



# DMII NEWSETTE

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

October - December 2017

## DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO HOSTS 2017 LUZON AREA CONFERENCE

*By Sis. Fortunata Aquino,  
Region VI Newsette Correspondent*



*Past and present members of the International Board who attended the Conference. Seated, from left: Sisters Amy Castaneda, Myrna Zapanta, Alma Cagampang, Edna May Landicho, Mila Villanueva, Ruby Macario, Cathy Pineda, Virgie Terrado and Cora Afuang. Standing: Sisters Aurora Manangan, Helen de Leon, Sally Estrada, Lydia Ordonez, Zeny Sto. Tomas, Remy Agosto, Elvie Arambulo, Lita Canonizado, Juliet Cruz, Adeline Lee and Linda Castillo.*



*Bishop Emeritus Emilio Marquez of the Diocese of Lucena with Fr. Jerome Cruz.*

The 2017 DMII Luzon Area Conference was held last October 20-22, 2017 at Batis Aramin Resort in Lucban Quezon. Host of the conference was the Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI comprising the whole of Laguna Province. The conference theme was “DMI as Active Agent of Transformation in the Parish and Communities”.

More than 800 delegates represented DMI sisters from Regions I to VIII broken down as follows: Region I – 14, Region II – 118, Region III – 98, Region IV – 72, Region V – 203, Region VI – 101, Region VII – 156, and Region VIII -14. The DMI International Board was represented by 26 officers, board members and mission chairpersons.

The conference officially opened on the afternoon of October 20 with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother,

*turn to page 4*



*Guest speaker Ms. Cory Quirino (at center) with the conference hosts led by Sis. Elvie Arambulo (to Cory's right).*

### DMII MISSION WEEK IN REVIEW

*- Photo News Inside*

# DMII MISSION WEEK IN REVIEW

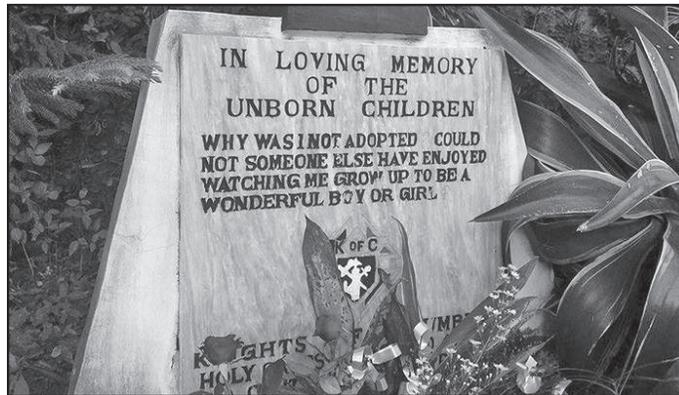
The week of November 13 to 18, 2017 had been designated as DMI Mission Week to highlight the five CBCP-mandated missions of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International. The activities, held simultaneously nationwide, were part of the year-long celebration of the organization's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will culminate in Baguio City during the 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention on May 18 – 20, 2018.

Here are selected captioned photos of Mission Week activities in various parts of the country during the week.

## PRO-LIFE DAY, Monday, November 13, 2017



The Immaculate Conception – Karangalan Circle, Diocese of Pasig (Region V) started Mission Week with a Pro-Life Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church and the blessing of the “Tomb of the Unborn” at the church courtyard attended by the circle members and Squirreltes from their SMI circlette.



The Diocese of San Pablo (Region VI) observed Pro-Life Day by simultaneously offering Masses in the different vicariates. Flowers were offered and candles lighted before memorial markers and tombs for the unborn located at the parish courtyard.



The Tower of Ivory Circle of Tacloban City, Diocese of Palo (Region XI) visited Pope Francis Center in Palo, Leyte to bring cheer to the elderly patients receiving Hospice Care. After the inspirational talk by Circle Regent Sis. Ching Esperas, a program consisting of songs and dances was held followed by dinner provided by the circle.

turn to page 25



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 Sis. Milde R. Tong  
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*From the International Regent*



## **“TO JESUS THROUGH MARY”**

In the book “The Life Of Mary As Seen By The Mystics”, Raphael Brown, the author, wrote that God the Son was to be born of a Virgin Mother. To keep this mother the purest human being who ever lived, Almighty God decreed that she be miraculously exempt from the stain of original sin.

Thus began the history of man’s salvation, long before time began. Mary was the one chosen, through the Holy Spirit, to be the mother of the Redeemer of the world.

“I am the servant of the Lord, let it be done to me as you have said” (Luke 1:38) was Mary’s answer to the Archangel Gabriel when told that she was to bear the Son of the Most High Who shall be called Jesus.

Year after year, we relive the story of His Birth. And it is with great excitement that we look forward to Christmas, our most favorite holiday. Traditions evolve and we are engulfed in the material embellishments of the Season. As we celebrate the Christmas Holidays, let us not forget the VERY REASON for the celebration.

As members of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, our devotion to Mary runs deep in our heart and soul. Like Mary, let this devotion bring us closer to Jesus. Mary’s whole purpose and mission is to bring man’s soul into union with her Divine Son.

“To Jesus through Mary” . . . and we pray . . . to Mary for the sake of Christ . . . for the sake of God.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS ALL!**

**ROSALINDA C. PIMENTEL**

International Regent



*Region VI delegates, conference hosts with Region VI Representative Sis. Elvie Arambulo.*



*Bishop Buenaventura Famadico of the Diocese of San Pablo celebrates Mass on Day 1.*



*Speakers from the International Board: Sisters Ruby Macario, Cora Afuang, Edna May Landicho, Cathy Pineda, and Lydia Ordonez.*

followed by the entrance of colors and the Parade of Circles with circle regents carrying their circle banners.

Sis. Ruby Macario, Vice-International Regent for Luzon gave the opening remarks where she stressed the role of the DMII as instrument for improvement, change and good relations in the parish through its missions dedicated to Mother Mary. She informed the delegates about the upcoming activities in the year-long 40th Anniversary celebration of the organization that will culminate in May, 2018 as part of the 21st DMII Biennial Convention at the CAP Convention Center, Camp John Hay in Baguio City. The rest of the year-long celebration includes Mission Week on November 13 to 18, 2017 during which various projects and activities for the DMI Missions will be held simultaneously in all the DMI regions nationwide. The Walk and Dance for Mary will be held at the Luneta Grandstand on Feb. 10, 2018 from 6 to 9 a.m. Sis. Ruby also urged the DMI sisters to register early for the Biennial Convention as the venue can accommodate up to 2,000 delegates only. Acceptance of registration will be done on a first-come-first-served basis. The conference fee must be pre-paid.

No walk-ins will be allowed.

The International Chairpersons for the Missions then presented their programs of action and provided updates. The delegates were then grouped for the 5 missions for simultaneous workshop discussions. The workshops followed a uniform format: workshop participants gave inputs regarding mission activities being done at present, the various factors that helped in accomplishing the mission as well as the hindrances they experienced while doing the mission.

The facilitators for the workshop groups were:

Pro-Life – Sis. Cora Afuang, mission chairperson, assisted by Sisters Eyra Umali, Ellen Malto, Marlene Mayor and Norma Eusebio

Action Plan:

- Work for increased commitment and support of DMI members and project partners
- Develop unity and teamwork
- Prioritize projects and plan the project activities very well
- Strengthen financial support through fund-raising

and seeking sponsors and donors

Upliftment of Women Workers – Sis. Ruby Macario substituting for Mission Chair Sis. Milde Tong who was out of the country, assisted by Sisters Caroline Santillana, Inday Ramos and Remedios Abilay.

Action Plan:

- Monitor and assess progress of previous activities particularly projects on livelihood ventures
- Intensify activities for promising ventures
- Extend assistance in the areas of product development and marketing
- Organize cooperatives and other such groups to strengthen the financial capability of project participants
- Empower women by making them aware of their rights under the law

Morality in Media – Sis. Edna May Landicho, mission chairperson, assisted by Sisters Monica Bularan, Letty Abarra, Carmen Mateo and Lilia Mendoza

Action Plan:

- Formation of a Speakers' Bureau
- Dialogue with parents



*Unfreezing exercise by delegates*



*Msgr. Leandro Castro, keynote speaker*



*Ms. Cory Quirino speaks before conference delegates.*

- Network with media practitioners and others who can extend support to projects

Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims – Sis. Lydia Ordonez representing Mission Chair Sis. Lucina Binoya, assisted by Sisters Jenny Quieta, Beng Mamormo, Bay Ayson, Zeny Cruzada, Namesh Long and Beth Bongon

Action Plan:

- Fund-raising to be able to reach out and assist more families of prisoners
- More frequent family visitations
- Provide para-legal assistance to prisoners
- Coordinate with government agencies to provide assistance to prisoners' families
- Improve conditions in jails

Youth Welfare – Sis. Cathy Pineda, mission chair, assisted by Sisters Chodee Amoranto, Evelyn Alcantara and Biannah Villanueva

Action Plan:

- Continue membership recruitment and formation of SMI circlettes
- Develop members' leadership capability through seminars such as personality development, youth camps, spiritual activities, sports development, etc.

