



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7856



Introduced by Representative **RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare September 8 of every year as a special working holiday in the entire country to commemorate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary. According to the General Roman Calendar, September 8 is the ninth month following the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Mary which is celebrated on December 8. Republic Act No. 10966, principally authored by the undersigned, declared December 8 of every year a special nonworking holiday in the entire country to commemorate the Feast of Immaculate Conception of Mary, Patroness of the Philippines. This was enacted on December 28, 2017 to enable Filipino Catholics to venerate and celebrate their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

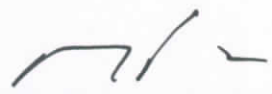
Though there were no exact accounts or documents providing for the birth of Mary, the *Protoevangelium of James* which was written at the early years of

the 2nd century, filled in the historical accounts and provided for the evolution of the Christian belief and the development of Christian piety. Traditional beliefs and venerative practices handed down to generations of pious believers highlights the important role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in our Christian faith. The accounts, though not considered authoritative like the Bible, narrated the birth of Mary to St. Joachim and St. Anne after their extensive prayer and fasting for St. Anne to conceive. St. Anne and St. Joachim were then chosen to start the great grand plan of God for the salvation of the world.

In the Philippines where Catholicism is fervent and deep, devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is reflected by the celebrations particularly acts of veneration, praying for miracles, and the attribution of granted petitions through her intercession. Consecration and feasts are celebrated in accordance with the Roman Catholic dogmas and that includes the birth of the Virgin Mary.

And in thanksgiving and honor to The Lady who conceived the Lord for the redemption and salvation of the entire humanity, the celebration of her birth is an expression of our love and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Saint Augustine described the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary as an event of cosmic and historic significance, and an appropriate prelude to the birth of Jesus Christ. *"She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley,"* he said.

For the foregoing reasons, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7856

Introduced by Representative **RODOLFO C. FARIÑAS**

**AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO
COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in
Congress assembled:*

SECTION 1. September 8 of every year is hereby declared a special working holiday in the entire country to commemorate the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,