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WALK AND DANCE FOR MARY

- A Celebration of Faith, Love and Thanksgiving

*By Sis. Ruby Macario,
International Vice-Regent - Luzon*

Cool breeze and misty dawn welcomed over 1,000 officers and members of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and Squirettes of Mary Immaculate from Regions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and XII at the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park in Manila. It is a historic venue where seven presidents of the Republic of the Philippines took their respective oaths. The grandstand faces the Rizal Monument where our national hero is buried – a landmark of martyrdom where he offered his life for our freedom and independence.

It is here where the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International chose to hold its last of a series of its 40th anniversary countdown because what it was celebrating was an equally historic occasion for the organization: the DMII is turning 40 years old. And,

as the saying goes, life begins at 40. Like Rizal the hero before them, they came to Luneta to dedicate this day and more years to come in thanksgiving to the Lord and their Mother Mary, offer their lives in loving service, and transform themselves to be modern-day heroines.

That they were doing their Walk and Dance at the break of dawn was equally significant. To combat the forces of darkness and sin, the early morning offered a perfect time to worship God and glorify His Holy Name.

The Walk started at 6:00 a.m. from the Quirino Grandstand toward the sidewalk facing Manila Hotel, across Rizal Park, then to Kalaw Extension. A buddy

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Baguio Awaits Convention Delegates

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A Lenten Reflection

LENT, ASHES AND TEARS

By Sis. Ma Theresa G. Curia, International Secretary

Lent is here again. Either we love it or are indifferent to it. Not that I love it, but today I like to enter into its spirit and what the Church offers us to do during the 40-day preparation for Easter. I hope that every year we can internalize one of the many facets and layers of meanings of this beautiful season. The same is true for all the other liturgical seasons and feasts.

To prepare for this piece, I read a few articles written by Fr, Ron Rohlheiser, an OMI priest theologian, about Lent. Please check his website for very inspiring short reflections on various spiritual topics. Now you know that he is one of my sources of ideas. Usually I pick out a few of his thoughts and reflect on them, or go off on my own musings.

Some of the points I got from his Lenten articles are the following: *Not my will but yours be done, Ashes, Tears.*

Lent is ushered in by our tradition of having our foreheads signed with ashes. "Remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return." is actually very powerful to have anybody who believes to pause and realize that everything has a limit. Life,



natural resources, wealth, fame, power, human abilities, dreams, health – all these have a shelf life, an expiration date. Hence, one day all these will turn into ashes with us.

While there is time, while we are alive in our present situation and before we turn into ashes, Lent reminds us that we must know our priorities.

One of our main goals as disciples of Jesus is to
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From the International Regent



DMII . . . 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

My dear DMI Sisters,

As we near the homestretch of our year-long 40th Anniversary celebration, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you for your support in all the activities we have undertaken to celebrate this very significant milestone of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International.

While the center of our activities – the anniversary celebration kick-off in Antipolo City, the birthplace of the DMII, on May 13, 2017, the 40th Anniversary Mass at the Manila Cathedral on August 12, 2017 and the Walk and Dance for Mary on February 10, 2018 at the Quirino Grandstand at Rizal Park – had been in Metro Manila (Region V), many sisters from the other regions came to join us in these activities. Similar activities were also held simultaneously by our DMI sisters in our 14 regions all over the country.

It is with great excitement that we look forward to May 18, 2018 when the DMII officially turns 40 during our 21st Biennial Convention in Baguio City.

As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us pause for a while and with all humility thank the Lord for the many blessings He has bestowed on our organization. With our Mother Mary as our inspiration and guide, may the DMII continue to grow in abundance and grace to be able to serve our parishes and communities even more.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, DEAR SISTERS!

Yours in Christ through Mother Mary,


ROSALINDA C. PIMENTEL

International Regent

40th
Anniversary

Walk and Dance... from page 1

system was followed, each got a buddy that stayed close to her, walked side by side, hand in hand taking care they did not overshoot the sidewalk. Acting as marshals were sisters from the Diocese of Cubao. A Red Cross crew and ambulance were on standby for any eventuality, courtesy of Region VI and Philippine Red Cross Chairman Richard Gordon. Sisters from the Diocese of Pasig led the Rosary from the grandstand during the walk.

At 7:00 a.m. after the Walk, dance master Buddy Giray, courtesy of the Diocese of Paranaque, led the Dance for Mary by the DMIs. The delegation from the Diocese of Malolos closed the dance session with an interpretative rendition of the DMI March.

International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz celebrated the Mass at 8:00 a.m. He recalled that the day was also the feast day of St. Scholastica who we remember for her saintly works and a source of inspiration for the DMIs. The lay ministers were from the Archdiocese of Manila and the lectors and commentator, from the Diocese of Pasig. Music was provided by a DMI-KC choir from the Diocese of Paranaque.

During the Prayer of the Faithful, the DMIs prayed:

- that the efforts of DMIs who came before them during the past 40 years would not be in vain and always serve as inspiration to them;
- that DMIs, from then till today, assume responsible roles and advocacies in parishes and communities all over the country and the world;
- that change in personalities and landscape over time would not affect DMIs' resolve to remain true to their mission to serve God and country under the guidance of its Patroness, Mary Immaculate;
- That the DMII members and officers would continue to be committed to provide social service that would reach out to the marginalized sectors of society, ready to serve them always and everywhere;
- that they may have the firm resolve to be living gospels in the community – taking care to keep the family solid, the life and environment protected, the youth guided, women workers empowered, and prisoners' families and their victims cared for;
- that their belief remain strong that, in serving others, they serve God and show Him how He truly means to them; and
- that together, side by side, they will walk hand in hand and strive to make their dreams of peace, love, joy and fullness of life for every one, especially the less fortunate, become a reality.



Circle delegations from the different dioceses during the Walk and Dance for Mary.



Over a thousand DMI sisters and Squirettes of Mary assemble in front of the Quirino Grandstand.



Dance master Buddy Giray gets ready for the zumba dance session.



DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz celebrates Mass.



IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel thanks the participants at the end of the activity.



Members of the International Board flank Mama Mary's altar.



Fr. Jerome blesses the images of the Blessed Mother brought by participants during the Walk.

After the Mass, Fr. Jerome blessed the faithful as well as the images and statues of Mama Mary that joined the Walk.

At the close of the activity everyone stood at attention before the Rizal Monument and the Philippine flag as the *Lupang Hinirang* was sung.

For 40 years DMIs have walked the mile, following the footsteps of Mama Mary, emulating her virtues,

and along the long and challenging journey, reinforcing their faith and that of others and taking a vital role as Mary's daughters. This was a day of joy not only for DMIs in Luzon but all over the country and other parts of the world.

Let us continue to walk the journey as sisters of Christ and daughters of Mary Immaculate and dance with joy at the blessings of the past 40 years and the many years to come.

BAGUIO AWAITS CONVENTION DELEGATES

Close to 1,900 delegates have registered as of March 31, 2018 for the 21st Biennial Convention of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International set to unfold at the CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay in Baguio City on May 18-20, 2018. The occasion is of special significance to the DMII as the culminating activity of the year-long 40th Anniversary celebration will form part of the convention program.

Sis. Ruby P. Macario, International Vice-Regent for Luzon and Region V RR, provided the following updates during the special meeting of the International Board in Bohol on March 24, 2018:

The Convention will formally open on the afternoon of May 18. A Holy Mass will be celebrated by Most Rev. Romulo Valles, D.D., president of the CBCP and Fr. Jerome Cruz, DMII International Chaplain after the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The invited speakers are Most Rev. Victor Bendico, bishop of the Diocese of Baguio for the keynote address, Dr. Leonarda Aguinalde, VP for Administration of the University of the Cordilleras, Bro. Jun Banaag, O.P., a lay brother of the Order of the Preachers (Dominican Order) who hosts the long-running show “Dr. Love” on DZMM daily from Monday to Friday at 11:00 p.m. to

1:00 a.m., and Fr. Vic Munar, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Baguio City.

The dinner and fellowship on May 18 will feature awards of recognition to be given to past International Regents and the International Chaplain. A contest for the best regional presentation will also highlight the night’s program. The evening’s motif will be the fashion of the 50s to the 90s.

The program for Day 2, May 19, will be mostly on DMII business including reports of the International Regent and other officers and the International Mission Chairpersons. The election of DMII officers for the 2019-20 term will also be held to be supervised by Past IRs who will compose the COMELEC.

His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, Archbishop of Manila has been invited to be the Mass celebrant on Sunday, May 20. This has yet to be confirmed. Circles winning the Gold and Silver Star Awards will also be announced and awarded their trophies.

There are so many sights to be seen in Baguio. And many delegates are expected to stay awhile to take in the view of what the Summer Capital of the Philippines has to offer as well as its cool weather and refreshing smell of pine.



The 21st DMII Biennial Convention Organizing Committee takes a break during one of their meetings for this group photo.

BOHOL REVISITED

By Sis. Sally Estrada, Editor,
DMI Newsette



A “framed” photo of the Bohol pilgrims before boarding the boat for the Loboc Cruise. Front row, from left: Sisters Sally Estrada, Lyding Ramirez, Tess Miranda, Ruby Macario, Lelis Pimentel, and Biannah Villanueva. Second row: Sisters Yolly Dagandan, Glo Caminero, Cathy Pineda, Edna May Landicho and Thess Curia. Sisters Laura Cespon, Annie Ty and Luz Binoya planed in later.

It had been close to four years since we last visited Bohol where the 19th DMII Biennial Convention was held in April, 2014. It was well-attended despite the 7.2 magnitude earthquake that struck the province in October, 2013.

After a very smooth flight from NAIA 3 on the morning of March 23, 2018, a group of us from the DMII International Board led by International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel landed at the Tagbilaran City Airport where our party of nine was met by Sis. Glo Caminero, International Vice-Regent-Visayas and her welcoming committee from DMI Circles in the Diocese of Tagbilaran. They will be our gracious hosts for the next two days. Three DMII Board members from Mindanao and one from Tacloban City met up with us later that day as they came in on separate flights.

It was a pilgrimage cum sight-seeing tour of Bohol as we boarded a van upon our arrival from the airport.

After a quick breakfast, our first stop was the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Church in Baclayon which had been restored to its original state after the 2013 earthquake which destroyed its belfry. Built by

the Jesuits in 1727, Baclayon Church is the oldest coral stone church in Bohol.

After some prayers and viewing with awe its *retablos* and ornate windows and ceiling, we proceeded to the church’s museum to view the antique images and church paraphernalias (priests’ vestments, chalices and other priceless treasures) used and collected through close to 300 years. (No photos please!)

Then on to Loay town where we boarded a boat for the cruise along the Loboc River where we had a leisurely lunch with a one-

man band dishing out our favorite songs and tunes. Koreans of all ages were all over the place having such great fun. The boat stopped for a few minutes by a cultural village showcasing the ethnic costumes and art of some indigenous tribes in the Philippines before returning to its base.

The Chocolate Hills in Carmen town is really a stand-out tourist destination all days of the week. For lack of time, we skipped the Tarsiers’ Sanctuary but admired the stately trees of the Man-Made Forest lining both sides of the road we traversed.

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At the entrance of the Baclayon Church Museum.

Bohol Revisited... from page 7

The day's long road trips were a real bonding time for us as we prayed, traded jokes and anecdotes and endless *kwentuhan*. Past IR Sis. Lyding Ramirez and Region XII RR Sis. Tess Miranda were a great source of the laughter and the fun.

The day's last stop was the St. Joseph Cathedral in Tagbilaran where we attended the 6:00 p.m. Mass and joined the *Via Crucis* afterwards. While the prayers were in Bol-anon, somehow we from Luzon were able to follow the prayers through all the fourteen Stations of the Cross.

