

**SEATING  
BEFORE MASS RESERVE SEATS FOR:**

**\*\*\*SAGALAS, ESCORTS, OTHER CHARACTERS, ENTOURAGE RIGHT AWAY\*\*\***

*Sagalas to be seated as follows (for 4:30 Mass):*

*On the left-front-middle-section (choir side) facing the altar:*

- *Front Row: Lectors*
- *Pew 1: Reina Esperanza, Reina Fe, Reina Caridad & Reina Elena*
- *Pews behind Reina Elena & Virtues - Outgoing Reinas*

*On the front-right-middle-section (Tabernacle side) facing the altar:*

- *Sagalas seated by ranking*
  - *Pew 1 - 4 Sagalas*
  - *Pew 2 - 4 Sagalas*
  - *Pew 3 - 4 Sagalas*
  - *Pew 4 - 4 Sagalas*

*Escorts/Entourage:*

- *Pews behind the EMs by the Chapel*

*Other characters:*

- *Pew section on the far right - facing EMs across from Sagalas*

*Liturgy Sequence:*

*4:25 PM (Short welcome note about May Crowning)*

*Liturgical Procession*

*Altar Servers*

*EMs*

*Priests*

*Liturgical Movement by - AVE MARIA participants*

*Crowning of the Blessed Virgin Mary (May Crowning)*

*Choir: Sings "Purihin and Panginoon"*

*Participants:*

- *Girl to crown Mother Mary*
- *Boy to hold crown*
- *Participants of AVE MARIA Liturgical Movement (8)*

*(All participants exit after the crowning)*

*AVE MARIA enters on queue*

- *As the choir starts singing, First Communicants (from CCD) holding the letters AVE MARIA will do their liturgical movement toward the altar; when they reach the front, they will turn to face the congregation and remain there for the crowning of Mother Mary.*

- They will be followed by the young girl who will crown (the statue of) Mother Mary, she will be escorted a young boy who will be holding the crown. The young girl will be queued by \_\_\_\_\_ as to when (the statue of) Mother Mary will be crowned.
- When the song finishes, all the participants will exit, and Mass will begin.

After Mass:

- There will be a short break immediately after Mass, prior to the procession.
- During the break immediately after mass the Altar will be cleared and "thrones" will be put in place.
- Sagalas will process from the church, into the Courtyard, around the Upper Parking Lot, and back into Church for the Pageantry.
- Sagalas will be given time to freshen up before proceeding with the pageantry.

## **SANTACRUZAN 2014**

### **FEATURING**

THE FINDING OF THE HOLY CROSS BY QUEEN HELENA (Mother of Constantine The Great) AND THE MAY FLOWER DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

*NARRATOR will be situated side by side at the piano area.*

**NEEDS:**

1. 2 music stands or podiums with microphoness
2. handheld microphone for CD music

### **THE PROCESSION**

- After Mass, the KofC Color Corp will lead the procession out of the church.
- The congregation will be asked to form two (single-file) lines
- Using ribbons, the congregation will be guided all the way to the edge of the upper parking lot, where the procession will begin.
- The Sagalas will line up with their escorts in between the two single-file lines.

### **ORDER OF THE PROCESSION:**

*Altar Servers*

*Band*

*AVE MARIA participants*

### **Reinas & Escorts:**

*Reina Banderada*

*Reina Mora*

*Judith*

*Sheba*

*Esther*

*Samaritana*

*Veronica*

*Tres Marias*

*Divina Pastora*

*Reina de las Estrellas*

*Rosa Mystica*

*Reina Paz*

*Reina de las Profetas  
Reina del Cielo  
Reina de las Virgines  
Reina de las Flores  
Reina Abogada  
Reina Justicia*

**Reinas, Escorts, Entourage and Arch Bearers:**

*Reina de la Esperanza  
Reina de la Fe  
Reina de la Caridad  
Reina Elena*

*Choir  
BVM  
Clergy*

*After the procession the Reinas will proceed to the Conference Rooms to freshen up before the pageantry begins.*

**THE PAGEANTRY:**

**NARRATOR #1:**

**What is a “Santacruzán”?**

“Santacruzán” is a religious-historical pageant held in the Philippines during the month of May. It depicts the finding of the Holy Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by Queen Helena, the mother of the very powerful Emperor, Constantine the Great (*SLIDE: Queen Helena/Constantine*), who ended the persecution of Christians.

