



Institute of Spirituality in Asia

BULLETIN 2024

(An Annual Report on ISA Programs and Activities)

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January 15, 2025

To our dear ISA Partners,

Health in the Lord!

The Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) greets and wishes you a prosperous, peaceful, hopeful and blessed 2025!

We are forever grateful and thankful for the fruitful 25 years (1999-2024) of grace and committed service to the Church and the world. We remain devoted in pursuing the vision and mission of ISA as a research and academic institute for the scholarly study of Spirituality, and as publisher of Spirituality studies and journals.

We thank you for your unwavering support as our partner and for your participation in all our ISA initiated and coordinated activities in 2024. We want to share with you our 2024 Bulletin for your continuing update and information.

We are looking forward for a brighter 2025 with hope and enthusiasm. We are confident that we are in the right path in our pursuit for a meaningful and relevant Spirituality responsive to the needs of our times.

Happy Jubilee Year and Blessings of the Holy Spirit!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christian B. Buenafe".

Rev. Fr. Christian B. Buenafe, O. Carm., Ph.D.
Executive Director

JANUARY – MARCH 2024

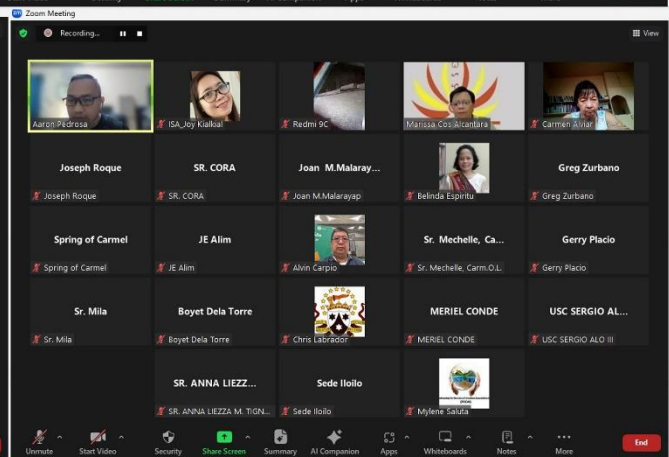
PUBLIC LECTURE 1

The first public lecture (webinar) for 2024 was on March 9, 2024 with Atty. Jose Aaron Pedrosa as the resource speaker. Atty. Pedrosa is the Secretary General of SANLAKAS. The topic was on “Spirituality and Peace-Building: Understanding the Palestine-Israel Conflict”. Sixty six (66) participants attended in this webinar with some attended in groups.

The Quest for Peace in the Middle East Understanding the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

