



# DIOCESE OF GUMACA

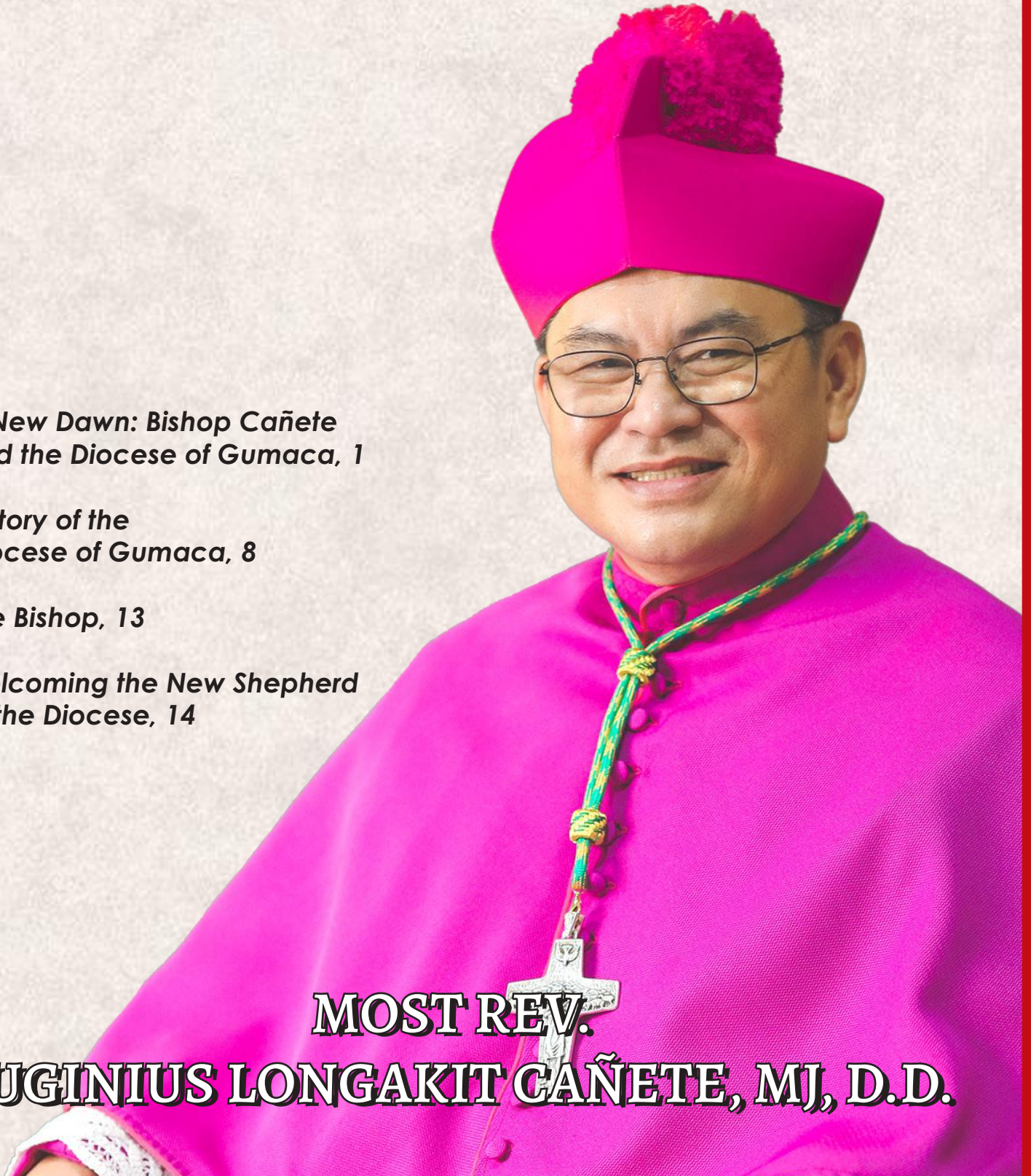
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**MOST REV.  
EUGINIUS LONGAKIT CAÑETE, MJ, D.D.**



# *A New Dawn: Bishop Cañete and the Diocese of Gumaca*

*Rev. Fr. Julito T. Sio Jr., MA, JCL*

*“I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding” (Jer 3:15).*

**T**he appointment of a bishop is a deeply spiritual event that transcends mere administration. It is a testament to God’s faithfulness, His providence manifested through the shepherding of His people. For the Diocese of Gumaca, this truth resounds as we welcome Bishop Eugenio L. Cañete, MJ, JCL, to lead us in faith and service. His arrival marks a pivotal moment in the life of our diocese, particularly as we prepare to celebrate its 40th founding anniversary—a time of reflection, renewal, and hope.

