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Pope Leo XIV celebrates his first public Mass of 2026 on the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, telling believers that Mary has revealed the 'unarmed and disarming' face of God.

Pope: The new year is 'a journey to be discovered'

"May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord let his face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord uncover his face to you and bring you peace".

Pope Leo opened the homily at his first Mass of 2026 by reflecting on this blessing from the Book of Numbers, taken from the day's first reading.

The blessing, he said, was addressed to the people of Israel, who had just been liberated from slavery in Egypt, and had been offered a "rebirth", an "open road toward the future".

In this way, the Pope noted, the day's liturgy reminds us that "every day can be the beginning of a new life, thanks to God's generous love, his mercy and the response of our freedom."

POPE • 4

DSWD IV-A builds stronger pathways for 4Ps families through multi-sector partnerships

The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) Field Office IV-A continues to reinforce its commitment to empowering Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps) households by widening access to education, employment, and healthcare services through strategic partnerships across the CALABARZON region.



Recently, the regional office entered into new partnership agreements with five institutions from the education, training, and health sectors—National University (NU) Dasmariñas, University of Batangas, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc., Technovative Training Center, Inc., and San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc.

DSWD IV-A • 4

SC Invites Filipinos to Celebrate Its 125th Anniversary Through Photo Contest

The Supreme Court (SC) invites professional photographers, hobbyists, and enthusiasts to be part of its 125th Anniversary Photo Contest with the theme "Accessible and Inclusive Justice."



CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

Capture stories of hope, struggle, and resilience – moments that show what justice looks like in everyday Filipino life. Submit entries in Digital or Film categories and get a chance to be featured in the special SC Photo Exhibit, win cash prizes of up to P125,000, and be recognized at the SC awards ceremony.

Photos must be taken from January 1, 2026 onward.

The deadline for submission is March 31, 2026, with the full contest mechanics to be announced soon.

Let your lens tell the story of justice.

The SC will commemorate its 125th anniversary in 2026—a historic milestone in our nation's enduring commitment to justice and the rule of law. *(Courtesy of the SC Office of the Spokesperson)*

NEWS

Bacoor police launch new alert system to strengthen crime prevention

CITY OF BACOOR, Cavite (PIA) — To further enhance public safety and protect businesses, the Bacoor Component City Police Station has launched Project SOS: 'Strike One SMS,' a new crime-prevention and rapid alert system designed to improve police response during emergencies.

The initiative was formally introduced during a recent coordination meeting held at the Strike Multipurpose Hall in the Bacoor Government Center, Barangay Bayanan. P/Lt. Chief Alexie A. Desamito led the meet-



DOLE's internship program: A pathway toward public service

Department of Labor and Employment's (DOLE) Government Internship Program (GIP) prepares the youth for their next challenge in life, giving them valuable lessons from months of internships at the Philippine Information Agency (PIA) Region 12.



The program aims to provide beneficiaries with opportunities to work in government offices. It not only offers a livelihood for young people but also serves as a training ground where they can develop or enhance their skills.

These advancements will enable them to start a journey either as public servants or private employees.

"Ang mga natutunan ko sa PIA na babaunin ko sa aking bagong paglalakbay ngayong Bagong Taon ay ang kahalagahan ng responsableng komunikasyon at tamang pagbibigay ng impormasyon," Jmicah D. Jambangan, one of the GIP beneficiaries, said.

(The importance of responsible communication and providing accurate information is what I learned from PIA and will take with me on my new journey this New Year.)

She stated that her experience at PIA helped her understand how each piece of disseminated information influences

people's mindsets and decisions.

"Kaya napakahalaga ang pagbabahagi ng totoo at malinaw na mensahe (That's why it's so important to share a true and clear message)," she said.

Meanwhile, Zerlein Maricarl Clarete expressed that her experience as a GIP beneficiary allowed her to view the national government in a new light.

"Nakita ko kung gaano kapursigido ang pamahalaan sa pag-aabot ng tulong sa masa at kung gaano nito pinahahalagahan ang pagpapalaganap ng tamang impormasyon," Clarete said adding that this will be her motivation in her desire for government service this year.

(The government's determination to deliver aid to the masses and its commitment to disseminating accurate information are evident.)

She also emphasized that her experience in the program is an advantage she can leverage in her job search in 2026.

Both Jambangan and Clarete expressed their gratitude to DOLE and PIA for the opportunity to serve as public servants. Although their time in the program was short, it provided them with lasting memories they will treasure for the rest of their lives.

The internship, they noted, offered not only opportunities for career development but also helped cultivate new friendships and familial relationships.

Fryan E. Abkilan, regional head of PIA Region 12, highlighted the important contributions of the beneficiaries as an augmentation to the regional office's workforce.

"The government internship program is important not only for providing the youth with livelihood opportunities but also for engaging them in government service," Abkilan stated, adding that the interns assigned to the regional office contributed significantly to fulfilling the mandates of PIA in various ways.

He noted that they

ing attended by local officials, police officers, program developers, and representatives from major convenience store chains operating in the city.