The Eucharistic celebration by the Most Rev. Buenaventura Famadico, bishop of the Diocese of San Pablo and Rev. Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul, diocesan spiritual director, closed the program for Day 1.

The evening fellowship was handled by Region VI, the host region, with DMI sisters from the Laguna circles presenting dances and leading the delegates to the dance floor for a lively zumba session. It was non-stop dancing afterwards.

The program for Day 2 (October 21) started with the International Regent's time. Sis. Ruby represented International Regent Sis. Lelis

*turn to page 6*

**Diocese of San Pablo Hosts 2017... from page 5**

Pimentel who was not able to come. She presented the plans and programs of the International Board during the incumbent IR's term such as drawing out the rules and regulations for the Cal;amity Fund, the formation of additional committees to further strengthen DMII's operation as well as the identification of pilgrimage sites in various regions to enhance members' spiritual journey and encourage interaction among DMI sisters all over the country. Sis. Ruby also reported to the delegates the outputs of the mission workshops done the day before.

The Most Rev. Leandro N. Castro, rector of the St. Alphonsus Regional Seminary in Lucena City was the conference keynote speaker. His talk centered on Mary, her virtues, her active discipleship and other attributes which the DMIs as her daughters must emulate for "the responsibility of the daughter is to take after the mother". He said that the DMII's concrete and active

transforming mission is to make the world a better place. Msgr. Castro had these to say about the DMI Missions: promote the culture of life, work for the equal dignity of men and women vs. discrimination, evangelize through the



**Bishop Emeritus Emilio Marquez of the Diocese of Lucena and Fr. Jerome Cruz celebrate an Anticipated Mass on Day 2.**



**Line dancing pa more, 'pag may time. Sis. Moseette Don of Risen Christ Circle leads the sisters on the dance floor.**

media, give hope to prisoners and their families ("Hope makes us free.") and involve the youth through apostolates.

The afternoon's speaker was Miss Socorro Alicia "Cory" Quirino, TV host, author and newspaper columnist, health and wellness guru and beauty pageant titleholder. Cory is the granddaughter of the late President Elpidio Quirino. She was greeted with ooohs and aaahs as the conference hosts led by Sis. Elvie Arambulo escorted her to the stage. Cory was an embodiment of ageless beauty, looking very attractive, slim and tall in her shift dress, and a smile that never left her pretty face. The ooohs and aaahs even became louder when she unhesitatingly revealed her age: 65 years old.

Cory said that women use their energy for those they love but cautioned her audience that they must leave a little for themselves. She then gave several tips on how to have unity and balance of mind, body and spirit. "Emotions become physical manifestations and stress is the mother of all illness," she added.

The Eucharistic celebration, an anticipated Mass, was presided by the Most Rev. Emilio Z. Marquez, bishop emeritus of the Diocese of Lucena with DMI Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz as co-celebrant.

After a brief respite, the delegates started returning to the conference hall in their Maria Clara circa 1800 outfits, adding so much glitter and color to the evening fellowship and dinner. The evening's center piece was a dance contest among the seven regions (Region VI was a non-participant). The grand prize went to Region III, Region IV was 1st runner-up and Region VII was 2nd runner-up. The first prize winners



**Fr. Ejay Jarape, healing priest, blesses delegates' religious souvenirs.**



*Region VI hosts present Philippine dances during Fellowship Night on Day 1*



*Region III's dance presentation won first prize.*



*Region IV (Diocese of Malolos) placed second.*



*Third prize was won by Region VII.*



*Region V dancers*



*Dance contest board of judges, from left: Past IRs Sisters Mila Villanueva and Myrna Zapanta, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Dr. Teresita Villaverde-Valte, owner of Batis Aramin and DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada.*

received P10,000 cash prize.

Day 3 (Oct. 22) started with a Healing Mass by Fr. Ejay Jarapa, a member of Fr. Joey Faller's Healing Ministry. He took the place of Father Faller who had to go to the United States for a family emergency. (The Kamay ni Hesus Healing Center is just across the street from Batis Aramin.) Fr. Jerome was co-celebrant.

The Conference formally ended with the closing remarks of Sis. Elvie Arambulo who thanked the

delegates for making the Luzon Area Conference a highly successful event.

As in other DMII conferences and assemblies, the recessional when Fr. Jerome and Sisters Ruby and Elvie carried the image of the Blessed Mother out of the hall brought tears to many DMI sisters' eyes as they waved blue ribbons along the aisle as Mama Mary passed by.

# REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES HELD IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

It was a busy time for members of the DMII International Board as several regions held their annual assemblies one after the other during the second half of 2017. Most of the regions adopted a common theme: “The DMII as Agent of Transformation in the Parish and Community”.

## REGION VII

### June 24, 2017 - LOPEZ, QUEZON

*Sis. Bernadette Chan,  
Region VII Newsette Correspondent*

The Queen of the Most Holy Circle of Lopez, Quezon was host of the Region VII Assembly held on June 24, 2017. It was attended by delegates from Batangas, Quezon and the Mindoro Provinces.

Gracing the occasion were the DMII International Officers and Board IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel, VIR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario, Pro-Life Mission Chair Sis. Cora Afuang, Youth Welfare Chair Sis. Cathy Pineda and Region VII Representative Sis. Eufelia Dollentas.

The Most Rev. Victor Ocampo, D.D., bishop of the Diocese of Gumaca and Msgr. Ramon Tiana, DMI diocesan spiritual director also graced the Region VII Assembly.

The various parts on the assembly program are shown in the accompanying photos.



*Enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother, from left: Past Upliftment of Women Workers Chair Sis. Linda Castillo, IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel, Msgr. Ramon Tiana and Region VII RR Sis. Fely Dollentas.*



*Bishop Victor Ocampo of the Diocese of Lucena blesses Sisters Cathy Pineda, Lelis Pimentel and Ruby Macario.*



*Vicarial Regent Sis. Bernadette Chan of the Vicariate of St. John conducts ice-breaker exercises in-between sessions.*



*Guests from the International Board on stage after the enthronement. From left: Sisters Linda Castillo and Lelis Pimentel, Msgr. Ramon Tiana and Sisters Cora Afuang, Ruby Macario, Fely Dollentas and Cathy Pineda.*



*The Assembly hosts with their special guests.*

# REGION I

## SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 - VIGAN, ILOCOS SUR

The Retreat House of the Benedictine Nuns of the Eucharistic King in Pantay Fatima, Vigan City was the venue of the Region I Assembly on Sept. 30, 2017.

The assembly was hosted by the St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle of Sta. Castalina, Ilocos Sur headed by Regent Sis. Cora Reynon who welcomed the participants coming from the dioceses of Region I: Isabela, Ilocos Norte and Laoag,



*Enthronement of the image of the Blessed Mother by IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel assisted by Sis. Beth Bongon.*

Ilocos Sur and Vigan and Baguio. Region I Representative Sis. Remedios Agosto gave the opening remarks.

The morning session speakers after the traditional opening ceremonies (enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother Mary, entrance of colors and parade of circles) were International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel who spoke on Trust in Divine Providence and informed her audience about the International Board's program of action during her term, Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario who gave updates on DMII activities, particularly the organization's 40th Anniversary celebration and current issues and concerns and the Mission Chairpersons Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Milde Tong



*The entrance of colors*

for Upliftment of Women Workers, Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media and Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare presented the programs of action and updates on their respective missions.

A token of appreciation was presented to Msgr. Victorio Rabaca, pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish and founding chaplain of the host circle for the support he extended when the Diocese of Cubao led by Sis. Lydia Ordonez formed the circle on Dec. 14, 2014.

Archbishop Marlo Peralta, D.D., of the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia was the assembly keynote speaker. He cited three elements required for a parish to grow: communion, mission and participation.

