

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINE
Province of Eastern Samar
Municipality of Guiuan

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

CERTIFICATION

Whereas, based on the records in the Municipal Department of Tourism, His Eminence Archbishop JOHN of Shanghai and San Francisco together with 5,000 Russian refugees established the mission of the Russian Orthodox Church on Tubabao Island from 1949-1951, which belongs to the jurisdiction of this municipality.

Whereas, on the 28th of July 2013, upon the request of Fr. Philip (*Dr. Felipe S. Balingit, Jr.*), Administrator of Missions of the Official and Canonical Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia in the Philippines, the Barangay Council of Barangay San Juan, Tubabao Island, Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Philippines has made the resolution approving for the re-establishment of the Russian Orthodox Chapel of the Iveron icon of the Mother of God for the spiritual needs of the Filipino Orthodox Communities in Palo, Leyte and here in Tubabao Island, Eastern Samar.

Whereas, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Hilarion, First Hierarch of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia, Archpriest Seraphim and Fr. Sava celebrated the first Divine Liturgy on September 1, 2013, after 61 years since St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco celebrated the liturgy in the same chapel together with the Russian refugees in the 1950s.

Now, therefore, the Office of the Municipal Mayor issued this certification in affirmation of the re-establishment of the mission of the Russian Orthodox Church which was started by St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco during the 1950s, upon the request of Fr. Philip, the Administrator of Missions of the Official and Canonical Representation of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia in the Philippines.

Issued this 21th day of July, 2014, Municipality of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, Philippines.

HONORABLE CHRISTOPHER SHEEN GONZALES
Municipal Mayor

