

Chapter 13: Quest to Villa Escudero, Tiaong, Quezon Province

The research team consisted of Dr. Sasithara Moreno, Fr. Franz Joseph Aquino, Mr. Regil Dela Cruz, Sr. Concordia Oblena, Mr. Judel Sam Matias, and Mr. Winnard Joson, visited Villa Escudero, in the town of Tiaong, Quezon Province on August 18, 2023.



The significant visit drew us closer to the historical artifacts and antique statues of the old images of the saints' collection. Linkage to the past revealed in clues hidden in tiny details that would connect the past to the present. For instance, the pink house at Villa Escudero in Tiaong, Quezon and pink house of the Calle Norzagaray in Puerto Rico held a clue to the quest in finding the original Nuestra Senora De Las Saleras' missing head in 1968. Fernando María Félix Mateo Juan Nepomuceno de Norzagaray y Escudero was the 78th Governor of the Philippines under Spanish colonial rule from 9 March 1857 – 12 January 1860. Governor Norzagaray's middle name was Escudero. Calle Norzagaray was named after him.

According to eyewitness account, they saw Nuestra Senora De Las Saleras image at Villa Escudero, Quezon in the 1990s. Some visitors sited similar resemblance of her image. However, the researchers can't confirm her existence during the visit on August 18, 2023. Except the clue of a boat like carriage for saint procession without any saint fixed to it. Unlike other carts that were occupied by other images.

One of the processions in 1990s where Nuestra Senora De Las Saleras was paraded into the town of Aliaga, Nueva Ecija, Philippines after wearing the new gown made by famous atelier Aureo Alonzo. She was seen riding the carriage of a boat like shape. If the researchers can confirm that the image of Nuestra Senora De Las Saleras is indeed hidden in Villa Escudero, then there is hope of claiming her and take her back to the original home which is Aliaga, Nueva Ecija.