Ending the long day was dinner hosted by Vicarial Regent Sis. Isidrita Lim at Gerarda's Restaurant which her family owns. We checked in at 717 Cesar's Place where we spent a truly restful night.

After breakfast, we lingered a while at the lobby of Cesar's Place to have a video talk with DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz who celebrated his 27th sacerdotal anniversary at the San Roque Cathedral in Caloocan City that day.

Bound for the Blue Water Beach Resort and Hotel in

Panglaw, we passed by the Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Dauis where a spring in front of the main altar is believed to have healing properties. We brought several bottles with us to Blue Water.

The special meeting of the International Board was held at a function room of the resort. The final details of the forthcoming 21st DMII Biennial Convention and the 40th Anniversary culminating activity in Baguio City in May took most part of the meeting.

As part of our group will be leaving early morning of Sunday, March 25, an Anticipated Mass was arranged for us by our hosts. Mass celebrant was Fr. Algerio Pana, vicar general of the Diocese of Tagbilaran. In his homily, he led us through Passion Week beginning with Palm Sunday when the Lord was welcomed in Jerusalem by crowds of people with palms in their hands. Attending the Mass with us were some hotel guests.

Dinner was at the dining hall of the resort where a presentation of Philippine dances was performed by a local dance troupe.

The next day, while waiting for the van that would bring us back to the airport, we strolled by the beach and

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Before the altar of the Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Dauis



The special meeting of the International Board at the Managat Hall of Blue Water Resort.



A group photo with the famous Chocolate Hills in the background.



With Fr. Algerio Pana, vicar general of the Diocese of Tagbilaran

REGION XIV ASSEMBLY HELD IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

By Sis. Ellen Velasco, Diocesan Scribe

The Royce Convention Center at Astoria Hotel in Zamboanga City was the venue of the Region XIV Assembly held last October 14, 2017. A total of 542 DMI sisters from the Dioceses of Ozamis and Oroquieta, Ilagan, and Dipolog and the Prelatures of Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay and Isabela de Basilan and the Archdiocese of Zamboanga, the assembly host, attended the assembly.

The day started with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Most Rev. Romulo de la Cruz, archbishop of Zamboanga, with Fr. Michael Ufana. DMI spiritual director, Fr. Ferdinand Candido, pastor of Our Lady of Purification Church, Sta. Maria, and Fr. Wilfredo Samson, SJ, vice-president for Formation of the Ateneo de Zamboanga University as co-celebrants. During his homily, the Archbishop expressed his pleasure to see a well-attended assembly in spite of the bad weather and the security concerns in Marawi City.

Part of the opening ceremony was the Parade of Circles who were acknowledged by Diocesan Secretary Sis. Marilyn de Asis. IVR-Mindanao Sis. Angie Baes declared the assembly open after which Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra gave her welcome address.

The assembly keynote speaker was Fr. Wilfredo Samson, SJ, vice-president of ADZU who was introduced by Diocesan Scribe Sis. Ellen Velasco. Fr. Samson talked on the assembly theme, "The DMII as Agents of Transformation in the Parish and Community." He presented the story of the bear and the fox. In the story, a man went hunting because he was hungry. He saw the fox in the middle of the forest. When he was about to shoot it, a bear came approaching the fox and gave it a piece of meat. Seeing what happened the man decided acting like the fox and waited for the bear. But the bear did not appear. So the man decided to go back to the city. Reaching the city, he saw many people going hungry and heard about the war in Marawi, the EJK killings and many other concerns. The man uttered, "It seems God doesn't love us anymore."

The Lord spoke and told the man, "Do you want to know why you're hungry? Why these people are hungry? Because you decided to become a fox and not a bear." There are two options in life: Either you are like the bear bringing food to other people or the fox who just waits for food and does nothing. There are only two kinds of people. Are you a person who is actively a part of the solution or are you part of the problem? Are you fox or bear?

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Eucharistic celebration by Archbishop Romulo de la Cruz with co-celebrants Fr. Ferdinand Candido, Fr. Wilfredo Samson and Fr. Michael Ufana.



The entrance of colors during the opening ceremonies.



Circle regents carry their respective banners during the Parade of Circles.

Region XIV Assembly... from page 9

In the gospel, Mary had proclaimed, “the Almighty has done great things for me, Holy is His Name.” Like Mary, we are to fulfill God’s will and mission. Like Mary who visited her cousin Elizabeth posthaste in spite of her delicate condition carrying the Holy One in her womb, we too, must visit the Elizabeths in our community and parishes to willingly offer our services to them. As we ourselves are blessed, so must we become blessings to others. We must act in “haste” because it is with urgency that others in the community need our help.

As DMIs, we are called to imitate Mama Mary as agent of transformation. Our missions call us to go to the periphery of society and as our Constitution mandates, to become defenders of the sacredness of life, to uphold morality in media and the common good. Let us all be Mary-like – courageous, hopeful and loving. Fr. Samson ended with the message: “Always listen to the voice of God. Let us not be afraid to make a difference in peoples’ lives.”

The second assembly speaker was Dr. Milabel Ho, president of Western Mindanao State University who was introduced by Sis. Susan de la Cruz. Dr. Ho talked about leadership and management. She said that an

effective leader creates an inspiring vision of the future and motivates and inspires people towards realizing that vision. She also talked about servant-leadership. While leadership requires special tasks like planning, effective communication, decision-making and getting others involved in implementing activities for the mission, top on the leader’s mind is to serve and to motivate (not control) members of the group to serve with her.

She underscored fairness in going about our tasks, fairness in dealing with our children, with subordinates and those we serve. Likewise she said that we must listen and be sensitive to others – their needs and concerns.

Fr. Jonathan Berdejo, hospital chaplain, was the third speaker. He was introduced by Sis. Ma. Bella Tandoc, vicarial regent. His topic was Pro-Life. The speaker emphasized that pro-life is from creation to resurrection. Life actually is Jesus. Life is God. He cited an example when he was assigned to a place far from the city. Before the Mass, the people received catechism, then the Body of Christ during the Mass and God’s blessing before the Mass ended. For these people, the Mass is actually life.

