



AMQAH Cebu now Officially Accredited in the Archdiocese of Cebu

CEBU, Philippines - On July 24, 2021, the Association of Mary Queen of all Hearts (AMQAH) was officially accredited by the Archdiocese of Cebu Council of the Laity for the Lay Organizations, Movements, Associations and Services (LOMAS) during the first-ever launching of the Lay Tertiary and Marian Councils at the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral at 10:00 AM. Originally, the venue is supposedly at the International Eucharistic Congress Convention Center IC3 Hall C, but due to the limited number of persons allowed by IATF at the IC3 Hall C, the officers of the councils transferred the venue to the Cebu Metropolitan Cathedral at 10:00 AM, instead of 9:00 AM.

The highlight of the event is the Eucharistic Celebration which was presided by Cebu Archbishop Jose S. Palma. Together with him were Msgr. Roger Fuentes, the Spiritual Director of the Commission on the Laity, Msgr. Joselito Tajanlangit, the newly appointed Spiritual Director of the Lay Tertiary Council, Msgr. Ruben Labajo, the Spiritual Director of the Cebu Archdiocesan Marian Council, and other concelebrating priests.

Because of the pandemic, the allowable seating capacity of the Cathedral was reduced to 350 and it was all occupied. There were some lay people who were able to witness the first ever launching of the Tertiary and Marian Councils.

There were 13 members of the Lay Tertiary Council and among those were the AMQAH and the 17 Members of the Marian Council. Six members represented AMQAH: Sis. Ma. Brenda A. Gadiano, Bro. Nicomedes R. Toquero, Jr., Sis. Ma. Teresa M. Inion, Sis. Thelma G. Salvador, Bro. Vicente E. Salvador, and Sis. Lucia B. Maambong. They were accompanied by SMM Brothers, Ronald B. Baruela and Armel R. Collantes.

Archbishop Palma, in his homily, emphasized the active role of the laity particularly the Marian and the lay tertiary groups in the church. He said, *"Before the Lord, we are all first class"*.

After the Communion, the Oratio Imperata was prayed. Then, the launching took place. Sis. Fe Barino, the Chair of the Council of the Laity officially announced, declared and launched the creation of the Lay Tertiary and Marian Councils. It was then followed by Bro. Reynald Andales, a member of the Accreditation Committee who presented the founding member-organizations of each Council where the members stood up at their respective seats when their organization was called. Then the roll call on the Founding Officers and Spiritual Directors of each Council took place. When the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts was called, Sis. Ma. Brenda Gadiano and Bro. Ronald B. Baruela, SMM, who represented Rev. Fr. Federick B. Yumang, SMM, the National Director of AMQAH, came forward to get the certificate. After all the members of the Marian and Tertiary Councils that were officially accredited received their certificates, Archbishop Palma led the Prayer of Commissioning and then, gave the final blessing.

After the Mass, picture taking per group took place. Everyone went home with joy on their faces, praising the Lord for the gift that the group received after having been officially recognized and accredited in the Lay Tertiary and Marian Councils of the Archdiocese of Cebu.

Glory to Jesus in Mary! Glory to Mary in Jesus! Glory to God Alone!

Bro. Armel Collantes, SMM