*turn to page 10*



*The Parade of Circles*



*Region I Representative Sis. Remedios Agosto formally opens the assembly.*



*Sis. Lelis Pimentel, inspirational speaker*



*Msgr. Victorio Rabaca, chaplain of St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle is awarded a plaque of appreciation by Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Lydia Ordonez of the Diocese of Cubao who initiated the formation of the circle. With them is Region I RR Sis. Remy Agosto.*

## Region I Vigan... from page 9

Communion – the people of God have to be committed and united based on the communion of Christ with His Father. Faith in Jesus unites us and kindles our love for one another. When we receive the Body of Christ, we become united in the Eucharist. Charity is the fruit of communion. Mission – To relay, to bear witness to other people of God’s love. Many people long for Christ; they only need witnesses to take the lead. We show our faith through good works of mercy. “Be missionaries in your own home, in your parish.” Participation – No man

is an island. We must participate in the mission . . . go the way of BECs.

As for the DMI Missions, Archbishop Peralta exhorted the sisters to value life in a woman’s womb, beware of fake news in social media, improve conditions in crowded jails and teach the youth Christian values for they are the future of our country and the Church.

A Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Andres Nuesca, spiritual director of the Ilocandia Formation Community, ICST ended the day’s program.

During the dinner and evening

fellowship, the delegates came in bright-colored floral dresses that brightened the conference hall. The night’s program consisted of dance presentations by participating circles. Line-dancing by the energetic delegates filled the dance floor later. Special prizes went to: Sis. Teodora Serrano of Our Lady of Atocha Circle of Isabela, 88 years old, the oldest assembly delegate and Sis. Brenda Rabe of St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle, Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur, the youngest delegate. The Sto. Nino de Praga Circle won the ‘early bird’ prize.



Archbishop Marlo Peralta, keynote speaker



The International Board in their floral attires with a group of performers during fellowship night.



Archbishop Marlo Peralta with the International Board, from left: Sisters Remy Agosto, Tess Miranda, Biannah Villanueva, Cora Afuang, Lelis Pimentel, Cathy Pineda, Milde Tong, Ruby Macario, Sally Estrada, Edna May Landicho and Lydia Ordonez.

## REGION IX

### October 7-8, 2017 - BORACAY, AKLAN

Casa Pilar in the paradise island of Boracay was this year’s venue of the Region IX Assembly. Held last October 7-8, 2017, the event was attended by 197 delegates coming from the Dioceses of Bacolod, San Carlos (Negros Occ.), and Kalibo and the Archdiocese of Jaro.

Day 1 started with a concelebrated Mass presided by Bishop Jose Corazon Talaoc of the Diocese of Kalibo assisted by nine other priests. The Mass was held at the Holy Rosary Parish Church which was also celebrating its fiesta that day, the Feast of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary, its patron saint.

The keynote speech was delivered by Msgr. Alberto A. Venus, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Philamlife Village in the Diocese of Paranaque. Monsignor Venus is a son of Sis. Alita Abiera Venus, charter regent of the Holy Rosary Circle. He gave a very comprehensive insight on Mary’s love, compassion and care, the assembly theme. He described Mary’s open arms, open heart and open lap which she used as channels of blessings especially for those in need. He admonished the DMIs to be like Mary as we show our love, care and compassion to those who need most God’s mercy and love.

International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel gave an

Sis. Cora Afuang,  
International Chairperson - Pro-Life

inspirational message while Sisters Cora Afuang, Edna May Landicho and Cathy Pineda chairpersons for Pro-Life, Morality in Media and Youth Welfare (SMI) reported on Best Practices in their respective missions.

After the assembly session, the participants trooped to the nearby grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes for a *Harana* for Mama Mary during which candles were lighted and flowers offered to Our Lady as Marian songs were sung.

The evening fellowship had a 60's and 70's theme and the delegates came in their retro attire. The selection of the 5 Best Dressed DMIs and the best dance presentation were the evening's highlights.

It was an early start for the participants the following

day, Sunday. At 5:30 A.M., they started a clean-up drive at the beachfront in cooperation with the staff of DENR. Carrying plastic trash bags, the sisters picked up the rubbish left by the merrymakers the night before. It was a simple way for the DMIs of Region IX to show that they care for the environment.

After breakfast, Fr. Jay Velarde, son of Past IR Sis. Jean Velarde, celebrated Sunday Mass. Then the delegates motored to an Ati Village in Boracay to render medical services and distribute some gifts to the Atis.

The assembly of Region IX was truly a memorable one complete with all the ingredients of a very worthwhile event – spiritual, intellectual, cultural/entertainment and civic action.



*Past IR Sis. Perla Arguelles and Region IX RR Sis. Yolly Galvez carry the flowers for Mother Mary's altar during the enthronement and consecration ceremony.*



*Assembly delegates and guests assemble for the clean-up drive.*



*Fr. Albert Venus, keynote speaker*



*International Board members Sisters Cora Afuang, Past IR Jean Velarde, Cathy Pineda, Edna May Landicho and IR Lelis Pimentel join the clean-up drive. At right are project partners from DENR.*



*Fr. Jerome Velarde delivers his homily during Sunday Mass*



*Visit to an Ati Village for a medical mission and gift-giving.*

# REGION XI

## November 4, 2017 - PALO, LEYTE

*Sis. Carmen Baquilid,  
Region XI Mission Coordinator*

This year's assembly of Region XI was held on Nov. 4, 2017 at the DepEd Leyte Division Gym, Government Center in Palo, Leyte. The venue is among the Government Regional Offices located at the Center.

More than 200 delegates from 14 circles representing the Archdiocese of Palo and the Dioceses of Calbayog, Catarman and Maasin attended the assembly.

The day-long affair started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of Mother Mary headed by Region XI Representative Sis. Yolly Dagandan and Past RR Sis. Leni Larrazabal. Sisters Ching Esperas and Leni Basilan coordinated the ceremony. The floral offering and traditional Parade of Circles with their respective officers signaled the start of the assembly session.

A concelebrated Mass by Msgr. Benjamin Catilogo, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Tacloban City and chaplain of the Tower of Ivory Circle, the assembly host circle, opened the morning session.

Sis. Yolly Dagandan formally opened the regional assembly followed by her welcome message. Sis. Linda Solite, past regent of the host circle, also greeted the delegates.

Msgr. Catilogo was also the keynote speaker. Introduced by Sis. Toytoy Balagapo, past vicarial regent, he first commended the DMIs for their devotion to the Blessed Mother and exhorted them to remain steadfast in their faith. In his homily he also

thanked them for fulfilling their commitment to God and country. He further urged his audience to uphold, extend and practice the Five Virtues of the DMI – Unity, Friendship, Charity, Sanctity and Humility. Among the five, he gave more meaning and emphasis on Humility.

Two International Mission Chairpersons were present – Sis. Cora Afuang for Pro-Life and Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare. Three sisters from the host circle talked on the other three missions in the absence of their chairpersons – Sis. Toytoy Balagapo for Morality in Media, Sis. Tita Gonzales for Upliftment of Women Workers and Sis. Carmen Baquilid for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims. Certificates of recognition together with Pope Francis' special message on the missions were later awarded to all the speakers.

The fellowship night was a colorful event with a glittering Filipiniana motif. There were eight candidates for the annual search for the "Most Popular DMI". Sis. Michelle Balasanos of the Tower of Ivory Circle won the title for 2017. It was the fifth time that the Circle won the contest and the members decided not to join future contests as a "Hall of Famer". A dance competition was also held which was won by the Our Lady of Fatima Circle of Baybay, Leyte.

The assembly was an opportunity for the DMI sisters to be re-energized spiritually, mentally and physically. They thanked the warm hospitality of the host circle headed by Sis. Ching Esperas for a very successful and memorable event.



*The assembly's Registration Committee gets ready to welcome the delegates.*



*The concelebrated Mass presided by Msgr. Benjamin Catilogo.*



*Region XI RR Sis. Yolly Dagandan (3rd from left) with the assembly hosts.*



*The newly-organized Tower of Ivory SMI Circlette with Youth Welfare Chairperson Sis. Cathy Pineda.*



*Sisters Cora Afuang and Cathy Pineda present to "Most Popular DMI 2017" Sis. Michelle Balasanos her royal cape and scepter.*

# REGION III

## November 11, 2017 - BALANGA, BATAAN

The Diocese of Balanga hosted the assembly of Region III at La Vista Resort in Balanga City on Nov. 11, 2017. Region III is composed of the Dioceses of Tarlac, Iba (Zambales) the Archdiocese of San Fernando (Pampanga) and the host diocese.

