

November 27, 1970
POPE PAUL VI - VISIT

PAPAL VISIT COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

On the occasion of His Holiness, Pope Paul VI's Visit to the Philippines, November 27-29, 1970, the Bureau of Posts issues a set of commemorative stamps in three denominations and printed in 5 colors by heliogravure process. The stamps measure 36x51 mm, perforation to perforation, 50 pieces in a sheet and in 10-sentimo, 30-sentimo and 40-sentimo denominations, each numbering 1,000,000 pieces. The printer is Harrison and Sons, Ltd. of London and designed by Supervising Philatelic Designer Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., assisted by Antonio Chuidian, Jr., Philatelic Artist.

The stamps show a portion of the Asian map in the background, with Manila as the focal point and the cross of Christianity superimposed on Philippine shores. In the foreground stands His Holiness Pope Paul VI, with arms outstretched in blessings to the world.

POPE PAUL VI

The Pilgrim Pope's journey began on September 26, 1897 when he was born at Consocio in the province of Brescia, the second son of Giorgio Montini, a lawyer, and Doña Giaditta Alghisi. His elementary and secondary years were spent at the Jesuit Institute "Cesare Arisci, Brescia" and he graduated in 1916 to embark on his theological studies at the seminary of Brescia.

On May 29, 1920, he was ordained in the Cathedral of Brescia and shortly thereafter continued his studies at the Gregorian Pontifical University and State University in Rome.

The succeeding years and decades saw the journey take on innumerable paths. From the Pontifical Secretariat in 1924 and the Italian Catholic University Foundation (where he was General Ecclesiastical Counselor from 1925-1933). Giovanni Battista Montini, later on Pope Paul VI, became Archbishop of Milan on November 1, 1954. Four years later, on December 5, 1958, he was created Cardinal. Then on June 21, 1963, he was elected Pope and on June 30 was subsequently crowned Paul VI.

But the journey was far from over-there were many lands to cover and many hearts to touch. The Pilgrim Pope journeyed on, to the Holy Land, to India, to New York, to Istanbul and Ephesus, to Africa, to Geneva, to Bogota, Colombia to hear the voices of his people and feel the reality of their lives. The journey, in November 1970, reached, for the first time, the shores of the Philippines.

THE PHILIPPINE VISIT

The Philippine journey can be said to have started on June 23, 1970, when the Pope addressed the Sacred College of Cardinals. In his own words, he said: "We have already had the unforgettable joy of opening at Bogota the assembly of our brothers in Latin America and of closing at Kampala the first symposium of the African Bishops. In November next, God willing, we shall make direct contact with our brothers in Asia and Oceania. But this contact will be different and much deeper than the previous ones, because it will involve studying with them and among them, the problems that face the Church in those two continents and the opportunities offered to hear there even though this will mean a certain prolonging of our absence from Rome.

To have direct contact with his Asian brothers, to know and attempt to resolve their problems, to bring peace and involvement in development - these brought the Pilgrim Pope to Asia, to hear from the Asian voice of the people of God assembled at the Asian Bishops' Meeting in Manila.

THE ASIAN BISHOPS' MEETING

The genesis of this Pan-Asian gathering dates from the informal meeting held in October 1969, when the 13 Presidents of the Asian Episcopal Conference met in Rome and decided about the Pan-Asian Meeting. Then, at a preparatory meeting in Manila in April 1970, the meeting's general Program was fixed and spelled out under two general themes: "Socio Economic Development of Asian Peoples," and "Pastoral Care of University Students." The Asian Bishops' Meeting will deal with the problems behind the two themes

PAPAL VISIT *Souvenir*



Paulus PP VI -
Stamps Commemorating
The Visit of His Holiness
to the Philippines
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and will attempt to offer some practical solutions vis-a-vis governmental and public agencies, in the spirit of cooperation and in the interest of both Church and society.

This spirit of cooperation which took into consideration the well-being of both Church and Society in Asia was manifested in the topics dealt with during the meetings. His Eminence Paul Cardinal Yu Pin of China spoke on "Social Problems in Asia and their Solutions." His Eminence Thomas B. Cardinal Cooray of Ceylon spoke on "Economic Problems in Asia and their Solutions." Archbishop Paul Nguyen-Van-Bnh of South Vietnam spoke on "Political Problems in Asia and their Solutions." Archbishop Paul P. Taguchi of Japan with "Educational Problems in Asia and their Solutions." His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias of India touched on "Christianity and Asian Cultures." And his Eminence Rufino J. Cardinal Santos spoke on "Social Communications and Mass Media."

Thus, on November 23-29, 1970, Asia and the Philippines will catch a long glimpse of the Pilgrim Pope who came to hear their problems and help them in the great task of development and peace, so that they, young and old, workingmen and students, may have more, do more, know more and be more than ever in the past.

In the Pope's own word, "New times demand a new style, while our sole preoccupation is to be faithful to our pastoral mission, which, by divine disposition, is exercised as service (cf. Mathew 20:28; Marck 10:43-44). In order the better to serve, the Pope seeks to become better acquainted with situations, to immerse himself in them, to listen and to make a certain direct personal contact with the historical reality of the Church. This will be our way of meeting the desires expressed at the recent session of the Synod, in accordance with our vocation as Vicar of Christ the Lord."

The Pilgrimage which started in 1897 has become a journey for development and peace for the people of Asia as well as the world.