**STELLA MARIS**



**STELLA MARIS - PHILIPPINES**

Stella Maris and OWWA forge a partnership by signing a MOA

In celebration of the 2023 Women’s Month (March), Stella Maris-Philippines, in partnership with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) gathered about one hundred delegates, the great majority seafarer’s wives, from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, at the Manila Prince Hotel, from March 29-April 1, 2023 for the SEAFARERS’ FAMILY CIRCLE CONFERENCE with the theme: Journeying Together and the 3RD NATIONAL SEAFARERS’ FAMILY NETWORK GATHERING.

The presence of the Most Rev. Ruperto C. Santos, D.D., Bishop Promoter of Stella Maris-Philippines was greatly appreciated together with Fr. John C. Mission, National Director of Stella Maris-Philippines & Chaplain of Stella Maris-Cebu; Fr. Victor Bompat, Chaplain of Stella Maris-Tagbilaran; Fr. Lloyd Manzano, Chaplain of Stella Maris-La Union; Fr. Rochester Charles Resuello, Chaplain of Stella Maris-Batangas and Fr. Paulo H. Prigol, cs, Chaplain of Stella Maris-Manila;; all the delegates and the OWWA Directors and Staff headed by Hon. Arnaldo A. Ignacio, OWWA Administrator.

Each day commenced with a Holy Mass followed by specific topics. Bishop Ruperto Santos talked on spiritual resilience with the topic: Beside a Strong Sailor is an Even Stronger Wife and Family while Fr. John Mission discussed on the Programs of Stella Maris for seafarers’ families. Eloquent speakers shared about taking care of oneself and one’s family, budgeting, personal financial plan for the family and business. Likewise, OWWA speakers talked about the programs and services of OWWA for Seafarers and Families, Scholarships and Social Benefits.

The gathering was highlighted by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on March 31, 2023 by Hon. Arnaldo A. Ignacio, OWWA Administrator and the Most Rev. Ruperto C. Santos, D.D., Bishop Promoter of Stella Maris-Philippines with the purpose of implementing and monitoring OWWA’s and Stella Maris’ programs and services to seafarers and their families nationwide. The signing was witnessed by Fr. John C. Mission, National Director of Stella Maris-Philippines and Director Jocelyn O. Hapal of OWWA.

The last day was specifically dedicated to the 3RD STELLA MARIS NATIONAL SEAFARERS’ FAMILY NETWORK GATHERING. The focus was on the practical implementing points of the MOA. After the gathering, by region (Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao), the CBCP-ECMI Regional Coordinators facilitated the reporting and the planning of activities until December 31, 2023. Then, there will be a follow up and assessment.

Grateful to all delegates for actively participating in the 3rd National Gathering, Fr. John Mission thanked Stella Maris UK for the support and declared the Assembly closed. The Ceremony of Giving Certificates followed and was led by Fr. John and OWWA Director Benny I. Reyes.

+Ruperto Cruz Santos, DD, Bishop of Balanga and

CBCP Bishop Promoter of Stella Maris Philippines

1. Fr. John Mision - Stella Maris Cebu / National Chaplain
2. Fr. Edwin Ferrer - Stella Maris Alaminos, Pangasinan
3. Fr. Victor Bompat - - Stella Maris Bohol
4. Fr. Dwight Calor - Stella Maris Iligan
5. Fr. Arvin Largado - Stella Maris Iloilo
6. Fr. Llloyd Manzano - Stella Maris La Union
7. Fr. Mark Diola - Stella Maris Maasin
8. Fr Allan Pulgo – Stella Maris Cagayan de Oro
9. Fr Jose Conrado Estafia - Stella Maris Talibon, Bohol
10. Sr. Carmelita Gamolo - Stella Maris Borongan
11. Fr. Toter Resuello - Stella Maris Batgangas
12. Fr Noel Gerapusco – Stella Maris Capiz
13. Sr. Jo-Anne C. Lorilla, OND – Stella Maris General Santos
14. Fr. Paulo Prigol, cs - Stella Maris Manila
15. Mrs. Lucila Quindoy - Stella Maris Davao representative

04 April 2023





