

June 2024 - December 2024

DREAM THAT STILL CALLS



DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (SALESIAN SISTERS OF DON BOSCO)
St. Mary D. Mazzarello Province of the Philippines and Papua New Guinea

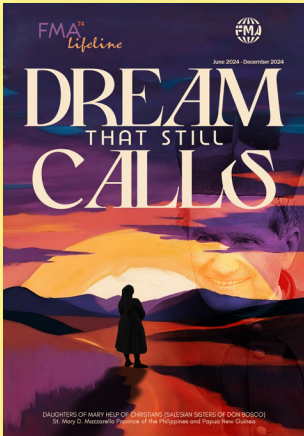
The **FMA Lifeline** is the official news magazine of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (also known as the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco) in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. FMA stands for Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice, the official Italian name of the Congregation founded by St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello in 1872 in Mornese, Italy.

The FMA Institute is a great educational, communication, and evangelizing Network with realities that are at the local, province, interprovincial, and world levels, in synodality with Salesian, civil, and Ecclesial Entities and Organizations that render visible the Salesian charismatic mission. Today, almost 11,000 FMA are present in 98 Nations in the 5 Continents as 67 Provinces and 5 Preprovinces and 9 Interprovincial Conferences.

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Sr. Virginia C. Limbauan, FMA
Sr. Debbie S. Ponsaran, FMA
Sr. Leilani N. Macoy, FMA

Layout Artist:
Lady Lee Allego



On the Cover

The magazine cover features the theme “DREAM THAT STILL CALLS,” which is the title of Circular Letter No. 1038 by Mother Chiara Cazzuola, FMA. The image depicts a silhouetted FMA figure standing against a landscape with a partial overlay of a portrait, suggesting a connection between the individual, the dream, and the legacy of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in the Philippines and Papua New Guinea. The cover conveys a message of inspiration and continuity, linking the present to the enduring vision of the Institute.

EDITOR’S NOTE

A Dream That Still Calls: Answering the Call to Mission

In the FMA Circular Letter 1038, Mother Chiara Cazzuola, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, issued a powerful call to action. She urged a profound “conversion of heart” and a renewed commitment to the mission of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, emphasizing the need to rediscover our missionary roots, foster a spirit of service within our communities, and strengthen our bonds with young people. This call resonates deeply with our Lay Mission Partners and inspires renewed efforts across the Salesian Family. Educators are actively responding to this call. In-service training for Basic Education teachers focuses on the Matatag curriculum, Salesianity formation, and CLE updates, ensuring quality education rooted in Salesian values. TVET programs are enhanced through workshops on gamification, design thinking, and research, with benchmarking best practices from Singapore and Malaysia. The Laura Vicuña Foundation’s “I AM BRAVE” movement proactively addresses the critical issue of online sexual abuse and exploitation. The global Salesian Family is actively engaged in answering this call. The VIDES General Assembly, the Vides Mission Camp in Palawan, and the ADMA Congress in Portugal highlight the international dimension of our mission. The recent induction of the first ADMA under the Salesian Sisters spiritual guidance signifies a new chapter in our collaboration with the lay community. The 50th Anniversary of the Novitiate and the Progetto Mornese experience remind us of the importance of ongoing formation and a deeper connection to our Salesian roots. Furthermore, events like the CIAO Youth Camp and the Asia Pacific Congress of Past Pupils provide opportunities for young people to connect, share their experiences, and become agents of change in their communities. As we move forward, let us embrace this “Dream that Still Calls” with renewed enthusiasm and dedication. Let us be inspired by the example of our founders and strive to build a more just and compassionate world for all.

Sr. Virginia C. Limbauan, FMA

TABLE OF CONTENTS

2	Message from the Provincial Superior	13-14	CIAO Salesian Youth Camp 2024 / Salesian Youth Synod (Valdocco and Colle Don Bosco)
3	“How will you respond to Mother Chiara Cazzuola’s call to renew your commitment to Don Bosco’s dreams in your role as a Salesian Lay Mission Partner?”	15	Asian Past Pupils Congress
4	NEW COMMUNITIES: Antipolo and Taytay Palawan	16	PNG News / PECCG
5	ComEd INSET / CLE Updating INSET 2024	17	CIAO Seminar
6	Educators’ Salesianity Formation	18	FMA FIL Verifica Triennale 2024 / Blessing of the New Convent of the Provincial House
7	Gamification Seminar / Design Thinking Seminar-Workshop	19-20	Christmas Gift Giving
8	Benchmarking of TVET in Malaysia and Singapore	21	Visit of Sr. Ena Bolaños, FMA (General Assembly and Encounter with PCA, and Local Economers)
9	VIDES’ General Assembly in Portugal / VIDES Mission Camp in Taytay Palawan	22	Retreat of the Elderly in Casa Romero / Formative Encounter with Sr. Milena Stevani, FMA
10	LVF #iamBRAVE Movement Convention	23	ADMA New Members’ Induction / ADMA Congress in Portugal
11-12	50th Anniversary Celebration of the Novitiate	24	World Meeting of Formators of Aspirants and Postulants / Day of Spirituality
12	60th Anniversary Celebration of PIUS XII Dormitory	25	Progetto Mornese
		26	Reception of Postulants / 60th Anniversary of *Sr. Violeta Tuason, FMA



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<https://www.youtube.com/user/fmasoccom/featured>
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FROM THE PROVINCIAL

The 2024 Strenna, guiding us to reflect on the 200th anniversary of Don Bosco's "Dream at 9," serves as a powerful reminder that this dream continues to inspire us today. In a world that often seeks to secularize education and suppress the voice of conscience, the vision of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello resonates with renewed urgency.

We are called to rediscover our mission with renewed enthusiasm, walking together as an educating community to offer young people hope and joy in Jesus. Mother Chiara Cazzuola's call extends beyond the FMA Sisters to all, particularly our lay mission partners who share in our mission.

Our witness must reawaken in everyone the spirit of selfless love, the drive for missionary action, and the power of love in building a more just and fraternal society. Charismatic passion, the driving force behind our work with young people, finds its roots in the "da mihi animas" and the "cetera tolle." These two aspects are inseparable. For Don Bosco, educational passion was a burning fire, fueled by the desire to bring young people to Christ.

Drawing inspiration from Saint Francis de Sales, our Founder dedicated his life to fulfilling this mission, experiencing God's love firsthand and drawing strength from it to love and guide young people towards "full and abundant life," even at personal cost.

Recognizing that our impact goes beyond mere activities, we embrace Pope Francis' call in *Evangelii Gaudium*: "In our day Jesus' command to 'go' echoes in the changing scenarios and ever new challenges to the Church's mission of evangelization, and all of us are called to take part in this new missionary 'going forth.'"

As we prepare for the 150th anniversary of our first missionary departure in 2027, our Province is invited to delve into its missionary history, studying the inspiring figures who shaped our presence in the region. This exploration will help us understand how simple Sisters, often with limited resources, were able to bring about profound social, cultural, and ecclesial transformation through integral education and courageous evangelization. Now is the best time to rekindle the fire of this missionary spirit within ourselves and in our communities.

This year has witnessed significant milestones: the 40th anniversary of the canonical foundation of our Province, the opening of new communities: the Nostra Signora Della Pace e Del Buon Viaggio in Antipolo City, and the Blessed Maria Troncatti in Taytay Palawan, the CIAO Salesian Youth Camp, the Asian Past-Pupils Congress, the 50th anniversary celebration of the Novitiate Community, and various initiatives such as Salesian Formation of Educators, In-Service Training, CLE Updating Workshops, the Design Thinking Seminar-workshop for TVET Educators and the benchmarking of TVET schools in Malaysia and Singapore, I am Brave National Convention launched by the Laura Vicuña Foundation (LVF), all aligning with the spirit of the "Dream at 9."