As an invitation for the transformation of all DMIs,, Fr. Berdejo said, “Be pro-life agents. Attend the Mass and invite others to do the same. Receive the Lord as



Keynote speaker Fr. Wilredo Samson of ADZU



Fr. Jonathan Berdejo, guest speaker



Dr. Milabel Ho, a guest speaker, receives a plaque of appreciation from Sisters Angie Baes and Pinky Saavedra.



IVR- Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario delivers her inspirational message.

our life. It will lead to the transformation of our whole parish and community.

In her inspirational message, IVR for Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario said: *“Tayo ay may kanya-kanyang bayani at inspirasyon sa ating buhay. Ang taong walang pangarap ay walang pag-asa.”*

She also said that the DMII will soon be 40 years old. The organization had its ups and downs but the DMI spirit prevails. The DMI slogan is “always open to serve” and in our own little ways, our presence is felt in every parish we serve. Mama Mary is our real hero and our mentor. As her daughters, we feel proud, honored and blessed to be given the privilege to serve.

Sis Ruby also informed the participants about the year-round activities to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the DMII which was launched with a Holy Mass on May 13, 2017 at the Antipolo Cathedral in Antipolo City, the birthplace of the DMII. She also announced the observance of Mission Week on November 13-18, 2017, each day of the week to highlight the 5 DMI Missions. This will be simultaneously undertaken in all regions of the country.

Plaques of appreciation were awarded to the assembly speakers by Sisters Angie Baes and Pinky Saavedra.

In the bidding that followed, Iligan City will host the next regional assembly.

The expert hosting of Sis. Norma Daan ensured the smooth flow of the day’s program.

The closing dinner and fellowship was the day’s culminating activity. The evening’s host was Sis. Lailani Yao who gratefully acknowledged the presence of DMI sisters of Region XIV and guests who came in colorful Hawaiian attire, the evening’s motif.



Assembly delegates during Fellowship Night.

Bohol Revisited... from page 8

the well-manicured gardens of the resort. It was a trip worth taking and while we bade good-bye to our hosts, we thanked them profusely for taking very good care of us, a unique mark indeed of the kind of sisterhood we have in the DMII. Our hats off to Sis. Glo Caminero, Region X Representative-elect Sis. Sionee Naraga, Diocesan Regent-elect Sis. Lilia Quibel, Immaculate Conception Circle Regent Sis. Greta Mende, San Jose de Tagbilaran Circle Regent Sis. Liza Yu and the Immaculate Conception Circle of Baclayon.

Our Bohol sojourn served as a pilot for the pilgrimage tours that our International Regent is endorsing to encourage DMI sisters to go on pilgrimages not only abroad but also within the country. Each province has its own pilgrimage site/s and scenic spots to visit and local DMI circles can play host to other DMI circles from out of town. This is a very good opportunity for us to interact with other DMI sisters and learn, grow



A stroll on the beach of Blue Water

spiritually as well as in other aspects, and enjoy the company of others outside the confines of our smaller worlds.

As we grow in years, it is time to have more ME and US times and expand our horizon to places and things we haven’t seen, heard, smelled or touched. The world is still a wonderful place after all. . . It all depends on us.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga Circle, Fourth DMI Circle in Baguio

*By Sis. Linda Abalos,
Regent, St. Vincent Ferrer Circle*

The DMI sisters of Baguio City welcome the latest circle to be formed in the city, the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Circle. Named after the patron saint of St. Louis University, it is the fourth DMI circle in Baguio. The first three are St. Vincent Ferrer, St. Joseph the Worker and Our Lady of Atonement Circles which are all very actively involved in the projects and activities for the DMI missions.

The St. Vincent Ferrer Circle led by Past Regent Sis. Zenaida Obidoza and Vicarial Regent Sis. Fe Bohol spearheaded the formation of the new circle. Lending their full support were Acting Diocesan Regent Sis. Marlin Abratique and International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario. The chartering of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Circle and installation of its charter officers took place on November 9, 2017.

The exemplification and long conferral of the circle's charter members were held at the St. Aloysius Gonzaga Hall of SLU. Region I RR Sis. Remedios

Agosto headed the list of guests. Her encouraging message inspired not only the new DMIs but also the sisters from the other circles who attended the occasion.

The charter officers of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Circle are: Sisters Eugenia Oribello – regent, Carolina Nidoy – vice-regent, Eleonor Bugayong – chancellor, Juanita Fontanos – recording secretary, Remedios Canonizado – financial secretary, Erlinda Doctolero – treasurer, Gloria Aganon – scribe, Adelina Runes, custodian, Leticia Pinosan – monitor, Emily Joy Aquino – trustee (3 years), Teresa Maguling – trustee (2 years), Merlina Magno – trustee (1 year), Angelica Aubrey Doctolero – guide 1, Carmelita Laguisma – guide 2, Celia Viernes – guard 1, Remedios Pichay – guard 2, Juliet Saddoy – banner bearer, and Rhodora Balinte – flag bearer.

Rev. Fr. Macwayne Maniwang, CICM, chaplain-adviser of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Parish warmly welcomed and introduced the new DMI officers and members to the SLU community.



The officers and members of St. Aloysius Gonzaga Circle with Fr. Macwayne Maniwang and guests from the other circles in Baguio.

TARLAC DMIs PAY TRIBUTE TO THE CLERGY

The DMI Diocese of Tarlac once again sponsored the Clergy Day celebration last August 28, 2017 at the Our Lady of Peace Seminary in San Isidro, Tarlac City. Both old and new priests were the DMIs' special guests during the occasion held once in every Diocesan Regent's term. During the occasion, the DMIs pay tribute to the clergy for faithfully shepherding their flock in their lifetime ministry as well as establishing rapport and good working relationship with them in the pursuance of the DMI missions.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Leonora Guzman spearheaded the planning and preparations for the activity in close coordination with Tarlac Bishop Enrique Macaraeg and DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Ruben Espinosa. The vicarial and circle regents assisted their Diocesan Regent in the preparations and other requirements of the activity.

