



TAU Belen 2023

Filipino Christmas is known to be the longest of all Christmas holidays in the world. Traditionally, we begin our Christmas celebration on the first of September and end sometime in February the following year. The basis of the timeline perhaps is cultural in nature. This time every year, Filipinos are looking forward to preparing all the necessary details for the holiday season.

The preparation of Christmas in the Philippines would involve all the members of the community. It is similar but grander than the town fiestas. It is also solemn as Christian families ensure that they have prepared enough and followed all the traditional practices. In Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU), the colorful shades of red, blue, green and yellow symbolize peace, truth, patriotism, valor, and equality for TAU 2023 Belen.

This year's installation of TAU Belen was intentionally formed to give warmth to all Filipino families from various walks of life. TAU ensures that the figures of the nativity are not just a set of décors but a celebration of life, love, and faith. In this post-pandemic era, our countrymen survived the pandemic, calamities, economic crisis and various crises; hence, their celebration of Christmas is more sincere and joyful.

TAU Belen serves as a reminder that all hardships in life will pass and that we will flourish, unscathed, in the end. Such vigor mirrors the design of the Belen focusing on the nativity scene, the holy family, the stars that constantly light our paths, and the local elements such as woven bamboo to represent the Filipino courage and strength. The bamboo, being the prominent element in our everyday lives, is foregrounded in the TAU Belen to insinuate that our inner self was not hollowed out by foreign influences. Like the bamboo, we always have the inner strength to bow down when the temperature is high and rise again, ever strong and proud, to rebuild the nation for our peoples.

Text by Rosalie Calpito