



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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## **CONSULATE PARTICIPATES AT THE ANNUAL SIMBANG GABI**



Left photo: The officers of the Philippine Consulate General in Los Angeles parade its parol before the start of the Simbang Gabi. Right photo: Cardinal Roger Mahoney (center) leads Filipino-American parishioners in celebrating the Simbang Gabi mass at the Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral.

Los Angeles, 16 December 2009 – The annual “Simbang Gabi and Parade of Parols”, which marks the start of the 9-day novena mass before Christmas, was held on 15 December 2009 at the Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral located in downtown Los Angeles. The event was sponsored by the San Pedro Region Filipino Ministry under the auspices of the Office of the Filipino Ministry of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The main celebrant, Cardinal Roger Mahoney, was joined by the four (4) Auxiliary Bishops of Los Angeles and more than 30 clerics during the celebration.

The Simbang Gabi’s theme for this year is **COME JESUS, GOOD SHEPHERD** – “**HALINA HESUS, BUTIHING PASTOL**” to commemorate and to honor the Year of Priests.###end



The officers and staff of the Philippines Consulate General in Los Angeles, led by Consul General Mary Jo Bernardo Aragon, pose at the altar of the Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral after the ceremonies.