

Flores de Mayo & Santacruzán Festival 2018



*Couples for Christ & Family Ministries Bermuda, in
Collaboration with the Filipino Communities in
Bermuda and the Catholic Diocese of Hamilton
Bermuda*

Meaning and Significance

What is the “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 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.**, that 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 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, including a parade of some significant women characters from both the Old and New Testament. It also includes some titles of the Blessed Mary as mentioned in the Litany of the Most Holy Rosary.

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 people of each town. The “Mayflower” offering refers 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 some parts of Europe and America. The tradition is religiously celebrated preceded by nine days of prayer, a novena, in honour of the Holy Cross and coupled with the Flores de Mayo.

Program

- 1:15 Gathering at the Cathedral
1:15-1:20 Welcome message by Bishop Wes
1:20-1:30 Brief History of the Flores de Mayo and Santacruzán by George Alayon, Area Head
 Couples for Christ and Family Ministries Bermuda

- 1:30-1:45 Holy Rosary (Full with Litany, Glorious mysteries)

Prayer leaders:

English – Lucy Willits

Tagalog – Delma Lazaro

Visaya – Marrah Butler

Portuguese – Graca Chibante

Konkani (Goa, India) – Maurice Barreto

Litany of Loreto – Deacon David and Cathryn Swain

- 1:45-2:45 Procession in the following order:

- Carriage (Caro) carrying the Blessed Mother's Statue adorned with flowers
- Choir/music ministry
- The clergy
- The Sagalas (See next section for the sequential order)
- The congregation, bringing flowers during the procession

People to sing "Immaculate Mary" again while on the procession, followed by "Hail Mary Gentle Woman", until they get back to the Cathedral

- 2:45 Back to the Cathedral
2:45-3:00 Offering of Flowers by Congregation to the Blessed Virgin Mary Statue
3:00-3:30 Sagala roll call
3:30-3:35 Short message from Father Joe Morley, CFCFM Bermuda Spiritual Director
3:35-3:40 Final Words and Blessing from Bishop Wes
3:35-3:40 Community Singing: A Song to Mary
3:40-3:50 Picture taking, pack up
3:50 – 4:30 Refreshments at the hall

The Sagalas (Sequential Order and Assignments)

Title	Description	Names	Group/Parish
Reyna Banderada	She carries a yellow triangular flag; she represents the coming of Christianity to the Philippines when the Spaniards landed in Homonhon Island in the Visayas.	Agneta Arcilla	AFB
Reyna Mora	She represents the dominant religion in the Philippines, particularly the Southern island, before Christianity was introduced. Mora is the feminine term of "Moro" from the Muslim religion mainly found in the island of Mindanao.	Anne Burgess	AFB
Memorable Women from Old Testament			
Reyna Judith	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.	Edna Silverio	AFB
Reyna Sheba	The Queen of Sheba is said to be a very beautiful, wealthy and wise Queen. She travelled 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.	Charlotte Castanar	AFB
Reyna Esther -	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.	Cherry Morgan	Club 2000

Women from the New Testament			
Title	Description	Names	Group
Reyna Samaritana	The woman at the well who 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	Beth Nueva	AFB
Reyna Veronica	Saint Veronica was the woman moved by pity in the Stations of the Cross. 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.	Phen Halili	Club 2000
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. Each Mary holds a unique attribute associated with the Entombment of Christ		
Mary Magdala	Carries a bottle of perfume, as Catholic tradition once conflated her with Mary of Bethany as the woman who anointed and wiped Jesus' feet.	Rhose Lema	CFC
Mary, Mother of James	Carries a bottle of oil bears a bottle of oil, alluding to her role as a Myrrhbearer.	Sherryl Foggo	CFC
Mary, Mother of Christ	Carries a handkerchief, for she is in mourning, with the death of her son.	Lilian Golajer	CFC
Angel Bearers			
A- Alyssa Lightbourne V- Natalea Anderson E- Briana Puheker		M- Maisie Ann Farnsworth A- Analia Machado R - Kaylee Almeida I - Lara Simas A – Kyra King	
Titles of Mary			
Reyna Divina Pastora	Mary, as the mother, is the Shepherdess and guardian of the Divine Shepherd; our Lord, Jesus Christ. She carries a shepherdess staff	Reyna Abad	Club 2000
Reyna delas Estrellas	Mary, who is blessed among all women, holds a special place among the stars. She carries a wand with a star	Josephine Sevilla	AFB

Title	Description	Names	Group/Parish
Reyna Abogada -	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	Kimberly Mendoza	Club 2000
Reyna Justicia	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.	Melita Carlit	Stella Maris
Reyna Sentenciada	Queen Convicted. She has her hands bound by a rope. She stands for the Early Christians, especially the virgins, who were martyred for their Faith.	Ruby Flores	Filipino Sports Group
Reyna delas Profetas	Marian title, celebrating the many titles of the Virgin Mary. She carries an hour glass that symbolizes the prophets.	Kelly Damasio	St. Michael's
Reyna delos Angeles	Marian title, celebrating the many titles of the Virgin Mary. She carries bouquet of white flowers, escorted by angels	Amalia Ponte <i>Angels: Lilian & Susan Fariah</i>	St. Theresa's
Reyna delos Santos	Marian title, celebrating the many titles of the Virgin Mary. She carries a golden wreath that symbolizes the crown of saints	Seri Fisher	St. Joseph's
Reyna delos Apostoles	Marian title, celebrating the many titles of the Virgin Mary. She carries a Palm Branch that symbolize the Branch of Martyrdom	Giselle Concepcion	St. Patrick's
Reyna dela Fe	She symbolizes Faith, the first of the theological virtues. She carries a cross.	Josephine Palima	CFC
Reina Esperanza	She symbolizes Hope, the second theological virtue. She carries an anchor.	Donna Sayon	CFC
Reyna del Caridad	She symbolizes Charity, the third theological virtue. She carries a red-colored heart.	Camella Bovell	St. Anthony's

