

27 October 2020

**TO: THE MOST REVEREND ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

RE: RED WEDNESDAY 2020

Dear Excellencies,

The Peace of Christ!

We are pleased to inform you that on 25 November, Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) Philippines is once again launching our annual celebration of Red Wednesday, a celebration to remember the suffering Church around the world. Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) is the official papal charity for persecuted Christians worldwide. We continue to be grateful to you that on 25 January 2020, you officially institutionalized the celebration of RED WEDNESDAY in all dioceses in the Philippines.

In the previous years, we have been focusing on issues of religious persecution as highlights for the Red Wednesday campaign. But 2020 forced on us a new face of suffering – the deadly coronavirus pandemic. Lockdowns have grievously affected poverty-stricken communities. Infected by the virus now count to millions. And it continues to claim lives with impunity. Undeniably, we live in a difficult time wherein hope seems so far away ... faith may weaken ... and love hard to be found. Hence, we invite you to join **Red Wednesday 2020** entitled “**RED MEANS LOVE: One Church Against COVID-19**”. The color red connotes love that is courage, patient endurance, compassion. It is the courage of our front-liners, the patient endurance of our COVID survivors, and above all the compassion of God made manifest through the Church and his people.

In line with this, may we humbly request for your participation in the following activities:

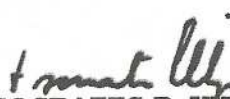
1. Simultaneous Red Wednesday mass at 6 PM on 25 November in all parishes
2. Ceremonial lighting of façade of churches in red
3. Cross-posting of the ACN Recollection Concert at 7:30 PM on November 25 on diocesan and parish Facebook pages

Being One Church Against COVID-19, we aim likewise to create a database of point-persons of all dioceses and parishes in the Philippines when it comes to online sharing of these activities, and other best practices. Our assistant, **Imee Camille Advincula** will get in touch with these point-persons, or they can also touch base with ACN Philippines through **imeeadvincula.acn@gmail.com** or via mobile, **0917 168 6679** for smooth information coordination.

We look forward to your positive response on this matter. Kindly send your response through **info@acn-philippines.org**, together with the contact details of your point-persons.

Despite the darkness, the love of Jesus Christ shines on. May Our Lord help me to thank you more.

Sincerely,


+ **SOCRATES B. VILLEGAS**
Archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan
President – ACN Philippines

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