



*Archdiocese of Jaro*

St. Elizabeth of Hungary Metropolitan Cathedral  
Parish of our Lady of Candles

Twenty five years ago today, Filipinos from all walks of life congregated at EDSA, a street named after a Filipino historian Epifanio de los Santos to make a collective stand against the tyranny of dictatorship. Little, did those that came, knew that their gathering at EDSA would be a real '*manifestation of the saints*' (*epifanio de los santos transliterated to English*). Their love of country and faith in God which took over love of self were the source of their courage and strength to face the many dangers which confronted them. United as a people, we have shown that we have power to fight for the noble principles of freedom and democracy.

Nevertheless, this non-violent people revolution at EDSA is not just a thing in the past nor it is an over and done event. As we celebrate this historic and shared experience as a Filipino nation, we have as our theme, **"TATAK EDSA 25: PILIPINO AKO. AKO ANG LAKAS NG PAGBABAGO"**. This is to highlight and honor the Filipino people who have been brave in fighting for our country and her democracy. As we honor them, we likewise recognize the fact that there are still many things to be done and undone and each of us has a role to play. We do not rest on our laurels and just brag about what we have gained and achieved at EDSA '86. Rather, we continue to work for social transformation, inspired and encouraged with what our heroes at EDSA '86 exemplified, especially in our fight against graft and corruption.

With this, I invite everyone to come again to prayer and reflection, to discern and live heroic lives for our nation in the spirit of patriotism and nationalism. May our remembrance of EDSA '86 make us realize that we as an individual and as a people have the power to bring about change in the world for the common good. Let us reclaim this power within us given by God to really make a difference, to change one life at a time.

May Mary who continuously prays with us and for us keep alive in us as a people – against all odds – the commitment "to dream the impossible dream... to fight the unbeatable foe... to ran where the brave dare not go..." so that we can always live in freedom as sons and daughters of God.

Sicut Christus vivit,

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+ **GERARDO A. ALMINAZA, D.D.**

Auxiliary Bishop of Jaro

Parish Priest, Our Lady of Candles Parish