Seat of Wisdom	Carries a Bible, she represents Mary as the Seat of Wisdom from the Litany.	Joanie Aviles	CFC
Reyna Rosa Mystica	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	Jona Fampulme	AFB
Reyna Paz	Mother Mary, Queen 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)	Melody Patricio Danaber <i>Angels:</i> 1. <i>Ely Burke</i> 2. <i>Sean Burke</i>	Filipino Sports Group
Reyna del Cielo	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 and is accompanied by 2 angels	Catherine Lopez <i>Angels:</i> 1. <i>Sabrina Carreon</i> 2. <i>Lexie Asendido</i>	Filipino Sports Group
Reyna delas Virgines	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 2 angels.	Judy Rilloraza <i>Angels:</i> 1. <i>Jia Condat</i> 2. <i>Jasmin Lasri</i>	Club 2000
Reyna del Santisimo Rosario	Marian title, celebrating one of the many titles of the Virgin Mary. She carries a big rosary that symbolizes the mysteries in the life of Christ.	Marife Bacasno Tan <i>Angels:</i> 1. <i>Allan Mar Tan</i> 2. <i>Jaden Anderson</i>	CFC
Reyna delas Flores	The Blessed Mother is honoured 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	Francisca Miciano <i>Angels:</i> 1. <i>Alyanna Alayon</i> 2. <i>Sophie Eden</i>	CFC

Title	Description	Names	Group/Parish
Reyna Emperatriz Emperor Constantine I	The royal title of Saint Constantine-the- Great's mother Helena. The title Emperatriz is derived from the Latin words <i>Augusta Imperatrix</i> , an honorific title given by the emperor to his mother. She wears a long red cape and carries an orb. In Hebrew tradition, the mother of the king is the Queen.	Courtney Calinisan <i>Angels</i> 1. <i>Jamila Jane Arellano</i> 2. <i>Althea Sevilla</i> Angelo Burgess	AFB
Reyna Elena Emperor Constantine II	She was the legendary founder of the True Cross. Despite her advanced age, she travelled 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, Emperor Constantine, the first Christian emperor of Rome.	Ana Liza Perez Reilley Carreon	Filipino Sports Group

IMMACULATE MARY

Immaculate Mary, thy praises we sing,
Who reignest in splendor with Jesus our King.

Ave, Ave, Ave María! Ave, Ave María!

In heaven the blessed thy glory proclaim,
On earth we thy children invoke thy fair name.

Ave, Ave, Ave María! Ave, Ave María!

We pray for our Mother, the Church upon earth,
And bless, dearest Lady, the land of our birth.

Ave, Ave, Ave María! Ave, Ave María!

Thy name is our power, thy virtues our light,

Hail Mary, Gentle Woman

Hail Mary, full of grace
the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women
and blest is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners now
and at the hour of death. Amen.

Chorus:

Gentle woman, quiet light,
morning star, so strong and bright,
gentle Mother, peaceful dove,
teach us wisdom; teach us love.

Verse 1:

You were chosen by the Father;
you were chosen for the Son.
You were chosen from all women
and for woman, shining one. (Chorus)

Verse 2:

Blessed are you among women, blest in turn all women, too.
Blessed they with peaceful spirits.
Blessed they with gentle hearts. (Chorus)

Thy love is our comfort, thy pleading our might.

Ave, Ave, Ave María! Ave, Ave María!

Immaculate mother
We come at thy call
And low at thy altar
Before thee we fall
Ave, Ave, Ave María! Ave, Ave María!

We pray for our country
The land of our birth
We pray for all nations
That peace be on earth
Ave, Ave, Ave María! Ave, Ave María!

In grief and temptation
In joy and in pain
We'll seek thee our mother
Nor seek thee in vain
Ave, Ave, Ave María! Ave, Ave María!

TO MARY

O how I long to sing you a song of love
To describe the warmth of your smile
The pureness of your heart
O Mary, our Queen of love, our way to the loving Son
Our beautiful way to the loving Son.
When I am happy you are there to share it with me
When I am grieving I can call and you'd console me
O how I long to sing you a song of love
To express the happiness that's deep within my heart
O Mary, our Queen of love, our way to the loving Son
Our beautiful way to your loving Son.
Repeat all

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 - b. St. Patrick's Parish
 - c. St. Michael's Parish
 - d. St. Anthony's Parish
 - e. St. Joseph's Parish
6. All individuals and groups, too many to mention, who supported and helped throughout all the phases of preparation for this event.

May the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ, through the intercessions of Mother Mary and St. Helena, be with all of you and your loved ones, now and forever, Amen.

~Couples for Christ and Family Ministries Bermuda~



Filipino Sports Group