

## National Asian & Pacific Island Young Adult (API YA) Advisory Team

### Eleanore Dias



Greetings! My name is Eleanore Dias and I am an immigrant from Goa, India. My Catholic roots developed as a student at the Carmelite convent in the Middle East. I graduated from Marquette University with a B.S. in Biomedical Engineering and completed my M.S.E. in Systems Engineering at The Johns Hopkins University. I am currently working as a Human Factors Quality Engineer at IBM.

Faith has played a pivotal role in my life. I have served in the ministry of Religious Education as a catechist at the Church of Gesu in Milwaukee, Wisconsin since 2011. I also work closely with the Intercultural Ministry at the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and had the privilege of emceeing at Asian

Pacific Unity Day for the past 2 years. This event is a large festive gathering where Asian and Pacific Island (API) communities celebrate the Marian procession and Mass incorporating different languages! God has blessed me with the opportunity to be a member on the National API Young Adult Advisory Team. I am excited to be called to action and truly believe we can make a meaningful impact as we evangelize and disseminate the message of the USCCB statement *Encountering Christ in Harmony: A Pastoral Response to Our Asian and Pacific Island Brothers and Sisters*.

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### Cecilia Marie Flores



¡Paz y Bien! My name is Cecilia Marie Flores and I am part of the Young Adults Advisory Team to the Subcommittee on Asian & Pacific Island Affairs. I am a proud first generation Filipina-American, raised by immigrant parents, my mother from Cebu and my father from Mindanao. I grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area of California. After graduating from college in 2008, I moved to Honduras to serve as a lay missionary, where I spent six years serving the poorest of the poor.

While in Honduras I obtained my Master of Arts in Global Development and Social Justice from St. John's University NY, Rome campus. I

returned to the US in 2015 and have served in the Diocese of Sacramento since then, first in the areas of Youth & Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry, and now as Programs Director for Catholic Charities. I now live in Sacramento with my husband, Allan, and my two children Kiara and Jacob. It is a blessing to be part of this advisory team, and I am excited to share my insights on being an API young adult Catholic in the US, both as a participant and as a lay ecclesial minister, with our team, with church leadership, and with the Church!

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### Young Hoang



Young Hoang, PhD, is the president of the National Executive Committee for the Vietnamese Eucharistic Youth Movement (VEYM). The VEYM is a branch of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, a Pontifical work under the Holy See. With over 140 chapters across the US and 25000+ youth and young adult members, the VEYM is one of the largest and most active youth ministries in the country. Since his

participation with the API Young Adults Advisory Team, Young has been active in promoting the Encountering Christ in Harmony (ECH) concepts within the VEYM and at USCCB's API gatherings, including two separate panel discussions at the recent Mid-Atlantic Congress and ECH Gathering.

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### **Davin Reyes**



#### **Håfa Adai from the Archdiocese of Seattle!**

My name is Davin Reyes. I have been a Catholic educator for 19 years, 17 years as a classroom teacher before becoming Principal of St. Nicholas Catholic School in 2018. All of my years in education have been in the Catholic schools, primarily in secondary education. I first taught at Notre Dame High School in Guam, a co-educational high school owned and operated by the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Interestingly, after returning to Washington from Guam, I taught Spanish at St. Nicholas Catholic School for one year! I transitioned to teaching Spanish and Theology at O'Dea High School, where I taught for ten years. For the past two years, I have been the Principal at St. Nicholas Catholic School. This truly has been my vocation, sharing the faith with the next generation of Catholics!

My Chamorro culture is very important to me. There is quite a large population of Chamorros in my immediate area and we gather together to celebrate many of the same traditions that we do back home, most especially our fiestas in honor of our village patron saints. Our Catholic faith is intertwined so intimately with our Chamorro culture.

This year, I was asked to be a part of the API/YA advisory group. This has been such a great honor to me and to lift up the voices of all of Asian and Pacific Islander brothers and sisters in our Church!