Looking ahead, the Jubilee Year 2025 offers a unique opportunity for spiritual renewal and a renewed commitment to our mission. Let us use this time to deepen our relationship with God, to seek forgiveness, and to renew our commitment to love and serve others. Let us use this time of preparation to examine our own lives, to discern God's call in our midst, and prepare our hearts and minds for the spiritual journey that lies ahead. This journey, fueled by the enduring spirit of Don Bosco and the unwavering dedication of our predecessors, will guide us toward a brighter future for the young people entrusted to our care.

Sr. Teresita C. Padron, FMA

*Sr. Tita and the
Provincial Council*

How will you respond to Mother Chiara Cazzuola's call to renew your commitment to Don Bosco's dreams in your role as a Salesian Lay Mission Partner?



As a Salesian Lay Mission Partner, I respond to Mother Chiara Cazzuola's call to renew my commitment to Don Bosco's dream by living out the Salesian charism and collaborating closely with the FMA Sisters.

This partnership or collaboration deepens my understanding of our roots, mission, and the service passed down by Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. Through their guidance and the formation they offer, I can contribute with care and compassion to the mission of education and evangelization, ensuring that Christian values remain central to my work and interactions.

By embracing the Salesian spirit and working together, I can reignite a stronger sense of mission, bringing greater enthusiasm and responsibility as we journey together as an educating community with young people.

Ms. Aprilyn Muzada - Principal, MHCS Pampanga



As a Salesian Lay Mission Partner, I will respond to Mother Chiara Cazzuola's call by following Don Bosco's example of care and love for the young.

I will live out the Salesian Youth Spirituality (SYS) by focusing on prayer, community, joyful service, and helping the young grow closer to God. Through my words and actions, I will show how prayer brings peace and happiness, becoming a living example of faith for the youth. I will also encourage them to see prayer as a personal connection with God, like talking to a friend during their daily activities. By sharing my experiences of how prayer has guided me through challenges, I will inspire them to trust in God, deepen their faith, and contribute to the Church's mission, keeping Don Bosco's dream alive.

Mr. Robson Sonny Tagle - Assistant Principal, MHCC



As a Salesian Lay Mission Partner, I can respond to Mother Chiara Cazzuola's call by strengthening my faith through prayer and active participation in spiritual activities.

I can serve with passion by supporting struggling youth through my role as a guidance counselor. Building a strong community within the school, sharing the Good News through positive interactions, and continuously learning and adapting are crucial. By embracing challenges, being creative in my approach, and extending these values beyond the school setting, I can effectively contribute to Don Bosco's mission and the Church's vision.

Ms. Diana Peñano - Guidance Counselor, DBS



As a Salesian Lay Mission Partner, my commitment to Don Bosco's dream is an ongoing 'YES' to the call to accompany young

Serving as a servant leader in an FMA school constantly renews my vigor as an educator, dedicated to their holistic formation. The daily challenges and joys of school life deepen my spiritual connection with the Lord, enabling me to respond with kindness, gentleness, and compassion to every situation. In my daily interactions with young people, educators, parents, and other stakeholders, I strive to witness God's presence through calmness, sisterly care, and a Gospel-centered approach that guides them towards Jesus, through the intercession of Mary Help of Christians."

Ms. Arlenie Sasan - Principal, MHCS Cebu

NEW COMMUNITIES

“TAYO NA SA ANTIPOLO”

by Sr. Cynthia B. Calabig, FMA

On June 24, 2024, the Solemnity of St. John the Baptist, the FIL-PNG Province celebrated the formal inauguration of the “Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage” community in Antipolo. Sr. Cynthia Calabig, FMA, was installed as the community animator, joined by Sr. Zenaida Zamora, Sr. Evangeline Rago, Sr. Socorro Retardo, and Sr. Arceli Domingo who form part of the new community. The Eucharistic Celebration and installation were officiated by Fr. Alfredo Meneses Jr., the parish priest of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish where the community belongs.

Recognizing the mission as a House of Prayer and Marian Center, the Sisters committed themselves to making prayer the heartbeat of their daily life. They unanimously decided to dedicate an hour each day to personal Eucharistic Adoration, interceding for the intentions of the Province, the sick, and all those who entrust their prayers to the community.

As the community sought guidance from Our Blessed Mother on transforming their mission into a true Marian Center, they resolved to open their small chapel to Sisters and lay people seeking moments of prayer and silence. This humble space serves as a place of rest and reflection, offering spiritual nourishment to pilgrims preparing for their journey to the International Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, also known as the Antipolo Cathedral and the Via Dolorosa at the Pinagmisahan St.

The current convent was once the residence of the late Dr. Generosa Gregorio, MD, the aunt of Sr. Milagros Gregorio, FMA. Following Sr. Milagros’ passing on August 2, 2009, Dr. Gregorio generously donated the property to the FMA. The house was inaugurated and blessed on September 8, 2023, while still undergoing renovations to fully transform it into a convent.



A NEW HOME FOR MISSION IN PALAWAN

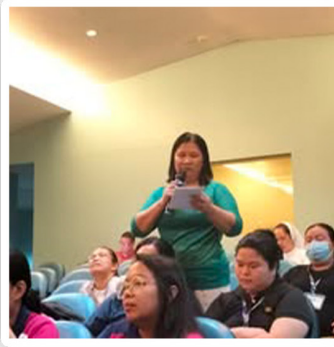
On August 5, 2024, a significant milestone reached National Highway, Barangay Poblacion, Taytay, Palawan. The Blessing of the Blessed Maria Troncatti House, a new home for the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Philippines and Papua New Guinea Province, was celebrated with fervor and gratitude.

The ceremony was presided over by Bishop Broderick Pabillo, D.D., who in his address, emphasized the vital role this house will play in the community. He highlighted that it will serve as a place of growth for the mission, touching the lives of the young and strengthening the Sisters’ presence in their service to the people of Palawan.

The Blessed Maria Troncatti House will collaborate closely with the Diocese in fulfilling its mission. It will function as an oratory and youth center, providing a space for spiritual growth and development. The house will also be dedicated to the formation of the Catechists of the Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay, Palawan, the formation of youth leaders, and the support of catechesis in public schools, bringing the message of faith to young minds.

The community residing in the Blessed Maria Troncatti House comprises Sr. Lynn Grace Palanca (Animator), Sr. Catherine Urgello (Economer), Sr. Nancy Esmero, and Sr. Maria Teresa Lorenzo. Their presence marks a new chapter in the Salesian Sisters’ commitment to serving the people of Palawan.

The Blessing of the Blessed Maria Troncatti House is a cause for celebration, signifying a renewed hope for the community and a strengthened partnership between the Sisters and the Vicariate in their shared mission of faith and service.



SALESIAN EDUCATORS IN-SERVICE TRAINING

Administrators, Subject Area Coordinators, and Team Leaders from four FMA basic education schools – Mary Help of Christians College (Canlubang), Don Bosco School - Salesian Sisters (Manila), Mary Help of Christians School (Pampanga), and Mary Help of Christians School (Cebu) – convened for a three-day In-Service Training (INSET) at the Mornese Center of Spirituality in Pansol, Laguna, from June 13-15, 2024. Themed “Don Bosco’s Dream in a VUCAD Educational Landscape,” the training aimed to strengthen participants’ Salesian identity and equip them to navigate the challenges of 21st-century education. The training explored various aspects of effective leadership and pedagogy, including the implementation of the Matatag Curriculum, navigating the complexities of a VUCA world, and the importance of educator well-being. Participants engaged in interactive sessions, shared best practices, and developed action plans to enhance teaching

and learning within their respective schools. A key highlight of the INSET was the emphasis on the Salesian charism and its relevance in today’s educational landscape. Participants explored how to integrate Salesian values into their daily work, fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for students. The training concluded with participants sharing their insights. Mr. Moises Verba emphasized the importance of remaining unbiased while adhering to the Salesian vision, highlighting the synergy between the Matatag Curriculum and the Salesian charism. Ms. Athena Guiruela stressed the importance of self-care and collaboration among educators. The INSET served as a valuable opportunity for participants to reflect, learn, and prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the evolving educational landscape.

| Khriissyl Ann D. Solido

CLE UPDATING WORKSHOP INSET 2024



The FMA FIL-PNG Province Catechesis Commission, led by Sr. Margarita Imanil, FMA, spearheaded a 2-day Updating Christians Living Education (CLE) Workshop from June 18-19, 2024, at the Mornese Center of Spirituality in Calamba, Laguna. The workshop brought together CLE teachers, both FMA Sisters and lay educators, from Mary Help of Christians College – Canlubang; Mary Help of Christians – Pampanga; Mary Help of Christians – Cebu; and Don Bosco School Manila.

