

THE SANTACRUZAN PAGEANTRY

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 #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, who ended the persecution of Christians.

Constantine, the emperor of Rome, centuries ago, dreamt that he was asked to go to the battlefield to fight in the name of the Holy Cross. He conquered his enemy, and that victory led to his conversion to Christianity. He became the first Christian emperor in history. His mother Empress Helena was inspired by his experiences and in the **year 326 A.D.**, went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land to seek the Holy Cross, on which Christ was nailed. She successfully found the Holy Cross, complete with its inscription `INRI`.

The festivity commemorates the search for the Holy 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 that was 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 celebration of the finding of the Holy Cross by Reyna Helena.

NARRATOR #2:

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. 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 honor 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 called, **Sagalas** wearing elegant or theatrical costumes, portray biblical characters, the many titles of the Blessed Mother, and personify Empress Helena. 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 one hundred 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 -

THE 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 _____
(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 _____
(A Philippine Flag is brought in. After the song, the flag bearer exits to the sacristy)

OPENING:

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

Ladies and Gentlemen, please welcome Reina Elena 2020: Miss Antoinette Lim and Reina Elena 2011: Ms. Del Zagala

Pause for the entrance of the former Reina Elenas. Resume reading after both are seated.

Carina Santos, who would have portrayed Reina de las Flores (Mother Mary - Queen of Flowers) will not be joining us today, as she is currently out of the country. Let us thank and acknowledge Carina for her generous participation and hard work. (Applause)

When the native tribes of the Philippines still practiced pagan rituals and the dominant religion of the land was the Muslim religion; Christianity, was introduced by the Spaniards who 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)**

Today we honor a memorable woman from the NEW TESTAMENT:

1. Veronica – portrayed by Myhoa Starr

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.

Myhoa is escorted by _____

----DIOS TE SALVE----
(Sung/Piped in)

NARRATOR #2:

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

We honor the many titles of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

2. Reina de las Virgines (Mother Mary - Queen of Virgins) – portrayed by Michelle Silva Llanda

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.

Michelle is escorted by Emmanuel Llanda

The Angels are portrayed by Janelle Malibran and Aaliyah Bautista

- 3 Rosa Mystica (Mary, The Mystical Rose) – portrayed by Joanne Aguinaldo**
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.

Joanne is escorted by Franklin Aguinaldo II

- 4 Reina de las Profetas (Mother Mary - Queen of Prophets) - portrayed by Marites Santiago**

For 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.

Marites is escorted by Alvin Santiago

- 5 Reina del Santisima Rosario (Queen of the Most Holy Rosary) – portrayed by Angelica Tubig**

Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary is a venerated title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with the same image in the Philippines. Pious believers believe that the Virgin's intercession under this title helped to defeat the invading forces of the Protestant Dutch Republic during the Battles of La Naval de Manila in 1646. She carries a large Rosary.

Angelica is escorted by Kevin Meneses

- 6 Reina Justicia - (Mother Mary - Queen of Justice) – portrayed by Glenna Agbayani.** 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, which is Jesus, who was reflected in Mary. She carries a weighing scale and a sword.
Glenna is escorted by Jeff Junio

NARRATOR #1

- 7 Reina Paz (Mother Mary - Queen of Peace) – portrayed by Fe David**

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

Fe is escorted by Rod David

- 8 Reina de las Estrellas (Mother Mary - Queen of the Stars) –portrayed by Cherry Pie De Veyra**

Mary, who is blessed among all women, holds a special place among the stars. She carries a wand with a star.

Cherry is escorted by Roberto Rosales

9 Reina del Cielo (Mother Mary - Queen of Heaven) – portrayed by Mariah Tolentino

The Catholic teaching on this subject is expressed in the papal encyclical *Ad Caeli Reginam*, 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.
Mariah is escorted by Jarrett Zapata

10 Reina de los Angeles (Queen of Angels) –portrayed by Marijoy Angeles

We know in simple, childlike faith that the Blessed Virgin Mary is, in flesh and blood, holier, more beautiful, more powerful, and closer to God in divine union than all the choirs and hierarchies of angels put together. Mary is the Queen of Angels. The angels obey her slightest command with royal, angelic love. She carries a bouquet of flowers.

Marijoy is escorted by David Delos Reyes

The angels are portrayed by Riley Capacillo and Madison Agramon

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

Order of entourage and crowning.:

- 11 Reinas and Escorts enter as they are introduced.
- 3 virtues & Reina Elena are preceded by their flower girl, crown bearer, arco bearers,

Reinas to be escorted to their “thrones” by their escorts.

All 3 Reinas remain standing until Reina Elena arrives.

The coronation begins once all 4 Reinas are present at the Stage.

Reinas will be seated for the crowning.

