

LAITY OF ST. ANNE FAMILY

9th Annual Gathering BEATITUDES, PILGRIMS OF HOPE January 3, 2025 (Day 1) East Rembo, Taguig City

The 9th Annual Family Gathering of Laity of St. Anne Family (LSAF) under the Province of St. Francis Xavier was hosted by the East Rembo Group. Registration of participants from Alabang, Iloilo, Puerto Galera, Rodriguez and Talipanan, timely started at 1:30 p.m. Sisters and members of LSAF from Gerahu Papua New Guinea also joined via online. Thereafter, an opening prayer (doxology) and enthronement of symbols led by Sr. Eugene Pathrose, Sister Cecily Kavungal together with other Sisters of Charity of St. Ann (SCSA) and presidents of different LSAF group officially started this year's LSAF Annual Gathering.



LSAF President Sis. Elsie Mercado thanked with gratitude and warmly welcomed all the participants. She encouraged everyone to attentively listen and reflect to all the speakers and express her hope that this year's gathering be fruitful for everyone.

Sister Leena also sent her warm message: to enjoy and benefited the gathering and assured of her prayers for LSAF and their families.

Sister Eugene Pathrose also happily welcomed all the participants. She congratulated this year's hosts for doing their best in the preparations of this annual event. Sister called and asked the new members of LSAF to introduce themselves. Thereafter, all the SCSA present and LSAF happily welcomed the newest LSAF members in the family.

Father Rogie Monje Quinga, RCJ, was the **day 1 speaker** and his topic was "Pilgrims of Hope". He started his talk about Jubilee Year. That it is traditionally proclaimed by the Universal Church every 25 years. Jubilee year

is to encourage the faithful to embark on pilgrimages, to repent of their sins and forgive the sins of others and, to renew a focus on the spiritual life.

Then Father Rogie inspiringly talk about HOPE. That hope dwells in the hearts of each person as a desire and expectations of good things to come, despite our not knowing what the future may bring. That even uncertainty about the future may at times give rise to conflicting feelings. Ranging from: confident trust to apprehensiveness, from confident trust to apprehensiveness, from serenity to anxiety, from firm conviction to hesitation and doubt.



Father Rogie further said that, if we are hopeless, God's light will not shine on us. Let us be hopeful because God reconcile with us. And let us entrust our hope to God and with God. He ended his talk by a quoted message from Pope Francis, "We must fan the flame of hope that has been given to us, and help everyone to gain new strength and certainty by looking to the future with an open spirit, a trusting heart and far-sighted vision."



The day 1 gathering was concluded by a Eucharistic Celebration presided by Father Rogie.

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9th Annual Gathering BEATITUDES, PILGRIMS OF HOPE January 4, 2025 (Day 2) East Rembo, Taguig City

The day 2 LSAF gathering was started by a 6:00 a.m. Eucharistic Celebration at Mater Dolorosa Parish. Back to the venue, an opening prayer was led by Alabang group.



Sister Eugine Mary Pathrose, was the **first speaker** of the day with a topic: “Beatitudes in the Life of Blessed Maria Rafols.” She initially asked LSAF, why we are blessed? Because, life itself is a blessing. We are alive. Jesus being in our midst is our greatest blessing.



With full of wisdom, Sister Eugine beautifully describe “Beatitudes” by its acronym: B-blessed, E-everlasting, A-attitude, T-trust, I-integrity, T-transformation, U-understanding, D-devotion, E-empathy and S-salvation.

Sister Eugine then shared and intricately discussed the beatitudes of our founder, Blessed Maria Rafols. Her showing of love and sacrifices with those in needs. The applicability to oneself, in our lives of these enumerated beautiful beatitudes of Blessed Maria Rafols.

Sister Eugene also shared the start and growth of our Congregation all over the world.

Sister Eugene ended her talk with something to reflect on:

- ❖ In what way do you consider that you are blessed?
- ❖ Make your journey more valuable by doing small gestures.
- ❖ Write one beatitude once a month and see how you have practiced it.
- ❖ Share your blessings.

Since this was the 9th Annual Family Gathering of LSAF, Sister Eugene called the LSAF who attended all 9 gathering. They were acknowledged and given a small token of appreciation for their complete attendance.

