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An Exercise in Contextualization: Misa ng Sambayanang Pilipino Towards a Reappropriation of Ancient Filipino Spirituality

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Abstract: In the 1990s, the Philippine church submitted to the Vatican for approval the Misa ng Sambayanang Pilipino that attempted to contextualize the Roman rite and make it more Filipino. More than 30 years later, the Vatican has yet to make an official response. This article would like to argue that an indigenous Catholic liturgy, outside of the Roman Rite, should be developed instead. Like any other cultural ritual, an indigenous Catholic ritual is a natural expression of the people in recognizing the divine. It should organically flow within the customary cultural practices of the locality. Through a historical-critical analysis, this article examines existing contextualized rites in Indonesia and Papua New Guinea with the hope of inspiring Filipino Catholics to rediscover and to appreciate their ancient spiritual roots.