Among those present were Provincial Board Member Hon. Alde Pagulayan, City Councilor Hon. Manolo "Noly" Galvez, P/Lt. Chief Basman A. Macarangel Jr., P/Maj. Kris Albin B. Gonzales, Project SOS programmer, Yvan Mercado, and various business stakeholders.

Participants reviewed crime data covering calendar years 2023 to 2025 and discussed ways to strengthen preventive

measures in commercial establishments. These measures included the enforcement of window transaction and clear-face policies, the use of advanced CCTV systems, door-clamping mechanisms, and intercom integration to improve security and monitoring.

A highlight of the meeting was the demonstration of the OR-MS-ART, a rapid-response device capable of instantly sending alerts to law enforcement during robbery incidents. PLT Chief Macarangel suggested incorporating an acknowledgment feature to confirm that responding police units receive alerts in

real time.

Local officials expressed strong support for the project. Board Member Pagulayan and Councilor Galvez both committed to backing the initiative and exploring the passage of a local ordinance to institutionalize its implementation throughout Bacoor.

P/Lt. Desamito thanked all stakeholders and the Bacoor local government unit for their cooperation, underscoring the city's continued commitment to public safety and ensuring the protection of convenience store employees and customers. **(RBF/Bacoor Component City Police Station)**



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were tasked with various workloads, ranging from operational duties to administrative tasks.

The official believes that the GIP beneficiaries assigned to PIA can use their experience as a

stepping stone to secure employment in government offices.

He also assured future government interns that PIA is prepared to train dedicated and high-performing youth govern-

ment workers.

Based on data from DOLE 12, more than 1,300 government interns were assigned to various government offices in 2025. **(SJDM, PIA Region 12)**

Editorial

Looking to the heavens for progress

OVER the past several years, interest in what can be loosely referred to as the “space economy” has grown in the Philippines, and institutionalized to some degree by the creation of the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) by the Philippine Space Act (Republic Act 11363) in 2019. However, although the leadership of PhilSA has a progressive, broad strategy for building a space economy in the Philippines — described in a lengthy, four-part primer titled “Our Place in Space,” which is available on the PhilSA website — space does not yet have a significant part in economic planning for the country as a whole. It is considered, at best, a useful aspiration, but not a vital one. This is a perspective that must change.

According to data provided by a commentary early this month by the director of the Asian Development Bank’s (ADB) Digital Sector Office, there are now about 11,000 satellites orbiting Earth, with 3,200 launched in 2024 alone. Currently, the space economy is worth about \$600 billion; by 2035, that is expected to triple to \$1.8 trillion. The number of spacefaring nations has also grown; in 2000, only 14 countries had satellites, but as of the end of 2024, there are between 101 and 105 (numbers vary according to sources) countries with satellites. Space has, in fact, become part of the global infrastructure, rather than the domain of a few countries with abundant technical knowhow and resources.

The ADB commentary further points out that space-based services have become vital for international development goals, estimating that more than 40 percent of development initiatives depend on them. Satellites provide a variety of environmental data, helping the development of agriculture, forest management, disaster response and climate adaptation, just to name a few. Satellites are also becoming critical to communications connectivity; despite the highly dubious ownership of the company, the availability of SpaceX’s Starlink network has allowed the Philippines to rapidly expand internet connections to previously isolated and underserved areas of the country.

Almost all of the development issues the government manages in some way are related to location and geography — ecosystems, food production, transportation networks, water supplies, energy and natural hazards. But planning and management still most relies on static, document-based systems. The world simply does not work like that; it is spatial, dynamic and interconnected.



To manage planning with the greatest possible efficiency and effectiveness, earth observation using satellites must be paired with geographic information systems that can identify critical patterns and relationships in location-based data.

The government does utilize these tools in some planning and monitoring applications, but primarily as a “downstream” user, a customer of services provided by other satellite operators. At the moment, the Philippines only has two operational satellites of its own: Agila, an American-built communications satellite operated by a private company and launched from the US in late 2024, and Diwata-2, a homegrown microsatellite for earth observation launched from Japan in 2018.

Using third-party satellite services is useful, but the fundamental problem is that for development to be effective, as the ADB commentary succinctly put it, “countries can no longer treat earth observation and geographic information systems as projects. They should be viewed as national spatial data infrastructure.” In other words, a form of public utility; a bit of a novel utility, to be sure, but one that is no less important to the country than communications, energy, water or transportation infrastructure. That being the case, developing our spatial data infrastruc-

ture rather than relying almost exclusively on outside providers is a matter of national security.

Two immediate critical uses of this infrastructure are in disaster management — something that the government has made a bit progress in implementing — and in monitoring of infrastructure and other development projects. Spatial data could have, after all, provided early warning of flood control projects gone wrong, or at least some of them, so that the country would not have found itself mired in the present overwhelming scandal.

