



Stop, Look and Listen: A Lenten Recollection for AMQAH/TTJ in Cebu

CEBU, Philippines - On March 12, 2022, the AMQAH and TTJ members successfully had their Lenten Recollection with the theme: Stop, Look and Listen. It was facilitated by Rev. Lester C. BONETE, SMM. This was the first face-to-face gathering of the lay associates in Cebu since the pandemic started on March 2020. However, the deepening sessions were still held online.

The recollection started at 8:30 in the morning at the bigger chapel with an opening prayer led by Rev. Lester. There were almost 50 AMQAH/TTJ members who joined this spiritual exercise. The focus was emphasized in giving time to stop and pause for a while from their hectic schedules and to ask themselves how are they at the present moment. They also shared among themselves their most difficult experiences during the pandemic. Rev. Lester stated further the need to look at the experience of Jesus' passion on the Cross. They were also invited to look at their own experiences in the light of the experiences of Jesus. Finally, the participants were encouraged to have time to listen to the voice of God like Mary did, to ponder it in their hearts and to entrust everything to the Father. The recollection ended at 12:00 noon. A simple lunch was prepared and shared by everyone.

In the afternoon, the group had a meeting with the SMM Cebu Community, headed by Rev. Fr. Paul Arnel L. LUCERO, SMM with Rev. Lester C. BONETE, SMM and Bro. Armel R. COLLANTES, SMM. The AMQAH/TTJers were informed of the various activities of the Continental Mission Year. It was also announced that Fr. Arnold SUHARDI, SMM, one of the Assistant Superior Generals, will have his canonical visit in the Philippines this coming April. After the meeting, everyone went home with a renewed heart and looking forward for the upcoming activities.

Bro. Armel R. COLLANTES, SMM