



DMI NEWSETTE

vol. XXXVI no. 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

October - December 2019

LUZON AREA CONFERENCE DRAWS 1,200 DMI DELEGATES



The Asturias Hotel in Puerto Princesa City was host to the Luzon Area Conference on October 26-27, 2019 with some 1,200 DMI delegates making the event the best attended LAC thus far.

The Vicariate of Puerto Princesa led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Nitz Austria and her very efficient Working Committee took quite a load from International Vice-Regent-Luzon and Region V Representative Sis. Milde Tong and the Region V Officers, attending to the local arrangements and logistics requirements on the ground to ensure a well-managed conference program and a comfortable and enjoyable stay for the conference delegates.

The Puerto Princesa Airport was a beehive of activities as the delegates started arriving on October 25 on various flights from Manila. A Welcome Committee met them and saw to it that their hotel transfers ran

smoothly on time. Delegates who arrived early were able to take in the interesting sites within the city as well as shop for souvenirs and pearls that they can get at surprisingly low prices in the local market and adjoining shops.

The opening ceremonies started promptly at 9:00 a.m. of October 26 with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario led the ceremony. This was followed by the entrance of colors, the singing of the National Anthem, the *Panunumpa sa Watawat* and the DMI Hymn. The presentation of circles took quite some time as circle delegations from the eight regions of Luzon were presented in a parade of their respective regents carrying their circle banners.

turn to page 4

From the International Chaplain

Message



My beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

We greet you a very blessed New Year 2020 and we pray that as we begin this decade, the Lord's blessings and graces be upon you, your families, your circles, and all your apostolates.

As we embark on this "Year of Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue and Indigenous People", the last year of preparation for the 500 years of Christianity in the Philippines next year, we reflect on the theme of Dialogue towards Harmony.

Indeed we have to be reminded of the goal of Jesus to restore all things to our Heavenly Father. God has created humanity to be one community of brothers and sisters with Him as our Father.

This harmony and unity can only be achieved through dialogue. Dialogue can only exist in an environment of mutual respect, attentive listening, and sincere effort to understand and to accept even our differences. If we come to an encounter with our own prejudices and biases, no genuine dialogue will occur.

Harmony and unity are best promoted when we seek to disengage ourselves from all the things that divide us and to focus on all the things that unite us - the good of all people especially those who are in need. Bishop Pablo Virgilio David of Kalookan, citing the initiatives of the Holy Father, Pope Francis, calls it the "spaces of unity" when we collaborate and cooperate for the poor, for peace, justice, and the integrity of creation, regardless of our conviction or affiliation.

A great challenge is presented to us here. Even as we look outside to our brothers and sisters of other faith, religion, culture and tradition, we must look first into ourselves to see if we live in unity and harmony. For we cannot give what we do not have. We examine ourselves and ask whether we are "bridges" or "blockers" of harmony and unity among people starting perhaps with our own family and community, and, interestingly, in our DMII family.

We pray that Jesus, the great sign of the unity of God and Man, may ever grant us the grace and the wisdom to be true instruments of love, harmony, unity and peace. May the blessings of God be always upon us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Jeronimo Ma. J. Cruz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FR. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ
International Chaplain

From the International Regent

Message



My beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

The year 2020 is very important, it being the start of the decade. We began the year honoring Mary, Mother of God. What better way to start the first year of the decade than by giving the one person close to her son Jesus such great honor.

Mary has always been so beloved by the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. In all our activities, in all our actions, and in all our endeavors, her vision has been ever-present.

2019 marked our 40th year of journey in service. It was the Year of the Filipino Youth in mission: beloved, gifted, empowered. The Squirettes of Mary Immaculate, our youth arm, has been at the forefront of our youth welfare activities – basically making them models of Mary's virtues.

Spirituality being one of our main programs, our monthly reflections allowed us, and continue to allow us, to pause and reflect on what we can do as a community and look upon heroes of the Church as inspiration in our servant leadership.

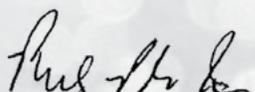
We Mary's daughters grew in number through our membership efforts and counted as our most significant favor the granting by Pope Francis to DMII his apostolic blessing, invoking through the intercession of the Virgin Mary an abundance of Divine graces.

This 2020, we close our 40th founding celebration and commit ourselves to continue to march with Mary, supporting Christian Unity in the Year of Ecumenism, Interreligious Dialogue and Indigenous Peoples.

As the year started with various forms of calamities, our crisis intervention facility is made doubly responsive with immediate assistance to fellow sisters and fellowmen in need.

My call to our dear sisters is to make our missions all the more responsive to the times. Let us have meaningful assemblies and conventions and practice what we learn in the halls of our assemblies and conventions, having in mind that all that we do are for the greater glory of God.