Constantine, the emperor of Rome some hundreds of years ago, had a dream in which he was asked to go to the battle field to fight in the name of the Holy Cross. He conquered his enemy and that victory led to his conversion into a Christian. He became the first Christian emperor in history. His mother Reyna Helena, was inspired by all these experiences and in the **year 326 A.D.**, she went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to seek the Holy Cross, the wooden cross on which Christ was supposed to have been nailed. She successfully found the Holy Cross, complete with its inscription `INRI` on its top.

The festivity commemorates the search of the Holy Cross (*SLIDE: Mission/True Cross*) by Empress Helena and her son, the newly converted emperor. After finding the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, it was authenticated by a miracle of healing attributed to it, and was brought back to Rome. The search was marked with a joyful celebration of thanksgiving.

The religious procession is a re-enactment of the finding of the Holy Cross by Reyna Helena.

**What is the “Flores de Mayo”?**

This is a religious festival in honor of Mary, the Mother of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. The Feast is marked with the offering of flowers by sagalas or shepherd girls (*SLIDE: Flores De Mayo*). The “Mayflower” offering may refer to the whole flower festival celebrated in the month of May in honor of Virgin Mary.

During the festival in May, flowers are offered to the Virgin Mary at the altar in the church. Every afternoon, young girls dressed in white, visit the church with cut flowers or baskets of petals in their hands. While walking to the altar, they either sprinkle the petals in honour of Mama Mary or offer bouquets of flowers. The **Santacruzán** procession is always the final part and the highlight of the festival of Flores de Mayo. The procession is a pageant held in many cities and even in small villages.

Instead of icons or images, beautiful women with elegant or theatrical costumes, portray biblical and historical characters. The persons in the parade called, **Sagalas**, symbolize queens from the past and are dressed beautifully to emulate “real” queens.

This custom and celebration started after the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854. Introduced by the Spanish conquerors, this religious tradition is more than 100 years old and lives even more in Europe and America. The tradition is religiously celebrated preceded by the nine days of prayer, a novena, in honor of the Holy Cross and coupled with the Flores de Mayo. (PAUSE) **- PLEASE STAND -**

- **St. Augustine Choir** will sing the **OPENING HYMN**
  - *As the Opening Hymn is sung, the KofC Color Corp will enter and position themselves along the front-middle-aisles for the flags and Sagalas to pass through.*
- Ladies and Gentlemen, **The STAR SPANGLED BANNER** led by Dan Nebalaska
  - *(An American Flag is brought in)*
  - *(After the song, the flag bearer exits to the sacristy)*
- Ladies and Gentlemen, the Philippine National Anthem, **LUPANG HINIRANG** led by Dan Nebalaska
  - *(A Filipino Flag is brought in)*
  - *(After the song the flag bearer exits to the sacristy)*

**NARRATOR #1** **- PLEASE BE SEATED -**

### Opening Scene:

*Methuselah enters from the back, carrying a holy book to the Podium. Once he reaches the podium, he begins the narration.*

- **Play CD Music #1 - The Mission as the character walks in. Fade out when character begins to read.**
- **Methuselah’s Narration (Read by NARRATOR #2: Deacon Nestor accompanied by a Power Pont Presentation):**

I represent Methuselah, the son of Enoch, grandfather of Noah. I am here to remind you that everything that glitters does not stay forever; and I am here to tell you the story of the salvation of mankind.

In the beginning, God created the heavens (**SLIDE: image of the sky and nature**) and everything in the world. Then He created Adam and Eve (**SLIDE: Adam & Eve**).