Highlighting the day's program was a basketball exhibition match between the junior and senior priests including the Bishop. The seniors won and Bishop Macaraeg was named the game's MVP having garnered the highest score and played the longest time.

The DMIs had so much fun cheering both teams.

Prizes both in cash and in kind were given away to winners in the parlor games and raffle draws. All the priests who were



The priests get ready for their basketball game.



The Tarlac DMIs who sponsored the Clergy Day celebration.

present were given cash and special gifts.

In closing, Bishop Macaraeg thanked the DMIs on behalf of the

clergy for their effort in organizing the activity to honor all priests in the Diocese. To reciprocate, the priests prayed over and blessed the DMIs.

DIOCESE OF TARLAC JOINS 40th ANNIVERSARY COUNTDOWN

ANNIVERSARY MASS. The DMI sisters of the Diocese of Tarlac joined the simultaneous celebration of Masses nationwide held on August 12, 2017 as part of the DMII's "Countdown to 40" activities.

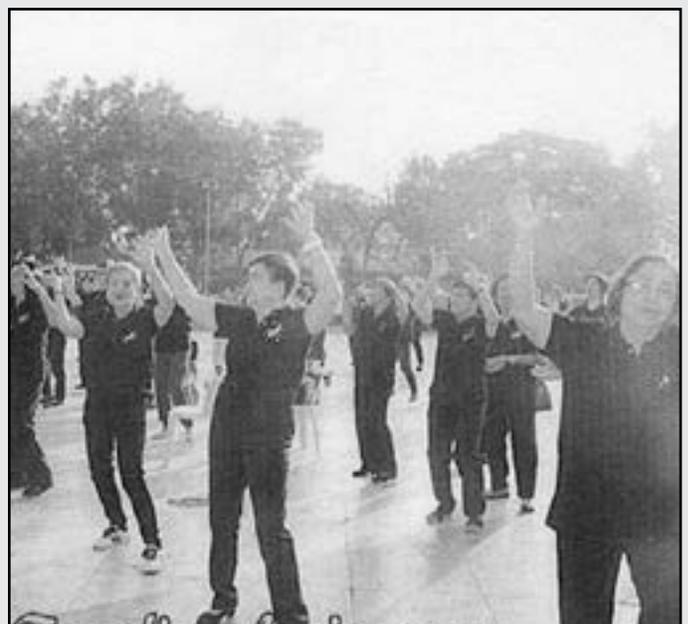
The Mass was held at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Capas, Tarlac with Fr. Ruben Espinosa, diocesan DMI spiritual director and pastor of the parish as celebrant. Most of the officers and members of the nine active circles in the Diocese attended the activity. Fr. Espinosa congratulated the DMIs for their continued dedication and commitment to serve and extended his best wishes that they may continue to uphold the organization's ideals and pursue its missions inspired by their model and guide, Mary Immaculate.

A short gathering and fellowship ended the activity.



The Tarlac DMIs with Diocesan Spiritual Director Fr. Ruben Espinosa after the Mass.

WALK AND DANCE FOR MARY. On February 10, 2018, the DMIs gathered at dawn at the Tartac plazuela and at 6:00 a.m. joined all the DMIs nationwide in the Walk and Dance for Mary. Carrying slogans honoring Mama Mary, they walked around the plazuela, danced for some time and at 8:00 a.m. proceeded to the Tarlac Cathedral to attend the Mass celebrated by Diocesan Spiritual Director Fr. Ruben Espinoza. The best slogan was awarded a prize by Fr. Espinosa.



The DMI sisters walk and dance for Mary around the Tarlac plazuela.

ST. MARTIN OF TOURS PARISH DAY CARE SCHOOL HOLDS MOVING UP CEREMONY

*By Sis. Mely de la Pena,
Region IV Correspondent*

The Queen of Flowers Circle of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Bocaue, Bulacan held the 4th Moving Up Ceremony of the Day Care School which it helps operate. The ceremony was held on March 16, 2018, starting with the Holy Mass celebrated by Msgr. Albert Suatengco, diocesan DMI chaplain.

There were 38 kindergarten and 66 preschoolers in the nursery level who graduated. Msgr. Suatengco handed the certificates to the 104 excited little graduates

with the assistance of the school principal, Sis. Aida de la Cruz and other officials of the school. Sis. Aida, Sis. Tita Galvez and other DMI sisters also assisted in awarding medals to outstanding pupils as well as maintaining orderliness during the activity. A colorful presentation, an adaptation of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs participated in by all the pupils highlighted the graduation program. The participants garbed in their respective costumes performed very well and went home proud of their accomplishments.



Msgr. Albert Suatengco awards an outstanding Day-Care School pupil assisted by Sisters Aida de la Cruz and Tita Galvez.



A group of pupils performs a song number during the program.

2000 HAIL MARYS BY THE HOLY MARY CIRCLE

By Sis. Josie de la Torre

There is a spiritual belief that whoever prays the 2000 HAIL MARYS ON THE 25TH OF MARCH, the feast of the Incarnation of the Son of God, obtains from the Blessed Virgin Mary at least three graces. Today the 2000 Hail Marys devotion has spread to many countries.

The Holy Mary Circle of the Vicariate of Sta. Maria I, Diocese of Malolos prayed the 2000 HAIL Marys on February 20, 2018 to start a spiritual activity for the Lenten Season at the La Purisima Concepcion Parish in Sta. Maria, Bulacan. The DMI sisters meditated on each mystery of the Holy Rosary, thus experiencing the peace of God through reflection on His Holy Word. There was spiritual deepening as they reflected on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary that chronicled the life



DMI sisters of Holy Mary Circle lead the 2000 Hail Marys prayers.

of Jesus while on earth. Other parishioners joined the DMI sisters in praying the 2000 Hail Marys devotion.