The passing of Bishop Victor Ocampo in March 2023 left an irreplaceable void in the diocese. It was a season of collective mourning, a time when the faithful felt the absence of a spiritual father whose guidance had been a source of strength. The Second Vatican Council rightly teaches that the bishop is a teacher, a leader, and most importantly, a father to his flock (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 27).





yet wise guide; and Bishop Ocampo, a welcoming father figure. Each contributed profoundly to the spiritual and pastoral life of the diocese, leaving a foundation upon which new growth can flourish.

As he steps into his role, Bishop Cañete faces both opportunities and challenges. Our diocese is rich in history and faith, but like any community, it grapples with the complexities of modern society. From addressing social justice and environmental concerns to fostering deeper spiritual engagement, his leadership will shape the diocese's

Without a bishop, a diocese loses the cohesive force that binds it together in mission and communion.

Yet, in God's perfect timing, we have been granted a new shepherd. Bishop Cañete arrives as an instrument of grace, ready to continue the apostolic mission of Christ. He brings with him not just administrative expertise but the pastoral heart of a true shepherd, eager to walk alongside his people and lead them with wisdom and compassion.

## A Time of Transition and Renewal

Every bishop inherits a dual responsibility: to honor the legacy of his predecessors while discerning the unique needs of the present. Bishop Cañete follows in the footsteps of remarkable leaders—Bishop Marquez, a builder and administrator; Bishop Famadico, a silent



character for years to come.

## **A Collaborative Mission**

It is important to remember that the success of a bishop's ministry depends not solely on his leadership but on the active participation of the entire community. Clergy, religious, and laity alike are called to work together, each offering their unique gifts in service to the Church. The clergy, in particular, stand as invaluable partners in this mission, providing the support and collaboration necessary for the bishop's vision to take root and thrive. To this, Bishop Cañete may take the comfort in knowing that he will not shepherd alone. He inherits one of the greatest treasures of the diocese: its "clergy".

Bishop Cañete will find a strong and devoted clergy in Gumaca, a group marked by obedience, respect, and love for their bishop. Together, they will forge a path forward, grounded in mutual trust and shared commitment to the Gospel. This spirit of collaboration extends to the laity and religious, whose enthusiasm and dedication are vital for building a vibrant, Christ-centered community.

## **A Shepherd After Christ's Heart**

What do we, the faithful, hope for in our new bishop? We look to Christ, the Good Shepherd, as the ultimate model. We yearn for a leader who will walk with us in our joys and sorrows, who will listen to our hearts, and who will inspire us to live

lives of holiness and service. Pope Francis reminds us of this pastoral closeness, urging bishops to be "shepherds with the smell of the sheep," living among their flock with humility and love.

Bishop Cañete's ministry must be rooted in prayer and contemplation, for action without spiritual depth bears



little fruit. His advocacy for the poor, his commitment to social justice, and his openness to dialogue will reflect the Church's mission to bring Christ's love to all. We trust that his leadership will illuminate the path forward, guiding us through challenges with courage and faith.

## A Prayerful Welcome

As we welcome Bishop Cañete, we do so with hearts full of gratitude and hope. This is a new dawn for the Diocese of Gumaca, a time to deepen our faith and strengthen our mission as a Church. Together, under his guidance, we will build a community that reflects Christ's love—a home united in faith, filled with grace, and committed to service.

May the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Joseph guide Bishop Cañete in his ministry. May our diocese flourish in faith, hope, and love, as we embark on this new chapter together. Welcome, Bishop Cañete. May your shepherding be a reflection of the Good Shepherd Himself, and may your tenure bring renewed life to our beloved Diocese of Gumaca.







# HISTORY OF THE DI

*Rev. Fr. Galen R. Fontanilla*

Early in the Spanish era, about 1595, the territory of Quezon had been part of the jurisdiction of the then Diocese of Caceres in the Bicol area. Eventually, it was transferred to the then Diocese of Lipa when this diocese was created on April 10, 1910.

On August 12, 1950, the Diocese of Lucena was created and got jurisdiction over the entire province of Quezon.