NARRATOR #2:

We honor the three virtues -

11. Reina de la Fe (Mother Mary – Queen of Faith) She symbolizes the theological virtue of Faith. She carries a cross.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina de la Fe portrayed by Christmas Tiletile

Escorted by Gerald Tiletile

The crown bearer is Avery Christopher Ramos

12. Reina de la Esperanza (Mother Mary – Queen of Hope) She symbolizes the theological virtue of Hope. She carries an anchor.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina de la Esperanza portrayed by Pauline Uy

Escorted by Ron Le Beau

The crown bearer is Luca Alexander Santucci

NARRATOR #1:

13. Reina de la Caridad (Mother Mary – Queen of Charity) -

She symbolizes the theological virtue of Charity. She carries a red heart.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina de la Caridad portrayed by Aleczia Trinidad
Escorted by Alec Trinidad
The crown bearer is Antonio Carmelo Balmaceda**

**...PAUSE FOR MUSIC: LIFT HIGH THE CROSS
The "True Cross" is carried in and placed it in its stand.**

NARRATOR #2

14. Reina Elena (Empress Helena of the True Cross) was the legendary founder of the True Cross. Despite being advanced in 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.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Reina Elena, the legendary founder of the True Cross where Jesus was crucified, portrayed by Vicky Palomar,
Edd Palomar portrays Constantine.
The flower girl is Vanessa Palomar, and the crown bearer is Vinny Palomar**

... PAUSE ...

NARRATOR #1:

We will now have THE CORONATION OF THE REINAS: *Reinas, please be seated for the crowning.*

Reina Fe, Christmas Tiletile will be crowned by Fr. Jun Embile, Jr and Councilmember Flor Nicolas. (Clergy & those assisting exit after the coronation.)

Reina Esperanza will be crowned by Fr. Raul Delos Santos and Vice Consul Hanna Go. (Clergy & those assisting exit after the coronation.)

NARRATOR #2

Reina Caridad will be crowned by Fr. Ifeanyi Uwabunkeonye and Del Zagala. (Clergy & those assisting exit after the coronation.)

Reina Elena will be crowned by Fr. Ray Reyes and Antoinette Lim. (Clergy & those assisting exit after the coronation.)

SANTACRUZAN 2025

(Sequence)

Sagalas to be seated as follows for the 4:30 pm Mass:

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

- Pew 1: Reina Esperanza, Reina Fe, Reina Caridad & Reina Elena (4)
- Pew 2: 4 Sagalas

Sagalas seated by ranking.

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

- Pew 1 – 4 Sagalas
- Pew 2 – 3 Sagalas

Escorts/Entourage:

Reserve pews for: Escorts (14) | Entourage | AVE MARIA (8) | Crown Bearer (1)

Consulate Officials (4) | Former Reina Elenas (2)

Liturgy Sequence:

4:25 PM Short welcome note about Santacruzán.

Liturgical Procession

Choir: Sings “**Purihin ang Panginoon**”

2025 Reinas to process (alone) at beginning of Mass and proceed to their assigned seats.

Altar Servers

EMs

Priests

AVE MARIA participants (8)

Bearer of Reina Elena’s Cross

Children holding the letters **AVE MARIA** will process toward the altar; when they reach the front, they will turn to face the congregation.

They will be followed by the child holding Reina Elena’s Cross. The child will present the cross to Reina Elena.

(The children will exit after the cross is given to Reina Elena)

AFTER MASS:

The KofC Color Corp will lead the **PROCESSION** out of the church.

Reinas will be escorted to the procession.

Sagalas will process from the church through St. Joseph, Sacred Heart and up the steps back to Church.

The congregation will be guided to where the procession will begin.

The Sagalas will line up with their escorts in between two single file lines.

There will be a short break immediately after the procession.

Sagalas will be given time to freshen up, then return to the church to begin the **PAGEANTRY**.

During the procession and break, the stage will be put in place.

ORDER OF THE PROCESSION:

Altar Servers
Band (if any)
AVE MARIA participants

Reinas & Escorts:

1. Veronica (Myhoa Starr & _____)
2. Reina de las Virgines (Michelle Silva Llanda & Emmanuel Llanda)
3. Rosa Mystica (Joanne Aguinaldo & Franklin Aguinaldo II)
4. Reina de las Profetas (Marites Santiago & Alvin Santiago)
5. Reina del Santisimo Rosario (Angelica Tubig & Kevin Meneses)
6. Reina Justicia (Glenna Agbayani & Jeff Junio)
7. Reina Paz (Fe David & Rod David)
8. Reina de las Estrellas (Cherry Pie De Veyra & Roberto Rosales)
9. Reina del Cielo (Mariah Tolentino & Jarrett Zapata)
10. Reina de las Angeles (Marijoy Angeles & David Delos Reyes)

Virtues, Reina Elena, Escorts and Arch Bearers:

11. Reina de la Fe (Christmas Tiletile & Gerald Tiletile)
12. Reina de la Esperanza (Pauline Uy & Ron Le Beau)
13. Reina de la Caridad (Alecza Trinidad & Alec Trinidad)
14. Reina Elena (Vicky Palomar & Edd Palomar)

Choir
Statue of the BVM
Clergy

Address by _____

Acknowledgements by _____

Reception at the hall

Clergy:

Fr. Jose Embile
Fr. Raul Santos
Fr. Ifeanyi Uwabunkeonye
Fr. Ray Reyes

Consulate Officials:

Vice Consul Hannah Go (representing Consul General Ferrer)
Cultural Officer Anne Estoya
ATN Officer Bernice Santayana
Consular Officer Priscilla Senturias