

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 1575

Introduced by Honorable Roy M. Loyola

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Our Lady of Candelaria Parish Church or *Nuestra Señora De Candelaria*, located in the Municipality of Silang, Province of Cavite, was first established on February 3, 1595 under the patronage of St. Diego of Alcalá. It was then dedicated to Our *Nuestra Señora de Candelaria* in 1640 based on the tale told by Fray Murillo Verlarde, where the image of the Virgin Mary was found by Andres in the mountains of Silang.

The parish is considered as the oldest standing structure of colonial baroque architecture in the Province of Cavite. Due to its association with pre-historic events, the historic marker was given in 2008 by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines the church complex and its altarpiece, known as *retablos*, were declared as National Cultural Treasure by the National Museum in 2017. The declaration adds to the historic marker given in 2008 by the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and the pilgrim church marker from the Diocese of Imus, Cavite given in 2012.

The church' historical significance; and the architectural beauty of the complex and the *retablos* entice visitors from other parts of the Philippines and other countries as well. Moreso, the narrations of the Our *Nuestra Señora De Candelaria's* indulgence and miracles to its patrons and devotees have been widespread. As such, more Marian devotees and tourists are visiting to witness the glory it brings to its believers. Thus, the parish needs to adopt policies and measures to protect its historical importance while ensuring its accessibility and security to pilgrims.

Hence, in celebration of the parish' 430th year in 2025, this bill seeks to declare the Our Lady of Candelaria Parish Church in the Municipality of Silang, Province of Cavite as a pilgrimage site and tourist destination mandating the Department of Tourism and its attached agencies, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways and in consultation with the local government unit of Silang, Cavite, to come up with a comprehensive development plan for the improvement of Silang Church, all areas attached to it, and all roads leading to and from it.



ATTY. ROY M. LOYOLA
Representative
Fifth District of Cavite

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1575

Introduced by Honorable Roy M. Loyola

AN ACT
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF OUR LADY OF CANDELARIA
PARISH CHURCH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SILANG, PROVINCE
OF CAVITE, AS A TOURISM DESTINATION

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

1 **SECTION 1.** The immediate environs of Our Lady of Candelaria Parish Church
2 located in the Municipality of Silang, Province of Cavite, are hereby declared as a
3 tourism destination. Pursuant thereto, the development of the immediate environs of
4 Our Lady of Candelaria Parish Church shall be prioritized and supported by the
5 Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the
6 development of tourism destinations.

7
8 **Sec. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in
9 coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), National
10 Historical Commission of the Philippines and other concerned agencies of the
11 government, shall prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the
12 construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and
13 facilities to improve the overall features of the immediate environs surrounding Our
14 Lady of Candelaria Parish Church, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security
15 of the tourists: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation
16 and conservation of the historical significance of the church.

17 **Sec. 3.** The DOT and its concerned agencies shall take immediate steps to
18 formulate and implement the appropriate tourism development plan for Our Lady of

19 Candelaria Parish Church and shall incorporate the same in the National Tourism
20 Development Plan. The DOT shall also include the immediate environs of Our Lady of
21 Candelaria Parish Church in its national and regional promotion programs.

22
23 **Sec. 4.** The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program
24 the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the Annual
25 General Appropriations Act and internally-generated funds of the DOT.

26
27 **Sec. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in
28 coordination with the local government of Silang, Cavite, shall promulgate rules and
29 regulations to implement this Act.

30
31 **Sec. 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
32 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,