

# Foreword

## BACKGROUND TO PASTORAL RESPONSE

In 2011, the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Island Affairs (SCAPA) celebrated the tenth anniversary of the statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), *Asian and Pacific Presence: Harmony in Faith*. The Subcommittee encouraged the observance of the special anniversary and promoted the implementation of the vision of the pastoral statement in several ways, including the development of educational materials for publication about Asian and Pacific Island Catholics.

The SCAPA commissioned draft writers for a series of small books to foster knowledge of and awareness among clergy, ministers, and parishioners of the traditions and expressions of faith of Catholics of Asian and Pacific Island descent.

In 2018, the USCCB statement *Encountering Christ in Harmony: A Pastoral Response to Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters*, affirms the need to “provide and continue to develop resources that are prepared for—and may stem from—Asian and Pacific Island communities.”

The Subcommittee is grateful to Stephen M. Cherry, PhD, and Rev. Ricky Manalo, CSP, for their work on *A Treasured Presence: Filipino American Catholics*. Stephen M. Cherry is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Houston–Clear Lake. Both are authors and among their published works are *Faith, Family, and Filipino American Community Life* (Stephen M. Cherry: Rutgers University Press, 2014) and *The Liturgy of Life* (Ricky Manalo: Liturgical Press, 2014).

This small book sets out to provide readers with a general introduction to Filipino American Catholicism from historical, cultural, worship and pastoral perspectives. Chapter One provides a brief historical overview of Filipino faith encounters with Catholics in

the Philippines and the United States. Chapter Two explores the importance of faith and family to Filipino American parish life. Chapter Three provides an overview of Filipino American Catholic liturgies, devotions, and worship practices. This concise resource is replete with useful information that may be helpful for pastors and those involved in ministry to the Filipino Americans. It provides key insights into the cultural traits and faith perspectives that animate the religious life of Filipino Americans today.

Most Rev. Oscar A. Solis, D.D.

Bishop of Salt Lake City

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