

Filipino wags and pundits point out the “achievements” of diminutive Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Under her tenure, the Philippines has reached the BIGNESS plateau, if not the BIGGEST threshold, in world records. The Philippines is now the world’s biggest exporter of manpower (nearly nine-million Overseas-Filipino workers and counting). It is now also the world’s biggest importer of rice. The Filipino homeland has become also Asia’s Number-One corrupt country. Critics say that her “achievements” could have been bigger if she had the height and bulk of the First Gentleman.

Then the President’s critics add that the Philippines is one of the world’s leaders, if not the world’s leader, in population explosion. Perhaps there ought to be a Philippine law mandating automatic vasectomy for Filipino politicians, the military top brass and even the clergy.

Did you know why General Douglas MacArthur chose to land in Leyte in October 1944 as the first step in liberating the Philippines from the Japanese invaders? The general was born in Little Rock, Arkansas, and of course people there pronounce the city’s name as “Leyte Rock.”

Filipino marketing experts say that General MacArthur should have established a fast-food chain after President Truman fired him from his post in Korea. His slogan, “I shall return,” would have been the most-perfect pitch for customers of MacArthur’s burgers, fries and soda.

Written by Bobby Reyes

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Sen. Isabelo “Don Belong” de los Reyes actually founded together with 42 members of his labor union the Philippine Independent Church on August 3, 1902. But he said that he was a politician and not a man of the cloth, although he was a former seminarian. Don Belong should have named himself the church’s first Obispo Maximo, instead of the Rev. Fr. Gregorio Aglipay. Now it is known as the “Aglipayan Church.” It could have been called colloquially the “Belong Church,” if not the “We Belong Church.”

The Archdiocese of Los Angeles, California, has reportedly more-than 700,000 Filipinos as registered parishioners (as told by Filipino Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon to the Filipino-American press). It has some 40 Filipino priests, the first Filipino Catholic bishop and many visiting Filipino priests and nuns who serve during their temporary stay. Filipino parishioners compose the majority of many church choirs in Los Angeles. You know the reason for it? Well, according to Poet-pundit Fred Burce Bunao, many of the Filipino church-choir members love to sing as homage to God for giving them good voices. But Mr. Bunao noted that even some Filipinos with bad voices also join church choirs. Why? They want to get even with the Almighty for not giving them the gift of song.

Did you know that the Filipino Ministry of Los Angeles is headed by a woman? The Filipino nun who heads the Filipino Ministry is Sister Christina Sevilla. Of course some of the Filipino priests would want nun, oops, none of the above-named position.

By the way, the name of the first Filipino Catholic bishop in the United States is the Most Rev. Oscar Solis. You can read about Bishop Solis and other Filipino monsignors and priests in this article, [Why Did St. Peter's Chicken Cross the Road?](#)

It is almost the end of April. And speaking of April Fool's Day, do you know the Filipino who made the most-memorable April Fool's joke? It was Emilio Aguinaldo, then the President of the First Filipino Republic. President Aguinaldo, after he was captured by the Americans, pledged allegiance to the United States on April 1, 1902. And the American colonizers never realized that Mr. Aguinaldo was pulling their legs with the indomitable Filipino humor.

And speaking of May 1st, which is just around the corner, it is the day when the Philippines celebrates Labor Day. Filipino diplomats assigned in the United States have the day off on May 1st and on the occasion of the American Labor Day (weekend) in the month of September. They get to celebrate Labor Day twice a year.

But did you know that many Filipino-American Baby Boomers celebrate also two Thanksgiving Days? They celebrate first and foremost the American Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday of November. Then they celebrate the Philippine Thanksgiving Day on September 11th, as proclaimed then by strongman of a President Ferdinand Marcos in 1973. Why? Because after Mr. Marcos proclaimed martial law on Sept. 21, 1972, many of them were thankful they were not jailed.

To read its first part, please go to [Filipino Fun Facts](#)