Atty. Aaron Pedrosa
Secretary-General, Sanlakas

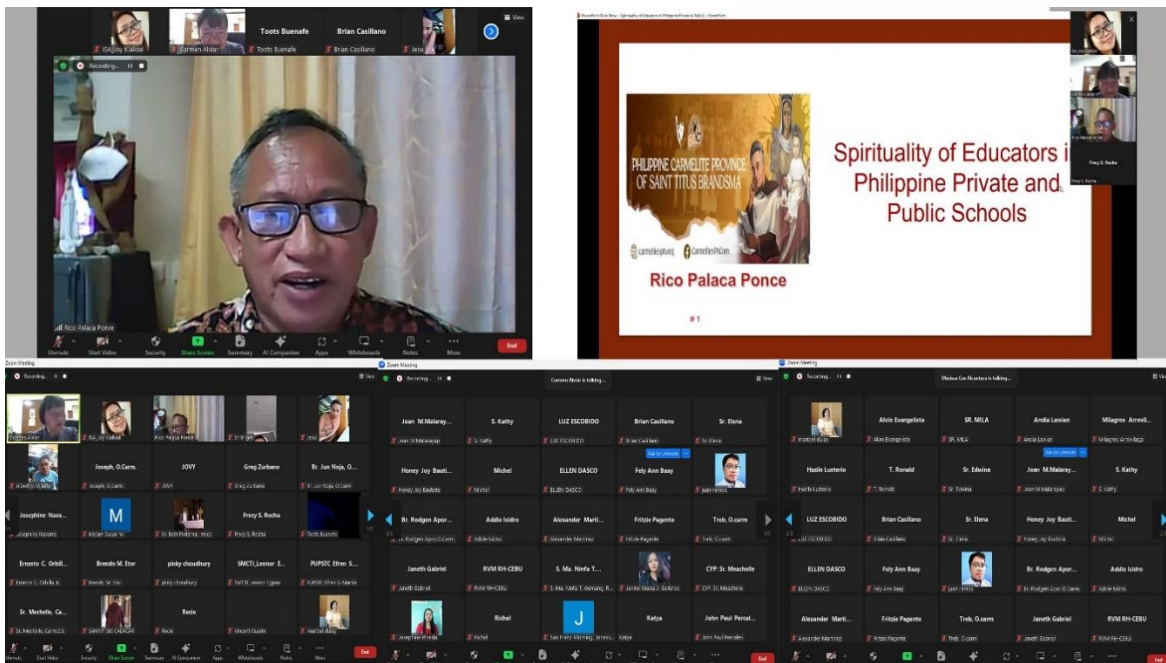
9 March 2024



APRIL - JUNE 2024

PUBLIC LECTURE 2

On June 15, 2024, ISA held the second public lecture (webinar) on **“Spirituality of Private and Public Educators in the Philippines”** with Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm., Ph.D. as the resource speaker. Fr. Ponce is one of the authors of the newly published book: **“Spirituality of Private and Public Educators in the Philippines”** of ISA. Ninety nine (99) participants attended in this webinar via zoom.



23RD SPIRITUALITY FORUM

The **23rd Spirituality Forum** was successfully held face-to-face from July 31 to August 2, 2024 at Titus Brandsma Center, New Manila, Quezon City. Eighty two (82) participants attended the forum coming from different communities and ministries of O.Carm., different schools, organizations and congregations.

There were a total of six (6) resource speakers and six (6) conversationalists in this 3-day spirituality forum with the theme: “Spirituality and Dialogue: Celebrating 25 Years of ISA”. The topics, speakers and conversationalists were the following:

DAY 1: July 31, 2023 (Wednesday)

Morning Session

Topic: “Spirituality and Dialogue of Life”

Speaker: Fr. Joseph Diep Dinh, O.Carm., S.Th.D. (Vietnam)

Conversationalist: Sr. Ma. Anicia B. Co, RVM, Ph.D. (IAAB Member)

Afternoon Session

Topic: “Synodal Dialogue as Listening: A Way to Peace”

Speaker: Fr. Lino Gregorio Redoblado, OFM, Ph.D. (Philippines)

Conversationalist: Ms. Marites Africa, Ph.D.

Day 2: August 1, 2023 (Thursday)

Morning Session

Topic: “Synodal Action Towards a Culture of Peace and Non-violence”

Speaker: Ms. Loreta Castro, Ed.D.

Conversationalist: Ms. Carmen Alviar, Ph.D.

Afternoon Session

Topic: “Spirituality and Interreligious Dialogue”

Speaker: Ms. Crescencia Gabijan, Ph.D.

Conversationalist: Prof. Alfredo Co, Ph.D. (IAAB)

Day 3: August 2, 2023 (Friday)

Morning Session

Topic: “Synodal Action for Peace with Courage and Hope”

Speaker: Prof. Pablito Baybado, Jr., Ph.D.

Conversationalist: Fr. Dave Dean Capucao, Ph.D.,S.Th.D

Afternoon Session

Topic: “Spirituality and Dialogue for Harmony”

Speaker: Fr. J.B. Heru Prakosa, SJ, Ph.D. (Indonesia)
Conversationalist: Fr. Rico Ponce, O.Carm., Ph.D., S.Th.D.



BOOK LAUNCHING

During the 23rd Spirituality Forum, ISA launches six (6) of its newly published books. These are the following:

- “Carmelite Blessed and Saints” by Fr. Sirenio T. Jaranilla, O.Carm., M.A..
- Lecture Series 22: “Truth and the Spirituality of St. Titus Brandsma”
- “Ako si Titus” by the Carmelite Center for Socio-Pastoral Concerns
- “Spirituality in my Heart” by Sr. Flor Pauline Duran, Carm. O.L., Ph.D.
- “Spirituality of Private and Public Educators in the Philippines” by ISA Research Team

- “Spirituality and Secularization among Filipino Youth” by Fr. Dave Dean Capucao, Ph.D., S.Th.D. and Fr. Rico Palaca Ponce, O.Carm., Ph.D., S.Th.D.



STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND RECREATION

The ISA Executive Committee and staff held their annual staff development and outing in Happy Ripples Beach Resort, San Fabian, Pangasinan from August 19 to 20, 2024. Part of the itinerary was the Visita Iglesia to different churches in Pangasinan and Nueva Ecija. The ISA team got the chance to visit the parishes of Fr. Mannie Barlis, O.Carm. in Gapan and Fr. Edgar Cayanan, O.Carm. in Jaen, Nueva Ecija and the Carmelite Nuns in San Fabian, Pangasinan.



