

**Honoring Our Past,
Shaping Our Future:
Bringing the
Burmese Diaspora
Voice into the
Broader Asian
American
Community**

Introduction and Overview

Fr. Joseph Cheah, OSM, Ph.D.

Professor and Chair

Philosophy, Theology and Religious
Studies

University of Saint Joseph



Burma (Myanmar): Land of the Pagodas





Mandalay, Burma

St Michael's Church (Mandalay, Burma)



Passport Photo





















**Honoring Our Past,
Shaping Our Future:
Bringing the Burmese
Diaspora Voice into
the Broader Asian
American
Community**

- **Some Questions:**

- 1. How do we bring the Burmese Diaspora's Voice into the broader Asian American community?**

- a. A word about the term "Burmese"**

- 2. How should Burmese refugees and immigrants engage with Asian American history?**

**Honoring Our Past,
Shaping Our Future:
Bringing the Burmese
Diaspora Voice into
the Broader Asian
American
Community**

- **Some Questions for Break-out Groups**

- 1. What does "honoring our past" mean to you personally?**
- 2. What lessons from our community's resilience can inspire broader coalition-building?**
- 3. Imagine it's 2035. The Burmese diaspora is widely recognized as an integral part of the Asian American community. What happened between now and then to make that vision a reality?**