



Recollection of Mary at the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts

QUEZON CITY, Philippines - Eighty warm Marian advocates trooped to the National Center of the Association of Mary Queen of All Hearts (AMQAH) at Scout Madriñan St., South Triangle, Quezon City on Saturday, August 18, 2018, to listen to Sr. Mary Grace Rallos, Benedictine Servant of Mary, Mother of God. The attendees came from Manila, Sta. Teresita Parish in Makati, St. Francis Pasig and Mandaluyong, BF Homes, Lourdes, Projects 7 and 8, St. Benedict, Scout Madriñan and the Montfort Missionaries.

Sr. Mary Grace took time out from the Patmos Hermitage of Atabay, Tubigan, Ferrol, Romblon upon the invitation of Marivic Sayco, a TTJer and recent member of AMQAH. The nun's theme, "I pray before I pray", opened new avenues to communicate with God. She easily put to fore the participants' perspectives before going to the core of her discourse. In turns, she employed metaphor (the train with a mechanic who stops every now and then), humor (stages in man-woman conversation during courtship, before and after marriage) and candor (if you suddenly stop talking to me, I won't get offended) in getting her message across, in ways that made her almost two hours of talk interesting in spite of her soft, sometimes inaudible voice, even with the support of a microphone. The blindfold listen-and-trust dynamic only kept the participants more enthusiastic.

She taught that Mary, our Mother, teaches us the proper disposition before retreats, baptism, confirmation, marriage and prayer. For grace to prosper, she said, there is a need to *Unahin natin lagi ang Diyos* (We put God first). (A comprehensive account of her discussion will come out in Mary's Mission on filcatholic.org.)

At the end of the recollection, she requested Fr. Richard Magararu, SMM, Delegation Superior, to give the final blessing.

*-Abraham dela Torre
AMQAH Member*