ISA PUBLICATIONS DISPLAY

- On September 10-11, 2024, during the 2024 organized by the Conference of Major Superiors in the Philippines (CMSP) national convention,
- The ISA publications were also displayed during the CESSTREL-Asia's 2024 International Conference on "Youth & Spirituality TODAY" on October 12, 2024 at the St. Vincent School of Theology, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.



THE 18TH CARDINAL SIN CATHOLIC BOOK AWARDS

On September 12, 2024, the ISA book entry for 18th Cardinal Sin Catholic Book Awards, “Jesus for Filipinos: Reflections on Philippine Social Issues in the Light of the Gospel” by Fr. Ramon Echica, Ph.D. won under the Spirituality Category. It is also one of the finalists on the Theology Category. Fr. Joseph Roque, O.Carm. and Fr. Echica received the award.



Institute of Spirituality in Asia



SEASON OF CREATION 2024

In celebration of the Season of Creation 2024, the Institute of Spirituality in Asia (ISA) in collaboration with Fellowship for the Care for Creation (FCCA) and Conference of Major Superiors in the Philippines (CMSP) organized a whole day encounter with Mother Earth, our common home. This was on September 25, 2024 at the FCCA/IFMCP Laudato Si Farm, Sitio Paenaan, Brgy. Pinugay, Baras, Rizal. The theme for this year’s celebration is “An Encounter to Hope and Act with Creation”. There were four resource persons in this event. Ms. Mylene Saluta of FCCA and Fr.

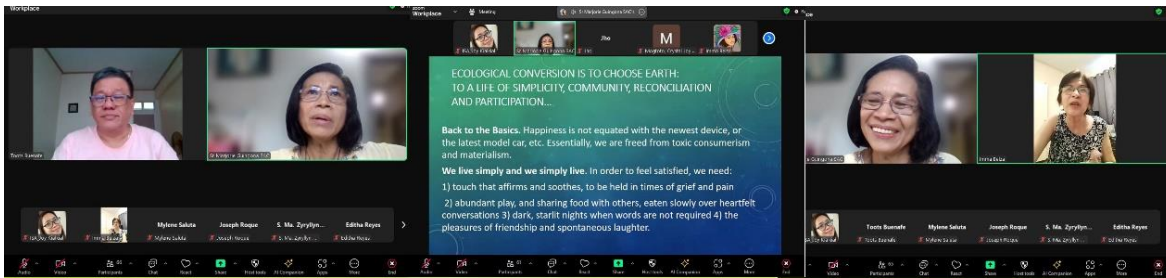
Christian Buenafe, O.Carm. of ISA were the speakers in the morning and Ms. Trisha Zaldarriaga and Ms. Krishna Ariolain from Center for Energy, Ecology and Development (CEED) in the afternoon. The activity was joined with the sisters from different congregations, from the Immaculate Heart of Mary College of Parañaque, St. Joseph’s College of Quezon City, residents from Paenaan and the Staff of ISA, FCCAI and CMSP. Indeed, it was a successful celebration with Mother Earth, our Common Home.



PUBLIC LECTURE 3

ISA held the third public lecture (webinar) on the topic **“Spirituality and Care for Creation”** with Sr. Marjorie Guingona, SAC, M.A. from the Diocese of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur as the resource speaker on September 28, 2024 in the afternoon. This activity is in partnership with the Fellowship for the Care of Creation Association Inc. (FCCAI). There were approximately 344

participants attended in this webinar via zoom with some attended in groups, mostly from schools.



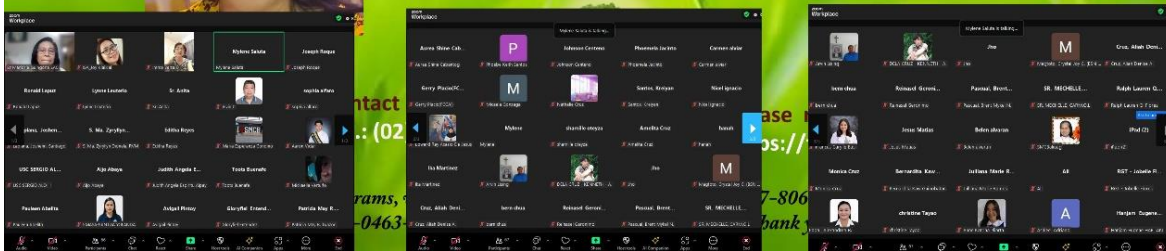
"Spirituality and Care for Creation"