For its part, PhilSA does get it; its “Our place in space” vision sets forth a solid plan to development both an upstream and downstream space economy. The upstream represents the human capital and technological capacity for the development of satellites and related systems; the downstream is the human capital, infrastructure, and most importantly, the policy to make use of what the satellites can provide.

PhilSA’s roadmap should be given a higher priority in government planning, because that is what our regional peers are doing with their respective space aspirations. The Philippines has hardly reached the starting point, while our competition is already racing ahead.

Kumain ng Malunggay

Alam ba ninyo na napakasustansya ng malunggay? Bukod sa gulay ng malunggay, marami din ngayong nagbebenta ng malunggay bread, malunggay noodles at iba pang pagkain na may sangkap na malunggay.

Very healthy ang malunggay at madali lang itanim. Ang sabi nga ng mga negosyante ay baka malunggay ang magpalakas ng ekonomiya ng Pilipinas. Alamin natin ang galing ng malunggay.

Madaming Bitamina

Ang dahon ng malunggay ay punong-puno ng calcium at iron. Ang calcium ay nagpapatigas ng ating buto at panlaban sa osteoporosis. Kung ikaw naman ay anemic o kulang sa dugo, sagana ang malunggay sa iron na nagpapadami ng ating dugo.

Mataas din sa protina, potassium, vitamin A at vitamin C ang malunggay. Ang mga bitaminang ito ay tinatawag na anti-oxidants. Ito yung lumalaban sa stress at nagpapabagal sa pag-edad ng ating katawan.

Kumpara sa ibang prutas at gulay, ang malunggay ay may mas maraming bitamina. Super-gulay talaga ang malunggay. Ang problema lang ay dapat masanay ang bata na kumain nito.

Ang prutas ng malunggay ay masustansya din at mataas sa carbohydrates, calcium, iron at phosphorus.

At dahil sa bitamina nito, ang malunggay ngayon ang pinapakain sa mga payat at malnourished na

DOKTOR NG MASA

ni Dr. Willie Ong



bata. Mura at masustansya ang malunggay. Puwedeng-puwede sa mga feeding program ng gobyerno at mga volunteer groups.

Para sa Maysakit

1. Pampalakas ng katawan - Kumain ng 1 tasang dahon ng malunggay araw-araw para mapunuan ang bitaminang kailangan ng katawan.

2. Pampadami ng gatas ng ina - Kapag kulang ang gatas ng ina, kumain din ng 1 tasang dahon araw-araw. Puwede din pakuluan ang dahon at gawing tsaa at inumin.

3. Para sa constipated - Kapag ika'y tinitibi, kumain din ng 1-2 tasang dahon sa gabi. Makatutulong ito sa pag-normal ng iyong pagdudumi.

4. Itapal sa sugat - Kapag ika'y may sugat, puwedeng ilagay ang dinurog na malunggay leaves sa sugat. Hugasan muna ang dahon at durugin ito. Lagyan ng konting tubig at initin. Pagkatapos ay ilapat ang malunggay “paste” sa sugat.

Marami pang galing na tinatago ang malunggay. Kaya magtanim na ng malunggay sa inyong bakuran. Alamin kung paano gagawing negosyo ang malunggay. Good luck.

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NEWS

E-trikes now banned on major NCR highways – LTO

MANILA – E-trikes and similar electric vehicles are banned from passing through major highways in the National Capital Region (NCR) beginning Friday, as part of the government's push for road safety.

In a statement on Thursday evening, Land Transportation Office (LTO) Chief, Assistant Secretary Markus Lacanilao, said these highways are Epifanio de los Santos Avenue (EDSA), C-5 Road, Roxas Boulevard, and Quirino Avenue to Magallanes-South Luzon Expressway.

The ban is based on existing rules and regulations issued by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

E-trike drivers caught passing through these highways face possible impoundment, fines, or both, as prescribed under Republic Act 4136 or the Land Transportation and Traffic Code and Joint Administrative Order 2014-01.

"Implementation of this policy hinges on road safety considerations. Major highways and roads are designed for large and fast-moving vehicles. E-trikes, by using these parameters,

are not fit for large roads due to the fast and heavy pace of vehicle traffic," Lacanilao said.

He noted that mixing fast- and slow-moving vehicles on major highways could create dangerous conditions and lead to accidents.

Lacanilao also called on e-trike operators and drivers to be aware of the limitations of their vehicles, and that the LTO is aware that many use these e-trikes to provide affordable transportation



BANNED FROM MAJOR ROADS. Electric tricycles (e-trikes) pass along the shopping district of Divisoria in Manila in this photo taken on Nov. 28, 2025. E-trikes are banned from major roads in the National Capital Region beginning Friday (Jan. 2, 2026), as part of government efforts to uphold road safety. (PNA photo by Yancy Lim)

Pope

from page 1

We should thus view the coming year, the Pope urged the roughly 5,500 faithful in attendance, as "an open journey to be discovered".

Mary and an 'un-armed' God

The day's liturgy marked both the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God and the World Day of Peace.

In his homily, the Pope explored the tight relationship between the two celebrations. With Mary's co-operation, he said, God arrived amongst us "naked and defenceless", a "new-born in a cradle."

