

Chancery of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore

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CHANCERY NOTICE

It is believed that a medium from the Philippines has recently visited Catholics in Singapore with the intent of exercising her practice. She is said to diagnose and cure the sick of their illnesses when she is in a state of integration with the “Santo Nino”. The name Santo Nino – “Holy Child”, refers to the Infant Jesus as He is popularly known in Spanish-speaking countries and the Philippines.

The practice of inviting the “Santo Nino” or *any* spiritual entity, including those believed to be Catholic religious figures such as saints or members of the Holy Trinity, to take control of a person’s body, is **not** consistent with Catholic teaching. This refers to a situation in which the spiritual entity *assumes control of a person who has accepted them, often in order for this person or the entity to exercise power over another person.*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) states that:

“All forms of *divination* are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to ‘unveil’ the future. Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honour, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone.” (CCC 2116)

The Catechism also states:

“All practices of *magic* or *sorcery*, by which one attempts to tame occult powers, so as to place them at one’s service and have a supernatural power over others – even if this were for the sake of restoring their health – are gravely contrary to the virtue of religion. These practices are even more to be

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condemned when accompanied by the intention of harming someone, or when they have recourse to the intervention of demons. Wearing charms is also reprehensible. Spiritism often implies divination or magical practices; the Church for her part warns the faithful against it. Recourse to so-called traditional cures does not justify either the invocation of evil powers or the exploitation of another's credulity." (CCC 2117)

The Archdiocese strongly advises Catholics not to solicit, permit or pay for the "services" of persons believed to be cooperating with occult spiritual entities. This advice refers not only to mediums of foreign origin or those claiming affiliation with the Catholic faith. It extends equally to the popular practice of consulting local mediums of *any* affiliation.



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Chancellor