Sr. Debbie Ponsaran, FMA, initiated the workshop by sharing Pope Francis’ message on Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart, emphasizing the crucial role of human creativity alongside AI in guiding young people towards Jesus.

Mr. Stephen Borja, the Day 1 keynote speaker, highlighted the centrality of Jesus in ministry, drawing inspiration from the story of the rich young man. He encouraged teachers to guide students to “look, listen, live, and be life-giving” through the Scriptures. Mr. Borja further emphasized holistic and kerygmatic approaches to the Word of God, underscoring the importance of a faith-filled message delivered with passion and clarity. Sr. Margarita Imanil presented the updated K-12 CLE teaching manual, providing guidance for its effective implementation.

Sr. Ma. Victoria Sta. Ana, FMA, began Day 2 by reminding participants of the importance of prayer in fostering authentic

transformation. Ms. Angelo Gabriel P. Badillo, a seasoned educator from Xavier School, addressed the evolving needs of 21st-century learners and encouraged the use of creative teaching strategies to foster active student participation. The CLE Workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to the mission of proclaiming the Gospel. The participants left inspired and equipped to reimagine CLE with optimism and joy.

| Ms. Myra Sapico





SALESIANITY FORMATION

On June 16-17, 2024, the FMA Salesianity Team organized the Salesianity Formation for 90 Lay Mission Partners from Mary Help of Christians College (Canlubang), Don Bosco School - Salesian Sisters (Manila), Mary Help of Christians School (Pampanga), and Mary Help of Christians School (Cebu). The event was held at the Mornese Center of Spirituality in Pansol, Calamba Laguna, with the theme 'Growing in our Salesian Identity.' The sessions were facilitated by Sr. Melanie Pilar, FMA, Sr. Alem Coching, FMA, Sr. Celia Tacujan, FMA, Sr. Phebe Lacse, FMA, Sr. Cynthia Calabig, FMA, and Sr. Debbie Ponsaran, FMA. The Salesianity Formation program, held at the Mornese Center of Spirituality, delved into the lives and teachings of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello, with a focus on the principles of the Preventive System of Education. Participants explored Don Bosco's vision, including his "Dream @ Nine," and learned about the three pillars of the Preventive System: reason, religion, and loving-kindness. The program emphasized the crucial role of educators in nurturing young minds and reminded participants of the importance of being present and compassionate towards their students.

On the second day, participants explored the life and vision of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello, emphasizing her dedication to educating young women. The program also focused on the practical application of the Preventive System in the style of St. Mary Mazzarello, highlighting the importance of teaching, domestic work, and religious education. The formation concluded with a workshop that emphasized the importance of embodying Salesian values in all aspects of their work. This experience empowered the educators to create a nurturing learning environment and embark on their journey as authentic Salesian educators, inspired by the founders' legacies.

| Sr. Lyn Yap, FMA





Design Thinking Seminar-Workshop: Customized Program on Enhancing TVET Graduates Through User-Centered Problem-Solving Method facilitated by the Consultancy Division of Colombo Plan Staff College Workshop on Research For TVET For the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco

On June 17-19, 2024, twenty one (21) Technical Vocational Institute school administrators and Lay Mission Partners from 7 TVET Centers - Mary Our Help Technical Institute for Women (Pampanga and Cebu), Mary Help of Christians School (Mindoro), Laura Vicuña Technology Center (Negros Occidental, Mindoro and Palawan), Mary Help of Christians Technology Center (Papua New Guinea) and Mary Help of Christians College (Canlubang) attended the Customized Program on Enhancing Quality of TVET Graduates through User-Centered Problem-Solving Method (Design Thinking) at Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) Meralco Ave., Pasig City. The training was conducted by Dr. Prasanna Kesavan, Master Trainer for Design Thinking and Conceive-Design - Innovate -Operate (CDIO) in Malaysian polytechnics, Dr. Noreen Kamarudin, Principal Lecturer at the Centre of Research & Innovation (CRI), Politeknik Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah (PSA), Malaysia and Dr. Nor Haniza Mohamad, Chairperson of Teaching and Learning Committee at Politeknik Ibrahim Sultan in Johor, Malaysia.

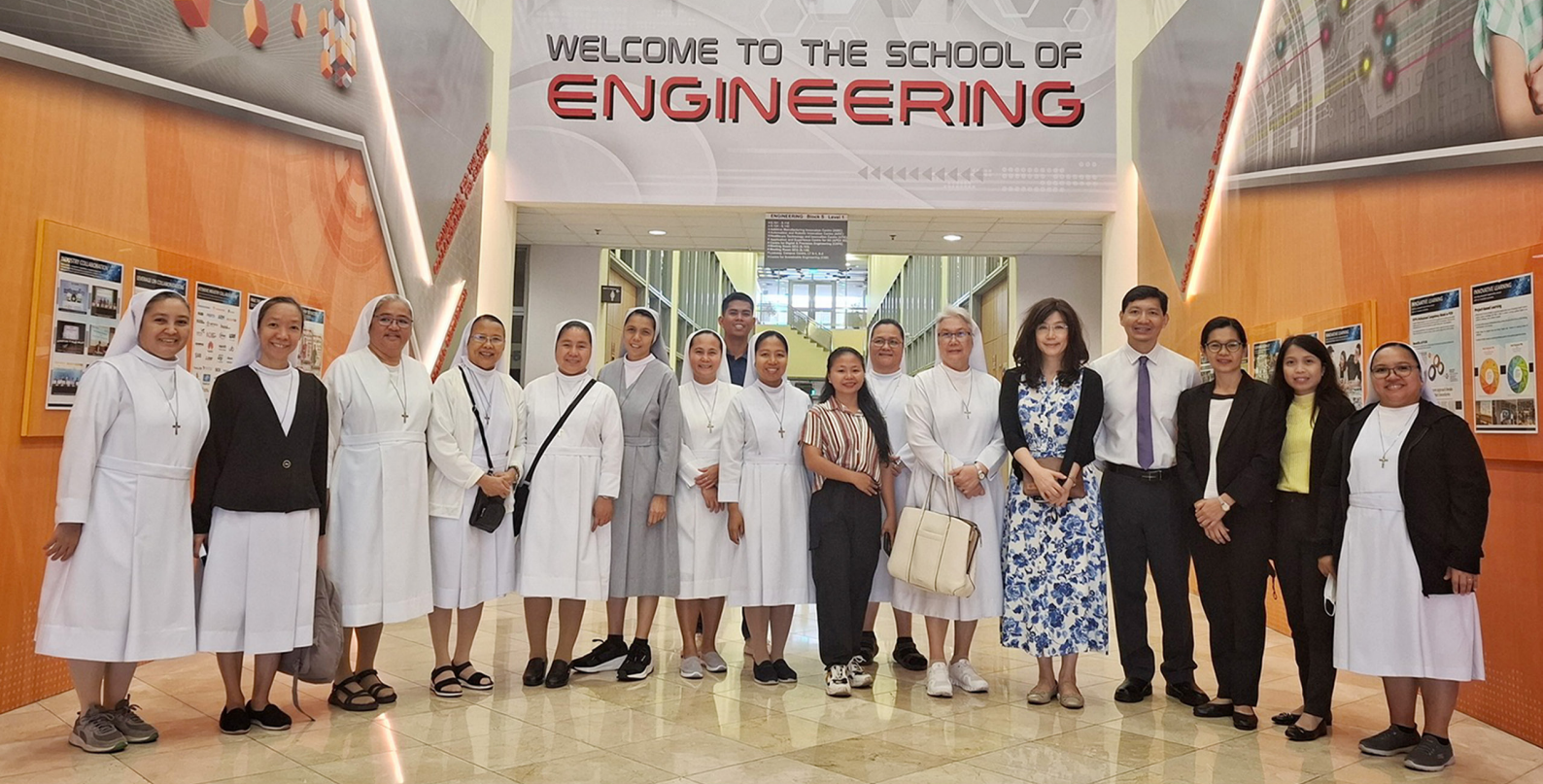
The participants were led to understand a teaching approach that initiates 21st Century skills-building. Hence, through this course, it is hoped that trainers, student project supervisors, lecturers and teachers' competencies and knowledge are built effectively, which in return would assist in developing and equipping TVET graduates to be a force in their workplaces.

