

# TRINITY NEWS

January 21, 2024  
**Epiphany 3**

## **Brent Biography (excerpt)**

*Rev Charles Mock, Brent School 2012*

Such was [Brent's] reputation as a preacher, pastor and organizer, that only Brent himself was surprised by the telegram he received October 8, 1901 from Bishop Potter of New York, asking whether he would, if elected, accept the newly formed bishopric of the Philippines.

After consulting with friends and spending the better part of two days in prayer and reflection, he replied that he would be willing, and on the 11<sup>th</sup>, word of his election by the House of Bishops arrived in Boston.

Brent formally accepted the election on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1901, and was consecrated in Boston at Emmanuel Church on December 19<sup>th</sup> of the same year. He did not, however, leave for Manila until the following summer. Brent was well aware that previous missionary efforts on the part of the Episcopal Church in Latin America had foundered for lack of proper support, and he was determined to insure that that would not happen in the case of the Philippines. He spent much of this time travelling around the country raising funds and otherwise preparing for his new position. Among other things, he traveled to Washington where he met with President Theodore Roosevelt and other government officials, most important among them, William Howard Taft who was to be Governor General of the Philippines. In May he sailed for the Orient in company with Governor Taft, with whom he formed a life-long friendship. They traveled via Europe with a stopover in Italy where Governor Taft held talks with Vatican authorities regarding Church lands in the Philippines. They arrived in Manila on the morning of August 25<sup>th</sup> 1902'

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The fifteen-odd years Brent spent as Bishop in the Philippines were extremely active ones. To provide for the spiritual and social needs of the American and British communities he got to work building a Cathedral and organizing clubs and other activities for the community. By 1903 he had established a small medical dispensary, which later became known as St. Luke's hospital, today one of the Philippines' premier medical institutions. Concerned for the welfare of families as he was, it is not surprising that he soon began to think in terms of education, and by 1909 he had established his school for boys in Baguio, the forerunner of our own school.

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***From page 1...*** In Manila, too, Brent took an active interest in the Chinese community and with the help of a priest under him, Howard E. Studley, formed a congregation to which he gave the name of his old Boston parish: St. Stephens.

Outside Manila, Brent traveled far and wide, and given the primitive conditions for travel, his athletic background certainly came in handy. He founded the permanent missions in Bontoc and Sagada which were to become the nucleus of a truly Filipino Anglican church. He traveled extensively in the South and found himself fascinated by Moro culture. Everywhere he went he oversaw the establishment of schools and hospitals, many of which, such as the Easter School in Baguio and Brent Hospital in Zamboanga, survive to this day.

It was during his years in Manila that Brent began to emerge as a figure of national and international prominence. His involvement in the two areas for which he became widely known - the regulation of drugs and Christian unity - began as a result of his experience in the Philippines.

It became evident to the new colonial rulers soon after they arrived, that perhaps the greatest evil in Filipino society at the time was opium. Brent was appointed to the commission summoned to examine the problem. The commission met from 1903 to 1904, when it issued its report recommending that the government establish a monopoly over the opium trade and that this become total prohibition except for medical use after three years. Brent's role in this was significant enough for him to be asked to preside over the International Opium Conference in Shanghai in 1909, and later to head up the American delegations to the international opium conferences held in the Hague in 1911 and 1912.

But the cause that eventually became closest to Brent's heart was that of Christian Unity. Working in the missionary field convinced him that the greatest impediment to evangelization was disunity. He was at a loss as to what to do about the situation until he attended the World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1910. The experience was an extremely positive one, and he became convinced that such gatherings of Christians to deal with common themes was a path that could lead to eventual union. As we shall see, it is for his work in this area during the last decade of his life that he is best known today.

**[To be continued]**

## SAINTS:

**Agnes, Child-Martyr at Rome, 21 January.** The reason Agnes is one of the most well-known and widely-venerated of the early Roman martyrs is perhaps because of the expression of mature resilience and sheer bravery in a thirteen-year-old girl. Agnes is reputed to have refused an arranged marriage because of her total dedication to Christ and stated that she preferred even death of the body to the death of her consecrated virginity. The growing veneration for the state of consecrated virginity at this time, combined with the last, major Roman persecution under the emperor Diocletian, climaxing in the shedding of an innocent virgin-child's blood willingly for Christ, placed her at the forefront of veneration almost from the moment the persecution ended. She is believed to have died in the year 304 and her feast has ever since been celebrated on this day.

**Vincent of Saragossa, Deacon, first Martyr of Spain, 22 January.** Vincent was born in Saragossa in Aragon in the latter part of the third century and was ordained to the diaconate by Valerian, his bishop in that city. When the Diocletian persecutions began, both men were brought before the Roman governor but, because Valerian stammered badly, he relied on Vincent to speak for them both. Vincent spoke eloquently for both his bishop and his church, proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ and condemning paganism. He so angered the governor that he was immediately condemned to a painful death, reputedly on the gridiron. Thus he lived and gave his life in the tradition of Stephen, the first martyr and also a deacon; he died in the year 304 and his feast has been celebrated on this day since the persecutions ended in 312.

### January- February 2024:

- January 28, Annual General Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- January 28, Wedding, 2:30p.m.
- February 1, Healing mass, 3:00 p.m.

- February 13, Pancake Supper, 5:30 p.m.  
**Tickets available @ the Parish office**
- February 14, Ash Wednesday
- February 29, Healing mass, 3:00 p.m.  
\*\*\*Ongoing registration for Confirmation, and Reception. \*\*\*



Dignity is not in an action, but in the motive which underlies it.  
[Charles Henry Brent, *The Inspiration of Responsibility*, 1915]