"He does this", the

Pope explained, to teach us that the world is not saved by violence but by "tirelessly striving to understand, forgive, liberate and welcome everyone, without calculation and without fear."

"In Mary's divine motherhood", the Pope emphasised, two 'un-armed realities' come together: "that of God, who renounces every privilege of his divinity to be born in the flesh, and that of a human person who, trustingly and fully, embraces God's will."

2025 Jubilee: 'Forgiveness received and given'

The Pope brought his

homily to a close by reflecting on the 2025 Jubilee Year, which will come to an end on the 6th January.

He did so by citing the words of his predecessor Pope St John Paul II, at the closure of the 2000 Jubilee:

"How many extraordinary occasions the Great Jubilee has offered to believers! In the experience of forgiveness received and given, in the commemoration of the martyrs, in listening to the cry of the world's poor... we too have glimpsed the saving presence of God in history. We have, as it were, physically felt his love which renews the face of the earth." (By Joseph Tulloch)



Cebu

from page 8

innovation, a safe space to dream, upskill individual talents, push ideas forward, exchange insights, share laughter, and spark meaningful Science and Technology discussions.

None of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of the local Cebu tech communities, tech-

nology and innovation advocates, and dedicated volunteers who continuously shared their time, expertise, and passion in service of the Filipino people. Their commitment and collaboration are the backbone of a stronger and better local innovation ecosystem, proving that innovation thrives when communi-

ties move as one.

This is where Agham na Ramdam - Siyensang Matagamtaman, comes to life.

Science that you can feel. Innovation that you can experience. A future built together, one idea at a time.

Join us as we continue building a Stronger, Better, and Greater STI ecosystem. for Cebu, for Bohol, for Central Visayas, and for the Filipino people.

DSWD IV-A

from page 1

Assistant Regional Director Mylah Gatchalian said the partnerships are aligned with the Department's thrust to equip 4Ps beneficiaries with the necessary skills, knowledge, and health support needed to achieve self-reliance as they prepare for transition or graduation from the program.

"These collaborations strengthen our capacity to deliver more responsive and comprehensive services, particularly in education, skills development, and health, which are critical to improving the long-term outcomes of 4Ps households," Gatchalian noted.

Through the partnership, NU Dasmariñas and the University of Batangas will extend scholarship opportuni-

ties, competency-building initiatives, and community-based programs that aim to enhance the academic performance and employability of 4Ps college students.

Meanwhile, Dualtech Training Center Foundation, Inc. and Technovative Training Center, Inc. will provide enterprise-based training programs designed to link technical education with actual industry requirements, offering beneficiaries pathways toward certification and employment through partner companies.

Dualtech Training Center President Engr. Jerry Web Muhi emphasized the broader impact of the collaboration, stating that the initiative seeks to develop learners who can contribute meaningfully to their

trike operations so they can continue to provide their services safely. (PNA)

communities and to national development.

To further support the well-being of 4Ps families, San Antonio Medical Center of Lipa, Inc. will deliver medical assistance and preventive healthcare services, helping reduce health-related expenses that often hinder economic progress.

Currently, DSWD Field Office IV-A maintains active partnerships with 49 external stakeholders from civil society organizations, private institutions, and higher education sectors in the region.

The Department underscored that sustained collaboration with various sectors remains essential in advancing inclusive development, ensuring that 4Ps families are not only assisted but are fully equipped to build healthier, more productive, and self-sustaining lives. (CCM/PIA4A)

PNP: Casualties

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34,579 police officers, 11,694 augmentation forces, and 20,981 advocacy group members.

Most were assigned to areas of convergence (19,248), places of worship (12,687), motorist assistance hubs (12,210), tourist destinations (5,597), and transport hubs (4,891). Additional deployments covered 687 firecracker-free zones (8,196) and 918 community fireworks display areas (2,449).

Fire incidents linked to pyrotechnics were limited to three cases, injuring five people, while two road crashes left four others injured.

"All cases were promptly responded to by police and emergency units, and no deaths were recorded during the coverage period," the PNP said.

Separate police operations also led to the seizure of 61 loose firearms and the arrest of 132 individuals for

illegal drugs, illegal gambling, and outstanding warrants.

No index crimes — including murder, homicide, rape, robbery, theft, physical injuries, and carjacking — were recorded, underscoring a stable peace and order situation as the country welcomed the New Year.

"These figures show that vigilance and early police action can significantly reduce risks during major celebrations," acting PNP chief Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez said. (PNA)

Santa Rosa credits youth contribution in building smart, sustainable communities

SANTA ROSA CITY, Laguna (PIA) — The city government of Santa Rosa recognized the vital role of the youth in advancing its vision of becoming a smart and sustainable city during the launching of the Lion City Youth Summit recently.

The summit aims to inspire and empower the youth of Santa Rosa to recognize their potential, embrace their purpose, and lead with integrity and compassion.

