

**NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

11TH REGULAR Session, 2024

Y.C. Res. No. 19- **28**

A YOUTH CONGRESS RESOLUTION

Commending the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on achieving the
milestone of celebrating 40 years of existence.

1 **WHEREAS**, since the arrival of Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores in the
2 Marianas, our people embraced the Catholic faith brought by the missionaries that
3 came to our shores; and

4 **WHEREAS**, as the Catholic faith grew in our islands, the Vatican felt the
5 need to establish greater canonical jurisdiction in Micronesia and created the
6 Apostolic Vicariate of Guam in 1911 by Pope Saint Pius X, which oversaw the
7 Church on Guam, the Northern Marianas and the Caroline Islands; and

8 **WHEREAS**, centuries after the evangelization of our islands, the Northern
9 Marianas were placed by Pope Saint Paul VI under the pastoral care of the newly
10 created Diocese of Agaña in 1965; and

11 **WHEREAS**, with the increase of parishes in the islands, a sense of change
12 was felt by the Vatican with regard to the means of administering the faith in the
13 Marianas; and

1 **WHEREAS**, these factors among others compelled the late Pope Saint John
2 Paul II to elevate the Diocese of Agaña to a metropolitan archdiocese, and giving
3 the Northern Marianas its own seat of religious authority; and

4 **WHEREAS**, on November 8, 1984, the Church in the Northern Marianas
5 was established as the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel
6 Church was elevated to the status of cathedral; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the helm of leadership was filled for the new Diocese of
8 Chalan Kanoa when Monsignor Tomas Aguon Camacho was ordained as the first
9 Bishop of Chalan Kanoa by the late Archbishop Felixberto Camacho Flores at Our
10 Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral on January 13, 1985; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in its infancy and under the leadership of Bishop Camacho,
12 the Diocese experienced growth needed to serve its flock by establishing new
13 parishes, brought in missionaries to minister as parochial administrators and
14 religious, as well as ordaining men to serve as priests and deacons under its
15 authority; and

16 **WHEREAS**, a new chapter was written in the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa's
17 history in 2016 when the seat of leadership was transferred from Bishop Tomas
18 Aguon Camacho to Bishop Ryan Pagente Jimenez, the first bishop ordained as a
19 priest for the diocese to become its spiritual leader, serving as its shepherd from
20 2016 - 2024; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in its four decades of existence, the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa
22 has continued to grow its mission of evangelization in its twelve parishes on all

1 three islands through many mediums while maintaining its dedication to the intent
2 of the decree that created it both through spiritual and cultural means; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Diocese has withstood many challenges, changes in
4 political administrations, and turbulent times in our Commonwealth's history, and
5 through it all has remained a strong entity in promoting spirituality to our islands'
6 Catholic-Christian community; and

7 **WHEREAS**, in celebration of this milestone, the Youth Congress finds the
8 Diocese of Chalan Kanoa worthy of honor and recognition; and

9 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by by the Nineteenth
10 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Youth Congress, that the Youth
11 Congress commends the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on achieving the milestone of
12 celebrating 40 years of existence; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Sponsor of this Resolution or the
14 designee of the Speaker of the Youth Congress shall present a certified original
15 copy of this Youth Congress Resolution to the Very Reverend Charlito A. Borja,
16 Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa; and

17 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Speaker of the Youth Congress
18 shall certify, and the Youth Congress Legislative Secretary shall attest to the
19 adoption of this resolution and thereafter shall transmit a certified copy to the
20 Honorable Edmund S. Villagomez, Speaker of the House of Representatives (23rd
21 Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature); Honorable Edith E. DeLeon
22 Guerrero, President of the Senate (23rd Northern Marianas Commonwealth

1 Legislature); the Honorable Arnold I. Palacios, Governor of the Commonwealth of
2 the Northern Mariana Islands; and the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan,
3 CNMI Delegate to the House of Representatives (118th United States Congress).

Date: 12/21/2024

Introduced by: 
Senator Maili Ilareyo'l B. Peter