



27 April 2023

- FOR: 1. ALL ARCHDIOCESAN/DIOCESAN/PRELATURE/APOSTOLIC VICARIATE/MOP COUNCILS**
2. ALL PARISHES IN DIOCESES NOT YET CONSTITUTED AS A COUNCIL
3. ALL SPECIAL UNITS

REF: SPECIAL PROGRAM – MBG@kamustahan2023

My Beloved MOTHER BUTLERS,

The Peace of the Risen Christ!

During our Lenten journey, literally for many of us, it was an excruciating experience of the *via crucis* of life. During our meeting of the MBG National Executive Board yesterday, we were moved to tears by the sharing of almost all... how they suffered painful trials. One being suddenly confronted by a huge tumor in her husband's liver as she watched him helplessly being consumed by it. Another watched tearfully in the hospital by the bedside of her only daughter with an unknown ailment needing blood transfusion of an unavailable blood type. Another whose heart still could not understand nor accept the death of her husband a few days before their 47th wedding anniversary. And my own son, my Martin, my Baby Boy who was happily singing during our family dinner on Sunday Feb. 26... then suddenly swiftly died of heart failure on Monday Feb.27.

How do you stop the wounds of loss from bleeding? How can grief and emptiness keep alive your hoping?

For all of us, the answer was JESUS... as Mother Butlers, we have encountered him many times, felt him dwelling within us, saw him through the many good people he sent to comfort and help us. JESUS ALWAYS JESUS.

And I thought of all of you. As I always do... praying and hoping your trust in Jesus remains unshaken amidst whatever trails and sufferings you may be going through. Praying and hoping that in joy and anguish, your faith that Jesus loves you continues to endure forever.

I am so excited to announce to you that we have this special program: **MBG@kamustahan2023**. We are anxious to know how you are in the parishes, in the dioceses, in the communities where you serve. It is also our humble attempt to put into practice Pope Francis' synodal way of being Church. Walking together, conversing with each other, serving/loving/living together as Christ

did... most of all, making true Jesus' prayer to the Father: "May they be one, Father, as you and I are one."

For **MBG@kamustahan2023**, I requested two of our NEB officers, Cynthia Cabrera and Nancy Abcede to visit our MBG Diocesan Councils... to see how you are. What makes you happy and causes you to rejoice... what makes you sad or even angry (sana you are not 😊). What do you hope for... how can we together make stronger Communion, Participation, Mission as felt goals of a new way of being Church as the Body of Christ? Cynthia and Nancy will visit you to listen to your stories.

We will begin this program immediately this May. Hoping with God's grace to complete it by end of this year. The first visits will have this schedule:

- May 10 to 15 – ILOILO and BACOLOD
- May 24 to 26 – LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN, ALAMINOS and URDANETA
- May 29 to 31 – LUCENA and GUMACA
- June 9 – CUBAO and PASIG

What we are requesting you to please prepare...

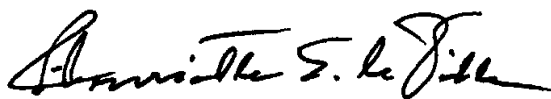
1. Gather your Council (if possible, representatives of parishes) to meet Cynthia and Nancy.
2. Schedule for them a visit to your Archbishop/Bishop, also with your Diocesan Council Spiritual Director.
3. If you can accommodate them in one of your homes, wonderful... if not recommend a possible place where they can stay overnight.
4. Just treat their visit as balikbayan family members visiting you.

I shall also personally call the Presidents of the MBG Councils mentioned in the above schedule. O, how I wish I could be with them to visit you since my longing to see you and hug you never leaves my heart. But since some constraints unable me to do so, please welcome Cynthia and Nancy as you would welcome me.

It is such a consolation the readings lately... that Jesus will do everything not to lose anything the Father has given to him. And we, Mother Butlers were given by the Father to his Son, Jesus our Servant-God.

Let us keep each other one in prayer, service, and love... knowing always that Jesus will do everything not to lose any of us, that Jesus stays with us.

Sincerely,



Amb. HENRIETTA T. DE VILLA
National President