

MBG NATIONAL CONVENTION 2025: A SUMMARY

The Mother Butler Guild was in darkness. The Covid19 pandemic locked us out of the house of the Lord. We could not clean his sanctuary nor prepare the table for his sacrifice. We could not even experience Jesus in the Eucharist. We were held back from celebrating our 60th jubilee of service in 2021. We grieved. We suffered. But the MBG never lost hope. The love of Christ urged us to keep on believing that hope in Christ does not disappoint.

The darkness was turned visibly into light today. Here in the World Trade Center in Manila, 6, 400 Mother Butlers came together from July 11 to 12, 2025 for our National Convention... after a hiatus of eight (8) years. Now, here, together we celebrated our 60th Jubilee of Service in the Jubilee Year of Hope. Now, here, together our grief was turned into laughter... our suffering into joy. Our NC2025 is proof of the MBG hope that did not waver.

Preparing for our MBG NC2025 entailed hard work. The National Executive Board had to go beyond our cleaning, sewing, decorating skills to put together the physical and digital requirements, above all to make incarnate our hope of making our Convention a graced experience of encounter. An encounter with Christ in our encounter with each other. This was sustained by the palpable enthusiasm of our Mother Butlers nationwide. An enthusiasm that made them overcome the physical and financial requirements for attending and participating in the Convention. The combined efforts of the National and the Diocesan/Parish Mother Butler Guild reinforced our hope that even if we “fall back from nothing to nothing”, for as long as we have God, we have everything.

Our MBG National Convention 2025 spelled out a mission for us. To consciously and conscientiously embark on the journey to a blessed life... not just for us, but for all in the body of Christ. We discerned and discussed together the paths that lead to a blessed life. We listened in awe at the wise and joyful words of our pastor-guides – Msgr. Gerardo “Gerry” Santos, Fr. Lambert Legaspino, Fr. Hans Magdurulang; we watched in thankfulness the witness of our sisters from Taytay, Dumaguete, Imus.

WORDS and WITNESS demonstrated to us how Prayer, the school of Hope and the way to encounter Christ arouses committed participation of the MBG for mission. How the Eucharist, the certitude of Hope in our unity with Christ expands our communion with each other and with other communities for mission. How Poverty, the setting of Hope strengthens us to embrace the mission of Christ to be good news to the poor.

Our EUCHARISTS – Opening and Closing – made up for all the Eucharists we missed during lockdown. The Papal Nuncio Archbishop Charles John Brown exuded the same aura of peace and friendship of the Holy Father he represented, Pope Leo XIV. And through his own persona we encountered kindness. Cardinal Pablo Virgilio “Ambo” David masterfully transformed the gospel into story-telling time giving us a foretaste of what it must be like to sit at the feet of Jesus and simply listen to him. Through his presence and his words, we encountered wisdom.

The prayers of our Mother Butlers from different dioceses made us realize that being immersed in Jesus the Servant-God we follow, obey and serve taught us how to pray. The jubilee song of our NEB, “Ningas ng Pagasa” fueled our hope that in Christ alone are we saved. Then they sang “Love Story”... no longer the song from the movie, but the song of our hearts that Jesus alone gives meaning to our life... that he is there for us till the stars all burn away.

Echoing the synodal way of encounter, our roundtable Circles of Discernment were unlike workshops of before. The Mother Butlers made a conscious effort to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our conversations with humility, love, and joy. The Circles became life-stories of servants, housekeepers in the house of the Lord... stories of our joys, our pains, yet always laced with hope. Hope, because Christ whom we love is the Master of God's house. His love will make us God's house if we persevere in hope. When all the reports on our Conversations in the Spirit were gathered, we promised to implement the acts and decrees approved in our Circles of Discernment.

As we recalled the way we were, the Spirit pushed us from nostalgia to move on: Looking forward, adapting new expressions of how to proclaim Christ in an ever-changing world; of how to turn our servant service into small yet firm steps toward a blessed life. We had to search for new ways, new approaches to remain, like the Church we believe in and love... ever young, ever new yet staying focused and keeping true to our MBG identity, our MBG charism.

After long sessions of hard listening and planning, it was a welcome respite to watch a new way of worship... with flowers. No need for an overlay of a profusion of blooms. The Ikebana experts showed the MBG that simplicity coupled with meditative praying can make the flowers come alive; that the goal of flowers as worship is heaven; the Mother Butler on earth reaching out for heaven... the journey to a blessed life.

Then the time to celebrate. The Mother Butlers of varying ages – many in our senior years – could still dance and sing and perform. MBG of Alaminos, Antipolo, Imus, Marbel and Novaliches went onstage swinging and swaying. The servants of Jesus. The dancing queens. The grace of complete joy. Joy that is love fulfilled...happiness in Christ.

Our merriment was heightened by the Raffle Draw excitement. Prizes were given away... the fruits of servants' begging.

With hearts burning from our experience of encounter, we pledged anew to be servants, handmaids, housekeepers called and chosen by Jesus to be his own. To be his own for others, especially the poor little ones. To do so humbly, lovingly, joyfully for Jesus, who calls us now as friends. Jesus our God is Love who loves us his Mother Butlers beyond reason, beyond time.

The MBG National Convention came to pass on Saturday July 12, 2025 after dusk. But 6,400 Mother Butlers continue the journey to the blessed life. Bringing its good news to some 35,000 Mother Butlers nationwide... across to America and West Africa. Singing our song, gathering all... to hope...

*Masdan niyo ang ningas ng pag-asa
At ang awit nami'y pakinggan
Na tunay nating makakamtan
Ang buhay na walang hanggan.*