GAMIFICATION SEMINAR

From August 15-16, 2024, a dynamic gamification seminar was conducted by Dr. Mark Gleen O. Cidro, a distinguished professor, author, and passionate educator from the Philippine Normal University. This insightful event brought together faculty and lay educators from Mary Our Help Technical Institute for Women (Pampanga), Mary Help of Christians School (Mindoro), Mary Help of Christians College, and Laura Vicuña Foundation (Cubao).

The seminar provided valuable insights and practical strategies for educators to enhance the learning experience through game-based methodologies. Participants explored the principles of gamification, learned how to design and implement engaging learning games, and discovered how to effectively integrate these strategies into their classrooms. This enriching experience equipped educators with innovative tools to foster a more interactive, motivating, and effective learning environment for their students.





On August 26– September 1, 2024 The Colombo Plan Staff College (CPSC) facilitated an exchange of best practices in TVET for 15 school administrators and coordinators from the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco Philippines and Papua New Guinea. The participants undertook a series of benchmarking and visits across TVET institutions in Malaysia and Singapore.

The study visits were designed to facilitate a comprehensive exchange of best practices among TVET institutions, with a special emphasis on diploma programs and industry partnerships in these countries. They also provided a valuable opportunity for the TVET In-Charge of the different Institutions to learn from the best practices and explore ways to enhance their own programs. The visits also fostered collaboration and networking among the participants.

Institutions visited include Politeknik Port Dickson (PPD), Malaysia; Kolej Kemahiran Tinggi MARA Masjid Tanah (KKTM), Malaysia; Institute of Technical Education (ITE) College East, Singapore; and Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP), Singapore.

| Sr. Virgie C. Limbuan, FMA

BENCHMARKING OF TVET in Malaysia and Singapore

Study Visit of the Salesian Sisters Philippines and Papua New Guinea on Best Practices of TVET Institutions in Malaysia and Singapore.



VIDES' General Assembly (Fatima, Portugal)

VIDES Internazionale held its General Assembly and Training Formation at Fatima, Portugal from September 26 to 29, 2024.

There were 70 participants from different continents composed of the Presidential Council, International Board of Directors, FMA Delegates and volunteers.

VIDES Philippines was represented by Sr. Josefina Carrasco who forms part of the international Board, Sr. Melanie Pilar, FIL Delegate and three volunteers - Rudelyn Yaon, Jun Gorantes and Eric Capones.

The assembly spent their days together not as tourists but as pilgrims of hope. There were no conferences aside from the inspiring messages and "Good Night Talks". FORMATION was highlighted as an important element and a key to VIDES experience. Challenged by diverse socio-political-cultural contexts, the need to spell out relevant ways of giving continuity to VIDES' was done making use of the workshop method. Divided in small working groups by language, the participants enjoyed working together in identifying the operational criteria for volunteers' training and kind of formation to offer today even to Delegates, and to spell out future strategies that will engage the young as protagonists of socio-cultural change.

The daily interactive dialogue among the participants has been a source of contagious inspiration to each other. The relaxed mode facilitated spiritual re-charging and contemplative moments spent at the Santuario de Fatima.

The group was also offered bonding and cultural enrichment at Sintra and Cascais districts. Blessed and grateful, everyone returned home with greater zeal and passion for the mission.




| Sr. Melanie Pilar, FMA



Vides Pinoy Annual Mission Camp: "Hasik Biyaya: Padayon sa Panahon ng Pagbangon"

A heartwarming story of compassion, solidarity and community support unfolded in Taytay, Palawan.



Thirty fishing families in Sitio Sader, Bantulan, and Sitio Amogues, Calawag received a significant boost to their livelihood on August 24, 2024. The Vides Philippines Volunteers Foundation Incorporated, in partnership with the Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco, donated 10 new paddle boats to 30 families. The beneficiaries were overjoyed at the generous gifts, which will undoubtedly be a source of the families' sustainability.

In addition to the boats, each family received a seed fund of 4,000 pesos for seaweed seedlings. 70 families also received 5 kilos of rice. This initiative of Vides Pinoy Annual Mission Camp, themed "Hasik Biyaya: Padayon sa Panahon ng Pagbangon" was meant to sow blessings to sustain the efforts of poor families to uplift their condition especially at this post-pandemic time. Thus, the annual Mission Camp of VIDES Philippines has started to evolve from giving goods to providing sustainable livelihood to selected communities.

The 32 VIDES volunteers who came included a young American and a young German. They likewise found their experience of facilitating the advocacy sessions, barrio games, etc. truly life-giving.

Sr. Melanie Pilar, the Provincial Delegate of Vides Philippines, noted the positive impact of the project on the local communities. The residents of Sader and Amogues expressed their joy-filled gratitude to God, the Salesian Sisters, Vides Volunteers and to all donors and sponsors who have reached out to them. The grants and first time ever activities organized by the volunteers are concrete testaments to the power of volunteerism, community outreach and the positive impact of charitable organizations.

| Sr. Melanie Pilar, FMA



I AM BRAVE National Convention

In response to the alarming rise in Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation and Human Trafficking, the Laura Vicuña Foundation (LVF) proudly launched the I AM BRAVE movement on November 15, 2024, in Victorias, Negros Occidental. The initiative aims to empower young people to become advocates for safeguarding human dignity and protecting themselves and others against any form of abuse. The launch served as a platform to unite voices from across the nation to address this critical issue.

The event gathered over 2,000 participants from Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, underscoring the movement's national significance. Esteemed speakers shared valuable insights from human rights, theological, gender, and legal perspectives, providing a comprehensive understanding of the issue and the steps necessary to combat it. A notable highlight of the program was the roundtable discussion featuring student leaders, whose fresh perspectives and enthusiasm helped chart actionable ways to uphold the movement's goals.

At the heart of the I AM BRAVE movement is the commitment of young adults to embrace and promote its key value: protecting oneself and others from any form of abuse. Participants pledged to be BUDDIES—compassionate allies who inspire and uphold the mission of the movement. With their voices amplified, these young leaders bring a message of hope and resilience, ensuring the fight against exploitation and abuse continues beyond this event.

| Sr. Aleth Evangelista, FMA





CELEBRATING A GOLDEN JOURNEY

On July 20, 2024, the Aspirantate beamed with a radiant smile from all its corners as it welcomed Salesian Sisters from various houses of the Philippine Province. It was a day of sharing a joyful celebration to mark a double golden anniversary of the Novitiate and of the building as well, where the story all began.

The St. Mary Mazzarello Novitiate remains to be a home to the majority of Sisters who received their initial formation to religious life. Mother Anna Maria Mattiussi, the first Mother Mistress started the delicate work of formation on August 5, 1974 with five pioneer novices – Sr. Nora Hernandez, Sr. Corazon Beboso, Sr. Linda Villanueva, Sr. Carmelita Meman and Estrellita Dasmaringas. The decades that followed were a history. The years were a mix of good times and challenges in putting up the bricks of a spiritual edifice, one by one, step by step, realizing what St. Paul says, “Each one should build with care and no one can lay any foundation other than Jesus Christ”.

