

November 2024 is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Arlington-our Golden Jubilee!! We are in Year 2 of preparation for our Jubilee. Theme for Year 2: "My soul rejoices in the Lord!"



Our Lady of EDSA
Epiphany of the Saints Highway
Manila, Philippines
February 22-25, 1986



The people of the Philippines credit the Blessed Mother with interceding for them during the Rosary Revolt in 1986 against the corrupt dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Under Marcos' 20 years of presidency, the people went from prosperity to extreme poverty. For nearly 10 years, President Marcos controlled the Philippines under martial law. He was implicated in the assassination of his political rival Ninoy Aquino. Already unpopular, Marcos' reputation further deteriorated so that he felt the need to legitimize his presidency.

Marcos held a snap election. Ninoy Aquino's widow Corazon Aquino challenged Marcos for the presidency. Polls showed that Corazon garnered 70 percent of the people's support. However, Marcos rigged the election and declared himself the winner. The fraud was so obvious that on February 13, the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines publicly proclaimed the election results to be invalid.

On February 22, Defense Secretary Juan Ponce Enrile and General Fidel Ramos resigned from Marcos' cabinet in support of Aquino. They formed 2 camps supported by only 300 soldiers in order to rebel against the Marcos regime. In a heavy handed response, General Ver, a Marcos loyalist, ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to overcome the rebels.



As people tuned into the news, they heard Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin of Manila over Radio Veritas calling for the people to head to the camps of Enrile and Ramos to show solidarity to the rebels. Thousands of lay people, priests, and nuns flooded the streets to support the rebels. People from all walks of life, children, teens, elderly showed up to the EDSA (Epiphany of the Saints Avenue) where the rebels were holed up. Instead of guns, they brought

Rosaries, flowers and images of the Blessed Mother and set up altars along the highway. They placed themselves between the rebels and the armed tanks of General Ver.

For four days, the people continuously recited the Rosary, singing the Ave Maria after each decade. The Army was instructed to advance and to inflict harm, but so many people crowded the path, touching the tanks and praying over them. On the fourth day, the Blessed Virgin appeared with outstretched arms, surrounded by light, dressed in blue and with "heavenly eyes." She was seen by soldiers, rebels, lay people and religious alike. She said, "Dear soldiers, stop! Do not proceed. Do not harm my children. I am the queen of this land." The soldiers then joined the rebel's and turned against Marcos. Marcos fled to Hawaii where he died three years later.



Archbishop Cardinal Sin verified the apparition. A shrine to Our Lady of EDSA, Queen of Peace was built at the site where the rebels encamped on the EDSA Highway. The Holy See has neither approved nor disproved this apparition.

This year, we focus on Mary, [the Mediatrix of All Graces](#), the model disciple, who shows us how to receive and bear the Word to the world. For more on Year 2 preparation, visit: www.arlingtondiocese.org/goldenjubiliecelebration/

-From the Office of Religious Education