



# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE PHILIPPINES

## National Office

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**"BUT YOU, MAN OF GOD, FLEE FROM ALL THIS, AND PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS, GODLINESS, FAITH, LOVE, ENDURANCE AND GENTLENESS."**

*(1 Timothy 6:11)*

### A Pastoral Letter from the Prime Bishop

In our Epistle reading last Sunday from 1 Timothy 6, we heard the eternal truth and condemnation that **"Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil."** (1 Timothy 6:9-10)

We see this Biblical warning unfolding right before our eyes at this time. Large-scale and widespread corruption, which has been only whispered in conversations or occasionally exposed in the past, is now a horrible monster publicly exposed in full color and with a growing list of our brothers and sisters involved in the scandal.

The love of money, being a root of all evil, has permeated government, institutions, communities, systems and worldviews and has become a systemic rot. Those who dishonestly amass staggering wealth from government coffers pay their way into electoral exercises and ensure that they or their dynastic kins are there to continue robbing the peoples' money. Worse, they have become the subjects of our admiration as we are dazzled by their power and privilege and continue to vote for them. We look at them as "honorables" clad in the most expensive barongs and invite them to speak and grace public events and to stand as ninongs and ninangs to our children in our most cherished rituals.

But this cannot go on forever. As the Epistle passage commands us, we, the children of God, **must flee from all these**. Everyone must be outraged and we must sustain this indignation to become an integral part of our Christian worldview. Let us not allow our outrage to fade into oblivion by the passage of time. Whether in large or small scale, any wealth derived dishonestly or beyond what one is due is **an abomination to the Lord**. (Proverbs 11:1) With the ease of a google search, legitimate incomes are determinable and anything beyond that is tainted with evil

**ECP VISION 2028: "A CHURCH OF SCRIPTURE-ROOTED, SPIRIT-FIRED AND DISCIPLED PARISHES"**

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