

01 June 2020

**FOR: ALL MBG ARCHDIOCESAN /DIOCESAN /APOSTOLIC VICARIATES /PRELATURES /MOP COUNCIL PRESIDENTS
ALL MBG PARISH UNIT PRESIDENTS IN DIOCESES NOT YET CONSTITUTED AS A COUNCIL
ALL MBG SPECIAL UNIT PRESIDENTS and the
MBG NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD (NEB)**

REF: SECOND PHASE OF MBG@60 DIAMOND JUBILEE PREPARATIONS

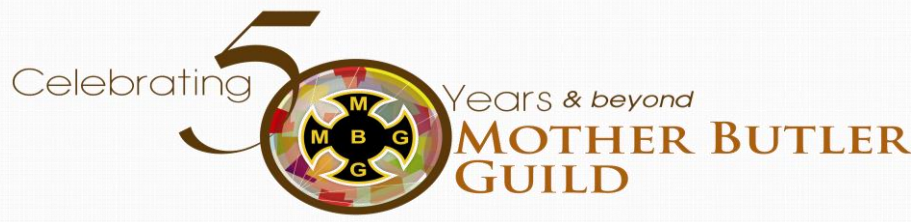
MY BELOVED MOTHER BUTLERS,

Warm greetings.

Today the Church honors and remembers in a special way Mary Mother of the Church. And immediately I thought of you. But then it doesn't need a special feast for me to think of you since daily I remember you to Our Lord and to our Blessed Mother ... all our *Mother Butlers* nationwide too. Early this morning when I renewed my Marian Consecration, I implored Mary our Mother to please gather you in her arms and keep you in her loving care, especially during these covid19 dangerous times.

How have you been? Still full of hope? Still full of joy and love? O, I pray so. The worst thing covid19 can do to us, aside from being sick with it, is to plunge us into fear, depression and helplessness. That is why it makes me so happy when I call some of you every now and then or when I receive your text messages that you still clean the sanctuary of your parish churches, help in the preparation of the private Masses of your parish priests, assist in the distribution of food packages for the poor ... though always practicing physical distancing and wearing face masks. How such news make me smile and move me to thank Jesus that once a *Mother Butler*, always a *Mother Butler*. The other day a *Mother Butler* from Cagayan de Oro happily texted, "Mam Tita, we are making face masks for the garbage collectors and tricycad drivers as you suggested in your letter to us." This prompted me to humbly say, "Dear Jesus, look favorably on your *Mother Butlers*, preserve in them docility to your Spirit."

And speaking of the Holy Spirit, last Sunday we celebrated Pentecost. We remember how the Holy Spirit descended on the apostles and the Blessed Mother, touching each of them with tongues of fire. The apostles who were hiding in the Upper Room huddled in fear were suddenly filled with boldness, and came out proclaiming the many wonders done by Jesus



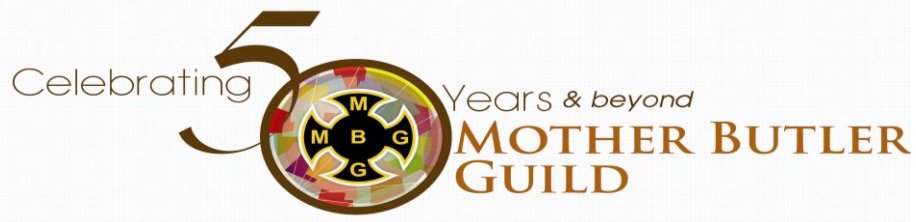
whom the Jews had crucified and how God raised him from the dead. If the apostles who were almost overcome by hopelessness and fear, instantly came alive and full of courage at the touch of the Spirit, you, too ... all of us together can come alive and with courage heal as one from the ravages of this pandemic. Jesus, our Servant God we follow, obey and serve gave us the Holy Spirit as his gift to us so as to enable us to become gifts for one another.

Jesus is forever gifting us. When he hung on the Cross and about to die, he thought of you, of all his beloved. He gave Mary his Mother as his gift to us ... his gift to the Church, Mary Mother of the Church. His gift whom we can take into our homes, into our hearts. And the Holy Spirit living in Mary most certainly also lives in our hearts. A double gift from the Father and the Son. So what is there that we cannot do? We have the Holy Spirit, the font of life and love and all the riches of God ... we have Mary who gave birth to Jesus for whom and from all things came to be. We can only rejoice, rejoice always in God and make available his gifts to as many as we can reach, especially the poor and the little ones who are longing to have gifts and to become gifts themselves.

This should be the vision and mission of our preparations for our MBG Diamond Jubilee now entering its second phase on June 10 centered on Fasting. It carries the reminder of St. Paul that to remain true to the faith, we are to pass through many troubles, like covid19. But with prayer (first phase of our preparations) and fasting, the Lord in whom we trust, will help us overcome this storm. So please my cherished *Mother Butlers*, put your heart, mind and all your strength in following the steps/activities indicated for Phase 2 "Fasting" of our Diamond Jubilee Preparations. Combine the two: Prayer and Fasting and even now add the third "Almsgiving" so necessary in these times of hunger and thirst. We, *Mother Butlers*, who have been deprived of the Eucharist all throughout the covid19 lockdown, let us satisfy our hunger and thirst for the Lord by satisfying the physical hunger and thirst of the Lord's beloved poor little children.

Our 30 Talita Kumi Inengs whom the MBG supports are in danger of not being able to continue their schooling due to the new curriculum of schools of "blended learning" approved by DepEd. This method combines online learning modules and printed materials to be completed by the students at home. Our poor scholars who have been so excited about going to school for the last 2 school years, overcoming their limitations of no previous schooling and no English nor math whatsoever, and even excelling in their classes – we have 9 honor students – need all the help we can gather. Some practical packages I am proposing for you to source sponsors for or raise among yourselves:

1. Php 75,000.00 tuition fee plus food, transportation and medical care for school year 2020-2021 for one Talita Kumi Ineng.



2. Php 37,500.00 tuition fee plus food, transportation and medical care for one semester for school year 2020-2021 for one Talita Kumi Ineng.
3. Php 18,750.00 tuition fee plus food, transportation and medical care for one quarter of school year 2020-2021 for one Talita Kumi Ineng.
4. Php 15,000.00 for food and transportation allowance for school year 2020-2021 of one Talita Kumi Ineng.
5. Php 5,000.00 for medical care for one school year 2020-2021 of one Talita Kumi Ineng.
6. Php 2,000.00 from 50 donors each for lap tops of Talita Kumi Inengs.

Aside from the above urgent packages for school year 2020-2021, our campaign launched during our National Consultation Seminar on Nov 11-14, 2019 in Tagaytay City of saving every day “Piso Para Kay Ineng” continues till the end of our Diamond Jubilee preparations on June 10, 2021.

Many of our *Mother Butlers*, I am sure, are also in want during this covid19 turbulent storm that caught us unprepared and off-guard. But I cannot forget what I learned and experienced in that historic ecclesial event, the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP II) in 1991 that “there is no one so poor as to have nothing to give”. And the one peso of a *Mother Butler* would be like the biblical widow’s mite that Jesus was so pleased with.

Let the love of Christ urge you, his Spirit empower you and Mary his Mother and our Mother inspire you to pray more, fast more and give more as the fitting offering of the Mother Butler Guild for the gift of 60 years of service in the house of the Lord. It is not to all that such gift is given. But we are called to share such gift to all. That God may be glorified through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

CHRISTHUGS to you the delight of my heart.

Amb HENRIETTA T. DE VILLA