Before the Eucharistic celebration began in the afternoon, from the corridor, the Sisters walked through the chapel aisle with their Novitiate symbol in hand as an offering to the feet of the Blessed Mother at the altar.

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo, D.D., the presider, spoke in his homily, about building on solid foundations. “This evening, we celebrate the golden journey of God’s plan for the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.” Remember the past with gratitude for God’s blessings – “the benefactors who gave the land, those who helped build the structure and the formators who have labored with love in the formation of the Sisters. Appreciating God’s call, responding with a total and exclusive response, and consecrating to God everything: present, future, and forever, ” – nothing else than this would ever fill the heart to the brim with enthusiasm and joy.





What has added cheer to the gathering was the presence of the good, old friends of the Sisters: Mr. and Mrs. Martin and Marites Yulo, Mr. and Mrs. Mario and Cynthia Mamon, Mrs. Mamuric and daughter Nona. Through the years, their friendship, love and commitment to support the FMA mission has never waned.

This 50th anniversary has truly brought the Sisters back into the roots of the history of the Institute in the Philippines. "Do not forget the grace of the origins," Pope Francis' words still rang in the ears of every FMA on his surprise visit to the Chapter assembly on October 22, 2021, "the humility and the smallness of the beginnings that made God's action transparent in the life and message of those who, filled with wonder, began this journey." Steve Green's song "Find Us Faithful" aptly puts into words what heart of every sister would have wished to say to the young people, looking yonder to the upcoming generations of young women seeking to tread the same path - "that the fire of our devotion light their way, our footprints lead them to believe, and the lives we live, inspire them to obey." "Our greatest gift and dream is that they find us ever faithful."

For the next years to come, Archbishop Panfilo in his concluding message assures the Blessed Mother's presence: "There is still a great history to be accomplished! "Look to the future where the Spirit is sending you in order to do even greater things."

| Sr. Celia Tacujan, FMA



AUGUST 31 @ 7AM HOMILY OF FR. JASON LAGUERTA



60

years
of Grace

For six decades, the FMA dedicated their lives to nurturing young women at the Pope Pius XII Ladies' Dormitory.

This period saw countless lives positively impacted by their unwavering commitment and dedication. The dormitory witnessed the growth and development of countless boarders, fostered meaningful relationships with oratorians, Friday friends, and parish priests, and benefited from the generous support of countless benefactors.

The FMA are no longer continuing their service at the dormitory, but their legacy of love, faith, and service will forever be cherished. The dormitory community extends its sincere thanks to the past and present administration of the Pope Pius XII

Catholic Center for their unwavering support and guidance throughout these years.

As the dormitory moves forward, it is with gratitude for the FMA's contributions. May the spirit of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello continue to inspire all who are part of this community, fostering a spirit of charity, joy, gratitude, and love for one another.

| Sr. Virgie C. Limbauan, FMA



CIAO Youth Camp: *Igniting Young Dreams*



The CIAO (Conferenza Interispettoriale Asia Orientale or the Inter-Provincial Conference of East Asia) Youth Camp 2024, themed “Young Dreamers: Empowering Dreams for a Just and Sustainable World,” was held from July 29 to August 1, 2024, at the Mornese Center of Spirituality in Pansol, Calamba City. This four-day gathering was a melting pot of cultures, bringing together young people from various CIAO Provinces - Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Timor-Leste, Vietnam, Japan, South Korea, and the Philippines, fostering a spirit of international camaraderie and cultural exchange.

The camp kicked off with a vibrant spectacle as delegates paraded in their national costumes, creating a kaleidoscope of colors and a festive atmosphere. Sr. Runita Borja, FMA, General Councilor for Youth Ministry, graced the occasion with her presence, adding a touch of grace to the proceedings. Sr. Teresita Padron, FMA, Provincial Superior of the Philippines & Papua New Guinea Province, extended a warm welcome to all attendees, setting a welcoming tone for the days to come.

As the camp coincided with the 200th anniversary of Don Bosco’s “Dream at Nine,” Sr. Teresita emphasized the significance of this milestone. She highlighted the camp as a concrete manifestation of Pope Francis’ call to care for and protect our planet, emphasizing the crucial role of youth in this endeavor. She expressed her deep appreciation to the CIAO Scuola, the SYM FMA FIL, and the Youth Ministry for their invaluable contributions to the camp’s success.

The Eucharistic celebration that followed was a spiritual oasis. Fr. Eligio Cruz, SDB, delivered a thought-provoking homily that resonated deeply with the

young participants. Drawing parallels between the biblical narrative and the lives of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, Fr. Eligio emphasized the power of shared dreams and vision. His words were food for thought, encouraging the youth to reflect deeply on their aspirations and the influences that shaped them. He urged them to persevere in their pursuits, assuring them that with dedication and prayer, their dreams would soar to new heights.

The camp offered a rich tapestry of experiences. Beyond the main venue, participants engaged with the Salesian Youth Group (SYG) at Mary Help of Christians College, providing a valuable opportunity to connect with other young people and experience the vibrant spirit of the Salesian Youth movement. Furthermore, the camp included an enriching visit to the SVD Laudato Si Farm, where participants engaged in guided prayers and reflections, fostering a deeper connection with the Earth. This experience served as a powerful reminder of the importance of environmental stewardship and encouraged campers to embrace a more eco-conscious lifestyle. The camp also included a series of enriching activities, such as a Dreamers’ Rosary, a Holy Mass, and a vibrant Socialization Night, providing opportunities for participants to deepen their faith, forge meaningful connections, and celebrate their shared experiences.

The final day of the camp was a time for reflection and introspection. Participants shared their personal experiences and insights, and worked together to develop practical action plans to address environmental challenges in their local communities. The camp culminated in a heartfelt farewell, leaving participants inspired and empowered to continue their journey as dreamers and agents of change.



Salesian Youth Synod (Valdocco and Colle Don Bosco)

The FMA Philippines and Papua New Guinea Province sent Ms. Rosea Marie Monsay and Ms. Felina Narvaez, youth and staff of the Laura Vicuna Foundation, Inc., to the International Salesian Youth Synod from August 11-16. This significant event, held in Italy, celebrated the Bicentenary of Don Bosco's Dream at Nine and gathered 376 participants from 93 countries. Guided by the theme "The Dream that Makes You Dream," young people engaged in discussions, shared their aspirations, and emphasized their role in shaping the future.

Ms. Monsay and Ms. Narvaez were deeply impacted by the Synod.

They witnessed the collaborative spirit of the Salesian community firsthand and were inspired by Don Bosco's unwavering faith and his dedication to serving young people. "Don Bosco's dream is alive!" they shared, emphasizing the importance of pursuing God-aligned dreams.

This experience will undoubtedly enrich their work at the Laura Vicuna Foundation, Inc., as they continue to serve as positive influences and supportive presences for the youth they work with. The Synod concluded with a celebration of Don Bosco's birthday on August 16, presided over by Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, SDB.

| Ms. Rosea Marie Monsay



Asian Past Pupils' Congress



The 3rd Asia Pacific Congress of FMA Past Pupils held on October 18-20, 2024, at the serene Mornese Center of Spirituality in Pansol, Calamba City, Laguna, Philippines. A diverse gathering of Past Pupils and FMA delegates from Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Timor-Leste, India, Vietnam, Japan, and the Philippines converged, their spirits brimming with anticipation. A warm welcome awaited them from Sr. Teresita C. Padron, FMA, Provincial Superior, alongside distinguished guests: Ms. Maria Carmen Castillon, Confederation President, Sr. Leslye Sandigo, General Councilor for the Salesian Family, and other esteemed leaders.

