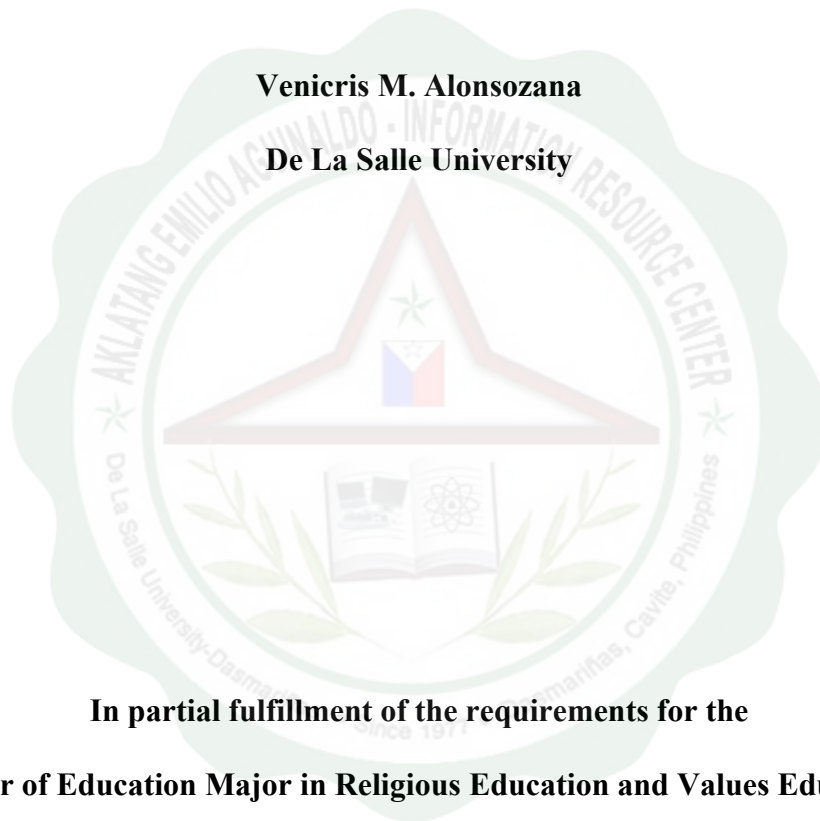


**The role of Religious Icons in Catholic Worship and Liturgy
in the Philippine Setting**

**Venicris M. Alonsozana
De La Salle University**



**In partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
Doctor of Education Major in Religious Education and Values Education**

Fr. Nicolas Matias Sengson, SVD STD

March 2006

Table of Contents

TITLE PAGE	1
APPROVAL PAGE	2
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT PAGE	3
TABLE OF CONTENTS	5
TABLES AND FIGURES	8
ABSTRACT	9
CHAPTER ONE	
THE PROBLEM, ITS BACKGROUND AND THE RESEARCH METHOD	10
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	15
World of Signs and Symbols	15
Religious Signs and Religious Symbols	17
Liturgical Art	19
Virtuous Worship and Liturgy	21
Biblical Cultures and Customs	22
Symbolic Objects in the Bible	23
The Icons in the history of the church	25
Liturgy, Religious Icons and Iconophiles in the West	26
Liturgy, Religious Icons and Iconoclasts in the East	27
Religious Icons and the Church Councils	30
Modern Proponents of Religious Icons	31
Ecclesiastical References	33
Church Documents	33
Vatican Correspondences	36
Prayers on Icons	37
Local Catechism on Religious Icons	40
Scholarly Studies Related to Religious Icons	43
Published	43.
Unpublished	46.
Philippine Setting	47
Spanish, American and Japanese Era	51
Filipino Religiosity	52
General Assessment	55
CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	57
STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM	59
SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS	60
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY	62
DEFINITION OF TERMS	63

THE RESEARCH METHOD	66
Research Design	66
Research Methodology	66
Sources of Data	68
Description of the sources of Data and Sample	68
Church Documents	69
Population of the Study	69
Liturgist	70
Lay persons	72
Description of Instruments Used	73
Conduct of the study and Data treatment	74
Data Gathering Phase	74
Data-gathering procedure	75
Received Questionnaires and Interview accomplishments	76.
Less turn-out of survey questionnaire and Interview problems	78
Data Treatment	79
CHAPTER TWO	
RELIGIOUS ICONS IN CATHOLIC WORSHIP AND LITURGY	80
ART IN LITURGY AND WORSHIP	81
Liturgical art in dialogue with indigenous art forms	83
The Secondary Deities	84
How carved images started	86
Early Missionaries' experience	88
Blending Books and Life	92
Ecclesiastical Reflections and Sources	93
THE PRESENCE AND USAGE OF RELIGIOUS ICONS	94
Magnitude of Roles in a secular setting	95
Filipino Values and Patronal Titles	98
Principal Patroness	101
Respect towards Fathers	102
Fondness for children	102
Admiration to farmers	103
View on suffering	104
Vital Concepts a Catholic must be re-acquainted with	105
Objects	106
God, Jesus, Mary, Saints and Buddha	108
Veneration and Reverence	109