(September 28, 2024 (Saturday; 2:00 - 5:00 P.M.) via Zoom)

Resource Speaker:



SR. MARJORIE J. GUINGONA, SAC
Pastoral Ministry, Diocese of Pagadian, Zamboanga del Sur



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2024

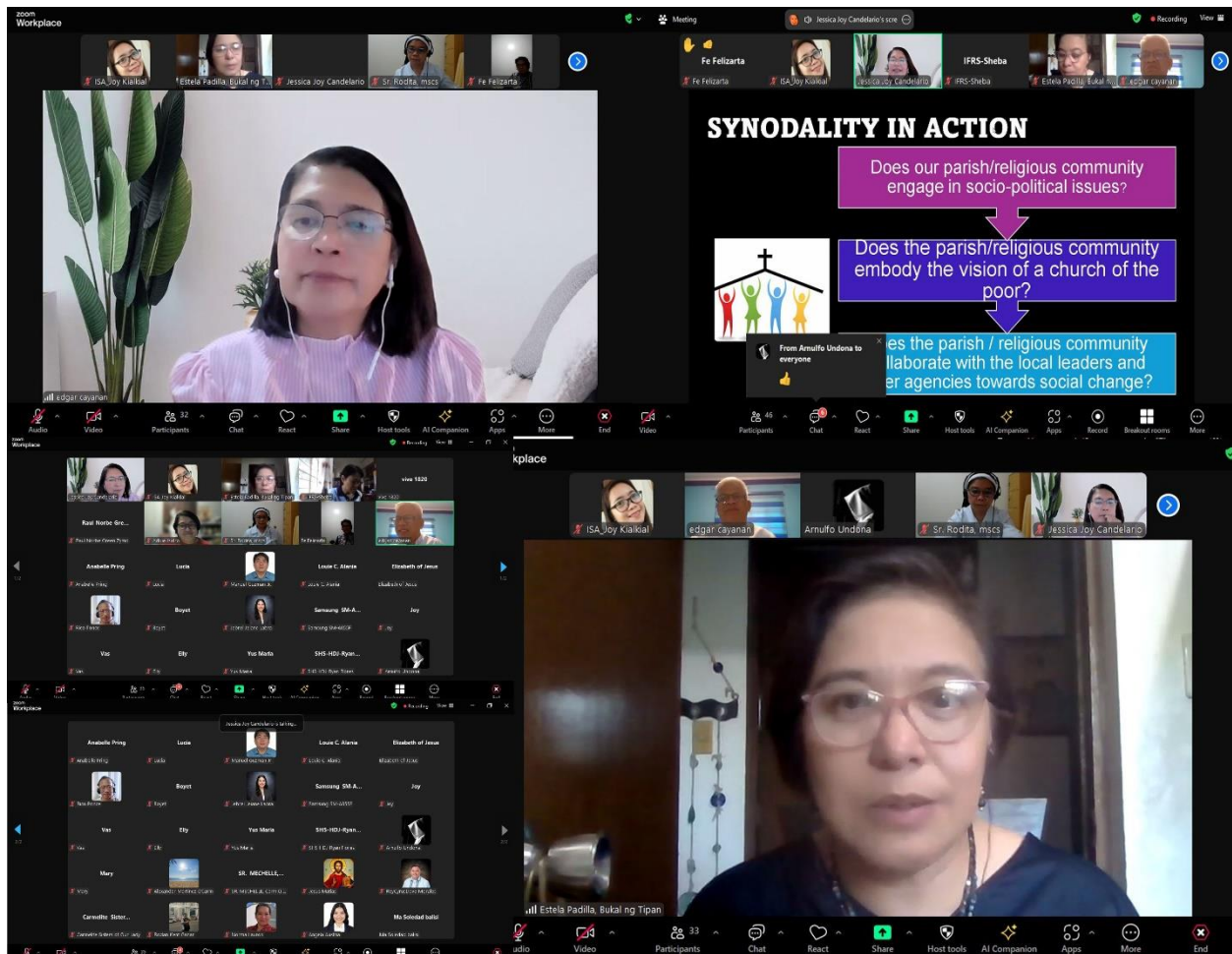
GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

ISA participated the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice with advocates and church delegations in prayers and mobilization calling for the government to speed up the declaration of Climate Emergency on November 15, 2024. Cubao Bishop-Elect Elias Ayuban, Jr. CMF presided the Holy Mass and Fr. Juan Percy Bacani, MJ gave a very inspiring and challenging homily. The delegates marched from Claret Church in Diliman, Quezon City to PhilCoa where program was held. Representatives from different organizations gave a short speech. This event was organized by CMSP- Conference of Major Superiors in the Philippines, TFDP, Caritas Philippines, PMPI, FCCAI and ISA.