Santa Rosa City Mayor Arlene Arcillas believes that the youth are not only beneficiaries of development programs but can also become active partners in shaping solutions, from digital transformation and climate action to community resilience and inclusive growth through initiatives such as the Lion City Youth Summit.

"More than anything, our youth through their schools, programs, and projects are at the core of what we need to build Santa Rosa as a smart city. That is why our

smart city initiatives, including the Lion City Youth Summit, have already been incorporated into the curriculum; that's why students today gather in this event," Arcillas said.

She added that most of the city's smart and sustainable projects are designed for the youth, emphasizing that entrusting them with these initiatives will help further expand Santa Rosa's efforts toward becoming a smart and sustainable city.

Arcillas stated: "We believe that our youth are not just the future of Santa Rosa, but our partners today in building a smart and sustainable city. Their ideas, creativity, and passion help us move forward and inno-

vate."

The Lion City Youth Summit also served as a platform for dialogue, collaboration, and capacity-building among young leaders, student organizations, and youth advocates.

Participants engaged in discussions on leadership development, digital innovation, environmental protection, and volunteerism, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Lion City Youth President Kian Joseph Hermosa welcomed the wide range of initiatives implemented to nurture the talents and skills of youth across various sectors, and expressed his appreciation for the city



government's consistent support for youth development programs.

"In the City of Santa Rosa, we implement numerous programs for youth development. These include workshops in theater, singing, dancing, academics, and sports. We make sure that no sector of youth

development is left behind," Hermosa said.

He added, "To the City Government of Santa Rosa, thank you for always showing your unwavering support and dedication to the youth. We truly feel your care and love for the young people of Santa Rosa."

As Santa Rosa contin-

ues its journey toward becoming a smart and sustainable city, the city government reaffirmed that the energy, creativity, and leadership of the youth will remain at the forefront of its development agenda, driving innovation and helping build a progressive Santa Rosa. **(AM/PIA 4A)**

DENR-EMB recognizes barangays for waterways cleanup through Gawad Taga-Ilog

LAUREL, Batangas (PIA) — In its continued effort to inspire local government-led initiatives, particularly among barangays to keep waterways and water bodies clean and trash-free, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources–Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB) Region IV-A gave honors for cleanup efforts during the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Awarding Ceremony recently.

According to DENR-EMB Regional Director Robert Angelo Metin, the program aims to enhance water quality and maintain the cleanliness of rivers in the Province of Cavite, demonstrating that the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Program, which was successfully implemented in the National Capital Region, can also be adopted by nearby regions as part of collective efforts to protect the environment.

"This is anchored on the Clean Water Act and the Supreme Court Mandamus that calls for the cleaning and rehabilitation of Manila Bay. Here in the Province of Cavite, we can see a portion of Manila Bay, which is why the Gawad Taga-Ilog Program was initially launched here," Director Metin said.

Through the dedication of barangay officials and residents, these ini-

tiatives serve as inspiring models of sustainable environmental governance and shared responsibility for the preservation of natural resources for present and future generations.

Barangay Daine 1 in Indang, Cavite, led by Barangay Chairperson Arnold Pegollo, was hailed as the winner in the Upland Category, with the Gawad Taga-Ilog (GTI) Award serving as a testament to the community's collective efforts in promoting cleaner waterways and a sustainable environment.

"There were so many preparations from paperwork, weekly cleanup activities, and the maintenance of the river and the materials recovery facility (MRF), to Hapag ni PBBM, our community garden, vertical garden, and composting facility because every-



thing required hard work and constant maintenance to ensure that all of these is in good condition for the Gawad Taga-Ilog," the chairperson explained.

Pegollo added that even before receiving recognition from the DENR-EMB, the barangay had already been working with partner agencies, organizations, and the community to protect the environment, especially their waterways,

which he said is vital for sustainability and the well-being of future generations.

"We continuously care for our rivers and conduct tree-planting activities along our easements, while maintaining our waterways to help increase water flow and preserve our water sources. With the prize money we received, we plan to upgrade our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) into a more effi-

cient, organized, and user-friendly facility that promotes proper waste segregation in the community," Pegollo said in an interview with the Philippine Information Agency Calabarzon.

As part of the first batch of the GTI Program in Cavite, Pegollo, along with other winners from the Upland and Lowland Categories, expressed their commitment to sustaining the program, particularly in maintaining,

cleaning, and rehabilitating facilities to promote cleaner and sustainable waterways.

Following the success of the GTI Program 1.0, the DENR-EMB is preparing to launch GTI Program 2.0, which aims to include local government units within the jurisdiction of the Laguna Lake Development Authority (LLDA), such as General Mariano Alvarez, Silang, Carmona, and Tagaytay City. **(CO, AM/PIA4A)**

CBCP NEWS



Bishops process at the start of Mass at Baclayon Church in Bohol province on July 2, 2025. CBCP NEWS

Key episcopal appointments shape 2025 for Philippine Church

Episcopal leadership in the Philippines saw significant changes in 2025, with six new bishops and four archbishops appointed under Popes Francis and Leo XIV.

