

MARYHILL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**CASE STUDIES OF TEN *JUETENG* ENTHUSIASTS IN
BARANGAY MAUWAY: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE
CHURCH'S PROCLAMATION AGAINST GAMBLING**

18000

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by

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AKLATANG EMILIO AGUINALDO ARCHIVES

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**To my parents, Gregorio and Alma
my sisters, Eileen, Kareen and Sheila
my brothers Noli and Norman**



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ABSTRACT

There is no doubt that contemporary Filipino society is saturated with various types of gambling. The most popular form of gambling among Filipinos is *jueteng*. It is considered illegal under Philippine laws, but many Filipinos patronize it. Gambling proponents see it as an economic opportunity for gambling profits to be channeled to charitable institutions and humanitarian programs. On the other hand, Filipino Church leaders view gambling/*jueteng* as an abomination because it destroys the moral values of hard work, diligence, honesty and justice. This thesis critically analyses the Filipino Church leaders' moral stance on gambling *vis-à-vis* the concrete experiences of ten *jueteng* enthusiasts of *Barangay Mauway* on gambling.

The researcher used an indigenous research method, the *hiyang* approach, in gathering data from ten *jueteng* enthusiasts. The Filipino concept of *hiyang* is both descriptive and evaluative. This method allows the participants to freely express their experiences in gambling and personally evaluate their moral actions. The thesis reveals the perception, cultural worldview and moral views of *jueteng* enthusiasts (class E) of *Barangay Mauway* on gambling. Moreover, significant themes emerged from the research such as personal beliefs, the non-literal concept of numbers, the social dimension of charity, social individualism, *pagbabakasakali at pakikipagsapalaran*, work-leisure and time, principle of the lesser evil, and the inconsistency between moral attitudes against gambling and gambling behavior. These themes are merged with related literatures.

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The thesis also explains the typical hierarchical structure of a *jueteng* operation. The persons directly involved in its operation have specific roles and tasks to play. *Jueteng* operations have social advantages such as "development" patronage and the positive reciprocal relationship between operators and bettors. Some negative effects are political patronage, graft, corruption, cheating and warlordism.

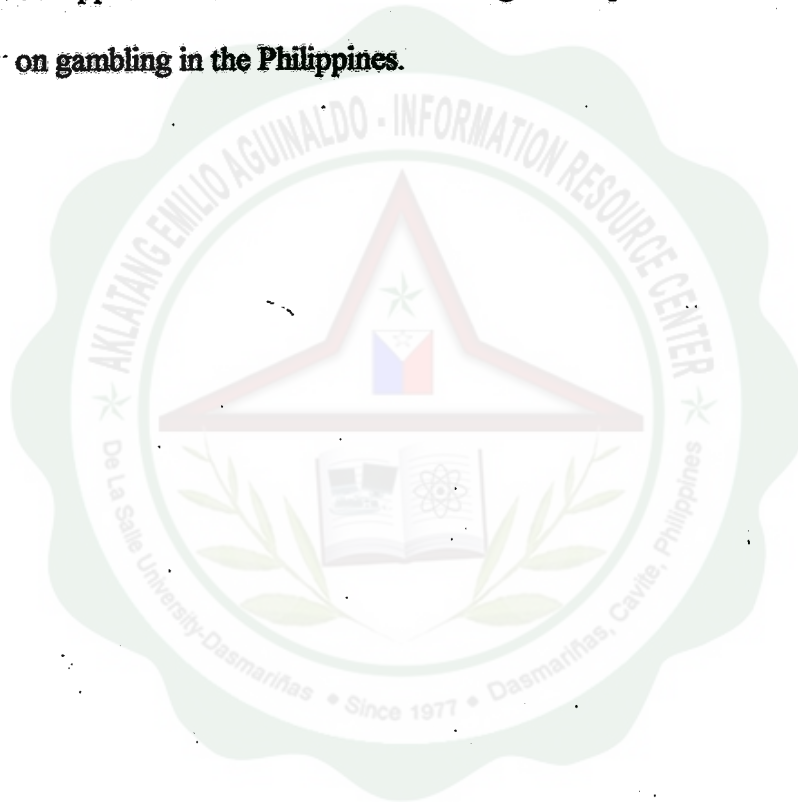
The thesis also includes a historical survey of gambling in the Church from the Biblical references of "casting of lots" to the morality of gambling in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The researcher found out that there are two pastoral letters on gambling in the compiled CBCP documents from 1945-1995. The first pastoral letter entitled "Statement on Drug Abuse" was issued on January 29, 1972 and it explicitly mentioned the moral ambiguity of gambling. The Northern Luzon Bishops issued the second pastoral letter, "Make a New Heart and a New Spirit," on January 24, 1993. It morally condemned all forms of gambling, legal or illegal, because it violates the moral values of Filipinos.

Based on the study, the researcher discovered that there is a difference in the moral evaluation of gambling if it is done out of *pagbabakasakali* or *pakikipagsapalaran*. It is morally acceptable to bet on a game of chance out of *pagbabakasakali* because it is done with fun, a diversion from everyday life, and a simple attempt to try one's luck. Moreover, *pagbabakasakali* does not infringe on the person's fundamental option or core freedom. On the other hand, gambling out of *pakikipagsapalaran* can make radical demands on the person's fundamental option. It could alter a gambler's personality and orientation in life. Thus, *pakikipagsapalaran* in

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gambling is given a more serious moral evaluation than *pagbabakasakali*. The lack of moral nuancing of gambling in the 1993 CBCP document ("Make a New Heart and a New Spirit") is one of the several limitations of the Northern Luzon Bishop's moral stance on gambling.

The thesis also includes the legal ambiguity of article 195 of the Revised Penal Code of the Philippines. There is a need for Congress to pass a more comprehensive and clearer law on gambling in the Philippines.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CBCP	Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines
CCC	Catechism of the Catholic Church
LGU	Local Government Unit
PAGCOR	Philippine Amusement and Game Corporation
PCIJ	Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism
PCSO	Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office
PNP	Philippine National Police
SWS	Social Weather Stations