SMI_s OF REGION V ATTEND LEADERSHIP FORUM

By Sis. Cathy Pineda
International Chairperson for Youth Welfare

The SMIs of Region V held a Leadership and Personality Development Forum on November 4, 2017 at the DMII Chamber of the Our Lady of the Abandoned Circle in Marikina City.

The talks during the forum were centered on Christ. A talk entitled “Marketing Jesus, the 4 Ps of Marketing” stated that Jesus is the **Product** Who has no **Price** and available to all **People**, although very little **Promotion** is being done for Him in different media platforms and places dominated by commercial products.

Preceding the forum was a Holy Mass. The SMIs, SMI lady counselors and other DMI sisters who attended the forum were from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Kalookan and Pasig. It was part of the observance of Youth Welfare Day during the celebration of DMII Mission Week.



The Squirettes of Mary Immaculate who attended the forum listen intently to a speaker.



From the Diocese of Parañaque (Region V)

SYMPO ON ANTI-ILLEGAL DRUGS HELD AT MMCP

By Sis. Sol Eugenio,
Past Diocesan Regent

The Pro-Life Committee of the Mary Mother of the Church Circle of BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City partnered with the Social Action Ministry of the Mary Mother of the Church Parish to hold a symposium dubbed “Anti-Illegal Drugs Masa-Masid. The project

is a community approach launched by Las Pinas City to promote a safe environment and disciplined community. It was a well-attended symposium during a parish assembly convened for the purpose.



A tarpaulin streamer announcing the project.



Participants during the symposium

RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE BRINGS EARLY CHRISTMAS JOY TO DAY-CARE CENTER PUPILS

*By Sis. Luz A. Gendrano,
Past Regent*

November 25, 2017 was a day of fun for the Day Care Center pupils and their mothers in Moonwalk Village as they received an early Christmas treat from the DMI sisters of Risen Christ Circle.

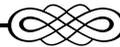
Initiating the activity was the Morality in Media Committee headed by Sis. Sonia Manlapig, past International Chairperson for Morality in Media, and Circle Regent Sis. Lita Guzman.

Special guest during the occasion was Teacher May Stephanie “Tippy” Enriquez Gendrano, a former pre-school teacher and directress of a tutorial club at Bonifacio Global City. She now directs a Kumon Start Learning Center in Boni, Mandaluyong. Teacher Tippy led the morning activity of the children with help from Day Care Teacher Nida Arienda.



The Day-Care Center children with the DMI sisters of Risen Christ Circle. Shown at right are Circle Regent Sis. Lita Guzman and Morality in Media Chair Sis. Sonia Manlapig.

The activity with the theme “Christmas Joy” ended with distribution of gifts and food to all to the delight of the children and their mothers. The gifts were donated by circle members.



STO. NINO DE MOLINO CIRCLE UNDERTAKES ENVIRONMENTAL CARE PROJECT

*By Sis. Catherine Longcob,
Circle Regent-elect*



With brooms in hand, the DMI sisters get ready for the clean-up.

Environmental care is one of the Pro-Life activities of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circle of Bacoor, Cavite. Last January 13, 2018, the Operation Linis, Part 1 was done before the feast of Pit Senor Sto. Nino de Molino. Part 2 was the cleaning of the church surroundings in preparation for Holy Week.

The DMI sisters entered into this Holy Week cleaning activity with Jesus in their heart and the realization that this sacrifice is done with kindness and love.

PRELATURE OF PALAWAN JOINS WALK AND DANCE FOR MARY

By Sis. Nits Austria

Unable to join their fellow sisters in their Walk and Dance for Mary at the Quirino Grandstand in Manila, members of the DMI circles in Palawan celebrated this activity in Puerto Princesa City to show their love and affection to Mama Mary.

At 5:00 a.m. on February 10, 2018, three circles assembled at the PPC Amphitheatre and at 6:00 a.m. the group happily walked and danced toward the Immaculate Conception Cathedral bringing with them

the image of the Blessed Mother while dancing. They ended in front of the cathedral where zumba dancing ensued. Afterwards, the sisters attended a Holy Mass officiated by Fr. Albert Sanchez, DMI chaplain.

An agape capped the activity. The food served were brought by the sisters to be shared with everyone who attended. The occasion was indeed a happy expression of love and sisterhood in the DMII.



The participants assemble at the Puerto Princesa Amphitheatre to start the Walk.



The Palawan DMI sisters before the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception where the activity ended.

THERESIAN CIRCLE CONDUCTS DENTAL MISSION

By Sis. Fortunata Aquino, Region VI Correspondent

The Theresian Circle of Los Banos, Laguna in collaboration with the Los Banos, Bay and Calauan Dental Association conducted free dental services at the Center for Women and Children (Crisis Center) in Calauan, Laguna recently. The circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee led by Chairperson Sis. Angelita Umali spearheaded the project. The 23 beneficiaries of the dental mission were prisoners' victims housed in the Center.

A Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Felmar Fiel, SVD in the afternoon after which simple snacks were shared by the housemates and guests. The Mass is a continuing activity being sponsored by the Theresian Circle every first Sunday of the quarter. Every year, the circle also sponsors an annual Christmas Party and Gift-Giving at the Center.



DMI sisters of Theresian Circle and volunteers from the Los Banos, Bay and Calauan Dental Association.

Mission Week Updates from Mina De Oro Circle

By Sis. Rowena Urriquia, Circle Regent



NOV. 13, 2017 – PRO-LIFE DAY. Members of the Mina de Oro Circle led by Regent Sis. Rowena Urriquia and Pro-Life Chair Sis. Liberty Mendana offered a special Mass and brought flowers and lighted candles at the Sanctuary of the Unborn at the churchyard of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in San Jose, Occ. Mindoro.



NOV. 14 – UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS DAY. A Wellness and Effectiveness Seminar was conducted by the Mina de Oro Circle for street sweepers and household helpers. Aside from receiving tips on positive work attitude, health awareness and relaxation, the participants were also given basic lessons on Massage.



