



**SI-P General Meeting  
St. Joseph Retreat House  
Bustillos St. Sampaloc, Manila  
23-26 August 2019**

**Theme: SI-P: RESPONDING WITH THE YOUTH TO THE CALL TO HOLINESS**

Held in the St. Joseph Retreat House, Bustillos Street, Sampaloc, Manila from 23 August to 26 2019, the 4th Secular Institutes-Philippines (SIP) National Assembly brought in 25 participants from 9 institutes.

These are the Associates of Notre Dame (AND), Secular Institutes of the Daughters St. Anne (SIDSA), Fils de Notre Dame de Vie (FNDV), Madonna della Strada (MDS), Missionaries of the Kingship of Christ (SIM), Notre Dame de Vie (NDV) and Volunteers of Don Bosco (VDB) and the SI of the Company of St. Dominic. Added to these was the presence of Archbishop Emeritus of Davao Fernando R. Capalla (NDV-Prebres).

August 23 Friday saw arrivals of participants, their room assignments, and welcome dinner. Formal assembly opening took place on Saturday, August 24 with Davao Archbishop Emeritus Fernando R. Capalla presiding the Eucharistic Celebration. Before the mass, an extra-liturgical rite with the logo of each SI being posted on the board and the announcement that the Associates of Notre Dame is now recognized as an Institute of Diocesan Right were done.

The so-called nitty gritty of the assembly were the topics on the youth. Two speakers shared their knowledge to the assembly on how to understand the youth of today or the millennials. A young lawyer, Atty. Jann Paolo Maniquis, an iRESPOND Program Coordinator in the Diocese of Novaliches- Commission on Youth was the morning speaker. Through a power point presentation he talked on the topic "SINO KAMI" (WHO ARE WE). It was a very good presentation that the audience really made some remarks and queries on how to relate and work with the millennials. The young lawyer humbly answered all questions. In the afternoon there was another good speaker, the executive secretary of the CBCP Commission on Social Communication, Fr. Francis Lucas. With power point presentation, he expounded on the topic "SINO NGA BA KAYO" (WHO REALLY ARE YOU?). An open forum followed for the group to ask on how to deal with the millennials with its pros and cons. The assembly was so grateful to the speakers on the things they learned and understood about the youth of today- the millennials & the zen gen- they need our RESPECT, UNDERSTANDING because they are NOT DIFFICULT generation but DIFFERENT generation. And all of us were reminded on Pope Francis message during the World Youth Day, to wit he said to the youth: "YOU ARE NOT THE TOMORROW, YOU ARE NOT THE MEANTIME, YOU ARE THE NOW".

After dinner, Mary Almonte presided the short meeting on some important SI-P matters.

1. the CMIS request on St. Paul VI as the patron saint of secular institutes. Regarding this matter the assembly unanimously voted that the life of St. Paul VI should be well studied so with the life and contribution of Pope Pius XII, then each institute can choose who among these two would be considered as patron saint of the secular institutes.
2. the CMIS convocation and invitation for the 2021 General Assembly in Avila, Spain. Everybody was encouraged to participate particularly on the three- day congress.
3. The election of SI-P leaders. The group voted to extend another two –year term for the council leaders. It means that in the year 2021 during the 5<sup>th</sup> SI-P general assembly, the election of the new set of council leaders will be done.
4. the SI-P membership fee. Each SI was encouraged to give generously, if possible to share more than what was agreed upon during the 2<sup>nd</sup> national meeting in Davao.
4. the SI-P relations

with the ECMR and the AMRSP. Atty. Angie Dy gave a glimpse on the several activities that the secular institutes accepted their invitation to attend some of the activities to show support and collaboration with them [eg, the attendance of Lou and Angie to the AMRSP General Assembly held in Iloilo]. .

August 25 was another day to remember. It was the day that the assembly was so serious in their effort to formulate the Mission-Vision of the SI-P organization. There were five groups created to have a brainstorming but after awhile the assembly decided to make it into one group to discuss in making/formulating the SI-P mission-vision. With the full participation of each one the mission-vision and the SI-P Plan of Action 2020-21 were made after a long and tedious discussion. It was a one-day workshop and WE MADE IT! After a short break, the Eucharistic celebration followed. It was presided by Rev. Fr. Cielo Almazan, OFM Father Provincial. The day was capped with an agape meal at the conference room where a video presentation of some highlights of SIM-Philippines rolled on. Then, everybody joined in songs and dances, as we all joyfully celebrated the centennial anniversary of the SI-SIM.

The last day of the assembly was focused on the presentation of the final mission-vision of SI-P and to the Plan of Action with its committee responsible for each plan. *(Please refer to the attached sheets).*

The 4<sup>th</sup> SI-P general assembly was closed by a Eucharistic celebration presided by Bishop Emeritus Benjamin Almoneda. Lunch was served and each one left the venue with full gratitude to each one present and looking forward to do God's work with full enthusiasm.