The congress featured insightful presentations from esteemed leaders, including Sr. Rachel Melissa Flor, FMA, who emphasized the importance of remaining rooted in one's past while embracing new horizons. Sr. Sangitha Rani, Confederation Delegate, provided a historical overview of past pupils' associations, highlighting their growth and evolution. Maria Carmen Castillon, Confederation President, eloquently defined the unique identity and crucial role of past pupils as ambassadors of the Salesian and Mornesian traditions.

The congress provided a platform for vibrant cultural exchange. The Thailand and Myanmar federations shared their remarkable journeys, highlighting their successful initiatives in education, community outreach, and alumni networking. Despite facing significant challenges, the Myanmar federation demonstrated remarkable resilience, providing unwavering support to vulnerable populations and prioritizing education. These inspiring stories of perseverance and hope served as a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

The Salesian Family Roots came alive through a captivating presentation by Sr. Leslye Sandigo. She expertly guided participants through the rich history and profound spiritual foundations of the Salesian family, leaving a lasting impression on all in attendance. Following this inspiring address, a special ceremony was held where each participant was proudly adorned with the official Past Pupils logo pin, a symbol of their shared identity and commitment. The subsequent showcase of activities and programs by various federations fostered lively discussions, encouraged the sharing of best practices, and explored exciting avenues for collaboration among the different groups. Workshops and discussions fostered collaboration and a shared vision for the future, culminating in the presentation of "ONE DREAM" for each federation.

On the final day, Vilma Velasquez from the Philippine Federation shared a deeply moving story about the "Dream Home" project for elderly FMA Sisters, touching the hearts of all in attendance. Each federation then presented their concrete plans for realizing their dreams, demonstrating their commitment to making a tangible difference. The congress concluded with heartfelt remarks from key leaders, emphasizing the profound impact of the event and the commitments made by the participants. A final meeting for federation presidents and delegates was held, while other participants engaged in uplifting team-building activities.

The congress experience extended beyond the conference halls. Participants embarked on a captivating tour, visiting the historic Caleruega Church and the serene Mary Help of Christians House of Spirituality. A delightful lunch at Bag of Beans in Tagaytay City, overlooking the breathtaking Taal Lake and Volcano, provided a moment of respite and camaraderie.

A highlight of the tour was an emotional visit to Casa Romero, the elderly home of the FMA Philippines. This poignant reunion with the elderly Sisters, who had dedicated their lives to serving others, deeply touched the hearts of all participants. The tour concluded with heartfelt expressions of gratitude from the Past Pupils for the Sisters' unwavering love, dedication, and enduring legacy.

| Joy Ditching-Lorico

Past Pupils- St. Mary Mazzarello School- Victorias



The Salesian Sisters of Don Bosco played a pivotal role in the historic visit of Pope Francis to Papua New Guinea. As the preparations for the papal visit unfolded, the Sisters took charge of decorating the Archdiocesan Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, the site of the encounter with the bishops, priests, religious, and catechists.

On September 6, the day of Pope Francis' arrival, the Sisters were among the first to welcome him, lining the route leading to the papal venue. Their enthusiasm and devotion were palpable as they cheered and waved to the Holy Father. On September 7, during the encounter with the clergy, some Sisters had the privilege of touching Pope Francis. This intimate moment was a source of inspiration and joy for them, as they felt a deep connection to the Pontiff. On September 8, the Sisters served as communion ministers during the Mass celebrated by Pope Francis. Accompanying them were approximately 50 boarders, who were equally honored to participate in this significant event. On September 9, 2024, Pope Francis met with thousands of young people at the Sir John Guise Stadium in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. This gathering was a significant event during his visit to the country. The Pope addressed the youth, emphasizing the importance of love, service, and unity. He encouraged them to be agents of positive change in their communities and to embrace their unique cultural heritage.

The Salesian Sisters' involvement in Pope Francis' visit to Papua New Guinea was undoubtedly a source of great joy and fulfillment that provided a tangible way to express their love for the Church and their reverence for the Holy Father.

| Sr. Virgie C. Limbauan, FMA



PECCG

A gathering of hope and empowerment unfolded at the Provincial Educating Community Core Group (PECCG) Assembly at Don Bosco School Sta. Mesa, Manila with the theme "HOPE - Holiness and Optimism, Journeying as Pilgrims Empowered"

PECCG New Officers SY 2024-2025

Chairperson: **Mrs. Mary Richelle Irinco** (DBS parent)
 Vice Chairperson (from the basic ed): **Mrs. Ma. Regina Layug** (MHCS-Pampanga parent)
 Vice Chairperson (from non-basic ed): **Ms. Josielyn Hugo** (LVF Social Worker)
 Secretary: **Mrs. Dureza Javelosa** (MHCC teacher)
 Treasurer: **Mrs. Lizelda Panerio** (MHCS-Cebu parent)
 Auditor: **Mrs. Janelle Malolos** (MHCC parent & past pupil)
 P.R.O.: **Mr. Jordan Villanueva** (DBS teacher)

Student Representatives:

MHCS Cebu: **JL Christelle Omang**
 MHCS Pampanga: **Jared Antorino Layug**
 MHCC Canlubang: **Theo Feligionio Ponce**
 DBS Manila: **Paul Cobain Marquez**

Youth Representative from Non-basic education setting:

Marjie Yap (LVC-Quezon City)





Samphran (Thailand). From 9 to 13 August 2024, the Provincials and Provincial Councillors of the Inter-Provincial Conference of East Asia (CIAO) and the South Pacific Region (SPR) gathered at the Ban Than Phraphorn Meeting Center in Samphran, St. Mary Mazzarello Province (THA) to participate in the Seminar “For Generative Animation”.



Present from Rome to animate the meeting were Mother General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Sister Chiara Cazzuola, the Vicar, Sister María del Rosario García Ribas, the General Councilors of the various Sectors – Sister Nilza Fatima de Moraes (Formation), Sister Runita Borja (Youth Ministry), Sister Leslie Sándigo (Salesian Family), Sister Ruth del Pilar Mora (Missions), Sister Maria Ausilia De Siena (Social Communication), Sister Ena Veralís Bolaños (Administration) – and the Visiting Councilors, Sister Maria Assunta Inoue and Sister Lidia Strzelczyk.

The Seminar officially opened with a welcome message from the CIAO President, Sister Gertrudes Ditching, Provincial of the Maria Nostro Aiuto (CMY) Province, followed by some words of gratitude from the Vicar General.

After the invocation to the Holy Spirit, Mother Chiara gave an overview of the five days of the Seminar. Each session began with a lectio divina and a reflection on the Word of God taken from the Acts of the Apostles, by Sister Maria Ko, a biblical scholar.

Mother Chiara Cazzuola and Don Pascual Chavez, Rector Major Emeritus of the Salesians of Don Bosco – through a video intervention – spoke about the service of authority today: opportunities and challenges for Consecrated Life. Synodality, the art of walking together can sometimes be challenging. Mother Chiara recalled that this should be the experience of the Provincial Council itself, which animates the Province for the good of the sisters and the mission. The theme of Generativity was discussed in depth by Mother Chiara and she spoke about the culture of care and the call to motherhood.

These three days included moments of personal reflection, group work and workshops led by the General Councilors, which consolidated the in-depth analysis of the topics. The daily meetings concluded with well-animated Eucharistic Celebrations, engaging and stimulating Goodnights and evening prayers of synthesis, which linked and concluded the days in a fruitful and meaningful way. In addition, the recreations and cultural presentations strengthened the communion among the participants.

The Seminar, fruitful and rich in graces, increased the determination of the participants to serve their respective Provinces as a mother who truly generates life, walking with everyone in a spirit of synodality.