International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel headed the guests from the International Board. With her were VIR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario, International Mission Chairs Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Milde Tong for Upliftment of Women Workers, Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media, and Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare and DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada.

Assembly delegates arrived early and the Registration Committee got busy at once. Region III Representative Sis. Alma Cagampang welcomed the guests from the International Board at the hall lobby. The program started with the traditional opening ceremonies.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Rosario Redulla of the Diocese of Balanga and chairperson of the organizing committee officially welcomed the guests. The participating circles representing the dioceses of Region III were duly acknowledged in the Parade of Circles.

A welcome song by the assembly hosts and a dance number by the DMI sisters of the St. Catherine of Siena Circle set the jovial mood among the delegates .

DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz was the keynote speaker. He began by posing a question: Is the DMII an enabler of the parish? And a personal question: Am I a passive observer or an active agent of change? Transformation, he said, is first of all a change of self before one becomes an effective agent of change. "Let there be no DMI circle that is not proud of itself because DMIs are gifted," he declared.

As for the present menace of drug abuse and addiction and the raging issue of EJKs, Fr. Jerome said that the Church responds to the problem in three fronts: the addicts, their families, neighborhood or community. She must offer a hope of resurrection through after-care and livelihood activities. DMII's programs in its missions must not only serve as placebo but must have a permanent impact in the lives of people.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Fr. Jerome ended the morning program.

*turn to page 14*



*International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel places Mama Mary's image on the altar during the enthronement and consecration ceremony.*



*An intermission number by the DMI sisters of St. Catherine of Siena Circle.*



*Fr. Jerome Cruz, keynote speaker*



*Fr. Jerome Cruz during the Mass processional*



*Assembly participants do an ice-breaker.*



*Sis. Lelis Pimentel introduces the Mission Chairpersons before delivering her inspirational message.*

### **Region III Balanga, Bataan... from page 13**

Sis. Merinnisa Ona Ligaya, presiding judge of the Municipal Trial Court, Branch 1, Olongapo City was the afternoon speaker. She is a DMI member. She was introduced by Sis. Ligaya Cruz, regent of the St. Peter of Verona Circle.

Sis. Merinnisa related her transformation as an active DMI member, starting with her involvement in parish activities. She said that transformation may at times require a paradigm shift or new ways of thinking and doing things. "Let's think out of the box," she said.

The guests from the International Board were the next speakers: IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel gave updates

on the current programs of National and VIR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario on DMII issues and concerns and the upcoming activities in celebration of DMI's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Sis. Alma Cagampang thanked the assembly organizers for their successful handling of the activity and Mission Chairpersons Sis. Edna May Landicho of Morality in Media, Sis. Cora Afuang of Pro-Life, Sis. Milde Tong of Upliftment of Women Workers and Sis. Cathy Pineda of Youth Welfare outlined their respective programs of action.

Several prizes were raffled off much to the delight of winning delegates. The closing remarks by Vicarial Regent Sis. Emilia de la Rosa of the Vicariate of St. Dominic de Guzman brought the assembly to a close.



*Sis. Merinnisa Ona-Ligaya, regent of the Queen of Angels Circle, was a guest speaker.*



*The International Board with Region III officers. From left: Sisters Thelma Manansala, Alma Cagampang, Milde Tong, Cathy Pineda, Lelis Pimentel, Rosario Redulla, Ruby Macario, Edna May Landicho, Sally Estrada and Cora Afuang.*



*Past Region III RR Sis. Amy Castaneda won a prize during the raffle draw.*

## **REGION XII**

### **November 18, 2017 - BUTUAN CITY**

The Diocese of Butuan headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Zenaida Lagnada hosted the Region XII Assembly at the Almont Inland Hotel & Resort in Butuan City on Nov. 18, 2017. Delegates from the Dioceses of Agusan del Sur, Bukidnon, Butuan, Gingoog City, Cagayan de Oro, Tandag (Surigao del Sur) and Surigao del Norte.

Region XII Representative Sis. Teresita Miranda declared the formal opening of the assembly at 9:30 a.m. followed by the opening remarks by Sis. Zeny Lagnada.

The inspirational message of International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel included the plans and programs of the DMII International Board during her term. She also urged the delegates to register early for the 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention in Baguio City in May, 2018 when the culminating activity of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

celebration will also take place.

The morning guest speaker was Rev. Fr. Randy Odchigue. His topic was "Digital Media, the Church and Ethics". The outline of his presentation consisted of the changing reality that digital media (DM) imposes, the challenge it poses to the Church and the ethical questions and opportunities it creates. He classified people at present as "digital natives" (born in the 1990's and up or the millennials) who are tech-raised and networked and "digital migrants" (those born before the '90's) who are tech-adapted mentored by the digital natives and who use old language.

Fr. Odchigue cited the challenges that DM imposes: Virtual becomes real, connectivity vs. isolation, wants vs. needs and instant and unli attitude. The ethical questions that DM poses: fake news vs. the truth,

cyberstealing, cyberbullying, bashing vs. magnanimity and objectifying (such as pornography, child trafficking, women being treated as objects) vs. valuing.

“Digital media when used properly provides a number of positive opportunities as new evangelization (evangelizing anytime, anywhere, interactive participation and ability to reach out anytime), opportunity for community as networked humans, knowledge and greater ability for care and counseling. DM is also a great equalizer (all voices are heard, can hold people accountable and transparency becomes easy). He cautioned his audience to “THINK before you post” - T – is it true? H – is it hurtful? I – is it illegal? N – is it necessary? And K – is it kind?

Ms. Nelia Arina, an image consultant and personality development lecturer was the first speaker in the afternoon. Ms. Arina, now a DMI member, first related her journey towards becoming a DMI. For her, the word SELF stands for: S – serving and sharing, E – empathizing, L – listening and F – finding out. She said she applies this to her daily life. She also said that aging gracefully is manifested in a woman’s appearance, behavior and communication.

The International Mission Chairpersons presented their mission programs and cited some best practices that they gathered from reports they receive from

different circles all over the country. They were Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Milde Tong for Upliftment of Women Workers, Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media and Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare. DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada talked about “DMII Promotions and the DMI Newsette”.

Rev, Fr. Carlito Clase, pastor of Christ the King Parish in Tungao, Butuan City who was also presider of the Holy Mass held later talked on “Marian Life” and the role of Mama Mary in the history of redemption. His parting message: “*Isabuhay ninyo and halimbawa ni Maria*”.

Gatsby Night which the delegates eagerly looked forward to was a night of merry-making. They came in their ‘20’s and ‘30’s costumes complete with headdresses and in no time at all, they were in the middle of the dance floor dancing to retro music. A dance contest was held among the dioceses. The first prize went to the Diocese of Butuan. Bukidnon placed second and Agusan del Sur, third. Special prizes were also awarded to Sis. Zenaida Lagula as “Star of the Night” and Sis. Letty Millan as best in Gatsby attire. The delegates of Cagayan de Oro were the ‘early birds’ while Surigao del Sur sent the biggest delegation.

The expert hosting by Sis. Shirley Corvera saw to the smooth flow of the day’s program.



*The organizing committee of the Region XII Assembly finalizes program details with Region XII Representative Sis. Tess Miranda (at head of table, center)*



*Diocesan Regent Sis. Zeny Lagnada of the Diocese of Butuan welcomes assembly delegates.*



*Sis. Tess Miranda, Region XII RR, formally opens the assembly*



*Fr. Randy Odchigue, guest speaker*



*IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel awards a token of appreciation to Fr. Odchigue assisted by Sisters Zeny Lagnada and Tess Miranda*



*Gatsby Night was a night of merry-making*

# REGION VIII

## December 10, 2017 - LEGAZPI CITY

*Sisters Carmen Rayel and Sol Vargas,  
Region VIII Correspondents*

The Regional Assembly of Region VIII was held at Embarcadero Function Hall in Legazpi City, Albay on December 10, 2017. The Diocese of Legazpi was the assembly host. Region VIII is composed of the Dioceses of Legazpi, Caceres, Catanduanes, Daet and Sorsogon. This year's theme was "The Family, A Resource for Development".

The assembly started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother by Diocesan and Vicarial Regents, the Regional Board headed by RR Sis. Zenaida Sto. Tomas who welcomed the delegates and guests and the International Board.