God entrusted to them the stewardship of Paradise (**SLIDE: Stewardship**). But they were overwhelmed by the cunning and powerful temptation of the devil. They ate the forbidden fruit in the garden. (**SLIDE: Eve eating an apple, giving to Adam**)

In His Divine Justice, God sent them out of Paradise and closed the portals of heaven. He ordered them, “by the sweat of thy brow thou shalt till the land.” (**SLIDE: Adam and Eve banished**) In this fall, however, God did not abandon man but promised to send His Only Begotten Son to redeem man

(*SLIDE: image of the Redeemer*) and the world. He would be born of a virgin. Who is this Virgin?  
(*SLIDE: image of the Blessed Mother*) This was the expectation of the ancient times and the Old Testament.

### **NARRATOR #1:**

We now journey to the Philippines, where the native tribes still practiced pagan rituals and the dominant religion of the land, was the Muslim religion. The arrival of Christianity, which was introduced by the Spaniards, catechized the Filipino nation, and would later be known as the “Christian Country of the Far East”. Santacruzán has become a popular retelling of Biblical & Historical female personages who contributed to the faith, culminating with, Queen Helena, who embarked on a pilgrimage to find the true cross of Christ.

**— PAUSE —**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome the Outgoing Santacruzán Sagalas.**

*- Pause for the entrance of the outgoing Sagalas. Resume reading after all are seated -*

**The history of our faith is represented by:** (*NARRATOR – Reads the title and slowly reads the explanation*)

**1. Reina Banderada - portrayed by Lilli Padilla Bernardo** – *She carries a yellow triangular flag; she represents the coming of Christianity to the Philippines when the Spaniards landed in Homonhon in the Visayan Island. (CD Music#2: Onward Christian Soldier)*

**2. Reina Mora – portrayed by Lolita Esplana** – *She represents the dominant religion of those times, before Christianity was introduced. Mora is the feminine of Moro from the Muslim religion mainly found in the island of Mindanao. (CD Music#3: Cotabato City)*

**The Aetas** – *the group represents the state of the Filipino native tribes, before the coming of Christianity. They represent the unconverted Filipino pagans found in the mountains of Luzon. (CD Music #4: Traditional Gong and Dance Philippines).*

### **NARRATOR #2**

**We now honor three Great Women from the OLD TESTAMENT:** (*CD Music #5: The Calvary – loop if necessary*)

**3. Reina Judith – portrayed by Liza Victoria** – *It is recorded that Judith of Pethulia was a very beautiful, intelligent and courageous woman who loved God and her people. She used her impeccable beauty to behead the cruel General Holofernes, to save a nation. She carries a head (in a transparent sack) and a sword.*

**4. Reina Sheba – portrayed by Joan Marston** – *The Queen of Sheba is said to be a very beautiful, wealthy and wise Queen. She traveled far to meet King Solomon. She brought him spices, gold and precious stones to test his wisdom. Because she was in awe of Solomon’s wisdom, she pronounced a blessing on Solomon’s God and in return, he gave her everything her heart desired. She carries a jewelry box.*

**5. Reina Esther – portrayed by Rouella Alferez—** *The name 'Esther' means star. Because of her beauty, she was chosen to be Queen. When an order to kill all Jews was decreed by one of King Xerxes’s men named Haman. Queen Esther prayed to God before revealing to the King, that she was a Jew. She told the King that*

*she would have to die, since she was one of them. So the King stopped the execution and because of Esther, a nation was saved. She carries a scepter.*

## **NARRATOR #1**

**We honor six extraordinary and memorable women from the NEW TESTAMENT: (CD Music #6: Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5)**

**6. The Samaritan Woman – portrayed by Mary Ann Gaston** – *The woman at the well was surprised that Jesus spoke to her, because Jews and Samaritans did not have anything to do with each other. Jesus offered her Living Water and the woman came to know God. From there, she inspired the people of Samaria to see and hear Jesus for their selves. It is the longest recorded conversation of Jesus with another person in the Bible. She carries a jug on her shoulder.*

**7. Veronica – portrayed by Josephine Umali** – *Saint Veronica was the woman moved by pity. She wiped the face of Jesus with a cloth as He carried his Cross to Golgotha. Jesus accepted the offering and once his face was wiped, his image was miraculously imprinted on it. She carries a scarf with the face of Jesus.*

