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FINDING GOD IN OUR JOURNEY

SACRED SPACE ON THE HILL

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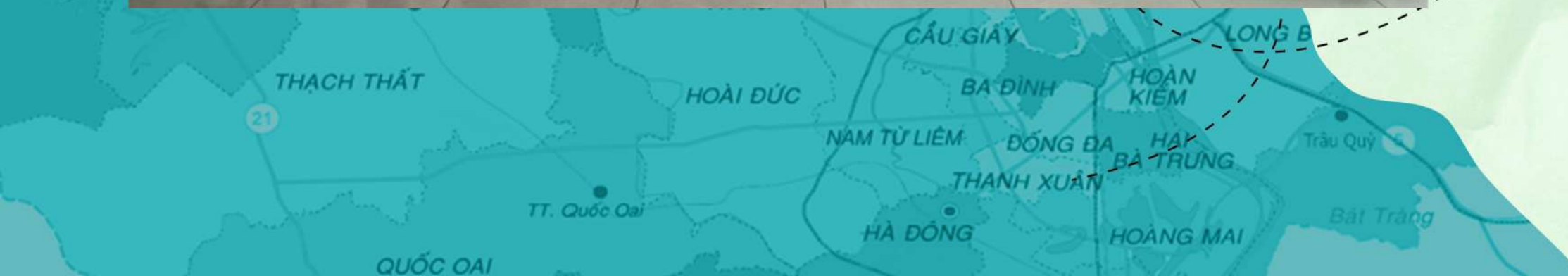
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Finding God in our Journey

Editorial

When our Foundress announced in November of 2008 that she found the right place to build Regina RICA, the first reactions were about its distance from Manila.

“It is too far. We have to travel for hours to get there...” That was the common feedback. But Sr. Eppie was adamant, “The whole point of a pilgrimage is the sacrifice that goes with the journey.”

Now, millions have made that journey up the Sierra Madre to visit Our Lady Regina Rosarii. Yes, God is encountered by pilgrims who go up the hill and enter SULOD, the Sanctuary of Universal Love and Devotion, where Jesus on the Cross and in the Blessed Sacrament is waiting. He is also present in the Holy Mass. But, God is with each pilgrim in the road trip as well.

This is what we celebrate in this August issue of the Sacred Space Magazine – the God of Our Journeys.

Our Sisters went to Davao to journey with our ROCA members there for their anniversary celebration. Our RICA community traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam this month and experienced being treated as guests rather than as hosts which is their regular mode.

This month, we are also reminded that we are pilgrims here on Earth and our destination is Heaven. And the Feast of the Assumption of Mary celebrates that truth – that we are destined to eternal life here and now.

God is with us in all the journeys we undertake. Sr. Eppie always reminds us, “We are invisibly companioned.”



Unknown to many, the footpaths inside Our Lady's Garden represent the ups and downs that pilgrims have to travel in order to visit RICA.



Message from the Foundress

To journey together: the call of Synodality

Today we are called to journey together.

Our call for Synodality has given us a greater appreciation for travel and for journeying together.

Very recently, we went to Vietnam with our senior employees and supervisors. What excitement was felt by them in the anticipation and experience of journeying together.

if we can only experience that excitement of journeying together, being one with, then our life would be happier.

What does it mean to travel? What does it mean to journey?

We all discover something new, I always tell people with whom I journey together in pilgrimages, in Rosary Procession, or even in contemplative walking to pay attention.

Paying attention is a beautiful way to see, to hear, to taste, to smell, to feel...

Continued on the next page



Without attentive listening or attentive experiencing in life, we will never be able to fully appreciate life consciously. Many of us are walking through life- asleep. We are invited to be awake, alert, alive: to see, to know. And synodality is one experience of being in the embrace of the tent - the tent that brings us closer to each other, the tent that shelters us under one God.

In the song that we have composed and sang here at Regina RICA, we say, "Today, we journey together. We are called to be kind to each other." Why are we called to be kind to each other? Imagine our life - many of us want to be right. We always want to be right. But between being kind and being right, I think we need to opt for being kind. And this life's journey would be a happier one.

