



18 September 2020

**FOR: MBG ARCHDIOCESAN/DIOCESAN/MOP/APOSTOLIC VICARIATE/PRELATURE COUNCILS
PARISH UNITS OF DIOCESES NOT YET CONSTITUTED AS A COUNCIL/SPECIAL UNITS**

REF: UPDATE ON DIOCESAN REPORTS PLUS A NEW ASSIGNMENT

My Beloved Mother Butlers,

The Peace of Christ.

It has been six months since covid19 caused the enforcement of several levels of community quarantine nationwide. For the majority of us in the MBG, being seniors, we are isolated in lockdown mode. I have come to realize what pain it is to be deprived of the freedom to see face to face our loved ones, friends and generally people. A pain for me not to see in person my cherished Mother Butlers, made more painful by the possibility that I may never see you again. To banish this anxiety, I try to write to you as often as I can. To communicate to you what grace we possess in being Mother Butlers ... to encourage you not to lose heart because Jesus the Servant-God we love, follow and obey promised that he will never leave us, and he always keeps his promise.

Last 20 July 2020 I circulated a memo indicating a three-fold activity as a way of celebrating the MBG day last 22 July.

- Attend Mass, live for those who can, online for those locked down
- Extend MBG service from the altar to the peripheries through donations for Talita Kumi Inengs
- Recruit 3 to 5 members below 50 years old per parish unit; each council to form a Junior Section

MBG Councils in all levels were requested to report on items 1 & 2 by 8 Sept 2020; on item 3 on 8 Sept 2021

I was so happy to receive to date 5 reports from the following dioceses (in the order of their email dates) and a summary of their good news:

1. Lucena – Consuelo Q. Licardo – 8 Aug – celebrated MBG Day through online live streamed Mass; distributed food packs to the poor & slippers to underprivileged children; coins for Talita Kumi Inengs still to be collected; 3 new members below 50 yrs old have been recruited (☺)
2. Butuan – Adelfa S. Yumo – 7 Sept – celebrated MBG Day with live Mass for those able, online for those locked down; since they have junior and young members MBG sanctuary care and ongoing formation continue; made face masks for all; remitted Php 5,000.00 for Talita Kumi Inengs (☺); recruitment of young members ongoing
3. Daet – Clarina V. Ridogon – 7 Sept – celebrated MBG Day with live and online Mass; distributed Pantawid Gutom food packs; MBG sanctuary care plus related tasks continue

- through young MBG members; remitted Php 15,000.00 for Talita Kumi Inengs (☺); inducted prior to lockdown MBG Junior Section (☺); recruited 2 new young members (☺)
4. Legazpi – Ophelia B. Rodriguez – 7 Sept – celebrated MBG Day with live Mass and simple agape despite covid19; extension of term of office for one year of current Diocesan Council Executive Board due to inability of holding elections because of covid 19 via resolution from their Spiritual Director with concurrence of MBG National President; remitted Php 40,000.00 for Talita Kumi Inengs (☺)
 5. Kalookan – Gloria M. Bernardo – 9 Sept – celebrated MBG Day with online Mass; distributed goods and check to Caritas; for those able MBG church service continues; parish units donating cash for purchase of calculators for scholars; ongoing recruitment for young members

To Elo Licardo, Adelle Yumo, Clarina Rigodon, Ophel Rodriguez (congrats on your extended term) and Gloria Bernardo ... from my heart, and on behalf of the MBG National Executive Board, thank you again and again.

I am still waiting with hopeful anticipation for more reports from our other dioceses. Your reports need not be long ... focus only on the 3 activities I mentioned in my July 20 Memo. Photos are certainly always appreciated.

While we all hope and pray for the end of covid19 as soon as possible, we can also surmise that this pandemic and its after effects will be with us for quite some time. This scuttles all our plans for a grand celebration of our Diamond Jubilee next year. As planned by our MBG National Consultation Seminar last November, we shall hold a massive assembly in Manila inviting even our Mother Butlers from abroad, especially our MBG sisters from Monrovia West Africa. But now, to be practical, we have to re-think and re-work our plan for our Diamond Jubilee celebration.

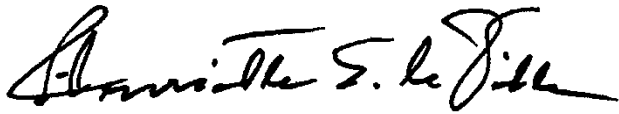
It is in this connection that I seek your help and guidance. Please discern and discuss among your officers and members, including your Spiritual Directors how we can transform the originally planned grand and massive Diamond Jubilee celebration into smaller-sized celebrations. Ever mindful that our MBG Diamond Jubilee has to be a fruitful and meaningful source of new joy and new hope. A resurgence of our faith that Christ lives. A strengthening of our resolve to proclaim Christ through our MBG service.

Please, I need a report on the result of your discernment and discussion by the first week of November or to be exact on 9 November 2020. That would be 50 days from now. As I mentioned earlier about reports, these need not be long. A paragraph or two ... even through bullet points format.

Pope Francis has introduced in his pontificate two paths to intensify unity in the Church ... synodality or walking together ... and fraternity. Walking together as sisters and brothers in Christ. It dawned on me that what we are doing, my writing to you often, and your reports are actually practicing Pope Francis' synodality and fraternity in the midst of covid19 restrictions. Let us be conscious of this ... that the MBG is walking with our Holy Father toward synodality and fraternity for greater unity in the Church we believe in and love. So please make time to send in your reports.

As always, I think of you and pray for you ... all of you my beloved Mother Butlers whether or not I have met you face to face because I leave that to God who knows each of you by name. I lift up the MBG every day to Jesus, asking him to pour out on each and all Mother Butlers his Divine Mercy ... begging Mary, his Mother and ours to keep you in her tender mothering care.

Always with all the love of my heart.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Henrietta T. De Villa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'H' and 'D'.

Amb. HENRIETTA T. DE VILLA
National President