On April 9, 1984, it was created as a diocese through Pope John Paul II's "Iure Meritoque". And, on January 29, 1985, it was canonically erected as an independent diocese. By origin, it is a child of the Diocese of Lucena and a grandchild of the Archdiocese of Lipa. The Diocese of Gumaca became a suffragan of the ecclesiastical province of Lipa.

Through the years, the Diocese of Gumaca was led by the following bishops and/or administrators:

**MOST REV. BUENAVENTURA M. FAMADICO, D.D.**

Bishop of Gumaca:  
June 11, 2003 –  
January 25, 2013



**REV. MSGR. JOSE T. LAGDAMEO, HP, JCL**

Administrator:  
March 2, 2013 –  
September 3, 2015



**MOST REV. VICTOR C. OCAMPO, D.D.**

Bishop of Gumaca:  
September 3, 2015 –  
March 16, 2023



**REV. FR. RAMON D. URIARTE, SThL**

Administrator:  
March 27, 2023 - 2024



**MOST REV. EMILIO Z. MARQUEZ, D.D.**

Bishop of Gumaca:  
Dec. 15, 1984 – May 4, 2002  
Apostolic Administrator:  
May 4, 2002 – June 25, 2002



**MOST REV. ANTONIO R. RAÑOLA, D.D.**

Apostolic Administrator:  
June 25, 2002 – June 11, 2003



As it started as a diocese, its recorded number of Catholic population was 468,517 residing in 20 parishes. There were also 24 pioneering priests only at that time.

# OCесе OF GUMACA

## 1985 – 2002

### *a) Vision Statement*

On March 11-15, 1985, the diocese had been given more breath of life through the composition of its Vision-Mission statement. It was formulated as: “A Community of believers united in Christ in His Sonship to and His worship of the Father, dedicated to others under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

### *b) Infrastructures*

Another immediate concern was the necessity to surmount the needs for infrastructural developments. Exceeding all expectations, the diocese did undergo noteworthy developments with the span of ten of years. These institutions are as follows:

1. Gumaca Diocesan Pastoral Formation Center
2. Diocesan Printing Press
3. Mount St. Aloysius College Seminary
4. St. Clare Monastery
5. Carmel of Our Lady Monastery

