On 22 June, at 4 p.m., in the chapel of the Order’s house in Quiapo, Manila, Brothers, Co-workers, friends and supporters of the Order, gathered for a Thanksgiving Mass, celebrated by His Eminence Cardinal Guadencio B. Rosales (group photo above).

The thanksgiving was for the 125th anniversary of the proclamation of St John of God as Universal Patron of the Sick and Hospitals and the 400th anniversary of the first arrival of the Brothers in Manila. This event included the blessing of a commemorative marble plaque by the Cardinal.

The celebrations of the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the Brothers in the Philippines will continue in October with an exhibit that will take place, hopefully, in the Lyceum of the Philippines which now stands on the site of the Order’s old hospital in Manila.

On November 4, on the occasion of the 170th Anniversary of the martyrdom of the Filipino National Hero Brother Apolinario de la Cruz, the Brothers will offer a portrait of him to the President of Philippines to be placed in the Presidential Palace of Malacanang together some other 40 portraits of National Heroes.

The words on the plaque blessed by the Cardinal on 22 June:

IN MEMORY OF THE THANKSGIVING MASS
CELEBRATED BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF MANILA
HIS Eminence GAUDENCIO B. CARDINAL ROSALES
ON THE 22ND OF JUNE 2011, ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 4TH CENTENARY OF THE FIRST ARRIVAL
OF THE HOSPITALLER BROTHERS IN MANILA