

PRESS RELEASE –

For immediate release

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Penafrancia Devotees in Australia Prepare for “INA” Fiesta ‘2014’

Currently on its 9th year, the Bicolano community of Sydney and NSW have laid out their activities in preparation for another successful celebration of Penafrancia Fiesta come 20 September 2014. The *Australian Devotees of Our Lady of Penafrancia* (ADOLP), a prayer group based at St Nicholas of Myra Church in Penrith, have announced the holding of triduum masses before the feast day. “Triduum” is a latin term referring to a 3-day period of prayer or devotion preceding an important feast. The three separate weekend novena masses in honour of *Ina* (Mother) will be held on the following: 30 August at 11:00 am, Mary Immaculate Church, 125 Barnier Drive, Quakers Hill; 6 September at 11:00 am, St. Patricks Cathedral, 1 Marish Place, Parramatta and 13 September, 11:00 am at the St Michael’s Church, 58 Orwell St, Blacktown. All these novena masses are scheduled on Saturdays to afford Marian devotees to participate and attend these events prior to the big feast day.

The Replica of Ina which came from Basilica of Penafrancia will stay at each parish for one week to enable Marian devotees to pray for Ina’s intercession. Our Lady’s image is being dressed for the occasion every year thru the generosity of donors. This year’s dress of INA is donated by Tito & Neria Soliman & previous years donors were Ernie & Au Aaron, Relunia Family and Tom & Norma Evans to name a few.

On Saturday 13th Sept, the image of Our Lady of Penafrancia will be brought back to her home at St Nicholas of Myra Church for her Feast Day. The novena will start at 9:00 am and followed by concelebrated mass at 9:30 am. After the mass, the Replica will be brought to “Tench Reserve” Factory Reserve Wharf (Jamison Road) by car procession (a 10 minute drive) for “INA” fluvial procession on the Nepean River. The Explorer (a 32 seater boat) will be the pagoda. The Nepean Belle (with capacity of 150) will be the devotees boat. There will be 20 rowers in 4 boats from the Penrith City Rowing Club who will participate in the fluvial procession. Kayakers from Wollongong will also bring their kayaks to join in the fluvial procession. The Pendragons with one or two of their dragon boats will also participate. The fluvial procession will start at 12:00 pm and will last until 12:30 pm followed by lunch and entertainment. A total of 4 food stalls is available for everyone to savor the variety of filipino/bicol dishes for free after the fluvial procession.

Last year, close to 500 devotees and friends attended the fiesta, and this year an increase in number is expected. ADOLP has also announced that this year’s theme is “*Laity: Sent Forth with INA to Witness to Christ’s Gospel and Strengthen Communities of Faith*”. This theme also marks the preparation of the Basilica de Naga for next year “Year of the Poor”. The Basilica also decided this year that fishermen and farmers are the one to be in the Pagoda in consonance with the theme. The celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Penafrancia is one of the biggest religious celebrations in the Philippines during September, attracting devotees from all over the country and abroad. In Sydney, a replica of the original image is housed at St Nicholas of Myra Church since 2006, and is blessed for devotion with permission and authority from the Archdiocese of Nueva Caceres. It is expected that this year’s fiesta will be participated by the Consular staff headed by Consul General Anne Jalando-on Louis, the Penrith Mayor and Councillors and the devotees from all over NSW. ADOLP also invited the Vicar General and most of the Filipino Priests in the Diocese of Parramatta as the main & co-celebrants for the Eucharistic celebration.

ADOLP Inc. invites everyone on 20 September 2014, to the Penafrancia Feast and Fluvial Procession at Nepean River, Penrith. Before the FEAST, TRIDUUM Novena MASSES will be celebrated in three different parishes mentioned above.

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Devotees at the 2009 Lenten Recollection