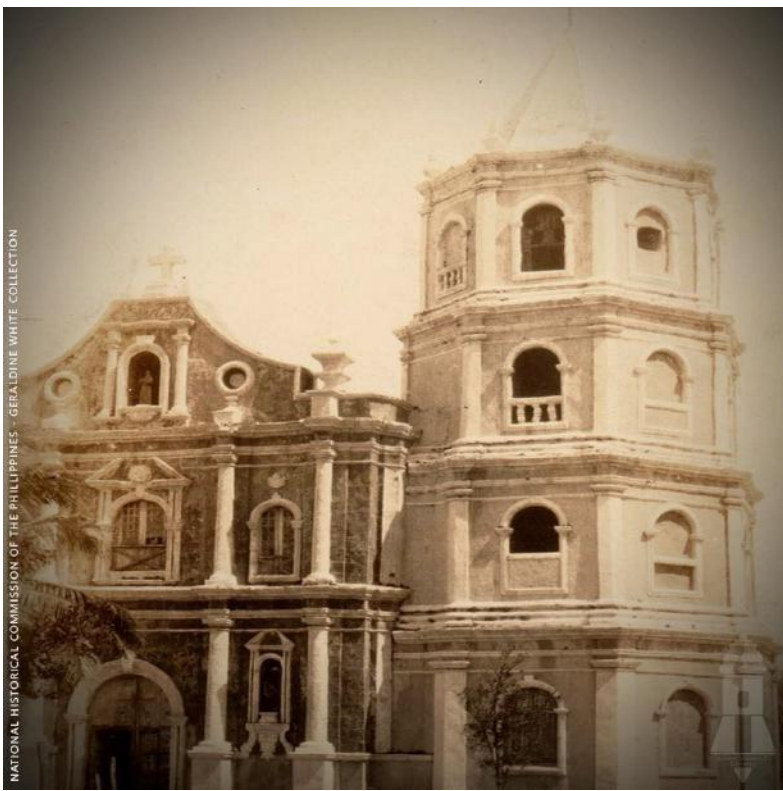


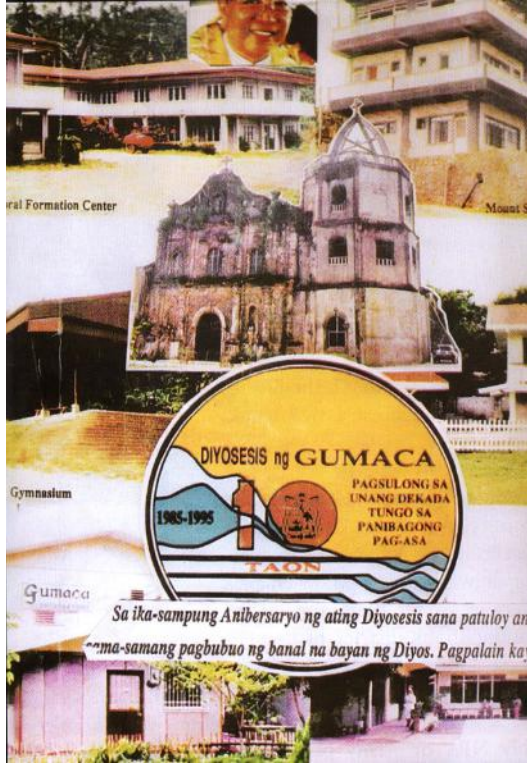
Gumaca Clergy 1985



### *c) Pastoral Direction*

As the diocese spent a great deal of time and passion in the euphoria of the beginning years, never had it, for a moment, overlooked the pastoral needs of its people. Thus, the initiation of its people into the new way of experiencing life in the Church widely known as Basic Ecclesial Communities (BEC) or in its local parlance Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano (MSK) was kept as its main pastoral thrust.





Even before the creation of the diocese, there were already existing more or less 300 MSKs (Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano) in different parishes.

The meritorious work was started by the late Rev. Msgr. Ciriaco “Acong” Sevilla, Jr., who in the passing of time, acquired the deserving reputation of being the “Father of MSK” in the Diocese of Gumaca.

## **1994**

In response to the call of the Church in the Philippines for its renewal punctuated in the Second Plenary of the Philippines in 1991, Bishop Emilio Marquez convoked the First Diocesan Pastoral Assembly on January 12-13, 1994. The said assembly articulated a new diocesan vision-mission statement:

“The Diocese of Gumaca as a community of disciples united in Christ in His sonship and worship of the Father, dedicated to serve others as the Church of the Poor under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, together, with Mary, our model.”

## *Jubilee Year and 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

After the stretch of 15 blissful years, the Diocese held the celebration of its 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary alongside with the unique experience of the Great Jubilee of the year 2000. In the early morning of January 3, 2000, the diocese formally welcomed this great Jubilee year through a gathering that culminated in a Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral of St. Didacus of Alcala...

## *Diocesan Pastoral Assembly II – 2000*

...Right after the ceremony, the clergy and lay-participants hurried toward the convocation of the Second Diocesan Pastoral Assembly at the Diocesan Pastoral Formation Center.

## *Episcopal Ordination of Rev. Msgr. Jose F. Oliveros*

The bursts of joy that came over the diocese during the Jubilee and 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations came back as Rev. Msgr. Jose F. Oliveros, a native of the town of Quezon in the Alabat Island, and dedicated priest of the Diocese of Gumaca, was ordained bishop on March 20, 2000.

## *Diocesan Pastoral Evaluation and Planning (DPEP) – April 28 – 29, 2003*

After decades of fruitful service as the first Bishop of Gumaca, Most Rev. Emilio Z. Marquez, having been appointed as coadjutor Bishop of Lucena in May 2002, was succeeded by Most Rev. Antonio R. Rañola as the diocese’s



Apostolic Administrator. Bishop Rañola exhorted his clergy to arrange a Diocesan Pastoral Evaluation and Planning (DPEP) on April 28-29, 2003. It intended to seek a form of pastoral practice that was not thought of in a theoretical manner but one that was empirically-based, structurally maintained, and at the same time adequate to the truth of the Vision-Mission statement of the Diocese. The step-by-step process accomplished the following documentation:



- a) *Survey Questionnaires*
- b) *Collated Results of the Parish Surveys*
- c) *Plans of Actions and Resolutions of the Diocesan Commissions*
- d) *New Organizational Structures of the Diocesan Commissions*