Vice-IR – Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario, representing the International Regent, discussed the assembly theme. She underscored the important role of the family in the light of the phenomenon of the Overseas Filipino Workers and absentee parenting or parenting by remote control that significantly affect the family unit and has become a social problem. Dire economic conditions force a parent or both parents to work and live abroad or somewhere else leaving their children under the care of their nannies, grandmothers and/or relatives. This phenomenon creates a family condition of estrangement, lack of caring and love, lack of a sense of the sanctity of marriage and family and

consequently resulting in moral degradation brought by an array of individual and family issues and societal problems. She also mentioned the growing trend of members of families or the whole family joining other sects or religions. She cited as family inspirations the Ayalas and Gokongweis who run very successful and highly reputable business conglomerates and their strong faith in God, much love and extreme determination to succeed. Sis. Ruby also gave updates on DMII's policies and operation.

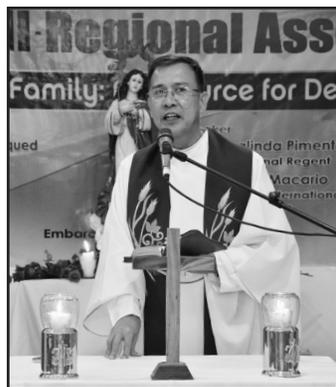
Sis. Cora Afuang, International Chirperson for Pro-Life talked about the mission and its objectives and programs. She gave pointers on how the Pro-Life mission can be implemented successfully. She also discussed House Bills that are pending in Congress that are anti-life and anti-family. She said that as pro-lifers, the DMI must support the Church's position regarding these bills and join in the campaign against their passage. Among them are the revival of the death penalty, legalization of euthanasia, divorce and dissolution of marriage and same-sex marriage.

Msgr. Ramon Tronqued, vicar-general of the Diocese of Legazpi and pastor of St. Stephen the Protomartyr Parish in Ligao, Albay was presider at the Eucharistic celebration that followed. In his homily, he discussed the meaning of Advent and the need for repentance and conversion in preparation for the coming of Christ.

A fellowship program concluded the day's activity when the participating dioceses presented dances popular during the '60's and '70's. Gifts were also given to participants who were able to give correct answers during the Q & A game. The assembly delegates went home happy having seen majestic Mayon and the noted Embarcadero and happier still for the friendship and camaraderie of DMI sisters they met during the assembly.



*Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas carries the Blessed Mother's image during the opening ceremonies.*



*Mass celebrant, Msgr. Ramon Tronqued delivers his homily.*



*Guests from the International Board, Sisters Ruby Macario and Cora Afuang, in a group photo with the Region VIII officers.*



*VIR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario (2nd from left) and Pro-Life Chair Sis. Cora Afuang receive certificates of appreciation from Region VIII officers led by RR Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas (2nd from right).*

# MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE CIRCLE CELEBRATES 35TH ANNIVERSARY

By Sis. Lorie Manalansan. Past Regent

The Mother of Divine Grace Circle of Sacred Heart Parish, Tugatog, Malabon City celebrated its 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last November 28, 2017 at Chef Patrick's Kitchen in Caloocan City.

Special guests during the occasion were International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel, VIR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario, Youth Welfare International Chairperson and Kalookan Diocesan Regent Sis. Cathy Pineda and Rev. Fr. Jun Bartolome, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. The event was also attended by some local government officials headed by Malabon City Vice-Mayor Jeannie Sandoval, Tugatog Barangay Chairman Edna Valenzuela and Kagawad Alvin Manalac who represented Malabon City Mayor Len Oreta.

The Circle's Coral Anniversary gave its members the chance to look back on their circle's history via a video presentation starting with the gathering of wives of the Knights of Columbus Council No.3951 during a rosary crusade in October, 1981. This was followed by a meeting with the DMII Local District Deputy Sis. Concepcion Javier-Ramos. This paved the way for the formal installation of the charter officers and members of the Mother of Divine Grace Circle at the Officers' Clubhouse of Camp Aguinaldo in Quezon City on November 28, 1982.

During her inspirational message, International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel reminded the circle members of continuing to keep the faith in and emulating the virtues of Mama Mary and continuing to grow the DMII both in numbers and in works. On the lighter side, Sis. Lelis ribbed Vice-Mayor Jeannie, her colleague in the Congressional Spouses group, to also become a DMI sister and be counted among its beautiful members.

During the celebration, charter members of the circle who were able to attend the event were recognized and offered a toast



Charter members offer a toast to the continuation of circle members' committed service to God and fellowmen.

to the continuation of the circle's service to God and fellowmen. The charter members were Sisters Annie Bautista, Celia Cabrera, charter regent, Cora Campos, Queta Gregorio, Myra Sevilla, past diocesan regent, and Celia Villanueva, past regent.

The Circle's roster of Past Regents is as follows:

Sisters Celia Cabrera (1982-1984), Liling Carreon (1984-1986), Uring Sevilla (1986-1988), Lydia Natividad (1988-1990), Naty Tayag (1990-1992), Cely Villanueva (1992-1994; 1998-1999), Crising Quimson (1994-1996; 1999-2000, 2005-2006), Myra Sevilla (1996-1998), Lorie Manalansan (2000-2002), Cely Abagat (2003-2004), Lucy Flores (2007-2008), Flor Limbo (2009), Vangie Esmino (2010), Nory de Ramos ((2011-2012), Jessie Abagat (2013-2014), Lilian So (2015-2016), and Marie San Jose (2017-2018).

As in past anniversaries, they assisted IR Sis. Lelis, VIR Sis. Ruby and DR Sis. Cathy in the ceremonial cutting of the cake as a gesture of servant leadership. Slices of the cake were later distributed to circle members.

A select group of circle members headed by Regent Sis. Marie San Jose performed a dance number followed by raffle draws and a song number by all those present. They sang "Kahit Maputi Na Ang Buhok Ko", a reminder of the DMII's lessons in Unity, Friendship and Charity. The program was hosted by Sis. Lorie Manalansan.

Endless picture-taking and laughter marked the event just like in the past, but this year's celebration was of special significance, it being the circle's Coral Anniversary.



A group picture of the Mother of Divine Grace officers and members with guests from the International Board headed by International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel (seated at center). To her left are VIR- Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario and Kalookan Diocesan Regent Sis. Cathy Pineda.

## **RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE HOLDS WORK & PERSONAL EFFECTIVENESS WORKSHOP FOR STREET SWEEPERS**

*By Sis. Inday Farol, Circle Scribe*

The Risen Christ Circle of Holy Eucharist Parish, Moonwalk Village, Paranaque sponsored a workshop on Work and Personal Effectiveness last Sept. 20, 2017.

The main objective of the workshop was to empower women, particularly the marginalized, in the community. It is a reality that many women, especially those who lack education or work on menial jobs are oftentimes overlooked, oppressed, abused and/or violated. This dismal condition has resulted in the women's very low self-esteem or self-worth and poor self-image. The workshop is one of several that can be utilized as an empowerment tool to advance the cause of these marginalized women. The empowerment must start with themselves first.

Spearheading the activity was the circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee under the auspices and generous support of Sis. Milde Tong, international chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers who is from Risen Christ Circle.

A total of 62 street sweepers from Paranaque's City Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) who are assigned to Barangay Moonwalk trooped to the IDM Building in Moonwalk Village after their morning duties to attend the whole-day workshop. CENRO employs over 1,000 employees consisting of street sweepers, creek cleaners, the information group and operations.

The workshop was designed and directed by Past Regent Sis. Anching McMurray, a psychologist and educator for more than 40 years. She and her group of professional trainers have designed and run several very successful training programs for leading corporations in the country.

The participants were officially welcomed by Sis. Milde. An overview of the program was provided by Sis. Anching and Sis. Helen de Leon, lead workshop facilitator.

Mr. Boi Mojica, Paranaque's acting assistant head of CENRO, DMI's project partner in the activity, also addressed the participants. An expert in waste management, he first paid tribute to the street sweepers for helping make Paranaque



*The Risen Christ Circle members with workshop participants and officials from CENRO.*

earn the distinction of being one of the cleanest cities in Metro Manila and winning several recognition awards, both local and national and even an international one. He gave the participants bits of advice such as taking good care of themselves like wearing their rain capes during bad weather and reflective vests to avoid accidents and to show at all times that they are worthy of respect. He also said that they may earn extra income by endorsing them for participation in a CENRO livelihood project of making shopping bags from recycled plastic straw and juice tetra packs.

