

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Wednesday, January 6, 2010**

**Sponsored by: The Coalition of Peace and Justice of Guam**

### **Prayer Vigil for World Peace, War Reparations, Political Self Determination & the Reunification of the Mariana Islands**

**Date: Sunday, January 10, 2010**

**Time: 3:00pm-7:00pm**

**Location: Shrine & Beach of Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores & Blessed Pedro Colongsod, Tumon Guam**

*(located next to Guam Reef Hotel & next to Nana's Café)*

On Sunday, January 10, 2010 from 3:00pm to 7:00pm, a non-denominational and ecumenical group will be gathering at the shrine & beach of Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores and Blessed Pedro Colongsod to pray for World Peace, the Guam War Reparations, and the Political Self Determination of the Chamorro People and the Reunification of the Mariana Islands. The gathering is sponsored by a grassroots coalition of Peace and Justice on Guam who will lead in the prayer service and are composed mostly of older Chamorro Catholics. The gathering is meant to pray for World Peace as a resurgence of 30,000 new US troops will be heading to the Middle East, as the unresolved issue of the Guam War Reparations of WWII has not been attained, as 489 years (1521-2010) has passed whereby the Indigenous Chamorro People of Guam have never been able to achieve their political self determination, and as we await for the political reunification of our Mariana Islands.

Diego Luis de San Vitores (1627-1672) died a martyr's death on the island of Guam alongside his Filipino catechist, Pedro Colongsod. As world's collided and as different worldviews arose, the Chamorro people were enslaved as a consequence to these actions through violent means. The Vigil for World Peace will highlight how we are called to be peacemakers and peacekeepers in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and we pray for miracles of healing and peace. The public is invited to join and to bring candles to this event. Parking is limited. For more information, please contact Margaret Taitano at 671-632-9728 or Jonathan Diaz at 671-472-3132

#### **Schedule of Events**

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| 3:00pm | Opening & The Recitation of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy  |
| 4:00pm | Recitation of the Holy Rosary in Chamorro  |
| 5:00pm | Reading of the Life and Martyrdom of Blessed Diego Luis de San Vitores and Blessed Pedro Colongsod   |
| 5:30pm | Reflections from Various Community & Religious Leaders on World Peace, War Reparations, Political Self Determination, and the Reunification of the Mariana Islands |
| 6:00pm | Candlelight Service for Peace  |
| 7:00pm | Songs for the Journey & the Struggle   |