## **Mercy Associates In The Philippines**

By Corazon S. Olpoc, Mercy Associate.



Mercy Associates in the Philippines comprises four clusters: Iligan City, Pagadian City, Ozamiz City, and Alicia, Zamboanga Sibugay. From the four clusters, there are 61 members: 52 full pledged members and nine aspirants. As associates, they are doing the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy as partners with the Sisters of Mercy. They support the needs of the sisters through their time, talents, and treasures.

These are some of their expressions of being an associate: visiting prisoners and giving them some food and hygiene kits and praying with them; feeding the urban poor and indigenous parents and children; giving them values and faith formation; visiting the sick in their homes, institutions and the homes of the aged, and giving them food and material needs; empowering women and children through skills and development for livelihood; raising awareness and involvement in ecology ministries for the care of the Earth, our common home; engaging with spiritual dimensions in activities like birthdays, anniversaries, recollection and retreat, recreation and prayer for protection from different calamities, and funeral prayer services; involvement of some of the members in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, working to protect their human rights.

Thus, the Mercy Associates are energetic in continuing the ministries as partners with the Sisters of Mercy – Philippines.

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