The workshop proper consisted of theory inputs (lectures) by speakers, all Past Regents of the Risen Christ Circle: Sis. Anching on Self-Awareness and Self-Esteem, Sis. Helen Balmores on Values, Attitude and Relationships, Sis. Mossette Don on Social Ethics, Sis. Sonia Manlapig on Community Relations and Additional Income and Sis. Linda Chincuanco on Empowerment of Women. Included in the last topic were salient provisions of the Magna Carta of Women which guarantees the rights of women under the law. Sis. Helen Balmores also enlivened the workshop with fun ice-breakers enjoyed by both the participants and the facilitators.

The participants were later divided into small groups to answer prepared questions as their reaction to the topics discussed. Table facilitators from Risen Christ Circle were assigned to each group to clarify some points and ensure that the questions are answered correctly by the participants.

*turn to page 28*

*From the Diocese of Imus (Region V)*

## STO. NINO DE MOLINO TEAM-BUILDING WORKSHOP

*By Sis. Catherine P. Longcob,  
Circle Regent*



The DMI sisters of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circle of Bacoor, Cavite held a Team-Building Workshop at Water Camp, a resort in Kawit, Cavite last June 7, 2017. The overnight activity gave the sisters the opportunity not only to bond but to also enjoy the facilities of the resort for their team-building exercises. It was a happy and lively bunch who went home the following day after jogging around the swimming pools and enjoying the relaxing waves of the pools. Special guest was Fr. Reuel Castaneda, pastor of Sto. Nino de Molino Parish. The Circle's Social Committee spearheaded the activity.

*From the Diocese of Cubao (Region V)*

## STA. PERPETUA CIRCLE HOLDS LIVELIHOOD SEMINAR

*By Sis. Susan Correa*

The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of Sta. Perpetua Circle of Bgy. Manresa, Quezon City in cooperation with Sikap Buhay Entrepreneurship and Cooperative Office of the city government conducted a rug-making seminar to produce potholders and doormats by weaving T-shirt yarns last June 3, 2017. The seminar was held at the Sta. Perpetua Parish on D. Tuazon Street.

Participants in the seminar were unemployed mothers, senior citizens as well as DMI sisters from the sponsoring circle and other circles in the Diocese. The objective of the project is to provide an alternative source of livelihood to some women by learning a skill to help augment their family income and improve the quality of life of their families.

A follow-up tutorial in rug-making for some circle members was also held last July 8 at the residence of Sis. Evelyn Santos. The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of Sta. Perpetua Circle who helped in the project were Sisters Gretel Pineda, Josie Osorio and Lolit Tan, who currently heads the Diocesan committee of this mission.



*Seminar participants at work during the rug-making seminar.*

# DIOCESE OF ANTIPOLO PURSUES DMI MISSION THRUSTS

*By Sis. Rosario Diaz, Diocesan Chairperson  
for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims*

**D**iocesan Regent Sis. Elena Malto of the Diocese of Antipolo spearheaded four mission projects during the month of September, 2017. Assisting her in the activities were the three Vicarial Regents – Sisters Mercy Ong of Our Lady of the Abandoned, Julita Lodia of Our Lady of Aranzazu and Levy Marero of St. John the Baptist – as well as the eleven circle regents and mission chairpersons of the Diocese. Past Regent Sis. Rita Lucena also extended her support.

The four mission projects were:

1. A Personal Effectiveness Learning Session for the Squirettes of Mary members of the Diocese at the St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Marikina Heights, Marikina City was held on Sept. 2, 2017. The seminar was conducted by Sis. Eryra Umali, regent of Our Lady of the Abandoned Circle. In attendance were 22 SMIs and 19 DMI sisters led by Sis. Flordeliza Abilagoyo, SMI Diocesan chairperson and regent of St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Circle. International Chairperson for Youth Welfare Sis. Cathy Pineda and SMI Coordinator for Luzon Sis. Biannah Villanueva attended the activity.
2. The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee held a Hair Coloring Seminar for 20 women parishioners, circle regents and chairpersons of the committee. The activity was welcomed by the senior citizens and young women who learned the proper way of coloring the hair. Sis. Julita Lodia, diocesan chairperson of the mission spearheaded the activity.

3. An encounter with female inmates of the Marikina City Jail took place on Sept. 23 made possible by the Diocesan Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims Sis. Rosario Diaz and Jail Warden J-INCT Margie Monsalud. During the encounter, a Holy Mass was held followed by a program and distribution of food and give-aways. There were 186 female inmates staying in their 6<sup>th</sup> floor dormitory that 45 DMI sisters, many of them seniors, who bravely negotiated six flights of stairs to visit the inmates. DMII Pro-Life International Chairperson and Vice-President of Pro-Life Phils. Sis. Cora Afuang who was a special guest gave an inspirational message.
4. The Pro-Life Committee headed by Diocesan Chair Sis. Cora Justo sponsored a blood-letting activity with 19 DMI sisters, the circle chairpersons for Pro-Life and 18 other individuals volunteering as blood donors.



*The SMI Personal Effectiveness Learning Session in progress*



*Special guest Sis. Cora Afuang gives an inspirational message during the DMII encounter with female inmates at the Marikina City Jail.*

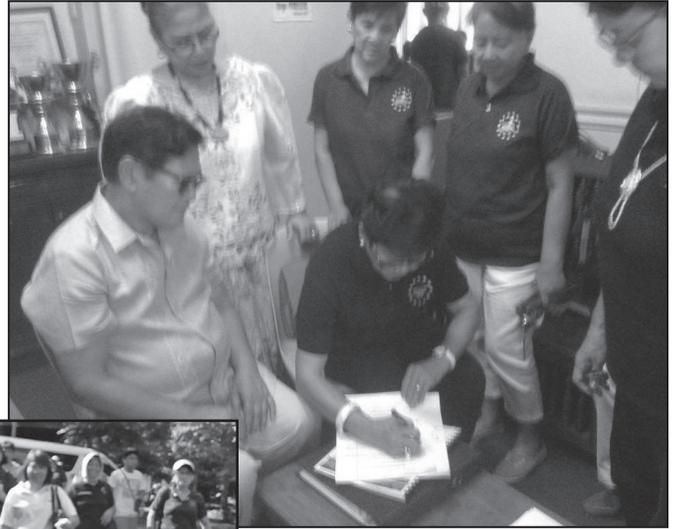


*The visiting DMI sisters pose with J-INCT Margie Monsalud, warden of the jail's female inmates.*

# REGION VI DIOCESAN TREE-PLANTING

The Diocese of San Pablo held a tree-planting activity on Sept. 9, 2017 at a site in Tayak Hill, Rizal, Laguna. The project was a joint undertaking of the Diocesan Pro-Life Committee headed by Sis. Norma Eusebio and the Municipality of Rizal, Laguna. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the two parties detailing their respective responsibilities in undertaking the tree-planting project.

Seventy-one DMI sisters from the four vicariates of the diocese participated in the project. After the activity, they responded to the challenge of going up the 300 steps to the top of the hill where a big white cross stands. They found the view of the surrounding countryside including San Pablo City and majestic Mt. Banahaw exhilarating. It took away the pain and fatigue they felt during the ascent.



*A Memorandum of Understanding is signed by the DMII and the Office of the Mayor of Rizal, Laguna.*



*The DMI sisters walk to the site of their tree-planting activity.*



## Photo NEWS



**New SMI Circlette Organized.** A new SMI circlette was organized at the St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Bgy, Kaylaway, Nasugbu, Batangas. Forty-seven new Squirettes were invested on August 13, 2017 during the investiture ceremony attended by Region VII Representative Sis. Eufelia Dollentas and SMI Lady Sisters Sally Dastas and Evelyn Roberto.



**Tree-Planting Project Held.** The Our Lady of Peace Circle of Natipunan, Nasugbu, Batangas went tree-planting on October 28, 2017. The project was in coordination with the Barangay Captain and the DENR of Calaca, Batangas.

## News Briefs from the Diocese of Legazpi

**VIRGO FIDELIS CIRCLE RECEIVES DMI CHARTER.** A new circle had just been organized at the St. Raphael the Archangel Parish in Pantao, Libon, Albay.

Sta. Luisa de Marillac Circle Regent Sis. Lydia Bautista initiated the formation of the new circle which received its charter on November 25, 2017.