[| cgfmanet.org](http://cgfmanet.org)

Provincial Triennial Verifica 2024

Despite the challenges posed by Typhoon Kristine, the FMA Sisters and invited representatives from various sectors of the Educating community converged at the Mornese Center of Spirituality in Calamba City, Laguna, from October 25 to 26, 2024. This gathering marked the Provincial Triennial Verification, a significant event to assess the Philippines and Papua New Guinea Province's journey in aligning with the directives of General Chapter XXIV.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Focused Group Discussions (FGD) proved to be fruitful, maximizing the allotted time. Participants engaged in rich conversations, sharing insights and perspectives. The simplicity of the presentations, necessitated by the power outage, underscored the importance of substance over form. Manila paper became the canvas for creative and meaningful discussions.

Celebrating 40 Years of Grace

The 40th Anniversary of the Philippine and PNG Province coincided with the Triennial Verification. On October 26, 2024, the Verifica participants gathered to celebrate this momentous occasion. During the Holy Mass, a special prayer of thanksgiving was offered to God for His abundant blessings and guidance throughout the past four decades. This jubilee celebration, interwoven with the verification process, served as a powerful reminder of the Province's rich history and its promising future.



A Day of Grace and Gratitude

On December 8, 2024, we witnessed a significant milestone as we celebrated the Blessing and Inauguration of the Convent of the Provincial House community. The Holy Mass, presided over by Fr. Marius Regencia, marked this joyous occasion. This momentous event coincided with the 40th canonical foundation anniversary of the Province.

As we reflect on these four decades of God's grace and guidance, we are filled with gratitude for the countless blessings and graces that have come our way. This new chapter in the life of the Provincial House symbolizes the ongoing commitment of the FMA Sisters to their mission and their unwavering faith in God's providence.



CHRISTMAS





GIFT-GIVING



Visit of Sr. Ena

From July 28 to August 8, 2024, Sr. Ena Veralís Bolaños, FMA General Councilor for Administration, embarked on a visit to various FMA communities in the Philippines.

Throughout her visit, Sr. Ena met with various FMA communities, including those in Manila, Pampanga, Cebu, Iloilo, Palawan, Canlubang, Mindoro, and Antipolo City. In each location, she emphasized the importance of understanding local realities and the role of sound financial management in supporting the FMA mission.

A highlight of her visit was the meeting with the Provincial Council and the gathering of all community economers.

Sr. Ena Veralís Bolaños, FMA General Councilor for Administration, conducted separate meetings with the Provincial Council, Community Animators, and the Economers and Treasurers at the Provincial House, Sta. Mesa, Manila, on August 6, 2024.

During a conference with the Sisters on August 5, 2024, Sr. Ena emphasized the importance of understanding the Province's realities to make informed decisions. She presented the role of the economy not merely as financial management but as a vital component of community life and the mission.

Sr. Ena's visit provided a valuable opportunity for FMA communities across the Philippines to connect with the General Council and gain valuable insights from her extensive experience.

(General Assembly and Encounter with PCA, and Local Economers)





Retreat of the Elderly Sisters in Casa Romero

Sr. Milena Stevani, FMA, Professor in Auxilium – Rome, Italy facilitated a retreat for elderly Sisters at Casa Maria Romero in Canlubang, Laguna last October 27 – November 1, 2024. The theme, “Journeying towards Wisdom of Heart,” centered on God’s active role in our lives and the importance of spiritual preparedness. Drawing insights from the parable of the wise and foolish virgins, Sr. Milena emphasized the need for genuine conversion, grounded in acknowledging both God’s unconditional love and our inherent limitations.

The retreat provided valuable spiritual guidance, encouraging the Sisters to cultivate a deeper relationship with God and to live lives aligned with His will. The closing ceremony included a Renewal of Vows Mass presided by Rev. Fr. Robert Paul Zarate, SDB and a heartfelt expression of gratitude to Sr. Milena for her enlightening teachings.

Her emphasis on self-awareness and compassion inspired the Sisters to build communities that reflect “a house of God’s love,” characterized by simplicity, prayer, and a spirit of joy.

| Sr. Anita Miranda, FMA



Formative Encounter with Sr. Milena Stevani, FMA: «Personal Encounter – The Colloquy» and «The Psychological Dimension of the Vows in Daily Life»

From November 2nd to 4th, 2024, 67 FMA Sisters from Luzon and the Visayas gathered at the Mornese Center of Spirituality in Pansol, Calamba City, for a profound formative experience led by Sr. Milena Stevani, FMA.

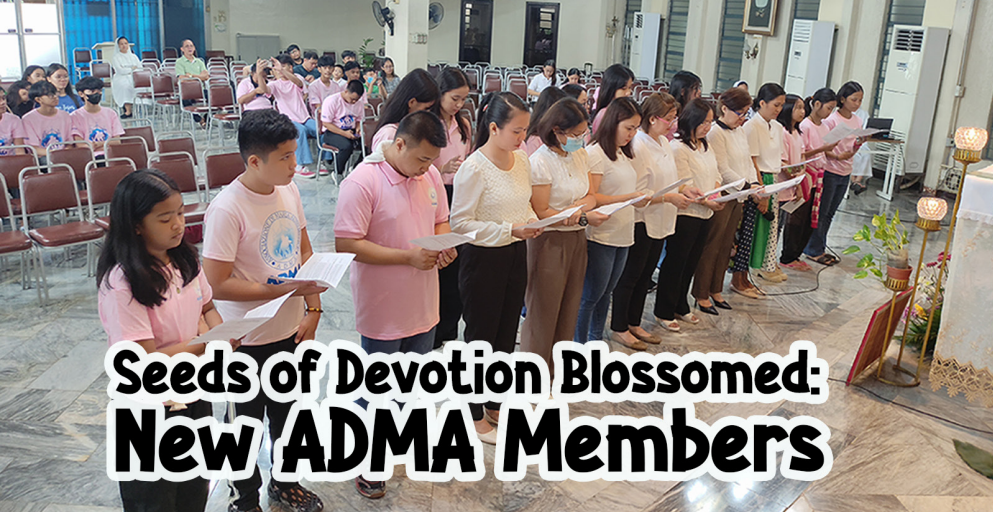
This encounter, focusing on “The Personal Encounter” and the “Psychological and Relational Dimension of Vows Lived in Daily Life,” provided a space for deep reflection and honest sharing. Guided by Sr. Milena, a seasoned psychologist and professor, the Sisters explored the intricate interplay between their daily lives and their Salesian vocation, examining their motivations, emotions, and relationships with renewed perspective. This transformative experience strengthened their bonds and deepened their connection to their Salesian calling.

Following this, from November 8th to 10th, 2024, FMA Sisters from Negros, Cebu, Palawan, and Luzon gathered at Mary Help of Christians School (Cebu) for their own formative encounter with Sr. Milena. The discussions on the personal encounter and the renewal of vows provided valuable opportunities for the Sisters to appreciate their Salesian heritage and deepen their commitment. Moments of reflection and sharing fostered a deeper understanding of how to live their vows authentically in the ordinariness of daily life.

Both encounters, despite their different locations, shared a common thread: a profound exploration of the personal encounter and a renewed commitment to living their vows authentically. The Sisters in both groups likened their journey to the changing seasons, recognizing that Jesus’ love remains the constant source of meaning and strength throughout all phases of their lives.

| Sr. Virgie C. Limbauan, FMA
| Sr. Princess Mae N. Ortiz, FMA





Seeds of Devotion Blossomed: New ADMA Members

On October 13, 2024, the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, a momentous occasion unfolded at Don Bosco School-Manila as 7 juniors and 12 aspirants were formally inducted into the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA) – Maria Ausiliatrice and San Giovanni Bosco, Manila Chapter.

The ceremony marked a significant milestone for these young devotees, culminating months of formation guided by Sr. Mary Jude Alcance, FMA, and Sr. Virgie Limbauan, FMA. The event was graced by the presence of esteemed officers from the ADMA National Council, who witnessed the heartfelt commitment of these new members.