In Vietnam, 300,000 thousand Catholics died for the faith. But only 117,000 were canonized. Imagine the torture, the misery, the pain suffered by all these 300,000 people. Yet, all of them walked this life on earth. Every step they made is a step of love for Mother Earth, for Mother Church, and for their Motherland.

Today, as we journey together, let us remember to be kind to each other . And our journey will bring us closer to the experience of the Divine. And when we have experienced the divinity within us, we will see in every person the image of Jesus, we will see God in creation. We will see God in everything.

May you discover in this journey a love beyond words - a love for Mother Earth, a love for what you are doing when you do things consciously, and a greater love for life. Amen.

RICA goes to Vietnam

August 28, 2023. The most awaited day for our supervisors and senior staff finally arrived as they departed for Vietnam in the city of Hanoi.

The immersive learning tour was sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Regina Rosarii with Sr Eppie Brasil, OP as prayer companion and guide.

Also with them were twelve ROCA and DIVA members. They would stay in Vietnam until September 1, 2023



Postcards from Vietnam



“It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience...”

-Mary Ann Lacambra”

Postcards from Vietnam



“Among all my travels and pilgrimages,
this trip to Vietnam was the best...”

-Tita Lita Austria



Intensive Contemplative Retreat held in Davao

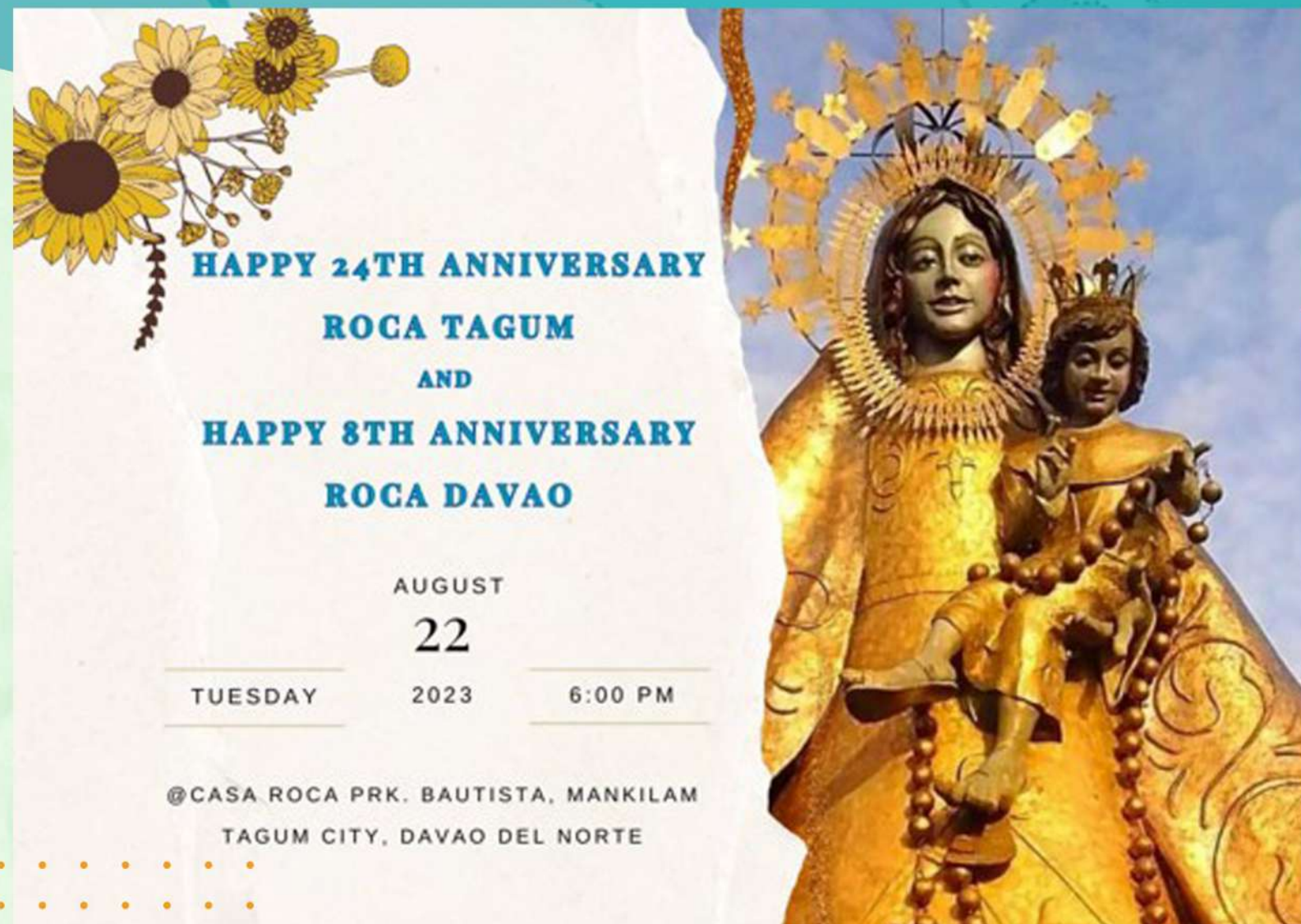
ROCA Tagum and ROCA Davao members had a different kind of journey last August 19-21 – a deep encounter with the Divine Presence.