Reinforcing MSK with the KMSK (Kapitbahayan sa Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano) Substructure After all of its 20 years, the Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano finally began to acquire a further delineated form when a new insight to reinforce it was introduced during the

2 MSK Conventions in 2004. This new way of being MSK was dubbed Kapitbahayan sa Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano or KMSK, which was differentiated in terms of its four characteristic marks namely:

- 1) *Community of Neighbors*
- 2) *Rooted in the Word of God*
- 3) *Pro-active*
- 4) *Involved in the Local Church*

### *5-Year Preparation for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Gumaca*

Two decades had elapsed and the Diocese finally reached its 20 years of fruitful existence in 2005. To mark this occasion, the Diocese made it coincide with its official launching of a 5-year preparatory phase in view of its nearing 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Jubilee event in 2010. Each year was enriched with essential themes drawn from the contents of its vision statement. The themes are as follows:

- 2005 – Marian Year*
- 2006 – Year of the Family*
- 2007 – Year of the Holy Spirit*
- 2008 – Year of Jesus Christ*
- 2009 – Year of the Father*

### *January 29, 2010 - 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Jubilee Celebration of the Diocese*

After 25 years of fruitful works and five striking years of preparations, the Diocese was once again immersed in immense joy and gratitude as it reached the crowning moment of its long wait, its 25<sup>th</sup> Silver Jubilee celebration on January 29, 2010. The celebration focused on the central intuition of the Diocese as a participatory Church. Thus, it espoused the theme: “25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Thanksgiving, Celebration, Renewal”



### *Revisit of Diocesan Vision*

As part of the celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Diocese revisited its Vision-Mission Statement in 2010 by training first a pool of facilitators in the diocesan and parochial level. They were then called Diocesan Formation Team (DFT) and Parish Formation Teams (PFTs), respectively. The revisit of the Diocesan Vision has undergone 4 stages which included a) Consultation, b) Validation, c) Finalization and d) Implementation. As such, the new vision was a product of a shared vision by the laity through the direction of the clergy. The laity had a lot of participation in the crafting of this new vision:

*“We, in the Diocese of Gumaca, in response to the signs of the Time, commit ourselves to be a God-centered community and where everyone is involved by:*

- *Altogether living of the Word of God,*
- *Taking care of the family and youth, culture and environment,*
- *Having concern to neighbors especially the poor,*
- *And, promoting KMSK*

*In unity with the Holy Trinity, together with Mary, our model.”*

For easy recall, Rev. Fr. Richard Eleazar and Rev. Fr. Angelo Ramil Caparros composed melodies for the Tagalog version of the new vision of the Diocese.

### *Pastoral Priorities:*

Towards the celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Christianity in the Philippines, the Diocese calibrated its pastoral priorities by focusing on the assigned theme on new evangelization proposed by the Church in the Philippines. These pastoral priorities are as follows:

2013 – *Year of Faith*

2014 – *Year of the Poor*

2015 – *Year of the Laity*

2016 – *Year of the Eucharist and Family*

2017 – *Year of the Parish*

2018 – *Year of the Clergy, Religious and Consecrated Life*

2019 – *Year of the Youth*

2020 – *Year of Ecumenism*

2021 – *Year of “Missio Ad Gentes”*

## **2025**

After almost 40 years of fruitful ministry through the grace of God, the Diocese has seen the ballooning number of its members – from the number both of its clergy and the laity. Today, Gumaca Clergy is now composed of 80 members wherein 64 are active in the ministry, 4 are on leave, 4 in other ministry, 3 working abroad, and 5 retired. The total number of Catholics in the diocese is more or less 1,023,260, all members of more than 600 MSKs in 29 parishes and 4 Mission Centers in the Diocese of Gumaca. All because of the grace upon grace descending from the Most High, God our Lord.

### *40th Anniversary Theme:*

**Parini sa Hapag! Pagsaluhan ang Ani!**

**“HALina’t magpasalamat, PARini makisangkot,  
Gumaca, pumalaot**

*...magsama-sama bilang magkakapatid, magsalusalalo sa pagkain ng tinapay, at manalangin.”*

*(Gawa 2:42b)*

# The BISHOP

Msgr. Euginius L. Cañete was born on 8 July 1966 in Liloan, Cebu. He is the son of Luis Cañete, Jr (+) and Ma. Milagros Longakit. After carrying out his studies in psychology at the Maryshore Major Seminary and La Salle College in Bacolod City, and in philosophy and theology at Maryhill School of Theology, he was awarded a licentiate in canon law from the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome.