**The Tres Marias** – *They represent the women who visited the tomb of Jesus on the day of Resurrection – only to find that the tomb was empty.*

**8. Mary of Magdala - portrayed by Cleo Cruz** – carries a bottle of perfume

**9. Mary, Joanna – portrayed by Jennifer Clemente** - carries a handkerchief

**10. Mary, the Mother of James – portrayed by Liberty Macatuno** -- carries a bottle of oil

**- PAUSE FOR CHOIR -**

**- PROJECT SONG -**

**DIOS TE SALVE**

**(Sung in its entirety...then played instrumentally)**

## **NARRATOR #2:**

**(Begin narrating again when instrumental version of Dios Te Salve begins)**

**We also honor the many titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary:**

**11. Divina Pastora (Mother Mary - The Divine Shepherdess) – portrayed by Marites Berber**  
*Mary, as the mother, is the Shepherdess and guardian of the Divine Shepherd; our Lord, Jesus Christ. She carries a shepherdess staff.*

**12. Reina de las Estrellas (Mother Mary - Queen of the Stars) – portrayed by Christine Adiaz**  
*Mary, who is blessed among all women, holds a special place among the stars. She carries a wand with a star.*

**13. Rosa Mystica (Mary, The Mystical Rose) – portrayed by Rhodelyn Cruz Ignacio**

*Mary, the most beautiful of God's creation, is indeed "the Incarnate Rose," especially chosen for God's garden. She is the "rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys" [Song 2:1]. There is no rose comparable to her and she has made Paradise ever so much more beautiful. She carries a bouquet of roses*

**14. Reina Paz (Mother Mary - Queen of Peace) – portrayed by Christina Christenson**

*Mother Mary, the lover of Peace, implores us to keep our eyes and our focus on God, in order for the world to have Peace. She carries the symbol of peace (a dove).*

**15. Reina de las Profetas (Mother Mary - Queen of Prophets) - portrayed by Roxanne Santiago**

*For many Catholics, calling Mary "queen of prophets" is a reminder that the prophets of the Old Testament looked ahead to the Mother of the Messiah as well as the Messiah himself. However, our Lady was herself also regarded as a prophet. That she is a prophet is part of the Gospel portrait of the Virgin Mother of Jesus. She carries an hourglass.*

**NARRATOR #1**

**16. Reina del Cielo (Mother Mary - Queen of Heaven) – portrayed by Kriselle Nicolas**

*The Catholic teaching on this subject is expressed in the papal encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam*,<sup>[1]</sup> issued by Pope Pius XII. It states Mary is called the Queen of Heaven because her Son, Jesus Christ, is the King of Israel and heavenly King of the Universe. In the Hebrew tradition, the mother of the king is the queen. She carries a flower.*

**17. Reina de las Virgines (Mother Mary - Queen of Virgins) – portrayed by Marie Machado**

*The personification of Mother Mary which inspires, symbolizes and honors all the young and unwed women of the world. She carries a rosary and is surrounded by angels.*

**18. Reina de las Flores (Mother Mary - Queen of Flowers) – portrayed by Maria Precy Padama**

*The Blessed Mother is honored and crowned with beautiful blossoming flowers each year, during the month of May; earning her the title "Queen of Flowers". She carries a bouquet of flowers.*

**19. Reina Abogada (Mother Mary, Defender of the Poor) – portrayed by Evelyn Pimentel**

*Reyna Abogada is the personification of Mary known to be the protector of the poor, the oppressed and the downtrodden. She is always ready to defend and protect those in need. She wears a black graduation cap (toga) and gown and she carries a big book.*

**20. Reina Justicia - (Mother Mary - Queen of Justice) – portrayed by Cynthia Luzadas**

*The personification of the Blessed Mother as the: "Mirror of Justice." We need not ask why she is called a mirror. For we know that it was God in His glorious perfections, that is Jesus, who was reflected in Mary. She carries a weighing scale and a sword.*

