

Bishop's Office

*Return to H. H. H. H.*

Diocese of Agaña  
Post Office Box 125  
Agaña, Guam 96910

December 29, 1975

The Honorable Vicente N. Santos  
President  
Marianas District Legislature  
Saipan, M.I.

Dear Honorable Santos:

In the name of the People of God of the Diocese of Agaña (Guam, the Northern Marianas and Wake Island), I thank you very sincerely for the expression of sympathy and especially for the prayers that you as President of the Marianas District Legislature and our people of the Northern Marianas offered on the occasion of the death of Monsignor Jose Ada Leon Guerrero, Pastor of Mongmong, and Chancellor of the Diocese of Agaña.

As a native-born Saipanese, the first to be ordained to the Holy Priesthood from the Northern Marianas, Monsignor Guerrero personified in his service to God and to man that spirit of Christian unity and generosity that have been the distinguishing hallmarks of our people of various ethnic backgrounds in the Diocese of Agaña. His concern for the welfare of the Church and the Community here in Guam and in the Northern Marianas is indeed worthy of our emulation.

As we begin a New Year which will be of great significance to all of us, especially to the people of the Northern Marianas who are about to be conferred Commonwealth status which I know they are worthy of, we invoke the blessing of Almighty God and ask for His continued direction leading us to the attainment of our cherished ambition to become part of the United States through Commonwealth, a fact made known by an overwhelming vote of the people of the Northern Marianas in favor of such a status last June.

As Bishop of the Church of the Diocese of Agaña, it is my great joy to note in my many pastoral and civic visits to our people in the Northern Marianas their sense of oneness in their profession of their Faith in Jesus Christ. With trust in God's help,

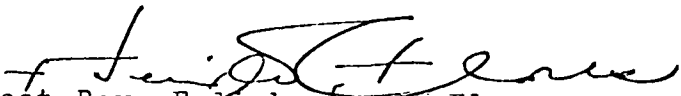
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I ask you and our people to unite not only politically but especially spiritually. I cannot see any grounds for thinking that our cultural heritages can ever be disengaged from the Faith of the vast majority of our people, a Faith we have enjoyed together for more than 300 years. For this reason, I see as imperative the need for us in the entire Marianas to work together towards the strengthening of these bonds of unity and charity.

Father Arnold, the Pastor of Saipan, and my brother priests working in the vineyard of the Northern Marianas, Father Antonelli, Pastor of Rota, and Father Juan Meno, Pastor of Tinian, join me in praying for you and our people for a truly Blessed New Year. May this New Year mark the culmination of years of sacrifice and hard work to attain political and spiritual maturity.

With every best personal wish.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

  
Most Rev. Felixberto C. Flores, D.D.  
Bishop of Guam and the Northern Marianas