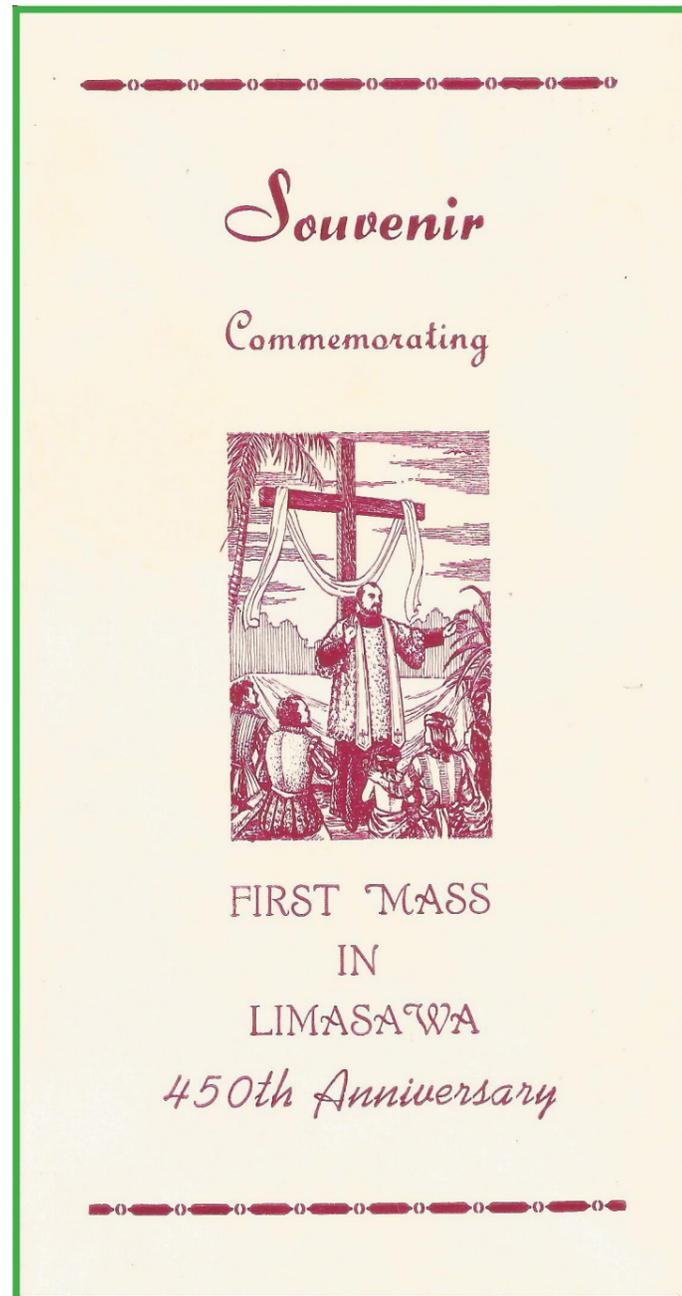


October 31, 1972
FIRST MASS IN LIMASAWA - 450th ANNIVERSARY



**FIRST MASS IN LIMASAWA
450th Anniversary**

The Bureau of Posts issues today, October 31, 1972 the "First Mass in Limasawa" stamps with the following particulars:

Kind of Issue:	Commemorative
Size:	36x51 mm perforation to perf.
Denomination:	10-sentimo - 1.000.000
and Quantity:	60-sentimo - 1.000.000
Sheet Composition:	50
Printing Process:	Heliogravure (five colors)
Printer:	Thomas de la Rue (London, England)

The stamps depict a miniature reproduction of a mural, by the late Carlos V. Francisco, now displayed in the National Museum.

Magellan saw the lofty heights of Samar on March 16, 1521. The following day, March 17, he landed at Homonhon, an uninhabited islet south of Samar.

On March 18, a boat from the neighboring island arrived with friendly Filipinos aboard. They were the first Filipinos the Spanish navigators saw. The Spaniards established relations with them and offered gifts and the Filipinos gave them Philippine products in return.

On March 25, Magellan left Homonhon shaping his course southwestward. On March 28, he reached Limasawa, a little island south of Leyte, where he found a kingdom ruled by Raja Kolambu. Magellan and Rajah Kolambu sealed their friendship on Holy Friday, March 29, 1521 by blood compact.

The first mass in the Philippines was celebrated by Father Pedro Valderama at the shores of Limasawa on March 31, 1521. At sunset of the same day, Magellan in the presence of Filipinos and Spaniards, planted a huge wooden cross on a hilltop, overlooking the sea and took possession of the country in the name of Spain.