At least two new bishops were appointed by Pope Francis before his death on April 21.

On March 4, Francis named Rogationist missionary Herman Abcede bishop of the Diocese of Daet, filling a vacant see since Archbishop Rex Andrew Alarcon's transfer to Caceres in 2019. Abcede was ordained and installed May 1.

This was followed by the April 2 appointment of Daet priest Ronald Anthony Timoner as bishop of Pagadian, vacant since the death of Bishop Ronald Lunas in January 2024. His episcopal ordination and installation were held Aug. 13.

Glenn Corsiga of Ipil was the last Filipino bishop appointed by Francis, a week before the pope's death. A priest of the Diocese of Dumaguete, Corsiga was ordained July 29 and installed Aug. 14.

The Diocese of Ipil had been "sede vacante" following the transfer of Archbishop Julius Tonel to Zamboanga in August 2023.

Pope Leo made his first Philippine episcopal appointment May 16, naming Dave Capucao of the Prelature of Infanta to succeed retired Bishop Bernardino

Cortez.

Capucao was ordained and installed Sept. 5, coinciding with the prelature's 75th founding anniversary.

Pope Leo on Oct. 4 also appointed Edwin Panergo bishop of Boac, succeeding Bishop Marcelino Antonio Maralit Jr., who was transferred to the Diocese of San Pablo in 2024.

Panergo, a priest of the Diocese of Lucena, was ordained to the episcopate Dec. 1 and installed Dec. 2.

On Nov. 21, the pontiff named Divine Word missionary Samuel Agcaracar bishop of San Jose in Nueva Ecija. He is scheduled for episcopal ordination Jan. 17 and installation Feb. 6.

Agcaracar will succeed Bishop Roberto Mallari, who now leads the Diocese of Tarlac.

New archbishops Several bishops were also elevated to archbishops during the year, reflecting wider leadership realignments.

Midyphil Billones, then auxiliary bishop of Cebu, was appointed archbishop of Jaro on Feb. 2 under Pope Francis and installed April 2. He succeeded retired Archbishop Jose Romeo Lazo.

Under Leo XIV, Alberto Uy, then bishop of Tagbilaran, was appointed archbishop of Cebu on July 16 and installed Sept. 30, succeeding retired Archbishop Jose Palma.

Charlie Inzon, then apostolic vicar of Jolo, was named archbishop of Cotabato on Sept. 8 and installed Dec. 8, replacing retired Archbishop Angelito Lampon.

David William Antonio, outgoing bishop of Ilagan, was appointed archbishop of Nueva Segovia on Nov. 4, following the retirement of Archbishop Marlo Peralta. His installation is scheduled Jan. 14, 2026.

Vatican, diplomatic, U.S. Church appointments

Outside the Philippines, Archbishop Bernardito Auza was appointed by Pope Francis as apostolic nuncio to the European Union on March 22, after more than five years as nuncio to Spain and Andorra.

In Rome, Pope Leo on May 24 gave Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, prefect of the Dicastery for Evangelization, the title of cardinal of Albano.

The move was seen as a sign of trust, as Albano was Leo's titular

see before his election as pope May 8.

Cardinals are symbolically attached to Roman churches or dioceses as a sign of their connection to the Vatican and the pope. Members of the Order of Cardinal Bishops traditionally receive one of the seven "suburbicarian" dioceses surrounding Rome.

The pope also named Laoag native Andres Ligot auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Jose, California, on Aug. 29. Ligot was ordained Nov. 3, becoming the sixth bishop of Filipino descent serving in the United States.

Necrology

The Philippine Church also mourned the deaths of three prelates in 2025: Bishop Jose Bontolo of Masbate, and retired bishops Warlito Cajandig of Calapan and Nestor Cariño of Legazpi.

Bontolo died Dec. 13, leaving Masbate without a diocesan bishop. Cajandig died Oct. 21, while Cariño passed away May 24.

As the year ends, at least six ecclesiastical territories remain without bishops: the dioceses of Tagbilaran, Kalibo, Ilagan and Masbate, and the apostolic vicariates of Tabuk and Jolo.

Quiapo Church sets Dec. 30 thanksgiving procession ahead of Jan. 9 Traslacion

Ahead of the annual Jan. 9 Traslacion, Quiapo Church will hold a thanksgiving procession of the image of Jesus Nazareno on the evening of Dec. 30 as part of preparations for the major religious event.



The image of Jesus Nazareno during the Traslacion on Jan. 9, 2025. PHOTO COURTESY OF EARL JERALD ALPAY

Church officials said the procession will cover a 4.56-kilometer route around Manila and is expected to be shorter and more orderly than the massive Traslacion that draws millions of devotees each year.

"The Thanksgiving Procession will take place tomorrow night. It has no carriage and no rope to pull," said Alex Irasga, technical adviser of Quiapo Church, during a press briefing Monday. "The image is on a float placed on a truck. It shall move like a slow running car."

Irasga said the image will be closely guarded by members of the Hijos del Nazareno, including police officers who are also devotees, to ensure security during the procession.