Second speaker was Sis. Moravi Flores from LSAF Miagao Iloilo, with a topic, “My Experience with the LSAF.”

Sis Moravi enthusiastically shared her beginning and experience as a member of LSAF under the care of the Sisters of Charity of St. Anne. She started by sharing that before becoming a part of St. Anne, she was already a member of a religious group, Daughters of Immaculate Mary, so why join St. Anne. She was given a booklet when she first attended and there she was instantly inspired by the life story of our founder

Blessed Maria Rafols.

Her humility, hospitality and heroism strike her heart and was inspired to join LSAF.



She further shared her experienced when she was sent to India. There she saw the sacrifices of the Sisters how they took care of the abandoned babies. The mentally challenged children at Elsie Gaches Village, how they were taken care of, for her showed sincere commitment, that service is real. She thank the congregation for for giving her the chance to help the needy. She expressed her gratefulness that she is part of this beautiful family. That despite her busy schedule and responsibility outside LSAF, she tried hard to be there and continue to be with the Sisters fulfilling the mission. She ended by expressing her gratitude to the whole LSAF and SCSA and by God’s grace she will continue to be part of this beautiful family. She enjoined everyone to continue to help our needy brothers and sisters thru our LSAF and SCSA. Extended her thankfulness for the 26 years with St. Anne Family.

Sister Eugene then asked for a representative of each group to share their life experiences of being a member of Laity of St. Anne Family:

1. East Rembo – Being a member of LSAF, it helped me increase my faith and believed that God will truly provide.
2. Rodriguez – I am blessed with the Holy Spirit. With LSAF we are filling our hearts with love and discernment. We also learned to sacrifice, because our Sisters gave up their families to serve God. We were put here by God because He loves us and he wants to give us something.
3. Puerto Galera – St. Anne unites us to serve. Thanked the SCSA for always there to assist. I know that as an LSAF I believe that I can do everything even my faith was put into tests. I know God loves me because I am with LSAF, I know I have family.
4. Alabang – Back in August 2018, LSAF Alabang was organized. We started with 22 members, then 12 and now just 8. We are all employees. Members who left do not have sincere commitment. Share the present hardship at work and as an LSAF member. But with God's grace, we are hopeful.
5. Talipanan – I am an old and new LSAF member. St. Anne family has been a big help with me and my family members. I am blessed because I am now with LSAF and now together with you.



The 3rd speaker for the day was **Sister Josephine Haloot**, with the topic: "Our Founders." She started her talk by a review on the life of our founders, Blessed Maria Rafols and Venerable Father John Bonal, thru a game participated by LSAF.

Then proceeded with her talk on our founders and the start or the foundation of our congregation. Universal charity especially to the poorest and neediest through the practice of hospitality is the charism of St. Anne family.

She further talk on the inspiring characteristics of our founders. Their experienced of hardships and sacrifices, but they both never gave up and continue with their mission until their death.

Sister Josephine ender her talk by challenging everyone, to choose and live one (1) virtue of our founders every year. Asked for their intercessions to help us leave this virtues today.



Socialization follows. Lots of games, presentation of talents from each group and the continuation of Ms. LSAF. Dinner and sight-seeing follows at SM Aura.

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9th Annual Gathering BEATITUDES, PILGRIMS OF HOPE January 5, 2025 (Day 3) East Rembo, Taguig City

The Sisters of Charity of St. Anne present and the Laity of St. Anne Family gathered to attend the Eucharistic Celebration at the Mater Dalorosa Parish at 6:00 a.m., which started the 3rd and last day of this year's LSAF gathering.

An opening prayer led by Rodriguez group started this day activity back to the venue.

Each LSAF group's activities, accomplishments and plans, likewise strengths and weaknesses of the groups were presented respectively through their representatives.

Evaluation and planning followed and it was announced that the next LSAF Annual Family gathering is on May 1 to 3, 2025, to be hosted by Puerto Galera in Oriental Mindoro.

Words of thanks and presentation of plaque of appreciation to the speakers of the three (3) day family gathering.

Everyone expresses their gratefulness to the Sisters of Charity of St. Anne, to fellow Laity of St. Anne Family, most especially to the host, East Rembo group for the successful and full of blessings gathering.



The 9th LSAF Annual gathering ended at 2:00 p.m., January 5, 2025.