



ARCHDIOCESE
OF
LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN

March 9, 2024

ALD Circular 2024-8

RE: Veiling of Crosses and Images During Lent

Reverend Fathers:

The Roman Missal says the following instructions with regard to the practice of covering images on the Fifth Sunday of Lent: *The practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from this Sunday MAY be observed if the conference of bishops so decides.*

Please take note that the modal verb *MAY* was used. Furthermore the bishops' conference has not ruled on the matter.

It is NOT obligatory to veil images from the Fifth Sunday of Lent onwards. The obligation to cover the cross is clearly mandated only for Good Friday in relation to the unveiling of the cross that will be used during the veneration.

The practice of veiling images cannot be legislated as a liturgical adaptation in the Philippines in consideration of the centuries old tradition of Lenten processions of images and passion scenes during Holy Week and even before it. There must be practical consistency and cultural sensitivity on such matters or we expose our Church pious practices to disdain or ridicule or confusion.

Turning away from Lenten pageantry, let us rather focus on the greater law of charity for the poor born from self-sacrifice. Turning away from self-centered bodily penances, let us rather focus on joy of this Lenten season which is the fruit of honest and humble contrition and confession. The best prayer is love.

Sincerely yours,

+SOCRATES B. VILLEGAS
Archbishop of Lingayen Dagupan