"They will be tasked to protect the image during the Thanksgiving Procession tomorrow," he said.

According to the route released by the church, the procession will begin and end at Plaza Miranda, passing through major streets including Villalobos, Palanca, Carriedo, Evangelista, Gonzalo Puyat, Quezon Boulevard, Arlegui, Legarda, Hidalgo and Bilibid Viejo.

Church officials expect the procession to last only two to three hours, significantly shorter than the Traslacion, which can run for several hours. Last year's grand procession lasted nearly 21 hours.

The annual Traslacion on Jan. 9 commemorates the transfer of the image of Jesus Nazareno from Intramuros to its present shrine in Quiapo. The event traditionally draws huge crowds of barefoot devotees seeking blessings and miracles.

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MAGLIBANG TAYO

KAPALARAN

ARIES (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - Magtiwala ka sa sarili mong kakayahan kahit pa may pagkakataong mas angat sila kesa sa iyo. 'Wag mong kalilimutan, tiwala sa sarili ang sikreto ng tagumpay at kaligayahan. Masuwerteng kulay-red. Tips sa lotto-6-15-18-20-39-43.

TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20) - Kung ano ang galaw ng karamihan, dapat iyon din ang iyong galaw, pero kapag may nasilip kang oportunidad, sunggaban mo na agad ito. Masuwerteng kulay-blue. Tips sa lotto-9-13-28-31-34-45.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) - Ikaw na mismo ang mag-isip kung ano ang makabubuti para sa iyo. Bakit iaasa mo sa iba ang pagdedesisyon? Muli, kung ano ang makabubuti, iyon ang isipin mo. Masuwerteng kulay-gray. Tips sa lotto-5-11-21-24-37-40.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) - Magpahinga ka at pagkatapos mong magpahinga, dapat magtrabaho ka uli. Hindi puwedeng trabaho ka lang nang trabaho. Ito ang tandaan mo ngayon. Masuwerteng kulay-green. Tips sa lotto-7-14-19-27-31-44.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) - Kahit walang buwan sa langit, ang mga bituin ay magniningning pa rin. Kahit nag-iisa ka, ang iyong kislap ay magpapatuloy pa rin. Masuwerteng kulay-orange. Tips sa lotto-4-17-20-25-39-42.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Hindi mahalaga ang nakaraan, pero puwede mo itong balikan kung may mapupulot kang mahahalagang aral sa buhay. Masuwerteng kulay-white. Tips sa lotto-5-15-23-29-36-43.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Kapag sobra, dapat magbawas; kapag kulang, dapat magdagdag. Pag-aralan mo ngayon ang buhay mo. Masuwerteng kulay-pink. Tips sa lotto-2-18-27-34-37-45.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Lumalakas ang mahina, at ang mahina ay lumalakas. Lalakas ka ngayon, pero kailangan mong tanggapin na mahina ka rin minsan. Masuwerteng kulay-violet. Tips sa lotto-8-16-26-33-35-41.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Huwag kang mabuhay sa walang katapusang pag-aalala at pangamba, dahil puwede kang masingitan ng karuwagan. Masuwerteng kulay-burgundy. Tips sa lotto-6-12-20-30-38-42.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Magdaratingan na ang mga magagandang bagay sa iyong kapalaran. Masuwerteng kulay-yellow. Tips sa lotto-2-11-14-23-35-40.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Hindi maganda ang sobrang palakaibigan, dahil dumarami ang nagkakagusto sa iyo at sa huli, ikaw ay malilito. Masuwerteng kulay-beige. Tips sa lotto-1-16-21-29-37-42.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) - Yumuko ka. Hindi masama ang yumuko, lalo na kung ang pagyuko ay pagkilala sa mas magaling at mas mahusay kesa sa iyo. Masuwerteng kulay-crystal green. Tips sa lotto-6-18-25-28-33-43.

SUDOKU

8	4						3
		1		8			
			7				5
7			9	2			8
	3			1		7	
2						1	
4	6					2	
							7
1	2	5			4		3

SAGOT: SUDOKU VOL. 22 #43

1	2	7	5	6	3	8	9	4
8	3	9	4	2	1	7	5	6
4	5	6	7	8	9	1	2	3
2	4	1	6	7	5	3	8	9
9	6	8	1	3	4	5	7	2
3	7	5	2	9	8	6	4	1
5	8	4	3	1	2	9	6	7
7	9	3	8	4	6	2	1	5
6	1	2	9	5	7	4	3	8