NOV. 16 – MORALITY IN MEDIA DAY. Media Chair Sis. Alice Guevarra and Sis. Teresita Pineda guested at 102.5 Heart, a local FM radio station to talk about the responsible use of gadgets and social media.



NOV. 15 – ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS DAY. The circle members visited the family of a prisoner detained at the BJMP facility. The mother has no permanent source of income with five children to support. One of the children will be given a scholarship by Circle Regent Sis. Rowena Urriquia.

NOV. 18 – YOUTH WELFARE DAY. A Personality Development Seminar was conducted for Squirrellets of Mary members. Before the activity, both the DMI sisters and the SMIs attended a Holy Mass.



NEW CIRCLE IN AGUSAN DEL SUR RECEIVES CHARTER

By Sis. Sheilah Peji, Region XII Correspondent

Fifty prospective DMI sisters were exemplified during the long conferral rites held on February 18, 2018. The new circle has been named the San Antonio de Padua Lapinigan Circle. Lapinigan is a barangay of San Francisco.

Shown are the charter members of the circle with their newly-installed officers. Special guests during the occasion were Diocesan Regent Sis. Sheila Peji and Past IVR for Mindanao Sis. Eden Paredes.



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CIRCLE HOLDS LENTEN REFLECTIONS

In preparation for Lent, the St. Francis Xavier Circle of the Sacred Heart Of Jesus Parish in Poblacion, San Francisco held a Lenten Reflections session with Fr. Marlon Lacal, Ocarm., parish priest as speaker. The participants pondered on questions posed by the speaker such as how to make Lent more meaningful in addition to the traditional Lenten activities that the Church practices.



NEWS UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE OF MARBEL

By Sis. Nenita Barroso, Region XIII Correspondent



- 1. VISITATION OF THE SICK.** The Holy Love Circle of General Santos City visited the patients of Dr. George Royeca Distrect Hospital on February 14, 2018 coinciding with the hospital's anniversary celebration. The sisters distributed fruits and other goodies bringing cheer to the patients.
- 2. DUGTONG-BUHAY PARASA MAHIHIRAP.** In collaboration with the Philippine Red Cross, General Santos-Sarangani Chapter and Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Social Action Ministry, the Holy Love Circle conducted a blood-letting activity on February 24, 2018. Thirty-nine donors donated 500 cc of blood each for a total of 19,500 cc. The donors were members of the Marine Forces and some parishioners.
- 3. KAPIHAN SA KALILANGAN.** To celebrate the Kalilangan Festival and charter anniversary of General Santos City, the DMI sisters of Holy Love Circle joined the *Kapihan sa Kalilangan* during which they distributed coffee and *pan de sal* to participants in the festival parade, the culminating activity of the anniversary celebration.
- 4. LIVELIHOOD SEMINARS FACILITATED.** The Holy Love Circle in coordination with the GSC Mt. Matutum Lions Club Int'l and the Dept. of Trade & Industry sponsored two livelihood seminars for women, youth and fisherfolks of Sitio Donaville, Purok Balinto, Bgy. Labangal in Gen San. The participants were taught Beadwork and Facial & Foot Massage. They later expressed appreciation for being given the opportunity to have home-based livelihood to augment their family's income.
- 5. MEDICAL MISSION.** One of the highlight programs of the Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage Parish was a Medical Mission the parish co-sponsored with the Holy Love Circle.. More than 200 beneficiaries were given free consultation by volunteers from the Gensan Medical Association. The medicines, medical supplies and food given free were donations from the circle members, the doctors themselves and generous parishioners.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR NEW DMII OFFICERS HELD

By Sis. Ellen Velasco, Diocesan Scribe

A Leadership Training for new DMI officers of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan was held last January 27, 2018 at the Red Cross Multi-purpose Hall in Zamboanga City. In addition to the leadership and other skills required, the duties and responsibilities of vicarial and circle regents and the objectives and thrusts of the five DMI missions were also discussed. The incumbent diocesan committee chairs oriented the incoming ones on the functions of their respective missions. These are to be implemented in the vicariates of the Archdiocese – Central, Eastern and Western – and the vicariate in Basilan. DMI circles in Basilan are in Isabela and Lamitan.

The training was attended by 105 officers of Region XIV. An election of regional officers for 2019-20 was held in the afternoon. Chairpersons of the DMI missions



A group of participants in the Leadership Training

as well as the diocesan scribe were also appointed.

A visitation of circles was one of the region's first activities. Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra and Diocesan Secretary Sis. Marilyn de Asis together with the incoming regional officers and Circle Visitation Chair Sis. Malud Miguel conducted these visits coinciding with a circle's scheduled sponsorship of the Sunday Mass.



SYMPO ON "MIGRATION REALITY" HELD. In celebration of Migrant Workers Month, the DMIs of the Archdiocese sponsored a symposium at the OWWA Office, Good will Center in Canelar on March 10, 2018. The topic was "Migration Reality". The speakers were Angeles Engalla and Rosellie Florida. The symposium participants were women who plan to work abroad and victims of illegal recruitment invited by the DMIs. Sis. Grace Gonzales, diocesan chair for Upliftment of Women Workers spearheaded the activity.

SMI DIOCESAN OFFICERS ELECTED, INSTALLED. The diocesan officers of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan were elected and installed last January 2, 2018. They are: Chelsey Kaye Go – president, Shekinah Quilos – vice-president, Alexis Ann Ibanez – secretary, Mary Ann Hipone – treasurer, Jayvee Bernardo – chancellor, Angelica Berbosidad -treustee, Pauline Espiritusanto -marshall.



SMI DIOCESAN INVESTITURE HELD FEB. 25, 2017. Ninely (90) young girls became members of Squirettes of Mary Immaculate during the SMI Diocesan Investiture held last Feb. 25, 2018 at the Marian Center of Sta. Maria Parish in Zamboanga City. They are now actively involved in the SMI's spiritual, social, civic-cultural and sports activities as well as in assisting the DMIs in their projects and activities in the missions.