May this decade and all the years to come be blessed. Happy New Year!


SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO
International Regent

Luzon Area Conference... from page 1



The registration of delegates



Fr. Jerome Cruz and Sis. Ruby Macario escort the Blessed Virgin Mary to her altar on the stage during the opening ceremony.



Eucharistic celebration officiated by Bishop Socrates Mesiona assisted by Fr. Ric Uy, Fr. Salvador Saturnino, Fr. Jerome Cruz, and Fr. Albert Sanchez.

A concelebrated Mass immediately followed the welcome remarks of IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde. Most Rev. Socrates Mesiona, MSP, DD, bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa, was the main celebrant assisted by DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, DMI Spiritual Adviser of Puerto Princesa Fr. Albert Sanchez, Vicariate of Puerto Princesa Chancellor Fr. Salvador Saturnino and Fr. Ric Uy of the Vicariate of Taytay, Palawan.

In his homily and keynote address, Bishop Mesiona congratulated the DMII for celebrating its 40th founding anniversary and cited the significance of the number 40 in the Bible such as Jesus fasting in the wilderness for 40 days, the 40 days and 40 nights of rain that Noah's Ark survived, Joshua walking the land for 40 years and others. He said that these were periods of testing and surviving the test makes one stronger. The past 40 years have given the organization and its members the opportunity to grow in faith and deeper involvement in the DMII missions which are effective avenues in

serving God, the parish communities and the society at large.

Bishop Mesiona specially cited the DMII's role in shepherding the youth and accompanying them, serving as role models for young Squirettes in emulating the virtues of the Blessed Mother. "Continue to grow in age, wisdom and favor before God and man by keeping His teachings and obeying His Commandments" was his final message.

The reports of the International Mission Chairpersons took the rest of the morning and part of the afternoon sessions.

For Pro-life, Sis. Cora Afuang reported the programs and activities of the mission advocating respect and protection of life and the environment which Pope Francis espouses in his encyclical "*Laudato Si*". She announced the forthcoming nationwide program that she has suggested for dioceses to adopt: Tree-Planting and the Festival of Twins".



Bishop Mesiona and the Mass co-celebrants with the DMII International Board

Sis Cathy Pineda for Morality in Media presented activity guides for the SMI focusing on communication and nurturing of values. She stressed the need to strengthen character building, values formation and family ties. On social media, she said that the youth need cyber-shepherding because “ You are responsible for everything that you post and what you post is a reflection of yourself.” She also urged her audience to bring Christ back to Christmas.

Sis. Sol Eugenio for Upliftment of Women Workers reported that the programs and activities of this mission will continue – the promotion of universal health care and woman empowerment through the Magna Carta of Women. Target beneficiaries of the projects are housewives, former OFWs, working students and marginalized women in the community.

For Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims (APFV), Sis. Lydia Ordonez, APFV coordinator for Luzon, reporting on behalf of Int’l Chairperson Sis. Laura Cespon, said that the programs and projects of the mission focus on the material and spiritual upliftment of prisoners’ and victims’ families. The material component of the program involves partnering with government agencies and NGOs, particularly in providing beneficiaries with educational opportunities for children, skills and sources of livelihood to ensure that they are able to provide adequately for themselves and eventually be spiritually guided and nurtured.

Sis. Biannah Villanueva for Youth Welfare started with a presentation depicting the four generations



IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde Tong welcomes the conference delegates.

leading to today’s digital natives and the evolution of the traditional to the digital way of life. The programs of the SMI focus on the formation of young girls to become responsible adults and future DMIs.

The afternoon session speaker was Fr. Salvador Saturnino, chancellor of the Chancery of the Vicariate of Puerto Princesa who was introduced by Sis. Fe Gonzales.

Fr. Buddy exhorted his audience to reflect on the following questions: What would Mary tell the youth today? Is your heart on fire? Do you have a listening heart? Does your heart seek the least, the last and the lost?

The questions he posed were an introduction to his topic on how DMIs can fulfill their missions which he said must begin with the family. “Go home and love

turn to page 6

The Parade of Circles



Region I



Region II



Region III



Region IV



Region V



Region VI



Region VII



Token gifts are given to the International Mission Chairpersons. From left: Sisters Rose Enriquez and Lorie Manalansan, program hosts, IR Sis. Ruby, Fr. Jerome, Sis. Milde, Sisters Cathy Pineda, Cora Afuang, Biannah Villanueva, Sol Eugenio and Lydia Ordonez.



International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario during the International Regent's Time.



Fr. Salvador Saturnino, guest speaker



The Puerto Princesa DMI sisters' welcome through song and dance.



Intermission numbers by the "Weirdos" of Risen Christ Circle, Diocese of Paranaque . . .



. . . and DMI sisters of the Diocese of San Pablo



Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Jerome and Fr. Ric Uy on Day 2, Oct. 27.