They had their Intensive Contemplative Experience (ICE) with ROCA Foundress and Superior General Sr Eppie Brasil, OP. ICE is a unique opportunity offered to lay contemplatives to grow deeper in their experience of contemplative living.

This was also in preparation for the anniversary of ROCA Tagum and ROCA Davao.



Roca Tagum And Roca Davao Held Back-to-back Anniversary Celebrations



It was short, simple, and sweet. That is how the ROCA members described their anniversary celebrations this year in Davao and in Tagum.

CHAMP QUARTER 3 FORMATION HELD



August 26, 2023

The Regina Rosarii Collaborative Harmonious Association of Mission Partners (Regina CHAMP), the largest association of lay contemplatives in the country, had their Quarter 3 Formation Session.

The theme of Silence as a Love Language: Following the Example of Mary was beautifully expounded by our Foundress and Superior General, Mo. Eppie Brasil, OP, who herself has developed a deep and loving connection with Our Lady.

Lay contemplatives from around the country represented the nineteen organizations under CHAMP.

Short Catechesis: ASSUMPTION OF MARY

This new feature allows Regina RICA to share some catechetical teachings that will help our pilgrims grow in their faith.

It is a dogma to be held definitively that the Blessed Virgin Mary was assumed, body and soul, into heaven at the end of her earthly life.

The Assumption plays a significant role in the life of the Church: millions of Catholics reflect on this event every day in their praying of the Rosary, and most poignantly, the liturgical feast commemorating the Assumption is a special day for Catholics.

FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary

In giving birth you kept your virginity; in your Dormition you did not leave the world, O Mother of God, but were joined to the source of Life. You conceived the living God and, by your prayers, will deliver our souls from death.

CCC no. 966





News from Tagum Community

August 30, 2023. Our Regina Rosarii Community in Tagum - Sisters and Lay Contemplatives- were honored to participate in this year's Marian Festival.

Our Lady Regina Rosarii was beautifully adorned as she joined the procession.

Local Superior Sr. Menchi Advincula, OP shared, "Sister Eppie accompanied us as we listened to her recorded voice praying the Rosary."

The image stays at the Marian Festival venue inside Robinsons Tagum where Masses are held daily in preparation for the Solemnity of the Nativity of Our Lady.

RICA Retreat Welcomes Malaysian Pilgrims

"We have our plans but God's schedule must be followed."
This is one of the favorite reminders of Sr. Eppie Brasil, OP.

On August 24, this became very useful. We were scheduled to have a slow day for general cleaning, but suddenly 21 pilgrims from Malaysia arrived with no prior booking to spend an overnight at RICA Retreat.

Of course, we welcomed them with the brand of hospitality we are known for. They just arrived from Malaysia and went to Monasterio de Tarlac. The following day, they would proceed to other local pilgrim destination. Ms Suzy Bernard, their Malaysian tour coordinator, was very thankful that they were accepted despite being a walk-in group.

Travelers are always welcome at RICA Retreat. For inquiries call DINA at Viber 0919-0040393 or 8253-7275

