



# TALISAY

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Talisay was once a barrio of San Nicolas, specifically an hacienda of the Augustinia friars, one of the two estates---along with Banilad---that was owned by the Order by the middle of the eighteenth century (Fenner 1986: 43). The settlement eventually grew until it separated from its matriz, San Nicolas, and became an independent parish under the advocacy of Sta. Teresa de Avila on August 16, 1836 through Royal approval dated April 25 of the same year. The first parish priest was Fr. Juan Soriano, an Augustinian (Yap et al 1981: 126).

The church was built by Fr. Soriano in 1836 and was finished in 1848. Made of finely cut-coral stones, the church was originally cruciform with one main nave and short semi-round transepts. During the U.S. aerial bombings following the Talisay landing of the Americal Division on March 26, 1945, the church was heavily damaged. It was eventually restored in 1950 during the term of Fr. Teofilo Camomot.

The design of the church is Graeco-Roman (Galende 1996: 355). Twin massive-looking bell towers capped with red domes flank the façade. The Habsburg symbol, a double-headed eagle, is emblazoned in low-relief in one of the belltowers. A foyer supported by columns and with a balustraded porch above it leads to the main entrance. The interiors of the church especially the presbytery and the transepts are heavily embellished. There are a total of five altars including the main altar, each gilded and containing a statue of a particular devotion. A large round chandelier hangs at the crossing.



*Talisay. This parish had its origin under the name of Sta. Teresa de Jesus on August 16, 1836, through the Royal Decree of April 25 of the same year, separating it from the town of San Nicolas, its matriz.*

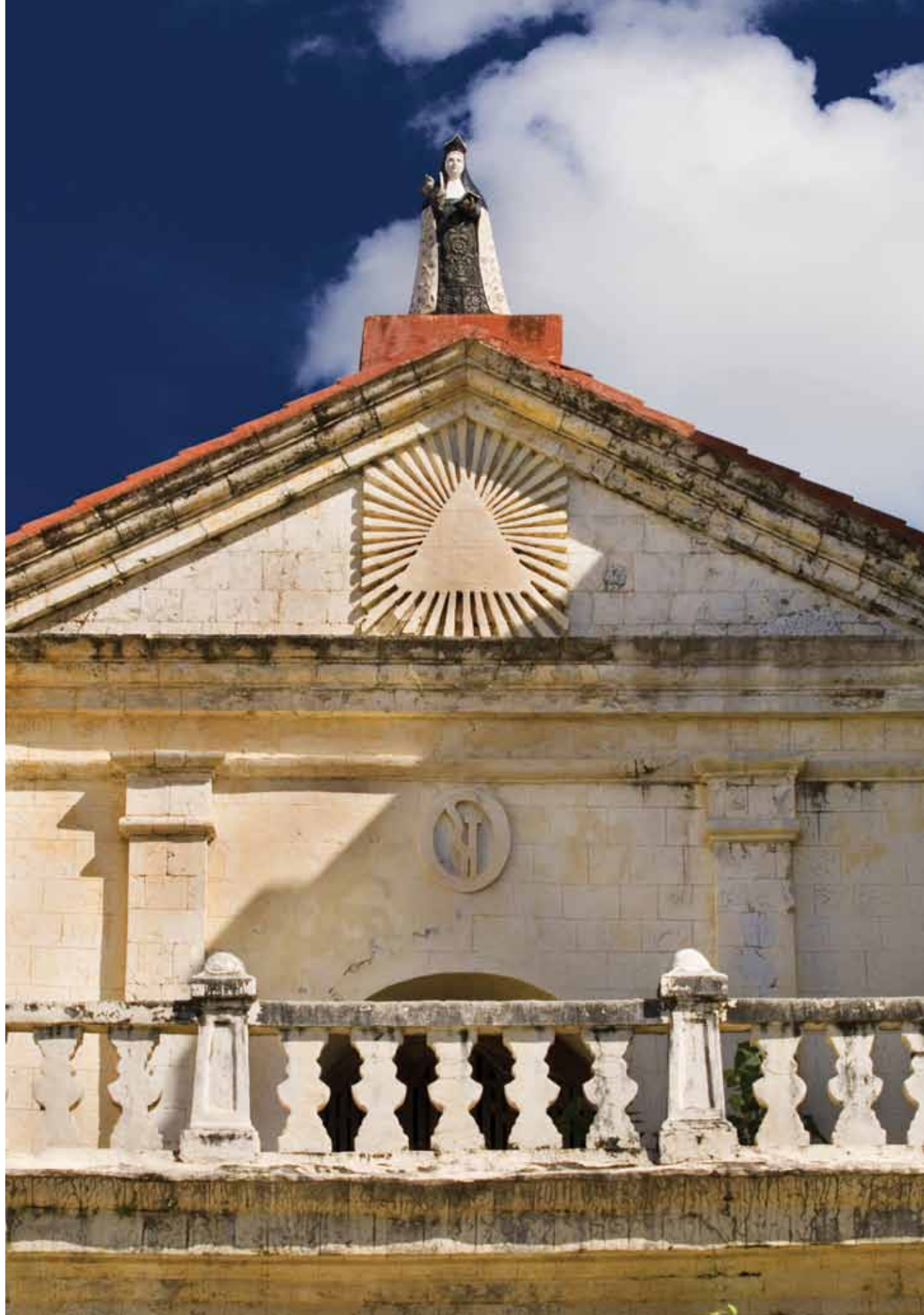
*Church: It is made of mamposteria with the Doric style, it is under construction, fitted with a cannon, roofed with galvanized iron, with two small towers and a portico in the frontispiece. It lacks only the roof on the presbytery and copula, measuring 72 meters in length, 13 in width, 33 at the cross vault, and the walls 8 in height.*

*The Cemetery is constructed of mamposteria with a socle of the same height as the columns spaced from each other and latticed with wood of 3.50 meters tall. Dimensions: 72 meters in length and 50 in width, with a chapel of mamposteria of 8 meters in length, 6'00 width, and 3'50 in height, and with niches of stone at the left and at the right.*

*Parish Convent: It is of mamposteria, roofed with tiles; it measures 25 ½ meters long, 10 ½ wide, and 7 tall.*

*It has the following Barrios: Tanque, Tabonoc, Linao and Poooc near the town; Juanay and Jaclupan about 1 league toward the mountain. This town is situated in the seashore, in the south coast of the island. It is adjacent to Pardo to the north; to the west with Minglanilla, at least a league; to the south, the sea of the channel that separates the island from that of Bojol, with a distance about 4 or 5 hours of crossing; to the northeast, the channel of Cebu which forms with the island of Mactan, at a distance of a half hour.*

*Felipe Redondo, 1886, p. 151.*



The church was recently remodeled with the addition of wings flanking both sides of the main nave. The original stone walls however were not torn down to give way to the expansion and from inside the new wings one can still appreciate the design of the former arched windows and the side entrances.



A pair of hand prints with the inscriptions "MSGR. JOE T. 08-08-08" can be found in one of the walls near the transept, perhaps to commemorate the date the expansion of the church was completed and the parish priest who initiated it, Msgr. Jose Tajanlangit.