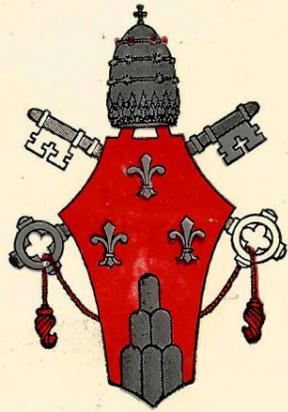


September 26, 1972  
1st ANNIVERSARY - POPE PAUL VI VISIT

PAPAL VISIT *Souvenir*



*Stamps Commemorating the  
First Anniversary of  
His Holiness, Pope Paul VI  
Visit to the Philippines  
Issued on the occasion of  
His 75th Birthday Anniversary  
September 26, 1972*

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY POPE PAUL VI  
VISIT STAMPS**

Coinciding with the Holy Father's 75th birthday anniversary, the Bureau of Posts issues today, September 26, 1972 the First Anniversary Pope Paul VI Visit Stamps. The Commemorative stamps measure 33x48mm printed size, in denominations of 10-sentimo, 50-sentimo and 60-sentimo and in quantities of 1,000,000, 2,000,000 and 2,000,000 respectively. There are 50 stamps in a sheet, printed in five colors, Heliogravure process by Thomas de la Rue & Co., Ltd., of London. The designer of the stamps is Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., Chief of the Designing Staff of the Bureau of Posts and who also designed the first Pope Paul VI Visit Stamps.

His Holiness, Pope Paul VI (Giovanni Battista Montini) was born on September 26, 1897 at Concesio Province of Brescia. He was ordained priest on May 29, 1920 in the Cathedral of Brescia, named Archbishop of Milan by Pope Pius XII on November 1, 1954 and created Cardinal by Pope John XXIII on December 15, 1958. He was elected Pope on June 21, 1963 and was crowned on June 30 of the same year.

During his early years as Supreme Pontiff, he earned the reputation as the "jet-age Pope." Since he ascended the papal throne, he has attained a record air travel of 52,000 miles, reportedly more than the equivalent of twice the distance around the world.

He is trying to fulfill his pledge to cover as many countries as he can in his trips abroad and has turned his attention to the Pacific Area, including the Philippines.

The pastoral visit of the Holy Father from November 27 to 29, 1970, is a significant event in the history of the Philippines, it being considered a predominant Christian nation in Asia.

For more than four hundred years of Christianization of the Philippines, this was the first time the Head of the Catholic Church, the Pope, honored the Filipino people with a Pastoral Visit. It was indeed a great success and the first time we ever witnessed a very huge crowd that assembled to greet His Holiness, Pope Paul VI.

A week before his landing, a typhoon, one of the strongest to hit the Philippines in many years, wracked the Greater Manila Area and torn down the arches put up for the visit. But the calamities wrought by the devastating storm did not dampened the enthusiasm of the Filipino people in welcoming the Holy Father, who step down the plane's ramp at half past 9:00 A.A. November 27, 1970.

At the Manila International Airport, he spoke that morning and said, "Here we are, in the Philippines, in the great land so dear to our heart. We have come here in obedience to our spiritual mission, to take part in the conference of the Bishops of Eastern Asia. We wish to seek together, in the spirit of the Second Vatican Council, how best to proclaim the Gospel to the men of thi and to this continent. We are seeking to make an eternal and universal message, an answer to the question asked by the man today." He concluded by invoking, "the abundance of divine grace" on all those present; "Mabuhay ang Fi-lipinas."

From the Airport, the Papal Entourage passed through throngs of people lines up the streets and headed for the Manila Cathedral where he said his first mass. After the mass the Pope proceeded to the Apostolic Nunciature where he stayed during the duration of his visit. At around four in the afternoon the same day, he was in Malacañang Palace for a visit with the First Family. It was here where Pres. Marcos presented to his Holiness, Pope Paul VI visit Stamps.

On the second day November 28, just after breakfast the Pope drove off for the University of Sto. Tomas, a pontifical university, where he met delegations from all major schools in Manila and the provinces. He then proceeded to the UST Medicine Building where 150 bishops of Asia were having an earnest conference. That afternoon, towards sunset, the Pope celebrated the final mass of the liturgical year at the Luneta Park where he ordained as priests 131 Filipinos, 40 Vietnamese, 12 Ceylonese, 2 Japanese and 2 Formosans.

The mass did not end the Pope's second day. After dinner at the Apostolic Nunciature, he had to face various delegations again. It was in this occasion that His Holiness received our very own Mr. Nemesio Dimanlig, Jr., the Bureau of Posts' Chief Philatelic Designer in appreciation for the beautiful Papal Visit Commemorative Stamps presented to him.

His last day began with the morning mass at the Quezon Memorial Circle. From the mass the Pope drove to Radio Veritas, where the bishops of Asia had gathered for the closing ceremonies of the conference.

A few hours before leaving for the airport, the Pope visited shanties along the muddy Barrio Magsaysay in Tondo. Among the shanties was a two room hovel of poverty stricken family of Carlos and Elena Navarro and their eight children. The Pope after praying together with the family looked on the verge of tears as he crouched amid that misery. He gave Carlos five hundred dollars, Elena an image of the Virgin and medals for the eight children.

At the airport, the Pope said, "We shall never forget this country of the Philippines." Before boarding the plane he cried "MABUHAY" three times and lifting his armes blessed the crowd that had come to bid him goodbye.

