

# **Inculturation: Expressing our Identity In Christ**

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## **PART ONE: THEOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY**

### **I. Christian Identity**

### **II. Ethnic-Cultural Identity**

- A. Culture: a collective identity and the meaning-making processes that shape that identity.
- B. Ethnicity: The ethnicity of one group helps mark that particular group as a social group who may share a common nationality, religious faith, set of rituals, language, or physical features.

### **III. Inculturation: Christian Faith Meets Culture**

The ongoing dialogue between faith and culture

### **IV. Vatican II, Liturgy, and Popular Devotions**

- A. Liturgy (the Eucharist) as summit and font of Christian Prayer versus the diminishment of popular devotions
- B. Anscar Chupungco, OSB: Filipino Benedictine Monk, San Beda College, Our Lady of Montserrat,
- C. Balancing Unity and Diversity
  - 1. Unity comes from recourse to official books (sacramentary, lectionary, etc.)
  - 2. Cultural expression comes from recognizing ethnic-cultural values and applying the various cultural patterns: linguistic, visual, gestural, smell, taste, sense of hospitality, meal, communication patterns, relationships, leadership, etc.

## **PART TWO: SPECIFIC POPULAR DEVOTIONS**

### **I. Discovering Our Ethnic-Cultural Values**

### **II. Filipino Devotion<sup>1</sup>**

- A. Historical Background
- B. Categories of Filipino Religiosity (*these categories are usually combined*)
  - 1. Popular Devotions
    - a. Visits to Blessed Sacrament: Adoration, Benedictions, etc.
    - b. Holy Hour Devotions: i.e., Forty Hours

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<sup>1</sup> Taken from *Liturgical Inculturation: Sacramentals, Religiosity, and Catechesis* by Anscar Chupungco. Collegeville, MN: The Liturgical Press, 1992.

- c. Novenas: Nine-Day Preparatory Prayer
  - d. Marian: The Angelus, The Rosary
  - e. Seasonal: i.e., *Visita de Iglesias* on Holy Thursday
2. Procession
    - a. *Floyes de Mayo*: presentation of flowers to the Blessed Virgin Mary
    - b. *Santakrusan*: commemorates the finding of the holy cross
  3. Altars and Shrines
    - a. Found in homes, shops, grottos, vehicles, and street corners
    - b. Popular images include: *Santo Niño*, Black Nazarene, Mary
  4. Religious Drama and Dance
    - a. Christmas: *the Panuluyan*: “search for an inn”
    - b. Holy Week: *the Cenaculo*: the history of salvation
    - c. Good Friday: the *penitensya*: reenacts the carrying of the cross
    - d. Easter Morning: the *encruentro* or *salubong*: the meeting of Mary and the Risen Christ

### III. Simbang Gabi (“Night Masses”)

- A. Advent-Christmas Cycle: Nine Day Novena: Dec. 16 – 24
- B. Historical Background: Inculturation Between Roman Catholicism and Filipino Culture
- C. Christian Theological Meaning
  1. Liturgical Season: tone, character, mood
  2. Scripture
  3. Liturgical Color, Vestments
  4. Music
- D. Ethnic-Cultural Meaning
- E. Traditional Outline
- F. Pastoral Application

### IV. Las Posadas (“Inn” or “Shelter”)

- A. Advent-Christmas Cycle: Nine Day Procession and Novena: Dec. 16 – 24
- B. Historical Background: Inculturation Between Roman Catholicism and The New Continent
- C. Christian Theological Meaning
  1. Liturgical Season: tone, character, mood
  2. Scripture
  3. Liturgical Color, Vestments, etc.
  4. Music
- D. Ethnic-Cultural Meaning
- E. Traditional Outline
- F. Pastoral Application