He received priestly ordination on 18 December 1995. He has held different offices after ordination. In the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM), he became the Parish Priest of Saint Mary Immaculate, Zambia, Africa, from 1996 to 1999. In 1999, Bishop Euginius became a delegate to the General Chapter held in Rome. After a year, in 2000, he became a member of the Pastoral Team at Saint Maximilian Kolbe in Zambia.

With the Missionaries of Jesus, he started teaching as lecturer at the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies in Quezon City in 2004. He became the director of Postulancy and Aspirancy at the MJ Formation Community in Quezon City.

This post he held for a year from 2005-2006. In 2005, he also began teaching at the Inter-Congregational Theological Centre in Quezon City. He continued to do so until 2021. In 2006, Bishop Euginius became an associate of the MJ Noviciate in Antipolo City. Simultaneously, he became a member of the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Novaliches and a visiting professor at Saint Alphonsus Theological Mission Seminary in Davao City until 2007. He also became a member of the Matrimonial Tribunal of the Diocese of Antipolo in the same year (2006-2024). From 2009 to 2021, he became the Secretary General Ad Interim at MJ Generalate, Antipolo City. After a year, in 2010, he became also the Rector of the MJ Scholasticate in the same city of Antipolo. A position he held for ten years until 2020. He also became a professor at the Recollects School of Theology from 2011 to 2020; the Institute of Consecrated Life in Asia, ICLA in 2012; and, the Maryhill School of Theology in Quezon City 2013. From 2015 to 2021, he became the Vicar General of MJ and a member of the General Finance Committee of MJ. Finally, in 2021, he became the Coordinator General of the congregation. The position he held until Pope Francis hailed him as bishop of Gumaca, Philippines on September 30, 2024.



# Welcoming the New Shepherd



“Ang pagkakaroon ng bagong Obispo sa ating Diyosesis ay isang pagpapala sa sambayanan, kung kaya’t dapat nating papurihan ang Diyos sa kanyang pagkakaloob ng isang bagong pastol. Isang bagong pastol na magdadala sa atin sa isang masaganang batisan at luntiang pastulan. Mabuhay po ang Diyosesis ng Gumaca!”

- **Ma. Cristina R. Morales, Diocesan Pastoral Program Coordinator**



“Isaias 65:24 - Ang dalangin nila kahit hindi pa tapos ay aking diringgin, at ibibigay ko ang kanilang hinihiling.”

Ang pagkakaroon ng bagong obispo sa ating Diyosesis ng Gumaca ay masasabi ko pong napakahalagang biyaya mula sa Maykapal para sa atin bilang Kristiyanong komunidad. Maraming Salamat po o Diyos, sa biyayang bagong obispo sa katauhan ng Lubhang Kagalang-galang Obispo Euginius L. Cañete.

Patuloy na misyon at patuloy na pagsulong bilang Simbahang Sinodal ang haing pagsasaluhan sa HAPAG ng Panginoon kasama ang ating bagong obispo. Mabuhay po!”

- **Abel Pelandiana, DCL President**



“Pagkatapos ng halos dalawang taon nang mataimtim na pananalangin ng sambayan upang magkaroon ng Obispo, tinugon ito sa katauhan ni Bishop Euginus. Maraming salamat sa Diyos sa pagsagot sa aming dalangin sa panahong kailangan namin ng pastol na gagabay sa Kanyang kawan.”

- **Kiko & Guia Cabuena**

**Vice President, Diocesan Commission on Family and Life  
Coordinator, Diocesan Prison Ministry**

# Head of the Diocese

“Ito po ang aming masasabi sa pagkakaroon ng bagong Obispo. Lubos po ang aming pasasalamat sa Diyos at binigyan ang Diyosesis ng Gumaca ng isang pastol sa katauhan ni Bishop Cañete na mamumuno sa mga pari at mananampalataya ng ating lokal na Simbahan. Ang ARG po ay magsisikap na magampananan ang mga gawain na nakaatas sa kanila at gayundin sa panalangin sa ikauunlad ng pananampalataya.”

