

Celestial Gardens

: located in Banawa Hills, Cebu City which is a memorial park owned and managed by the Tanchan Foundation, Inc.



The park, which is also a garden, is surrounded by various plants and trees. Before you enter, you can see two arches with the statues of two saints on top of the left and right side of the arches. You can feel a sense of tranquility in the place. The life-size statues depict the passion and death of Jesus Christ.

Roman Catholics commemorate Holy Week by visiting Celestial Gardens and praying at every station of the 12 Stations of the Cross. The tradition of meditating and praying is called "The Way of the Cross". A lot of people visit the place, including locals and even foreigners during holy week.

VOCABULARY

arch
tranquility
life-size
meditating
commemorate

QUESTIONS

1. What is the most popular park in your country? Describe it.
2. Do you go to the park with your family and friends? How often do you go there?
3. Are the park rules of your country strict? Give me some examples of park rules.

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

arch tranquility life-size meditating commemorate

1. I like the _____ of the quiet countryside.
2. However, sleep does not come naturally; usually _____ or a simple walk would help soothe the stress.
3. Each year on this date we _____ our ancestors with a special ceremony.
4. Passing through the _____, you enter an open courtyard.
5. The statue was nearly twice _____.

Metropolitan Cathedral

: the first church in the Philippines dedicated to St. Vitalis also known as “The Metropolitan Cathedral of the Most Holy Name of Jesus and St. Vitalis”



The Metropolitan Cathedral was established as a diocese on August 14, 1595. It is devoted to the blessed name of Jesus and dedicated to Saint Vitalis – the patron saint of the church. It took many years to construct the Cathedral because of frequent interruptions such as lacking of funds and other unforeseen events. The Spaniards contributed to the construction and architecture of the church. People go to the Cathedral to worship, to ask for petitions and even to hold wedding ceremonies due to its classical structure.

VOCABULARY

diocese
dedicated
frequent
unforeseen
worship

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think of the idea of heaven and hell?
2. Is religion always a good thing for all people?
3. For some religions, do you think that worshipping or praying to gods is helpful to improve people's lives?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

diocese dedicated frequent unforeseen worshipped

1. This is usually a prestigious _____ with an important place in local church history
2. This bus makes _____ stops.
3. This nonprofit organization is _____ to the protection of Cebu's native forests and wildlife.
4. Many ancient cultures _____ the sun and moon.
5. My friend had cancellations due to illness and other _____ circumstances.

Monastery of the Holy Eucharist

: located in Simala Sibonga, Cebu which is a very popular church because it is considered to be the home of the image of the miraculous Virgin



Monastery of the Holy Eucharist or commonly known to Cebuanos as “Birhen sa Simala”. It is the place where monks live. For the Catholics, Simala is the perfect place to pray for intentions or special wishes in life. In the Monastery, you can see a number of crutches, wheelchairs, and thank you notes from people who have experienced miracles of the Holy Mary. There have been a lot of improvements on the church because of the donations from a lot of people and devotees are increasing. Some people stay in a long line just to have a glimpse and pray to the image of the Virgin Mary. Petitions, prayers and expressing gratitude are also put inside a box.

VOCABULARY

monk
miracles
glimpse
donations
gratitude

QUESTIONS

1. Do you believe in miracles? Why or Why not?
2. Do you have faith healers in your country? Do you believe in faith healers? Why or Why not?
3. “Miracles happen to those who believe in them. “ Explain the quote.

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

monk miracles glimpse donations gratitude

1. Jin learns all of this from a _____ upon visiting the abandoned dojo.
2. Tanya caught a _____ of the mountain.
3. Let me express my sincere _____ for all your help.
4. The devotees of the image believe in _____.
5. The organization is funded by private _____.

Santo Niño Church

: a Spanish word which means “Holy Child of Cebu”, located in Osmeña Boulevard, Cebu City and is considered as the oldest Roman Catholic church founded by the Spaniards



The church was built near the place where the Santo Niño was found in the burned house. Destroyed by fire it was rebuilt twice. It was constructed out of hard stone materials. Now the Church is known as the Basilica of Santo Nino in recognition of its importance and that of Cebu City as the cradle of Christianity. Every year, Sinulog Festival is celebrated and it includes the procession of the image of Santo Niño in the streets, fluvial

procession and street dancing. At present, the Santo Niño image is replicated in many homes and various areas of the country.

VOCABULARY

rebuilt
cradle
recognition
fluvial procession
replicate

QUESTIONS

1. Do you have churches in your country?
2. What's the most common religion in your country? Are there Roman Catholics?
3. How do people worship in your country?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

rebuilt cradle recognition fluvial procession replicate

1. He saw Greek art as the _____ of European civilization
2. He _____ his house after it was destroyed by a fire.
3. Scientists have created a robot that can _____ itself in minutes.
4. The procedure is gaining _____ as the latest advance in organ transplant surgery.
5. The town of Cebu marked the return of a yearly tradition with the _____.

Taoist Temple

: located in Beverly Hills Subdivision Lahug, Cebu City with a towering Chinese religious architecture



The Taoist temple is the center of worship for Taoism which was built by the Chinese community in Cebu. The architectural design includes a pagoda-style roof. Both worshipers and non-worshipers can go to the temple.

The devotees perform a ritual where one prays to the gods to grant one's wish. The ritual includes washing of hands, going inside the chapel barefoot and dropping two blocks of wood.

If the blocks of wood are both face up then one could make a wish. If not, then one has to come back to the temple some other time.

VOCABULARY

Taoism
pagoda-style
devotees
ritual
barefoot

QUESTIONS

1. Do you have temples in your country? Which place has the most temples?
2. Have you tried to go in a temple? What did you do there?
3. Do you believe in gods / goddesses? Why or why not?

EXERCISE

Use one of the words or phrases below to complete each of these sentences from the story.

Taoism pagoda-style devotees rituals barefoot

1. Lucy went to school _____ because her shoes were wet and dirty.
2. They are _____ of Taoism and adhere to the teachings of Lao-tzu.
3. The pilgrims performed some ancient _____ of Christian worship.
4. _____ is a Chinese philosophy based on the writings of Lao-tzu.
5. Ancient Chinese houses have a _____ architectural design.