Integral part of worship and liturgy	110
Used in prayer	111
Persons	112
Reminders	113
Sacred Purpose and meaning	114
Lead to Holiness	115
Historical Past	117
Biblical and Catholic	118
Advantages and Disadvantages	119
BENEFITS AND DRAWBACKS	120
The relation of the ‘visible’ and the ‘invisible’	121
Reveals God and Promotes prayer	122
Mistreatment, Distractions, by the Numbers and its materiality	124
A means to building up a ‘people’ in the cultural setting	126
Uplifts the Faith and Guides Christian Life	126
Source of Magic Powers and Idolatry	128
Evangelization/education of the human senses in a globalized society	129
Supports the arts and aesthetics	130
Need for Essential Catechism	131
Subjective character of symbolisms	132
Value Assessment	133
Personal difficulties	135
GUIDELINES ON THE USAGE OF RELIGIOUS ICONS	136
Guideline number 1	137
Guideline number 2	140
Guideline number 3	143
Guideline number 4	144
SUMMARY POINTS	147
Images and Representations	147
Accounts in History	148
Tools and Aids	149
Signs and Symbols	150
Christian Art and Christian Education	151
CONCLUSION	153
Religious Icons as God’s “Invitation”	154
Theological Dimension of “Tatak”	155
RECOMMENDATIONS	156
Teaching the “Icons”	157
The P.A.R.A.B.L.E. Approach	158

REFERENCES	168
ADDENDUM	177
CORRESPONDENCE TO CBCP EPISCOPAL COMMISSION ON LITURGY CHAIRMAN	179
QUESTIONNAIRE, INTERVIEW GUIDE AND ENVELOPES	
Envelop sent to the Respondents	180
Customized self-addressed and stamped envelop	181
CD jacket for the Dissertation's Complimentary Copy	181
RESPONDENT'S VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF ICONS	182
MATRIX ON ICONS, IMAGES, SIGNS AND SYMBOLS FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS	212
Duodecimum Saeculum	219
2005 CATHOLIC DIRECTORY OF THE PHILIPPINES FREQUENCY OF PATRONAL TITLES	228
PERSONAL LETTERS RECEIVED	239

Tables and Figures

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1	Art Styles found and commonly used in the Philippines	16
Table 2	Top 30 Patronal Titles of Catholic churches in the Phil.	98
Table 3	Value assessment of Religious Icons according to Liturgists and Lay persons	133

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1.	Conceptual Framework of the study on the role of icons in liturgy and worship	58
Figure 2	Map Distribution and Location of Liturgist interviewed and who answered back in the study	71
Figure 3	Lesson presentation of Religious Icons	157
Figure 4	PARABLE Approach Lesson Module	162

ABSTRACT

There is a vast array of venerated icons in the Philippines. These icons could be Christological, depicting Jesus' life moments; they could also be portrayals of Mary, the saints, and significant symbols like the cross of Christ. The main limitation of the study is that it focused mainly on visual arts, plastic or graphic in aesthetic sense, that Filipinos consider as "sacred" throughout its "inculturation" into Christianity, as well as those used in Catholic liturgies and worship, both sculpted and painted. The coming of the Spaniards in the 16th century, as well as the Chinese, American and Japanese eras in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, re-shaped the accepted wisdom among Filipinos on the use of "icons" in their lives and how they play a useful part in religious celebrations, particularly to Catholic liturgies and worship. The main objective of the study is to critically assess, using the Synthetic Model of Contextual Theology, the reflections of contemporary Filipino liturgists appointed and officially involved in the liturgy and liturgical arts of different dioceses nationwide and lay persons on the role of Religious Icons in Catholic worship and liturgy. As a result, the conceptualized research study aimed not only to present a dissertation paper on the character and impact of religious Icons in liturgy and worship according to the views of church documents and opinions of liturgists and lay persons, but also in order to come up with recommended guidelines that can be used in schools, as well as in parishes, in instructing the faithful about the role of religious icons in Catholic worship and liturgy.