- *Sr. Glenda Denolo, MSHFJ President – ARG*



“Walang pagsidlan ang aking kagalakan nang mabalitaan kong may bago ng Obispo ang ating Diyosesis at natupad na rin sa wakas ang ating mga dasal. May panibagong Pastol ang muling mag-aalaga, magmimisyon, at magmamahal sa kawan, sa Diyosesis ng Gumaca! At bilang kabataan, nananabik akong masaksihan at maging kabahagi ng bagong yugtong ito ng ating Diyosesis.”

- *Czarina V. Barcellano, PYM Member, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Lopez, Quezon*



“Ako ay masaya at umaasa. Masaya dahil ang matagal ng panalangin ng buong Diyosesis ay nagkaroon na ng katuparan. Umaasa na lalong magkakaisa at lalago ang ugnayan, pagmamahalan at pananampalataya ng mga pari at mga layko ng ating Diyosesis.”

- *Reb. P. Marlon Dapito, Katuwang n Pari, Mahal na Birhen ng Sto. Rosario, Lopez, Quezon.*



# THE COAT OF ARMS

The stone tower in Tenní represents the town of Gumaca in Quezon Province, where the See of Gumaca is located. The town is renowned for its well-preserved Baluarte (locally called Castillo) or watch tower in the seaside area of the province. This watch tower, named as the San Diego Watch Tower or the Kutang San Diego, was erected to help guard the town against pirates attacking from Lamón Bay, as well as from Dutch intruders in 1665 when they burned down the second church of Gumaca. This historic tower was built by the Spaniards under the leadership of Franciscan priest Fray Francisco Costa, OFM. It was installed with historical marker from the National Historical Institute (now National Historical Commission of the Philippines) in 1981 and declared as a National Cultural Treasure by the National Museum of the Philippines in 2020.

The wavy lines signify the body of water of the Lamón Bay that surrounds the territory of the Diocese of Gumaca, comprising of the eastern towns of the large Quezon Province. Connecting the northern part of Quezon to the Pacific Ocean, the Lamón Bay binds the coastal towns of Atimonan, Plaridel, Gumaca, Lopez, and Calauag, and the island of Alabat.

The gold background represents the beach area identifying the coastal area of the province which forms the Diocese comprised of the communities of Gumaca – the parishes in the Bondoc Peninsula from Pitogo to San Andrés, Quezon, due south of Gumaca; all the parishes of eastern Quezon province from Gumaca to Tagkawayan, Quezon, the boundary of Quezon and the Bicol Region; and the parishes in Alabat Island. According to the original description of the coat of arms, it also represents gold as the color of the flag of the Holy See. Hence, it also reflects oneness with the Catholic Church and her teachings as reflected by the Most Rev. Emilio Z. Marquez, D.D., First Bishop of Gumaca during the creation of the Diocese.

The Latin cross and the crossed arms of Christ and St. Francis of Assisi depict the Spanish Franciscan heritage of the area of the Diocese of Gumaca, comprised of Franciscan missions. The clouds are included in this version of the coat of arms in accord with the official coat of arms of the Order of Friars Minor, signifying the bond of Christ and St. Francis in heaven and the recognition given to the saint as the Seraphic Father (a seraph is one of the nine choirs of angels in heaven and the word “seraphic” is often used to describe St. Francis’s passionate relationship with God). These images depict the Cathedral of Gumaca, of which early Christian community was founded by the Franciscans in 1582 as a visita and some years after as a parish. The current stone church, one of the largest churches in the province, was completed in 1747. The Cathedral and the Diocese are dedicated to St. Didacus of Alcalá (known commonly as San Diego), a Spanish lay Franciscan brother known as a man of the poor and of healing.

The three coconut trees refer to the Blessed Trinity, the persons of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit blessing the Diocese. These symbols were adopted from the second version of the coat of arms of the Diocese of Lucena to form a link between Gumaca and the mother diocese of the local churches of Quezon. The palm leaves of these coconut trees represent the victory won by Christ through His sacrifice on the Cross and the victory shared by the martyrs of the Church. It also represents the coconut as a main produce of Quezon province. According to studies, Quezon province is among the top producers of coconut in the Philippines, accounting for 10 percent of total supply nationwide.

## The Personal Coat of Arms of the Bishop

The personal coat of arms of the bishop is at the sinister side of the shield.