The circle has 19 charter members. The exemplification of the circle's members and installation of its officers were presided by Region VIII Representative Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas, assisted by Diocesan Regent Sis. Cora Bo, Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Edith Manila, Vicarial Regent Sis. Purisima Satuito and Sis. Lydia Bautista, regent of Sta. Luisa de Marillac Circle through whose efforts the new circle was formed.

The other members of the Sta. Luisa de Marillac Circle



*The installation rites of the Virgo Fidelis charter officers*

which won the 2016 Outstanding Circle Award in the Diocese of Legazpi, showed full support by being present during the activity. - **Sis. Gladimer Secillano**

**STA. LUISA DE MARILLAC SMI CIRCLETTE JOINS LINIS KaLog.** The Squirettes of the Sta. Luisa de Marillac SMI Circlette of Libon, Albay joined a community project on environment protection called Linis KaLog (Kanal at Ilog) last Sept. 23, 2017.

The activity started with a parade participated in by representatives of the different barangays and religious organizations carrying slogans and placards to drum up support for their campaign.

The volunteers then went to their respective assignments to clean the rivers of seven barangays in Centro Poblacion and tree-planting in the barangays in Big 5 League.

The SMIs also help in the renewal of the parish under the program called "Catechists: Agents of Renewal of the Parish". Sis. Manilyn Seda is the SMI Lady Counselor and Sq. Mary Joy Marinay is the circlette president. - **Sis. Manilyn Seda**



*A Squirette precariously perches on the side of the bridge during the river clean-up activity.*

**STA. LUISA DE MARILLAC CIRCLE PUTS UP MAMA MARY'S GARDEN.** A Mama Mary's Garden was put up by the Sta. Luisa de Marillac Circle at Lopez Subd., Zone 1, Libon, Albay. Regent Sis. Lydia Bautista said the garden is the circle's contribution in maintaining the beauty and freshness of the environment. Vegetables such as pechay, okra, gabi, malunggay, kangkong, etc. and fruit-bearing plants such as papaya, banana, avocado, atis, mango, etc. are planted in the garden.

An extension of Mary's Garden was also put up at the back portion of the church plaza near the image of the Blessed Mother planted to vegetables and ornamental and flowering plants.

The members of the circle regularly monitor and maintain both gardens. - **Sis. Manilyn Seda**



*The DMI sisters of the Sta. Luisa de Marillac Circle proudly pose in front of their Mama Mary's Garden.*

# MORNING STAR CIRCLE SPONSORS CONTESTS FOR STUDES

*By Sis. Sol G. Simbulan*

The Morning Star Circle of Malaybalay, Bukidnon sponsored last Sept. 7, 2017 on-the-spot Essay Writing and Poster Making Contests among students of the Bukidnon State University (BukSU) in Malaybalay City. The project was spearheaded by the circle's Morality in Media Committee.

The contest was made part of the school's celebration of Social Awareness Week through its Social Science Department.

The contest mechanics including the topic/theme "Morality in Media in Today's Technological Milieu: The Role of Social Media in Fostering Truth, Peace Justice and Moral Values" were explained to the contestants shortly before the contest started. Criteria for judging entries in the Essay Writing Contest were as follows: relevance/adherence to the theme – 40%, originality/creativity – 30%, structure/grammar – 20% and style/"wow" factor -10%. For Poster Making: relevance and adherence to the theme – 40%, originality – 20%, creativity and presentation - 30% and "wow" factor/appeal to viewers – 10%.

The contest mechanics and criteria were prepared by Dr. Simbulan, Mr. Ivan Heinrich Villanueva, chair of the Social Science Dept. and Sis. Cornelia Partosa, the circle's Morality in Media chair. Prizes for the contest were provided by the Morning Star Circle.

The awarding of prizes to contest winners were held on Sept. 8 at the BukSU Auditorium. They were Rotche Mason - 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Ian Limocon - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and Chessica Neo - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for the Essay Writing Contest and Rockie Javier - 1<sup>st</sup> prize, Edmar Saldua - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize and Daniel Litao - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for the Poster Making Contest.

The Morning Star Circle's Media Committee is composed of Sisters Jesusa Alenton, Remedios GT Barroso, Agustina Dacudag, Virginia Batocail, Concepcion Belderol, Linda Beltran, Dulce Caga-anan, Joyce Carbajal, Adoracion de la Cerna, Annabelle de la Cerna, Lelis Ching, Luz Diez, Fe Intong, Vivian Llagumbay, Annabel Litanon, Zenaida Moreno, Editha Pabillaran, Cornelia Partosa, Sol Simbulan, Marites Sotelo, Felma Tabequero, Aida Taga, Gloria Torres, Luz Ventenilla, and Judith Zambas.



*BukSU student contestants in the Essay Writing Contest.*



*Poster Making contest participants.*



*Awarding of prizes to winners of the Essay Writing and Poster Making Contests.*

# UPDATES FROM ZAMBOANGA

By Sisters Pinky Saavedra, Diocesan Regent and  
Evelina Balbon, Regent, St. Joseph Circle



**Personality Development Program A Continuing SMI Activity in Zambo.** The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2017 saw the SMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga attending development seminars and workshops as part of their formation program. On Aug. 21, 2017, they attended a symposium on Personality Development conducted by Sis. Rose Bulawin of St. Joseph Circle and Sis. Virginia Salazar of San Isidro Labrador Circle. The topics included social graces, etiquette and sex education. The activity was held at the San Antonio Maria Claret Formation Center. A Diocesan SMI Workshop on Handicraft/Beadwork was also conducted on August 28 at the St. Ignatius Parish Rectory in Tetuan, Zamboanga City aimed at enhancing the girls' skills and talents for livelihood opportunities.

## **New SMI Circlette Organized.**

Forty-six young girls were invested as Squirettes of Mary in Zamboanga City last Sept. 24, 2017. The investiture ceremony was held at the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at La Purisima St., Zamboanga City.



## **St. Joseph Circle Organizes Two New Circles.**

The St. Joseph Circle of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga has just organized two new circles, one after the other. On Sept. 10, 2017, the St. Joseph Exemplification Team performed the Long Conferral Ceremony for 16 recruits for the La Nuestra Senora del Pilar Circle in Barangay Vitali, Zamboanga City. They were recruited by Fr. Emmanuel Rodriguez, pastor of Our Lady of the Pillar Parish. The charter officers led by Regent Sis. Asuncion Araneta were installed on Nov. 12 by Vicarial Regent Sis. Mila Fernandez.



*The officers of La Nuestra Senora del Pilar Circle with Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Vicarial Regent Sis. Mila Fernandez, Membership Committee Chair Sis. Titing Iglesias and DMI sisters of St. Joseph Circle.*

October 1, 2017 marked the official birth of the Mystical Rose Circle of the Lady of Fatima Church located at the Western Mindanao Command. Eighteen charter members were exemplified and the officers headed by Regent Sis. Eleanor Perez were installed. The circle is fully supported by the circle's chaplain, Fr. Reynaldo Narisma. Present during the installation were VIR-Mindanao and Region XIV Representative Sis. Angie Baes, Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Vicarial Regent Sis. Darling Tandoc and other diocesan officers, the St. Joseph Exemplification Team and the Our Lady of Purification Circle Choir.



