

**November 28, 1956**  
**FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART, CENTENARY**

**RIZAL'S SACRED HEART STAMPS**

The heart of Christianity is Christ. The Sacred Heart of Christ, symbol of his eternal love for man, is in the words of Pope Pius XII, happily reigning Pontiff, "the true synthesis of the whole Christian religion".

To draw men closer to the Sacred Heart, the late Pope Pius IX on August 23, 1856 decreed and instituted for the universal Church the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion has since spread throughout the world and especially in the Philippines, the only Christian country in the Far East.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of this great feast this year of Our Lord, 1956, the Philippines is holding November 28 to December 2 its Second National Eucharistic Congress.

As a means of perpetuating the memory of this glorious event, the Bureau of Posts, on request of the executive committee of the Congress celebration, has issued a commemorative stamp designed by Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., philatelic designer. The stamps are printed by the American Bank Note Company, New York, U.S.A.

The inspired stamps portray the picture of a Sacred Heart statue carved by the Philippines national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal, at the age of 14 when he was a student boarder at the Jesuit-run Ateneo de Manila.

History has it that on the eve of his tragic martyrdom, December 29, 1896, Dr. Rizal asked for his boyhood opus. The historic piece of sacred art, now blemished with age, has been preserved through two world war and national upheavals. The Rizal Sacred Heart Stamps thus bear a historic value and have both, a spiritual and nationalistic significance for all Filipinos. It is printed in five and twenty-centavos denominations.