A Lenter Reflection... from page 2

make sure that we direct our desires towards God. But as we live through the struggles of life, we see how often we miss the mark. We just cannot be consistently faithful to teachings of Jesus, not even in our good desires, intentions, resolutions. And I think this is true for everyone, whatever our stations in life. Part of our spiritual DNA seems to be for us to be naturally weak, imperfect. How often do we ask ourselves: Why do I do the things that I do not like, or which I know are not perfect?

We are definitely a work in progress. One moment we are good and upright; the next moment we are grumpy, impatient, arrogant or even cruel. Many, many times our words and ideas do not match our actions and attitudes.

But thanks be to our Mother Church, there is Lent to tell us: Pause, reflect, take stock, make an inventory of your lives. Set your eyes on the mark again, regain the focus and the vision. This is a good time to be able to say again: **Not my will but Yours be done, O Lord.** Now. The Season of Lent is the most appropriate time to do this.

However, this realization will never come if we go on with our life of always running, rushing, getting sleepless, being workaholics, obsessed with results, no Sunday rest, no time for family life, no bonding, nor intimate moments with the people we love.

Perhaps if we could fight for moments of being devoid of gadgets, schedules, smart phones, addictions, and just be alone, we might actually feel liberated and open to many realizations. We need sacred moments in our lives. If we do not give time for peace and quiet, these Lenten thoughts will not occur to us, nor will they work.

The good news is this: Eventually God's grace will take over and we will become less inconsistent, more matured, more in communion with the Master. The bad news is that this does not happen overnight, miraculously, instantly. Not even after a feel-good retreat nor with the best intentions, nor even after a good Lenten liturgical experience. The process is slow, and this needs repetition of the moments of soul-searching, and listening and waiting, and a lot of political will. So our spiritual guides usually tell us to be open to the grace. Repeat again next year. That is why the liturgical cycle is repeated year after year, after year. Just as we brush our teeth to remove the bacteria in our mouth daily, so does our soul need the annual spring cleaning.

This is why I am very happy to belong to a church where we are all sinners; yet we have each other to inspire us to be better. I am happy and humbled that we are reminded that we are ashes so that we can really surrender and tell our God: **Not my will but Yours be done** in our life.

Many times, my troubles and complications in life, even my sins and failures come because I put my plans and my will ahead of what the Lord wants from me. Many times I do not keep silent nor listen. I do not have time to listen to what the Spirit tells me. Once an idea strikes me as good, I immediately order others to make them happen. And either I regret my decision or the way I push others to their limits because I want what I want to happen. It is good to really be able to say: **not my will but Yours be done, O God.** Many times what we say is: Sorry, Lord, not Your will but mine will be done.

What is bad for me is that I do not only miss these moments of listening before I do any action. I don't think I have the moments of "What do You want me

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WALK AND DANCE FOR MAMA MARY.

Simultaneous with the Walk and Dance for Mary held at the Quirino Grandstand on February 10, 2018, the DMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga held a similar activity in Zamboanga City. Participants in the Dance for Mary came from circles in the Archdiocese. The activity started with a Mass at the Holy Trinity Parish Church in Pasonanca. Mass celebrant was DMI Chaplain Fr. Michael Ufana who happened to be celebrating his birthday on said date. The participants brought food which they shared after the Zumba session held later.

REGION IV SMIs HOLD POST-VALENTINE FELLOWSHIP

By Sis. Briggs Abella,
Diocesan Chairperson for Youth Welfare

February 25, 2018 marked an important event for SMIs of Region IV as eleven circlettes gathered to celebrate Valentine's Day at Sto. Nino Academy courtesy of Diocesan Regent Sis. Aida de la Cruz and family who own the venue.



The SMIs who participated in the Post-Valentine Fellowship.

The participating SMI circlettes were Sta. Monica, Queen of Flowers, Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos, Sto. Nino de Meycauayan, Sto. Rosario of Maysan, Immaculate Conception, San Jose ang Manggagawa, Rosa Mystica, Our Lady of Consolation & Cincture, Queen of Flowers-Sto. Nino School Chapter, and Holy Mary Circlettes.

The girls exuded friendship and goodwill as they

welcomed their fellow Squirettes. It was a fun-filled day not only for the SMIs but also the DMIs present who accompanied them. Games and special numbers were prepared by the girls with guidance from their energetic Mission Chair.

A total of 137 Squirettes and 24 DMIs including DR Sis. Aida de la Cruz, SMI Chair Sis. Briggs Abella and vicarial and circle regents attended the activity.

A Lenter Reflection... from page 23

to do, Lord?" And sadly, even after the action is done, I do not also spend time to review whether what I did conformed to what God wants me to do. Seldom do I also say: "Did I fill the world with love?"

I need Lent to remind me that to ashes I will return. I need Lent to remind me that only doing God's will makes a long and lasting impact in the world, and it is the only thing that gives meaning to being alive. And I also need Lent to make sense of the loneliness and pain that go with doing God's will. I am a witness that following the Lord is not a smooth glide on eagle's wings always.

Hence the tears.

During Lent I remember how Jesus sweated blood at the Garden while at prayer. Then I am consoled that as I cry buckets of tears in fear, frustration, anger, remorse, grief, there is someone who grieves with me. My tears are pains of confusion, of not understanding the complications of life and of my work, misunderstanding

with colleagues, or obsessions with results. They are pains of motherhood and family life, domestic and social relationships. They are tears of being frustrated and of remorse that I find myself falling again and again. My only consolation is that eventually my tears lead me to a prayerful surrender and say: "Into Your hands, I commend my spirit." I wish that in the future, before any plan is conceived, before it is finalized and executed, I would be able to say: "**Not my will but Yours be done.**" And even: Lord, what do You want me to do?"

Crying enables me to feel how the pains of the world are present in my heart, too. That pain united me with the sufferings of the world. And as I face and feel my pains and tears, I am invited to accept them for the sake of other people who are overburdened in life. My tears are then absorbed into the water and blood shed in Gethsemane and Calvary.

Then my tears and pain find meaning. Then I can start over again. I am humbled.