

The Lovely #OurLadies of the Philippines

The Philippines is home to many lovely ladies from actresses and pageant queens to politicians and business leaders to many other women. But the lovely ladies the #FollowersOfChrist will be focusing on are the #OurLadies – the many Marian images found in the Philippines! Each unique image reveals the rich history of the Philippines and the Catholic Church. While there are many images in the Philippines, here are few famous and not-so-famous images of Our Lady, Mary the Mother of God.

Our Lady of Manaoag

Probably the most famous of all images of the Virgin Mary is Our Lady of Manaoag. The ivory statue was brought from Spain in the early 1600s. She carries the baby Jesus in one arm and a rosary in the other. Stories state that a farmer once saw an apparition of Our Lady on his way home, telling him to build a church at the very spot that they met. Many miracles related to Our Lady of Manaoag have taken place including miracles protecting the statue and church sanctuary from the bombings of World War II. She is the patroness of the sick, helpless, and needy, and her feast is celebrated on third Wednesday after Easter and the first Sunday in October.



1630s, she was known for disappearing from the church and mysteriously reappearing on top of *tipolo* tree, of which the town Antipolo is named after. She is the patroness of travelers and sailors and has inspired many pilgrimages to its shrine during the month of May.



by Jessica Abejar

Our Lady of Piat

Now located in Cagayan, Our Lady of Piat was brought in 1604 from Macau. She is the patroness of the province and has brought miracles to the Cagayan Valley including the ending of a drought, the stopping of floods, and saving a man from being eaten by a crocodile!



Our Lady of Caysasay

Unlike most statues, who have supporting documents that provide evidence of its arrival, this small wooden statue (standing at about one foot tall!) was caught in the net of a local fisherman! Her previous whereabouts and origin is unknown. She was known to disappear from her *urna*, a canopied shrine, and there have been many apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the area. She is attributed to saving the townspeople of Taal during the Taal Volcano's eruption in 1754. As the water levels of the Taal Lake rose, many townspeople hid in the Church. Her feast day is celebrated every December 8 and 9.



Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage / Virgin of Antipolo

Another most famous image of the Virgin Mary is Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, also known as the Virgen of Antipolo. The wooden statue was brought to the Philippines from Mexico in 1626 by Governor-General Juan Nino de Tabora. During the





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Our Lady of Namacpacan

While her feast was recently celebrated, this image seems virtually unknown, perhaps because she has lived in the shadow of her neighbor Our Lady of Manaoag. However, she cannot be easily missed as she is the tallest of the Marian images at 6 feet and 4 inches! Her journey to Namacpacan was not easy as she endured storm at sea and strong winds, and when she landed, she was too heavy to transport to its original destination.

