

# Chancery of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Singapore

#07-01 Catholic Centre  
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## CHANCERY NOTICE

The Chancery has recently received reports that certain members of the Filipino Catholic Communities here in Singapore have mistakenly believed that they belong to the Roman Catholic Church after they had been baptized into the *Iglesia Filipina Independiente*, or the Philippine Independent Catholic Church.

Having investigated this religious entity, the Chancery wishes to inform the clergy and faithful of the following:

- 1) The Philippine Independent Catholic Church is a schismatic group which separated from the Roman Catholic Church in 1902. The instigator of this schism was a man known as Isabelo de los Reyes, also known as 'Dom Belong', along with Gregorio Aglipay, an excommunicated priest.
- 2) The Philippine Independent Catholic Church also differs from the Roman Catholic Church in matters of doctrine.
- 3) In 1960, the Philippine Independent Catholic Church was received into the Anglican Communion.

Due to their status as first a Catholic schismatic group and later a member of the Anglican Communion, members of the Philippine Independent Catholic Church are not in communion with Rome.

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On a pastoral note, the Chancery would like to encourage parishes to be diligent in verifying that those who have received Sacraments such as Baptism and Confirmation overseas have done so in a valid manner in Rites of the Roman Catholic Church. This especially pertains to those undergoing catechesis in preparation for receiving further Sacraments like Confirmation and Marriage. In the case of any possible discrepancies, Parish teams may contact the Chancery for clarification.



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Fr John-Paul Tan OFM, JCL  
Chancellor