*The newly installed officers of the Mystical Rose Circle with Fr. Rey Narisma.*

**UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS DAY, Tuesday, November 14, 2017**



*The Diocese of Paranaque (Region V) hosted a Work & Personal Effectiveness Seminar for Program Implementors of a workshop for women workers based on a pilot project held on September 16, 2017 for female street sweepers of Barangay Moonwalk sponsored by the Risen Christ Circle. (See story on page 18.) The workshop, attended by 51 diocesan and circle officers from the Dioceses of Region V – the Dioceses of Paranaque, Cubao, Kalookan, Imus and the Archdiocese of Manila – and guests from the Diocese of San Pablo who will replicate the workshop in their respective parishes/communities. They were joined by 15 women workers who gave their reactions to the workshop. International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers Sis. Milde Tong from the Risen Christ Circle was a major sponsor of both activities. Program Director was Sis. Anching McMurray, psychologist and educator and past regent of Risen Christ Circle. The lecturers and facilitators were officers and members of the Risen Christ Circle. VIR-Luzon and Region V RR Sis. Ruby Macario was a special guest.*



*The Our Lady of Consolation and Cinture Circle of St. James the Apostle Parish in Paombong, Bulacan, Diocese of Malolos (Region IV) extended financial assistance to Ms. Teodora Garcia, sole family breadwinner, to help augment her capital for a small store that sells clothes and other small articles at her house and near the barangay hall. Ms. Garcia supports an aging mother.*



*The Diocesan Upliftment of Workers Committee of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan headed by Sis. Grace Gonzales held an info session on skills training that the DMII can make available to parishioners. Speakers were Fatima Jingirl Sahidul of the Zamboanga City Agriculture Office and Paul Saavedra of TESDA.*

**ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES AND THEIR VICTIMS DAY, Wednesday, November 15**



*The Our Lady of Consolation and Cinture Circle of Paombong, Bulacan (Region IV) headed by Regent Sis. Apolonia Mislang and APFV Mission Chair Sis. Virginia Amar visited the Calayag Family bringing with them their donation of rice and groceries. A son is serving time at the municipal jail for a drug-related offense. The family also received spiritual counseling from the DMI sisters.*

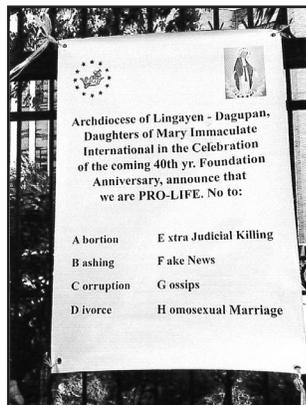


*The Sta. Cecilia Circle of Koro-nadal, South Cotabato (Region XIII) visited the Provincial Jail after attending Mass at the Christ the King Cathedral. The circle members distributed gift packs containing personal care items to women inmates after a meeting with the jail warden.*

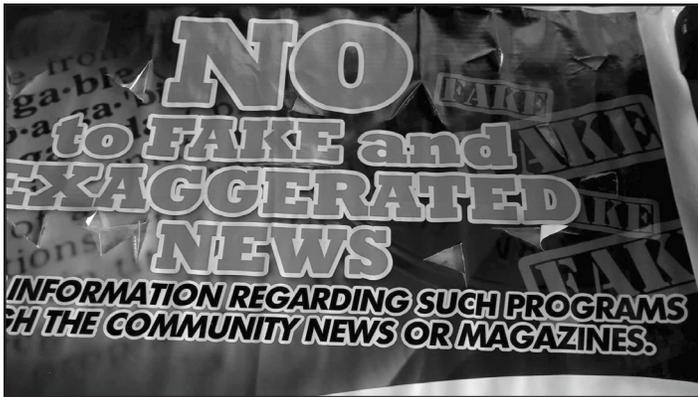


*Families of prisoners in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga (Region XIV) were beneficiaries of a gift-giving activity on Nov. 15. The gifts were called love packs containing 2 kilos rice, 6 packs noodles, 2 cans sardines, 10 pcs. 3-in-1 coffee sachet, soy sauce and vinegar. The circles in the Archdiocese contributed 5 packs each for the gift-giving. An early morning Mass celebrated by Fr. Filmore Calibo at the St. Joseph Church preceded the activity.*

**MORALITY IN MEDIA DAY, Thursday, November 16, 2017**



*A motorcade by the DMIs of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan (Region II) led by Region II RR Sis. Virgie Terrado went around Dagupan City bearing the slogans of DMII's missions. The event had the blessing of Archbishop Socrates Villegas of the Archdiocese and Msgr. Alvin Gerald Platon, rector of the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist, and approval of Dagupan City Mayor Belen Fernandez.*



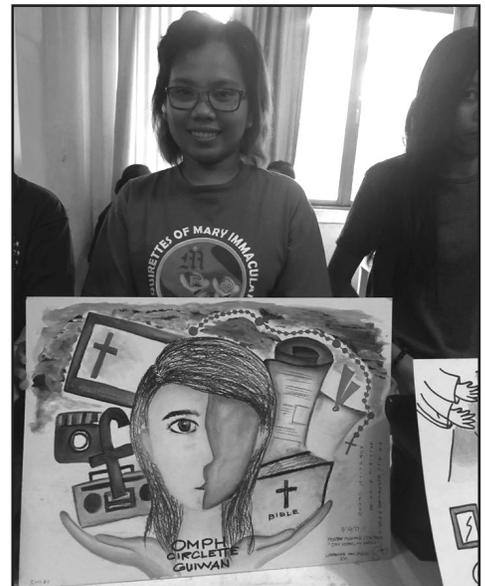
The Queen of Flowers Circle of St. Martin of Tours Parish, Diocese of Malolos (Region IV) held a motorcade around the town of Bocaue with participating vehicles bearing tarpaulins with the mission's media advocacies such as "No to Fake and Exaggerated News" to make parishioners aware of the circle's media campaign. Regent Sis. Clarita Nolasco led the activity with Sisters Aida de la Cruz, Annie Cardenas, Elizabeth Escalante and other circle members.

A Morality in Media Fun Walk was held jointly by the Dioceses of Antipolo and Pasig at the Riverpark. The participants headed by International Chairperson for Pro-Life Sis. Cora Afuang and Diocesan Regent Sis. Elena Malto carried a tarpaulin with the mission's slogan "Mabuting Pagkatao, Mabuting Pilipino".



The Tower of Ivory Circle (Region XI) gave several out-of-school youths the opportunity to play traditional games in place of electronic gadgets. A symposium on Adolescent Health Perspectives for Junior and Senior High School students was conducted later.

A Poster Making Contest aimed at putting words into pictures was sponsored by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga (Region XIV). The contest theme was "Morality, Jesus' Salvific Mission to All, Expressed in Media". The criteria for judging were originality, synchronization of colors and theme. The board of judges were Sis. Evelyn Balbon, regent of St. Joseph Circle, Sis. Suzette Natividad of MCIC and Sis. Ernie de Peralta of St. Ignatius Circle. The activity was spearheaded by the Diocesan Morality in Media Committee headed by Chairperson Sis. Norma Daan.



**YOUTH WELFARE DAY, Friday and Saturday, November 17-18, 2017**



*A Youth Minilympics was held by the Our Lady of Consolation and Cincture SMI Circlette, Diocese of Malolos (Region IV) jointly with the Knights of Columbus at the St. James the Apostle Parish compound in Paombong, Bulacan. The event showcased talents of participants in various sports activities – double badminton, table tennis, darts, scrabble, etc. The circlette’s Lady counselor is Sis. Remedios Centeno.*



*The Queen of Flowers SMI Circlette of Bocaue, Bulacan (Region IV) attended a seminar on Social Graces to develop respect for self and others. The activity was held at the SMA Meeting Room of St. Martin of Tours Parish. SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Anita Dalangin organized the seminar with the support of Circle Regent Sis. Annie Cardenas. Diocesan Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Dottie Principe, a doctor, was the resource speaker.*



*The SMIs of the Diocese of San Pablo (Region IV) attended a seminar-workshop on Personality Development in observance of Youth Welfare Day. Some DMI sisters also attended the activity which started with a Holy Mass.*



*The Tower of Ivory SMI Circlette of Tacloban City (Region XI) held team-building and sports activities on November 18. The previous day, a symposium on Personality Development was conducted attended by both SMIs and DMI sisters. Sis. Leni Basilan sponsored the activity.*

*Contributors to this Mission Week Photo News: Sis. Aileen Santos of Region II, Sis. Emelita de la Pena of Region IV, Sisters Elena Malto, Lina Reyes and Lelita Guzman of Region V, Sis. Fortunata Aquino of Region VI, Sis. Carmen Baquilid of Region XI, Sis. Nenita Barroso of Region XIII and Sisters Pinky Saavedra and Ellen Velasco of Region XIV*

**Risen Christ circle... from page 18**

During the open forum held later, earning additional income stood out as the most asked question. Sis. Milde offered several suggestions such as part-time work in homes within the village with 101% honesty as the main requirement. Another option is joining a women’s ministry, similar to a cooperative. One such group is already existing with crocheted coasters as a product. She has offered to provide the materials and the patterns and purchase the finished products afterwards. An exporter who buys all kinds of scrap paper is a third option.

Mr. Bernie Amurao, the head of CENRO gave the closing remarks. He thanked the DMII for helping the street sweepers in uplifting their lives as well as for providing the facilities and meals during the workshop.

All in all, it was a highly successful workshop and the participants expressed gratitude and appreciation for the attention and learnings they gained. They also requested that they be given another chance to attend similar activities in the future.