

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5720



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The National Shrine of our Mother Perpetual Help is one of the largest Marian churches in the Philippines. Thousands of devotees flood the church every Wednesday to attend mass and pray the Novena of Our Mother Perpetual Help. This tradition of Wednesday worship by devotees of the Mother of Perpetual Help made popular the term “Baclaran Day” in Metro Manila. During this Baclaran Day, the roads leading to the church are congested by thousands of devotees and pilgrims. The Shrine celebrates the annual feast day of the Icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help every 27th of June, drawing more pilgrims and devotees to throng to the church.

Since the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1958, the shrine has been authorized by the Holy See to remain open 24 hours a day throughout the entire year. The shrine itself was blessed by St. John Paul II during his first apostolic visit to Metro Manila in 1981.

The present modern Romanesque church is the third to be built on the same site since the second church was burned during the Japanese occupation. It took six (6) years to build the present church from the donation of the devotees and pilgrims.

The National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, or more popularly known as Redemptorist Church, has been part of the sociocultural landscape of the country, particularly in Metro Manila and has been a pilgrim site among the millions of Marian devotees in the Philippines, and also attracts domestic and foreign tourists.

Henceforth, it is essential that government take the necessary steps or programs to conserve and preserve this important cultural site and protect and secure thousands of pilgrims and tourists flocking to Redemptorist Church.

This measure was already approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives on three consecutive Congresses or during the 17th, 18th and most recently in the 19th Congress, reflective of the measure’s broad legislative support.

In view if the foregoing, passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

ERIC L. Olivarez

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF OUR MOTHER OF
PERPETUAL HELP, POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE REDEMPTORIST
CHURCH, LOCATED ALONG ROXAS BOULEVARD, BARANGAY
BACLARAN, PARAÑAQUE CITY, A HERITAGE SITE AND TOURIST
DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The immediate environs of the National Shrine of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, popularly known as the Redemptorist Church, located along Roxas Boulevard, Barangay Baclaran, Parañaque City, is hereby declared a heritage site and tourism destination. As such, the development of the immediate environs of the Redemptorist Church shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), the local government of Parañaque City and concerned agencies of the government, subject to the rules and regulations governing the Development of heritage sites and tourism destinations.

SECTION. 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the local government of Parañaque City shall, in coordination with the DOT, NHCP, Department of Public Works and Highways and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to improve the overall features of the immediate environs surrounding the Redemptorist Church, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the Redemptorist

Church: *Provided, further,* That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the local government of Parañaque City.

SEC. 3. The DOT shall assist the local government of Parañaque City in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the immediate environs of the Redemptorist Church in all its national and regional promotion program.

SEC. 4. The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the local government of Parañaque City. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

SEC. 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the local government of Parañaque City shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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

Approved,