PUBLIC LECTURE 4

The Sr. Julie Postel Memorial Lecture for 2024 was held on November 23, 2024 via zoom with the topic “Spirituality and Synodality. The resource speakers were Dr. Jessica Joy Candelario and Dr. Estela Padilla. Dr. Padilla shared her personal experience during the Synod in Rome. There were 118 participants in this webinar, mostly educators. Dr. Candelario is the Pastoral Coordinator of Bukal ng Tipan, inc. while Dr. Padilla is the Executive Secretary of the Office for Theological Concerns of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences.



ISA commits to Stop Human Trafficking

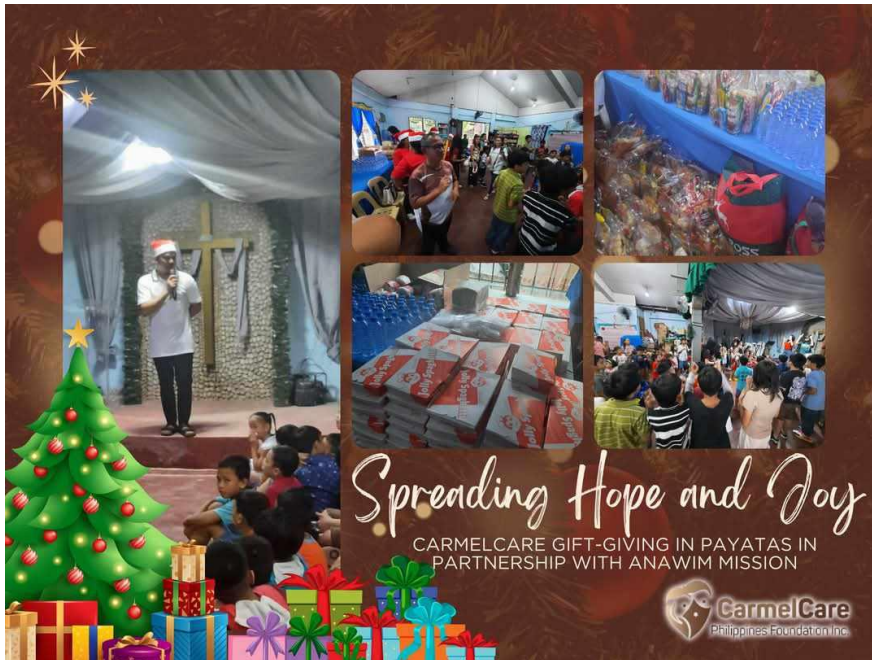
The Institute of Spirituality in Asia in partnership with the CBCP- Episcopal Commission on Interreligious Dialogue, participated in a two-day conference on “Freedom Forum: a Multi-Sectoral Conference Against Human Trafficking in Southeast Asia”. Ms. Carmen Alviar, Ph.D., the ISA External Linkages coordinator was one of the resource speakers on the topic “Role and Responses of Faith Communities”. It was held at Manila Prince Hotel last November 28-29, 2024.



CHRISTMAS IN PAYATAS

ANAWIM MISION sa mga MAHIHIRAP, an ecumenical group organized with the Institute of Spirituality in Asia held its Christmas fellowship and gift giving at the Komunidad Kay Kristo sa

Payatas on December 14, 2024. The event was in coordination with Fr. Christopher Labrador, O.Carm. of Carmel Care Foundation and Ptr. Jack Alvarez of Kumunidad Kay Kristo. The gift-giving and food shared in this event was sponsored by a lay group called Handmaids of the Lord.



ISA YEAR-END EVALUATION AND CHRISTMAS FELLOWSHIP 2024

ISA Executive Committee and staff had its year-end evaluation of the institute's programs and activities and Christmas Fellowship last December 12, 2024 at Fr. Tjeu Timmermans Conference Room. Year-end evaluation was held in the morning followed by lunch and Christmas fellowship in the afternoon.

The evaluation was done per program and its activities. Exchanging of gifts follows after lunch.

