

NU-PHL-1092  
2023-11-10



### **The 31<sup>st</sup> Montfortian Pilgrimage: A Graceful Journey of Faith and Unity**

**QUEZON CITY, Philippines** - On October 14, 2023, under the sweet gaze of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the inspiration of St. Louis-Marie de Montfort, the 31<sup>st</sup> Montfortian Pilgrimage took place at four churches in the Diocese of Malolos, Bulacan, which are the St. Michael de Archangel Parish (San Miguel, Bulacan), San Agustin Church (Baliuag, Bulacan), San Isidro Labrador Parish (Pulilan, Bulacan), St. James the Apostle Parish (Plaridel, Bulacan, and the National Shrine of La Virgen Divina Pastora (Gapan, Nueva Ecija) from the Diocese of Cabanatuan. The pilgrimage was a resounding success, marked by grace, unity, and profound faith, and it left an everlasting impact on the hearts of all who participated.

Two buses accompanied the pilgrims throughout their travels, offering moments of devotion and prayer at each stop. The pilgrims offered the Little Crown to the Blessed Virgin Mary and recited the rosary, seeking her blessings and protection on their pilgrimage. This tradition added a deeper layer of spirituality to the journey, reminding everyone of the significance of their activity.

One of the highlights of the pilgrimage was the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Rev. Fr. Federick Yumang, SMM, with the Montfortian priests concelebrating, and was held at St. Michael de Archangel Parish in San Miguel, Bulacan. Following the Mass, the pilgrims moved to the church's patio where they enjoyed a sumptuous lunch. After a satisfying lunch and moments of fellowship, the pilgrims had the opportunity to explore the museum within the parish. The museum housed relics and artifacts that narrated the rich history of the church and the enduring faith of generations. The relics are also present in most of the churches.

The five churches not only opened their doors but also their hearts to the pilgrims, offering a glimpse into their history and the role they have played in the lives of the faithful. It was a heartfelt expression of warmth, hospitality, and the shared faith that bound them all together. This pilgrimage allowed the participants to immerse themselves in a profound spiritual experience, cultivating their love for the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Louis-Marie de Montfort. It was a day that echoed with the melodies of hope, as the pilgrims fervently prayed for their intentions and for the well-being of their families, communities, and the world at large.

The memories of this day will serve as a constant reminder that, no matter how challenging life may become, the blessings of God's grace are always within reach. The spirit of the 31<sup>st</sup> Montfortian Pilgrimage shall continue to burn brightly in the hearts of all who took part, inspiring them to live lives brimming with love, hope, and gratitude.

*Sis. Jackielou D. FOSTER, AMM*