



Republic of the Philippines  
**Department of Education**  
REGION III  
SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE OF BATAAN

**DIVISION ADVISORY**  
**No. 159, s. 2023**

SEP 13 2023

To: Public Schools District Supervisors  
Elementary School Principals  
Public Secondary School Principals  
All Others Concerned

This Office informs all concerned that the Diocesan Catechetical Ministry, Diocese of Balanga will be holding catechism classes in public elementary and secondary schools starting this October 2023.

The field is reminded of the provisions of DepEd Order No. 49, s. 2009 titled "Reiterating the Revised Rules and Regulations on the Teaching of Religion in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools".

**No. 1 - (d) of the said Order states:**

*"The religious teachers/instructors who teach religion classes in the public elementary and high schools shall be formally sourced or recruited by the respective principal or school head in accordance with the corresponding request for optional religious instruction. After their designation or nomination by their respective religious authorities, said teachers shall submit to the school head their proper authorization papers and request for time allocation and schedule for the optional religious instruction."*

**No. 1 – (e) further states at the last part:**

*"No student/pupil shall be allowed or permitted to attend religious instruction classes without written application and duly accomplished request of his/her parent/guardian."*

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**No. 1 – (j) of this Order also clarifies that:**

*Optional religious instruction and Values Education are separate, different, and distinct subjects. As such they shall be allotted separate class hours...*

For more information, attached is the letter from Rev. Fr. Ernesto B. De Leon, Director, Diocesan Catechetical Ministry, Diocese of Balanga.

**CAROLINA S. VIOLETA, EdD, CESO VI**  
Schools Division Superintendent *gvt?*

*In compliance with DepEd Order No. 8 s. 2013, this Division Advisory is issued not for endorsement, per D.O. 28 s. 2001 only for the information of DepEd Officials, personnel as well as the concerned public.*

CI10/ci28  
September 11, 2023



**DIOCESAN CATECHETICAL MINISTRY**  
**DIOCESE OF BALANGA**  
ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL G/F, BALANGA CITY, BATAAN

07 September 2023

**DR. CAROLINA S. VIOLETA, Ed. D.**  
**School Division Superintendent**  
**Office of the Schools Division Superintendent**  
Division of Bataan  
DepEd-Bataan Division Office,  
Provincial Capitol Compound, Balanga City

**Dear Dr. Violeta Madam:**

Grace and peace!

This present letter requests the assistance of your good office apropos the schedule of holding catechism classes in our public elementary and secondary schools this Academic year 2023-2024. Our catechists here in Bataan will start going to our elementary schools by the month of October. Likewise, the Franciscan Immaculataine Sisters (FIS), Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (DHS) and the priests and seminarians of the Marian Missionaries of the Holy Cross (MMHC) will be visiting our secondary schools for the Diocesan Youth Ministry in Campus.

Your kind commendation and endorsement will surely help the catechetical ministry of the Diocese of Balanga realized DepEd Order - Declaration of Policy: **"It is the declared policy of the state in conformity with the mandate of the constitution, to encourage and promote the teaching of religion to children in public elementary and high school within regular class hour."** (cf: 1986 Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines Article XIV, section 3, paragraph 3.)

Thank you once again for your support. We will surely remember you in our works of mission and prayers.

Sincerely yours,

**REV. FR. ERNESTO B. DE LEON**  
**Director, Diocesan Catechetical Director**