Fr. Nestor Impelido, SDB celebrated a special Mass to commemorate the occasion, followed by a joyous celebration where generous members of the Salesian Family shared food and fellowship. This gathering not only celebrated the induction of new members but also strengthened the bond within the Don Bosco community and fostered a deeper devotion to Mary Help of Christians.

| Rhoda M. Tiopes

ADMA CONGRESS Portugal, Fatima 2024

From August 29 to September 1, 2024, Sisters Alicia Fulgencio, FMA, Naida Alcaraz, FMA, and Mary Jude Alcance, FMA, participated in the 9th International Congress of Mary Help of Christians in Fatima, Portugal.

Organized by the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA), the Congress focused on the theme “I will give you the Teacher,” commemorating the bicentenary of John Bosco’s “Dream at Nine,” which the entire Salesian Family is celebrating. Intended for all Salesian Family groups, this significant event, held every four years, aims to deepen and spread devotion to Mary Help of Christians.

The closing Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Fr. Stefano Martoglio. A momentous announcement was made: the 10th International Congress of Mary Help of Christians will take place in 2028 in the Philippines.



WORLD MEETING OF FORMATORS OF ASPIRANTS AND POSTULANTS

For the first time in the history of our Institute, formators of the stages of the postulancy and the aspirantate (Verification and Orientation) from all over the FMA world gathered in Casa Generalizia on November 10-24, 2024 for a formative encounter on the theme "Being formators today: how to accompany and personalize formation by activating new formative processes." Sixty-two formators attended the convention to reflect, share, and learn from one another, strengthening ties and possibilities of collaboration with the Center of the Institute and among provinces and interprovincial conferences.

Those two weeks proved to be an intense experience of formation for the formators themselves. In the first week, competent FMA and a lay speaker talked on topics that were truly thought-provoking, stimulating and relevant, like vocational discernment and accompaniment, the quality presence and collaboration required of the formative community, living in multicultural communities, the importance of the formative project in the different stages of formation, abuses and ways of preventing them in religious life. Mother Chiara and the other General Councilors who were at home during that time enriched the experience further with their *buona notte* on various topics on the charism.

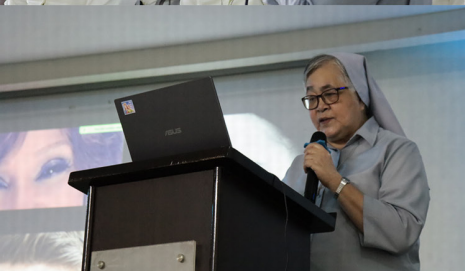
The second week was spent visiting (or revisiting) Turin, Nizza Monferrato and Mornese, with spaces for personal prayer and reflection and synthesis.

The time lived together in prayer, meals and sharing also helped to forge sisterly bonds among the participants that continue beyond the encounter.

All these imprinted in the formators a stronger awareness of the central place of the person in the process of formation; the certainty of being, despite their personal fragility, only instruments of the Spirit, the real Formator; as well as the beauty and responsibility of journeying with these young people in formation. Taking place during the opening of the three-year preparation for the 150th anniversary of the first FMA missionary expedition, the meeting revitalized in the formators the

sense of mission in their task. Shared with the formative community, it is to accompany, to help the young people to live their "yes" to God's call, like Mary, with openness and generous love. Formation requires trust, presence, relationships, and it is a privilege, despite its demands that the formator be herself a woman after the heart of God and our founders, to collaborate with God in molding and preparing the future FMA of our Institute.

| Sr. Rachel Melissa R. Flor, FMA



DAY OF SPIRITUALITY

On August 18, 2024, FMA Sisters and Novices from Antipolo, Laguna, Manila, Mindoro, Pampanga, and Palawan gathered for a day of spiritual renewal focused on Visio Divina. Some Sisters especially in Casa Romero, Canlubang and Palawan joined online. The day began with a solemn Holy Mass presided by Fr. Nestor Impelido, SDB.

Guided by the expertise of Sr. Florita Dimayuga, participants delved into the practice of Visio Divina, a contemplative method that uses visual imagery to foster a deeper connection with the Divine. Sr. Florita explained that this prayer technique, though often intuitive, is rarely fully utilized. She highlighted Visio Divina as a longstanding tradition for cultivating a profound and personal relationship with God through visual engagement.

Sr. Florita emphasized the core philosophy of Visio Divina: seeing God in all things and all things in God. This understanding invited participants to perceive the divine in every aspect of creation. The Sisters and Novices engaged in reflection and dialogue, sharing their insights on the images and processes presented by Sr. Florita.

The day concluded with gratitude expressed by Sr. Teresita Padron, Provincial Superior of the Philippine and Papua New Guinea Province, for Sr. Florita's guidance.



Progetto Mornese

From 24 September to 14 October 2024, Sr. Joralyn Selloria, Sr. Charito Belino, Sr. Sheila Marie Ducot, and Sr. Marilyn Precilla joined the 31 Daughters of Mary Help of Christians from the five continents and 13 English-speaking Provinces of the Institute who met at Sacred Heart House of St. John Bosco Province in Rome (IRO), to live the experience of Project Mornese in English, organized by the Formation Sector of the FMA Institute with the aim to "Rekindle the beauty of our vocation at the sources of the Salesian charism, to be with Mary, a presence that generates life today." Mother General, Sister Chiara Cazzuola, in her surprise visit at the beginning of the journey, encouraged reflection on Mother Mazzarello's lessons, with words that resonated in the hearts of the participants. The itinerary comprised five stages. The first stage, held in Rome from 24 to 27 September, focused

on deepening and reflecting on one's ecclesial belonging. The second stage, from 28 September to 1 October 2024, took place in Turin, where participants followed in the footsteps of Don Bosco, learning to be a creative and courageous presence like him, guided by the school of Mary. The third stage, from 2 to 10 October 2024, occurred in Mornese, where, alongside Main, they renewed the joy of their Salesian vocation and sought to emulate Mother Mazzarello by becoming a presence that generates life and hope. The fourth stage, from 11 to 13 October 2024, was in Nizza Monferrato, dedicated to an in-depth study of the Preventive System as embodied within the FMA Institute. The final stage culminated at the Mother House of Nizza.

RECEPTION OF POSTULANTS

On the commemoration of Mary Help of Christians, July 24, 2024, the two aspirants Htu Nan (CMY) and Oshayne Ibona (FIL), strengthened by the certainty of God's enduring presence and love, humbly took the next step in their formation journey as postulants. "We love because He loved us first" (Jn 4:19) was the scriptural passage they chose to guide them this year, reflecting a deep understanding of the unconditional love that motivates and sustains their path.

They selected a Kintsugi jar (kintsugi is the art of precious scars) as their emblem, conveying the potent message that God still picked them despite their brokenness.

It is the symbol of their desire to be continually formed gracefully by God, and of their commitment to show their real worth and to fulfill the purpose of God for their lives.

Htu Nan and Oshayne received the postulants' medal from Sr. Javy Romanos, FMA, representing our provincial superior, Sr. Teresita Padron, FMA. Sr. Javy reminded the new postulants of what this formative stage is all about: the postulant "will endeavor to deepen her awareness of God's call and will be accompanied in the challenging journey that will bring her to make gradually, but decisively, those indispensable evangelical choices." She also encouraged the postulants to remain open to their guide in their formation journey and most especially to entrust themselves to the guidance of our Blessed Mother.

60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RELIGIOS PROFESSION OF +SR. VIOLETA MARIA LUISA M. TUASON, FMA

August 5, 2024 at Casa Maria Romero, Canlubang, Laguna



Sr. Violeta returned to the Father on January 10, 2025.



Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Daughters of Mary Help of Christians
(Salesian Sisters of St. John Bosco)




OUR LOVING PRESENCE,
our gift
FOR THE
young


CONTACT US:

SALESIAN SISTERS OF DON BOSCO

3500 V. Mapa Ext., Sta. Mesa, 1016 Manila

09086635743 / 09765191123

 **FMA Vocation Ministry**

 **FMAvocguide24@gmail.com**



FMA Vocation



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