

The Visita Iglesia

[John081590](#) wrote on Apr 28, 2011

The Visita Iglesia is a tradition practiced every Maundy Thursday in the Philippines. Traditionally, one would visit 7 churches, to recite, pray and contemplate on the Stations of the Cross, two stations for each church. Some opted to extend this practice to 14 churches, one Station of the Cross for each church.

This is usually done during the evening, after the Blessed Sacrament is exposed on the Altar of Repose. However, many people start the Visita Iglesia during the day.

I opted to visit 14 churches for my Visita Iglesia. For those who are physically able to do so, Visita Iglesia is a wonderful experience which will deepen your understanding and relationship with God.

I also added quotations from an old version of the Stations of the Cross, so that this can be used as a virtual Visita Iglesia for those who cannot do an actual Visita.

Part One - Church of St. Anthony of Padua and Church of Our Lady of Loreto

MUSIC: All Myself To You by Yiruma. No copyright infringement intended.

Part Two - Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat

This is the second part of my Visita Iglesia Series. Enjoy! As you may have noticed, my pictures and footages have inconsistencies. This is because I revisited the church on Black Saturday to get some more footages.

About the Church:

The church and adjoining San Beda College is run and taken care of by the Benedictine monks, who settled and put up the college and church in 1901. Prior to settling in Manila, they served as missionaries and pastors upon setting foot in Surigao, year 1895. The church serves two purposes: as a college chapel for the students of the college and as abbey church for the Benedictine monks.

Benedictine Father Lesmes Lopez and Brother Salvador Alberich did the decorations and paintings on this church. This is one of Manila's pre-war churches that escaped the bombings of the city. Today, it still inspires and awes.

Music: Panunumpa, as performed by the Philippine Madrigal Singers. No copyright infringement is intended.

Part Three - Minor Basilica of San Sebastian

This is the Third Part of my Visita Iglesia Series. Enjoy! As you may have noticed, my pictures and footages have inconsistencies. This is because I revisited the church on Black Saturday to get some more footages.

About the Church:

This church is dedicated to St. Sebastian. This is also the National Shrine for Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.

One of its most unique features is that it is entirely made of steel. This is one of the first, if not the first prefabricated structure in the Philippines.

It is designed by the architect Genaro Palacios y Guerra, in a purely Neo-Gothic style, another distinctive feature in the country. The whole church is made in Belgium, is knocked down and shipped to the Philippines. The church is completed on 1891. The beautiful stained glass windows are from the Henri-Oidtmann company, a German firm. Trompe l'oeil paintings are done by local artist Lorenzo Rocha and his students.

The structure is saved from the bombings in Manila, which practically levelled the entire city. Today, it is still a reminder of the life in the olden times.

Today, the church is a favorite among couples planning to tie the knot because of its architectural and artistic beauty.

Music by: Jubilate from Libera. Thank you, TullyBascombe for the info!

Part Four - Holy Shrine of the Face of Jesus

This is part four of my Visita Iglesia Series. Enjoy

Music by Chanticleer. No copyright infringement is intended

Part Five - Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene

This is part five of my Visita Iglesia Series. Enjoy! I added some of my old pictures of the church in this video since time didn't allow me to take some more, plus the security people are very strict that time

About the Church:

This church houses the Image of the Black Nazarene, which is a popular and highly venerated image of Christ in the Philippines. This is actually the fourth church to rise on this site. The former edifices were destroyed by earthquakes and fires. After the third church burned down in 1928, it was rebuilt by National Artist for Architecture Juan Nakpil. This

fourth church survived the ravages of war, despite structures surrounding it are completely annihilated.

In 1984, the church was remodelled by Msgr. Jose Abriol, together with Architect Jose Ma. Zaragoza and Engr. Eduardo Santiago to accommodate the ever increasing number of devotees flocking to the church. Though the nave of the church is distinctly modern in design, the original pre-war facade and bell towers were preserved.

The image of the Black Nazarene is probably what made the church famous. It was originally housed in a church on Bagumbayan (now Luneta), probably part of Spanish Era 'Extramuros', a collection of districts which are found right outside the walls of Intramuros. It was transferred to the Church of San Nicholas Tolentino (now site of Manila Bulletin - Intramuros) and later on to the church of Quiapo. This is perhaps the basis of the processional route of the image which starts on Luneta and ends on the church.

Some of the best sounding bells I heard from Manila churches are found here. According to the website, this set of five bronze bells were donated by the citizens of Quiapo and the devotees of the Black Nazarene.

Music: If someone knows what music is this, please let me know so that I can credit them accordingly. It is a version of Our Father

Part Six - Church of Sta Cruz

No description available.

Part Seven - Minor Basilica of San Lorenzo Ruiz

No description available

Part Eight - Manila Cathedral

No description available.

Part Nine - Church of San Agustin

No description available