chairman
National Historical Institute

“IT started as a humble religion with only few members in 1914 but looking at the INC now with its superb houses of worship, this indigenous Christian religion has emerged as a dominant church that obtained the respect of Filipinos for its role in nation-building”

**Quennie Ann J. Palafox**
History Researcher
National Historical Commission of the Philippines, “First Executive Minister of the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Church Of Christ)”, September 6, 2012

“When the Iglesia Ni Cristo was registered with the government on July 27, 1914, there were only 14 members, all poor Filipino laborers. Since then, the Iglesia Ni Cristo has swelled to millions all over the world. Thus, it takes a person of vision to lead a global congregation that has pegged members in more than 100 countries and territories to date. ... Although this unprecedented growth may be deemed intimidating by other established religions in the country, for the Iglesia Ni Cristo, it proves the hand of God in their ministry.”

**Joel Pablo Salud**
Editor
Philippine Graphic, November 5, 2012

“...the Iglesia Ni Cristo (INC) ... is rapidly expanding as a global church ... [it] deserves mention, not only because of its large numbers but also because its branches are to be found in many countries. ...”

**The Oxford Handbook of Christianity in Asia**
Wilfred, Felix, Ed.

“What Felix Manalo and his Iglesia have done demonstrate all over again that Christianity, when practiced in earnest, always succeeds, not only in spiritual but even in material terms.”

**Nick Joaquin**
National Artist of the Philippines for Literature
*Ronnie Poe and Other Silhouettes*

“IMPRESSIVE GROWTH IN MEMBERSHIP ... The growth of the Iglesia Ni Cristo ... can be considered phenomenal by any standard ... In terms of membership, the growth of the Iglesia Ni Cristo since 1914 may be described as astounding. From a handful of adherents during its pioneering years, the membership of the Iglesia Ni Cristo has multiplied to millions.”

**Teodoro M. Locsin**
Editor
The words of God guide me in my membership in the Church Of Christ and give me the strength to overcome difficulties. When I am facing trials in my life, whether at work, in studies, or even in taking care of my family, I seek help from God through my prayers. I am certain that He listens to me, and I'm never alone. When I'm going through a serious problem, I keep calm because I know that God is by my side.

My life has been much different now than before I became a member of the Church Of Christ. I used to have so much pains and sufferings and all kinds of problems. Now, my life has been much easier. I don't have too much in life, but I am so happy because God is in the Church. I had been in search of the truth for a long time; I had been to ten different denominations, yet I did not feel God until I found the Church Of Christ.

A lot of blessings have come to my life since I became a member of the Church Of Christ. My life has changed tremendously when I heard the truth, which comes from the Bible.

I still feel the same joy today as when I was baptized. I advise anyone who is seeking the truth to at least come and have your questions answered by the Iglesia Ni Cristo through the Bible. You will find spiritual strength, as I have had, which will comfort you knowing how God purposed His words to enlighten all of us.
I was the only member of the Church in my family for over 25 years. After almost losing my father to two heart attacks, he recovered and started to attend the worship services with me. He was baptized in December 2014. When it comes to doing missionary work, don't give up so easily especially on those you truly love. It may take 25 attempts or 25 years, but don't give up.

By being a member of the Church Of Christ, I feel the great love of God in my life, I feel His presence and the Holy Spirit that has changed and renewed my life and it has strengthened my faith, love, and hope. In the Church, I found a new family, the love of the brotherhood.

As I look around and see the multitudes of my fellow countrymen who have not been called into the Church Of Christ as of now, it makes me all the more realize how blessed I am for my calling. Not only do I believe that this is the one true Church, but I also believe with all my heart that Brother Felix Y. Manalo is without doubt God's Messenger in these last days.

I am very grateful to a brother whom I met while I was studying. He invited me to an evangelical mission to which I agreed to go. That's how I began to attend regularly and to listen to the Bible studies. Now, I am an active member of the Church and I am performing several duties devotedly and joyfully. I am very fortunate to have been chosen to be part of God's people. It is a great blessing to have God in Whom I can take refuge during difficult times. I will not exchange this for anything in this world.
MUTUAL RESPECT AND APPRECIATION

The Iglesia Ni Cristo receives dignitaries

Even the dignitaries are taking interest in the Church Of Christ. Envoys from different nations visited the Iglesia Ni Cristo Central Office in Quezon City, Philippines last year and met with the Executive Minister of the Church Of Christ, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo.

The Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, Martin Slabber, was the first to visit the Iglesia Ni Cristo Central Office on July 20, 2016. This was followed by Senator Rory J. Respicio, the majority leader of Guam’s 33rd legislature, who presented to the Executive Minister, on September 19, the legislative resolution of Guam that recognized and congratulated the Iglesia Ni Cristo on its 102nd anniversary. Shortly after, on September 21, 2016, the Ambassador of the State of Israel, His Excellency Effie Ben Matityahu also visited. Likewise, Ambassadors Amanda Gorely and David Strachan of Australia and of New Zealand, respectively, came together on September 28, while on December 20, His Excellency Igor Anatolyevich Khovaev, the ambassador of the Russian Federation, visited.

A common message they expressed during their respective visits is their country’s appreciation of the positive impact the Church Of Christ has brought upon people’s lives. Receiving them warmly, Brother Eduardo, together with ministers and lay workers in the Central Office, exemplified the due respect true Christians give people in authority. “For the members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo, we recognize this as blessings that come from heaven. Activities like this further help in the great mission of the Iglesia Ni Cristo to help humankind, to be able to extend our love for our fellowman. In the same way that the INC has high regard for governing authorities and wants to work well with all governments, we also appreciate the regard that they are extending to Church,” Brother Joel San Pedro, a minister, said.

What follows are some of the pictures taken during the said historic occasions.

Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo and the Ambassador to the Philippines of the Republic of South Africa, His Excellency Martin Slabber

Senator Rory J. Respicio (second from left), the majority leader of Guam’s 33rd legislature, presenting to the Executive Minister of the Church Of Christ, Brother Eduardo V. Manalo, the legislative resolution recognizing and congratulating the Church Of Christ on its 102nd anniversary.
Ambassador of the State of Israel, His Excellency Effie Ben Matityau, in cordial conversation with the Executive Minister of the Church Of Christ.

Ambassadors David Strachan and Amanda Gorely, ambassadors of New Zealand and Australia, respectively, receive tokens from Executive Minister Brother Eduardo V. Manalo.

His Excellency Igor Anatolyevich Khovaev, Ambassador to the Philippines of the Russian Federation, with the Executive Minister of the Church Of Christ during the visit of the Russian ambassador to the INC Central Office.
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