



## **FAQ Pilgrim Symbol**

### **1) WHY THE PILGRIM SYMBOL?**

#### Rationale:

The International Eucharistic Congress over the years has developed the tradition of choosing a symbol, with the inspiration of the World Youth Day Cross, that will embody and represent the spirit and identity of the place where it is to be held.

The local committee, with the approval of the President of the 51st IEC, His Excellency Archbishop Jose S. Palma, proposed the Cross of Magellan as the symbol for the following reasons:

The Cross of Magellan symbolizes the Christianization of the Philippines, whose beginnings can be traced to the year 1521.

The Cross of Jesus Christ, a relic of which is embedded within the Cross of Magellan, is truly our hope of glory. It is when we embrace the Cross of the Lord that Jesus comes to be in us, thus the theme of the Congress: “Christ in us is our hope of glory.”

The shrine that contains the Cross of Magellan symbolizes the Church which is the mystical Body of Christ. When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, Christ is truly in us, our hope of Glory.

The Cross of Magellan symbolizes the call to mission to all the Gentiles. Although the means of evangelization in the past need to be purified, the Cross, itself a symbol of contradiction, will be the principle of its purification. The Cross of Christ becomes the way of the New Evangelization – proclamation of the love and compassion of Jesus through the witness of our lives.\*

#### The Pilgrim Symbol:

The Pilgrim Symbol, the Cross of Magellan, shall be brought from place to place within the Archdiocese of Cebu and to all the Archdioceses, Dioceses and Ecclesiastical Provinces of the Philippines to stir the faithful’s interest and move them towards a deeper appreciation and encounter with Christ in the Eucharist and towards Mission. The journey is both promotional and spiritual.



It is promotional for with it people are made aware of the great celebration that the Philippine Church, particularly the Archdiocese of Cebu, will be privileged to host come January 24 to 31, 2016. The faithful will be asked to contribute to the many preparations of the different committees of the IEC 2016.

It is spiritual for the visit of the symbol is a VISIT OF GOD, as Archbishop Jose S. Palma said in his homily during the Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress on October 25, 2014, held at the Mariners' Court. There will be various liturgical celebrations centered on the Holy Eucharist –the Welcome and Send-off Masses, Eucharistic Adoration Vigils, and other para-liturgical celebrations to venerate the Cross like the Taize Prayer among all others. In the pilgrimage, the Cross journeys among the people, with the roads and grounds made holy once again.

Moreover, the journey shall also allow each Filipino in every nook and corner of the country to participate in the International Eucharistic Congress. The symbol calls to mind the planting of the Cross in the Philippines in 1521, the birth of the Christian faith in the archipelago and in Asia. Thus, it aptly reminds the faithful of the great celebration come 2021, the 500th anniversary of the event and the experience of faith. The same symbol now beckons the faithful to a renewal of faith and towards a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ through His sacrifice and self-offering on the Cross; instituted and perpetuated through the Eucharist.

As men and women of faith and feet, we are always called to take on the road to mission and be on a journey to wherever the Lord bids us to go. Accompanying the Pilgrim Symbol are four icons:

**San Lorenzo Ruiz and San Pedro Calungsod.** The two Filipino Saints responded to the call, journeyed to faraway lands, and eventually gave up their lives to give witness to the Eucharist, the Cross and the Faith.

**Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage.** Our Blessed Mother's first act after hearing and responding to the message of the Angel was to travel to Judea, bringing with her in her womb the Eucharist, to visit and care for her cousin Elizabeth. She went to Bethlehem where she gave birth to the Savior; to Egypt to escape Herod's spite; and finally to Nazareth, where she settled and lived a simple and holy life with Joseph and Jesus. At the foot of the Cross, she was entrusted by Jesus with our care and protection.

**St. Joseph.** He had responded in faith and lived a holy life, without calling attention to himself as he silently cared for and co-journeyed with the Eucharist himself, Jesus, and the blessed Virgin Mary.



## **2) WHEN AND WHERE DID THE PILGRIM SYMBOL JOURNEY START?**

Last October 25, 2014, Archbishop Jose Palma, the president of the 51st IEC, commissioned the teams who would embark on a pilgrimage to all the Vicariates and Parishes of the Archdiocese of Cebu including the Islands.

The local pilgrimage took off from the Metropolitan Cathedral of Cebu last January 25, 2015 and headed to the different Vicariates in the Archdiocese of Cebu, moved towards the north including the Camotes Group of Islands and Bantayan Island, then passed through the Western Vicariates of Cebu, heading South as it went back to the Metropolitan Cathedral.

The national pilgrimage commenced on the last week of January 2015, right after the Papal visit and exactly a year away from the 51st IEC 2016. It will cross the channel of Cebu to Leyte moving towards the Eastern Archdioceses and Dioceses of the Visayas, Bicol Region and Northern Luzon, Visayas moving towards the Archdioceses and Dioceses of Mindanao. From there, it will head back to the suffragan dioceses of the Archdiocese of Cebu. The journey shall end with the return to Cebu on the Solemnity of Christ the King in 2015.

## **3) WHO HAS BEEN COMMISSIONED TO CARRY OUT THIS PILGRIMAGE?**

The IEC Committee on Symbol, composed mainly of the young and the lay faithful, has been tasked to spearhead the journey of the Pilgrim Symbol. However, every Cebuano and every Filipino is enjoined to journey with the Symbol for a renewal of faith and deeper encounter with Christ, through His Cross and the Eucharist.

## **4) WHAT CAN I DO AS BEARER OF THE SYMBOL?**

A Eucharistic Congress shall take place in every stop of the Cross for both local and national pilgrimages. You are also invited to actively and zealously participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The Pilgrim Symbol will also become the vessel or tabernacle where the Sacred Host will be exposed. Everyone is invited to experience the Lord in the solemn Eucharistic adoration.

You are also invited to commemorate Christ's oblation and ultimate sacrifice through the veneration of the Cross, and be animated by the different liturgical and para-liturgical activities designed by each parish, vicariate, diocese and archdiocese.



## **5) HOW CAN I HELP IN THE PREPARATION OF THE 51<sup>st</sup> IEC THROUGH THE SYMBOL?**

In each stop, there will be masses, Eucharistic Congresses and para-liturgical celebrations. You are invited to intimately experience Jesus through these solemn activities. To support the preparations for the 51st IEC, you may give your donations during these celebrations to the Committee on Symbol, duly acknowledged with a receipt, or drop them into designated IEC boxes.

*For photos and videos of the IEC Pilgrim Symbol journey, like us on facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/IEC2016pilgrimsymbolofficial](http://www.facebook.com/IEC2016pilgrimsymbolofficial)*