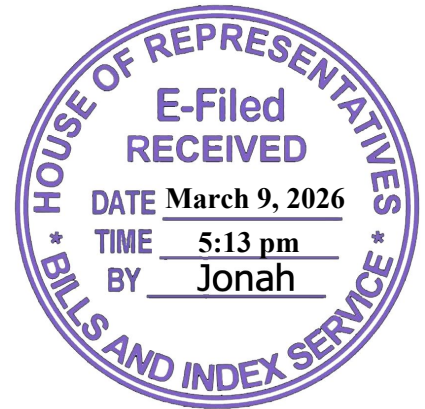


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **8390**



Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Nuestra Señora del Rosario de Manaoag, more widely known as “Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag” and fondly called “Apo Baket” by the people of Pangasinan, canonically crowned under Pope Pius XI, stands among the most cherished Marian devotions in the Philippines. The sacred image, a seventeenth-century ivory statue depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary holding the Child Jesus, was brought to the country from Spain during the early Spanish colonial period through the Manila-Acapulco galleon trade by Dominican missionaries. It is now enshrined at the high altar of the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag in Manaoag, Pangasinan, a shrine administered by the Order of Preachers under the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan and recognized today as one of the nation’s foremost pilgrimage destinations.

Over the centuries, devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag has become deeply woven into the religious and cultural fabric of Filipino life. For countless faithful, she has served as a source of comfort, hope, and spiritual renewal. The enduring reverence accorded to *Apo Baket* reflects the central role of Marian devotion in shaping the values, traditions, and collective identity of many communities, particularly in Northern Luzon.

Traditionally, the “Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag” is observed every third Wednesday of Easter. The celebration is marked by solemn religious rites and communal gatherings that foster not only spiritual growth but also moral formation and social solidarity among devotees.

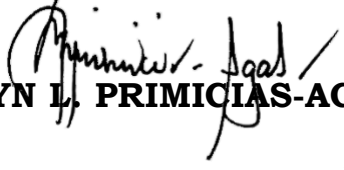
Declaring every third Wednesday of Easter as the “Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag” accords due recognition to this long-standing religious and cultural observance. Such recognition affirms the State’s respect for faith traditions as part of our

national heritage, while remaining consistent with the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom.

Beyond its spiritual significance, the formal acknowledgement of this feast may likewise contribute to the promotion of cultural tourism, strengthening the Philippines' standing as a destination for religious pilgrimage in Southeast Asia and supporting local economies anchored on heritage and faith-based tourism.

Ultimately, this proposed measure seeks to honor a sacred tradition while recognizing its meaningful contribution to the spiritual and cultural life of the Filipino people.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is respectfully urged.


MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS

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HOUSE BILL NO. **8390**

Introduced by Representative **MARLYN L. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS**

**AN ACT DECLARING EVERY THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EASTER AS THE “FEAST
OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF MANAOAG”**

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

SECTION 1. The third Wednesday of Easter is hereby declared a special working holiday in the entire country in celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag. The day shall be known as the “Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary of Manaoag Day.”

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,