The symbols at the base point of this section represent personal devotions and the origins of the Bishop. The Latin Cross proper in Tenní (brown) with the Crown of Thorns in Or (gold) surmounting it symbolizes the Missionaries of Jesus (M.J.), an international and multicultural religious missionary community. It was founded in the Philippines on 12 June 2002 by a community of religious missionaries called and inspired by the mission and humanity of Jesus. The Bishop is one of the 41 founding members that formed the first M.J. community and has served in various positions in the community, culminating as Coordinator General from 2021 to 2024. The golden narrow path going through the mountain represents the ‘road less travelled’, pertaining to the Bishop’s life as a missionary and in the path of synodality. It reflects Christ’s words in the Gospel: “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.” (Matthew 7: 13-14). It also represents the path of the pilgrim as St. Paul wrote to the Colossians: “so that you

may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God” (Colossians 1:10).

The mount in Vert (green) and the two Tipolo (Artocarpus blancoi) leaves signify the mountain and pilgrim city of Antipolo where the Bishop has been assigned for the past 17 years and assisting in various parishes. The mantle of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Azure (blue) and Or (gold) represents three Marian titles connected to the Bishop’s ministry. First, it represents Our Lady of Fatima, the patroness of the Bishop’s home parish, the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Basak, Mandaue City. His priestly ordination also took place at the shrine on December 18, 1995. Second, it represents Nuestra Señora de la Expectación. The Bishop was ordained a priest on December 18, on the Feast of the Expectation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a traditional feast honoring Our Lady’s Maternity before the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lord. Third, it represents the Principal Patroness of the Diocese of Antipolo, Nuestra Señora de la Paz y Buen Viaje, who has been known for centuries as Patroness of Travelers. As a missionary going to various places across the country and the world, the Bishop has a deep devotion to Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage. The combination of the tinctures Azure (blue) and Argent (silver) signifies the colors of the Virgin and of the Diocese of Antipolo. The Bishop was consecrated to the episcopate on December 28, 2024 at the Cathedral and International Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage in Antipolo City.

The chief in Gules (red) signifies a number of elements connected to the Bishop’s ministry. The Lamb of God bearing the Shepherd’s staff signifies the role of the Bishop as a pastor and teacher. He has also been assigned to various pastoral designations at the Missionaries of Jesus. He was professor at a number of seminaries and theological schools in Metro Manila. The globe that the Lamb of God holds represents the many destinations where the Bishop was assigned and studied over the years. The visage of Southeast Asia in the globe signifies the Bishop’s pre-novitiate and novitiate formation leading to his formation to the priesthood at Maryhill School of Theology, Quezon City. The visage of Europe signifies the Bishop’s canon law studies at Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, Italy. The visage of Africa signifies the Bishop’s years of pastoral work in Zambia, Africa where he served as a cross-cultural missionary. The Gules (red) tincture combined with the Argent (silver) tincture represents an aspect of the Bishop’s life, the Feast of the Holy Innocents celebrated every December 28, which is the liturgical celebration during the episcopal consecration of the Bishop. It is part of our mission to recognize that we are all someone’s child and that we ensure to stop the cycles of violence that continue to take lives and break apart families.

## The Motto

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES - The motto is taken from Matthew 28: 19-20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” It is Christ’s mandate to evangelize, to proclaim God’s Word and witness to the nations.

It is linked to the mission of the Missionaries of Jesus who have been tasked as “Friends and Disciples of Jesus, who have heard and responded to God’s call to mission”. As a missionary of Jesus, the Bishop is “called to mutual conversion and transformation, building inclusive communities of faith, breaking walls and building bridges, reconciling ourselves with and being faithful stewards of God’s creation” (Mission Statement of the Missionaries of Jesus).

## The Ornaments of the Episcopal Rank:

The shield is surmounted by a Cross and by a Roman galero or ecclesiastical hat of this rank, i.e., Vert (green) with six (6) tassels of the same pendant (1, 2, and 3) at both sides. These features signify the rank of a bishop.

The Cross has a unique feature being a Cross of Santiago de Compostela or a fleury cross in sword form (cruz espada). The three fleurs-de-lis represent the “honor without stain”, which is in reference to the character of the Apostles, who are the principal predecessors and inspirational figures for the Bishops of the Church. The horizontal bar, resembling a protective sword, is said to represent martyrdom. The Cross is also a reference to the Bishop’s role as a pilgrim on earth. The vertical arm of the Cross, akin to a pilgrim’s staff, signifies strength and trust in God. In life’s pilgrimage, this staff becomes the emblem of virtues of the sojourner in his path to become a pilgrim of hope.