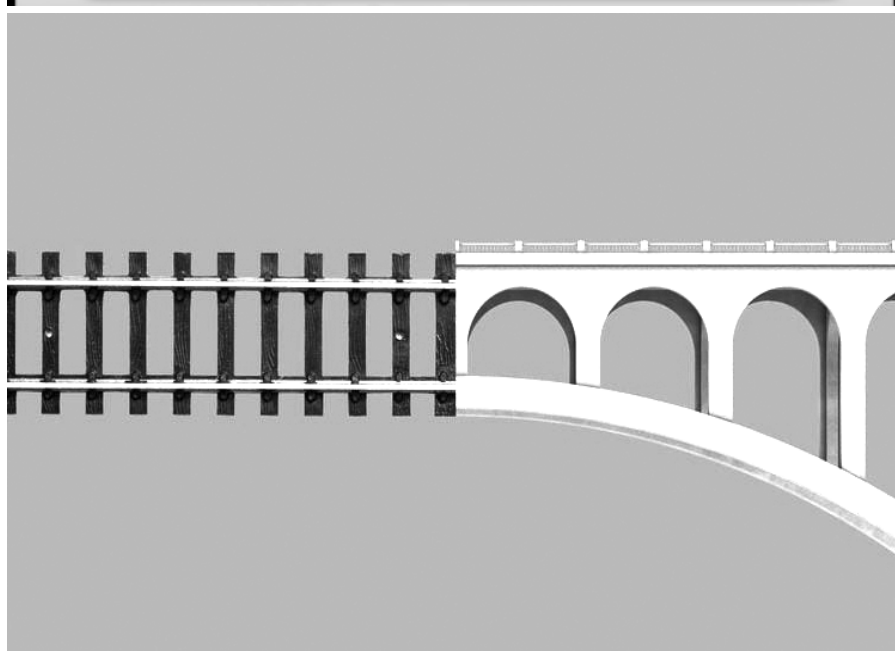
HOW TO PLAY: Sudoku puzzle is made up of a 9-by-9 grid with nine 3-by-3 sub-grids called boxes. There are 9 rows, 9 columns and 9 boxes in every puzzle. The object of the game is to fill all squares in the grid with the correct number.

The rules are: • Every row, column and box must contain all the digits 1 to 9.

• Each number can only appear once in every row, column or box.

• Every puzzle has only one correct solution!

Did You Know?



A ONE-WAY TRIP ON THE TRANS- SIBERIAN RAILWAY INVOLVES CROSSING EIGHT TIME ZONES

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The journey takes seven days, during which time passengers pass through eight different time zones.

WORD HUNT

Five Nights at Freddy's

E	W	I	T	H	E	R	E	D	B	O	N	N	I
G	W	E	A	T	E	P	P	U	P	E	H	T	S
O	I	S	F	H	A	E	E	X	Y	R	U	O	P
L	T	T	O	Y	C	H	I	C	A	I	R	M	R
D	H	Y	N	R	D	X	R	I	A	N	I	A	I
E	E	F	O	X	Y	R	E	G	R	N	I	N	N
N	R	D	I	K	G	N	I	Y	R	C	B	G	G
F	E	K	N	L	E	E	E	B	P	E	N	L	T
R	D	N	A	M	E	L	P	R	U	P	A	E	R
E	F	O	T	O	Y	B	O	N	N	I	E	W	A
D	R	T	S	T	H	G	I	N	E	V	I	F	P
D	E	O	L	R	I	G	N	O	L	L	A	B	P
Y	D	I	N	Y	D	D	E	R	F	Y	O	T	S
L	D	B	A	L	L	O	N	B	O	Y	E	R	W

TOY FREDDY
MANGLE
FOXY
SPRING TRAP
WITHERED FREDD
WITHERED BONNI
FIVE NIGHTS
CRYING KID
BALLON BOY
GOLDEN FREDDY
TOY BONNIE
BALLON GIRL
PURPLE MAN
THE PUPPET
TOY CHICA

Cebu Innovation Hub, proudly shares a growing movement that proves Local Filipino innovation is alive, thriving, and deeply rooted in collaboration



Over the past year, the Cebu Innovation Hub has successfully engaged 77 innovation hub participators, bringing together students, researchers, startup founders, technology professionals, and innovators from different sectors.

More than just numbers, these are dreamers and doers who dared to imagine solutions for real-world problems.

DOST Innovation Hub also supported and provided assistance to 23 startups, helping them refine ideas, build capabilities, and move closer to sustainable and scalable impact. The Hub has become a true vessel for Local Filipino **CEBU • 4**



PNP: Casualties reported but New Year celebrations generally peaceful

New Year celebrations nationwide were generally peaceful, with no fatalities and no major crimes reported, the Philippine National Police (PNP) said Thursday.

However, the PNP recorded 843 firecracker-related incidents that injured 183 people from 5 a.m. on Dec. 31, 2025, to 11 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2026.

Police arrested 26 individuals and seized 96,721 illegal firecrackers, and two cases of indiscriminate firing were reported, leaving one person injured, one suspect arrested, and two firearms confiscated.

A total of 67,254 personnel were deployed nationwide, including **PNP CASUALTIES • 4**



HAPPY NEW YEAR. Fireworks light up the sky in Imus City, Cavite on Thursday (Jan. 1, 2026), as Filipinos welcome the New Year the traditional way. The Philippine National Police said though several people were injured due to firecrackers, the overall celebration was generally peaceful with zero major crimes reported. (PNA photo by Avito Dalan)

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