

'Kaplagn is for Filipinos'

Tagle says Landmarks in downtown Cebu City transformed for reenactment

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SENIOR REPORTER

A page of history was dramatized yesterday in Cebu City where a cast of 300 reenacted the 1565 finding of the Sto. Niño de Cebu image.

Plaza Independencia was transformed into a pre-Hispanic village with nipa huts and stilt houses surrounded by bare-chested male natives and their female partners.

The arrival of Augustinian priests and Spanish soldiers in Cebu was set against the backdrop of the Magellan's Cross kiosk and City Hall, whose facade was made the "Palace" of Cebu's King Humabon.

The courtyard of the Basilica del Sto. Niño was packed with spectators who watched the reenactment of the actual finding of the image.

NATIONAL EVENT

"This is not just a local event in Cebu, a family



Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle (left) raises his hands to welcome thousand of devotees who attended the ninth day Novena mass which followed after the Kaplag reenactment in the Basilica del Sto Niño pilgrim center. CDN PHOTO/JUNIE MENDOZA

event of the Augustinians. This is a national event for Filipinos," said Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, in his homily at the 6:30 p.m. novena Mass at the open air Pilgrim Center.

"Whenever we think of the faith of Filipinos, we always remember the Sto. Niño," he said.

He was joined by 100 priests from different religious congregations and the diocese.

In his homily, Tagle said the finding of the image of the Sto. Niño 44 years after the arrival of the Spaniards was important not just for Cebu but for the rest of the country.

The cardinal drew

laughter from people when he cracked jokes about the unpopularity of finding God.

"Many people are excited to go to the malls, to theaters. But when one will say 'I'm going to the (God) Father, the usual response is 'ay siges goodbye,'" he said.

Tagle said the Kaplag

celebration is a reminder for people to look for Jesus and to be found by God.

He also challenged the people to deepen their faith as well as to find the real meaning of Kaplag.

THREE ACTS

After the Mass, Tagle received an image of the child Jesus from Fr. Jonas Mejares, rector of the

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MEGA LOTTO 6/45

15 11 29 17 28 45

ANY ORDER

JACKPOT PRIZE: P11,885,408.00

GRAND LOTTO 6/55

02 26 15 13 22 43

ANY ORDER

JACKPOT PRIZE: P79,621,044.00

PHILIPPINE LOTTERY		SUERTRES	
11 A MORNING RESULT	4 P M DRAW RESULT	8 P M DRAW RESULT	9 P M DRAW RESULT
8 2 2	6 6 4	9 3 2	

basilica, as the cardinal danced the traditional Sinulog.