**There is a brief pause before the TOP FOUR make their entrance**

**Order of entourage and crowning.:**

- Flower Girl(s)
- Crown Bearer
- Reinas and Escorts
- Arco bearers
  - Reinas to be escorted to their "thrones" by their escorts
  - All Reinas remain standing until Reina Elena arrives – all will be crowned when all four Sagalas are present at the altar

- *Flower girls and Crown Bearers will stand by the Clergy and will accompany the corresponding Outgoing Reina and Clergy who will perform the crowning.*

## **NARRATOR #2:**

We honor the three virtues -

### **21. Reina de la Esperanza (Mother Mary – Queen of Hope) – portrayed by Aika Ong.**

*She symbolizes the theological virtue of Hope. She carries an anchor.*

### **22. Reina de la Fe (Mother Mary – Queen of Faith) - portrayed by Kaila Desuasido – She symbolizes the theological virtue of Faith. She carries a cross.**

### **23. Reina de la Caridad (Mother Mary – Queen of Charity) - portrayed by Andrea Steiner – She symbolizes the theological virtue of Charity. She carries a red heart.**

**\*\*\*After all three virtues have circled the church they will pause to assemble at the far right side of church;  
Where they will wait to be called before ascending to their thrones\*\*\*  
\*\*\*flower girls and crown bearers stand by clergy\*\*\***

## **NARRATOR #1:**

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina de la Esperanza portrayed by Aika Ong  
Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_ (Reina & Escort ascends)*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina de la Fe portrayed by Kaila Desuasido  
Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_ – (Reina & Escort ascends)*

*Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina de la Caridad portrayed by Andrea Steiner  
Escorted by \_\_\_\_\_ (Reina & Escort ascends)  
...PAUSE...*

## **NARRATOR #2**

### **24. Reyna Elena – Emperatriz (Empress Helena of the True Cross) – portrayed by Malou Cu – She is the legendary founder of the True Cross. She carries a cross.**

**...PAUSE for CHOIR...**

- **Song: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS**

- *The “True Cross” is carried by four men who slowly begins to enter,*
- *Followed by the entourage,*
- *Followed by Reina Elena and Constantine.*

**Empress Helena of the True Cross** *was the legendary founder of the True Cross. Despite her advanced age, she traveled to the Holy Land in search of the cross that Jesus was crucified on. She found three crosses and proved which cross was true, by having a woman who was already at the point of death, brought from Jerusalem. When the woman touched the first and second crosses, her condition did not change, but when she touched the third and final cross she suddenly recovered. Helena declared the cross with which the woman had been touched to be the True Cross and brought it back to Rome. The true cross is represented by the small cross she carries. She is escorted by her son, Constantine.*

**\*\*\*After she circles the church and before she ascends to her throne\*\*\***



**NARRATOR #2:** *Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina Elena portrayed by Malou Cu*

**... PAUSE ...**

**NARRATOR #1:**

**We will now have The Coronation of the Reinas:**

*(Outgoing Reinas, Clergy, flower girls and crown bearers exit after each coronation)*

- **Reina Esperanza** will be crowned by Carina Cu and Msgr. Alarcon, assisted by flower girl \_\_\_\_\_ and crown bearer \_\_\_\_\_
- **Reina Fe** will be crowned by Bernadette Corpus and Fr. Ed Dura, assisted by flower girl \_\_\_\_\_ and crown bearer \_\_\_\_\_
- **Reina Caridad** will be crowned by Ching Rodenas and Fr. Rene Ramos, assisted by flower girl \_\_\_\_\_ and crown bearer \_\_\_\_\_
- **Reina Elena** will be crowned by Del Zagala and Bishop McElroy, assisted by flower girl(s) \_\_\_\_\_ and crown bearer \_\_\_\_\_

**PLAY (LOUDLY) CD #7 – Handel's Messiah**

- **Address** by Bishop McElroy
- **Acknowledgements** by Father Rene
- **Reception** – *Thank and dismiss the congregation. Sagalas stay behind for picture taking.*