Vicarial Regent Sis. Nitz Austria, conference host, delivers her closing remarks.

turn to page 8

Luzon Area Conference... from page 7

your family. Proactively fulfill your five missions in your family.” This, he said, is the primary requirement in order for the DMII to really be effective in its missions to serve the parish communities and society.

Sis. Ruby Macario in her International Regent’s Time said that Mary must be in the midst of all of the DMIs’ activities and that as her angels, they will continue to make her the Queen of Heaven and Earth. She cited several leaders in the history of the world who had become heroes by making a big difference in people’s lives. “The Best of all is Jesus.” She exhorted: “ Listen to others. Be model servant-leaders that our country needs today.”

A message from IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde closed the day’s program.

Providing entertainment breaks during the day’s program were the performances of the DMI sisters of

Palawan during lunch, the intermission numbers of the “Weirdos” of Risen Christ Circle of the Diocese of Paranaque and the Diocese of San Pablo. Program hosts of the day were Sisters Lorie Manalansan and Rose Enriquez.

The Fellowship Night, a much-awaited event, featured a cultural presentation by the Palawan Provincial Cultural Group, a live band, performances by Regions I, III, IV , VII and the International Board, a raffle draw and ballroom dancing by the delegates in their colorful Filipiniana attires. These are captured in photos accompanying this story.

On Day 2, a Sunday, the delegates attended the Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Jerome Cruz and Fr. Ric Uy. In his homily, Fr. Jerome said that the DMII assemblies and conferences are holistic activities that include all aspects – spiritual, formative (avenues for listening and learning), social, etc. - from where participating DMIs come away equipped with tools they



The Palawan Provincial Cultural Group



Fr. Ric Uy sings hit songs from the 70’s and 80’s with Sis. Millet Jaurigue of the Diocese of Baguio accompanied by a live band, inviting the delegates to the dance floor.

can utilize while doing the service-oriented activities of the DMI missions.

Before the conference closing ceremonies, the delegates elected Subic, Olongapo City as venue of the 2021 Luzon Area Conference.

The closing remarks of VR Sis. Nitz Austria, conference host, in which she thanked all the delegates for their active participation in making the conference and the efforts of the Conference Working Committees truly worth it brought the conference to a close.



Presentations by Region I (Planting Rice)



Region III by the Immaculate Heart Circle of Angeles City



Region IV (Diocese of Malolos)



Region VII (Diocese of Calapan's Putungan)



Dance number by the International Board



Fr. Jerome draws a winning raffle ticket assisted by Sisters Lydia Ordonez and Milde Tong.

DIOCESE OF IBA HOSTS REGION III ASSEMBLY

By Sis. Antonina R. Abraham, Vicarial Regent,
San Andres Vicariate, Diocese of Iba

A big turn-out of participants attended the Region III Assembly held on September 10, 2019 at the Golden Dragon Restaurant, Subic Freeport Zone, Olongapo City. The assembly theme was “DMII @ 40: Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor Before God and Man in the Year of the Youth” (Luke 2:52).

Delegates from the Archdiocese of San Fernando (Pampanga and Angeles City), Diocese of Balanga (Bataan), Diocese of Tarlac and the Diocese of Iba (Zambales and Olongapo City) totaling 545 DMII sisters started arriving at the venue as early as 6:30 a.m.

Eight International Officers and Board members attended the assembly to give updates on goings-on in the National DMII Organization. International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario headed the group composed of International Vice Regent-Luzon and Region V RR Sis. Milde Tong and International Mission Chairpersons Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Catalina Pineda for Morality in Media, Solema Eugenio for Upliftment of Women Workers, Laura Cespon for Assistance to Prisoners’ Families and their Victims and Biennah Villanueva for Youth Welfare. Region III Representative Sis. Joan Mary Dizon was also with the group.

The traditional enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother participated in by the International Officers and Board, diocesan, vicarial and circle regents signaled the formal opening of the assembly. A newly-purchased image of the Blessed Mother by the Diocese of Iba was processed for the first time during the ceremony. The Parade of Circles followed. Circle regents carrying their respective banners represented the participating circles.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Irma V. Pulangco of the Diocese of Iba, assembly host, warmly welcomed the participants and guests.

A Eucharistic celebration followed presided by Msgr. Crisostomo A. Cacho, vicar general and DMII diocesan spiritual director of the Diocese of Iba. Liturgical music was provided by the Squirettes of the Immaculate Conception Circlette of Barreto, Olongapo City led by Sis. Nida De Llana.



Msgr. Crisostomo Cacho, vicar general and DMII spiritual director of the Diocese of Iba as Mass celebrant.

In Msgr. Cacho’s homily, he challenged the delegates to deliver the service-oriented missions of the DMII to the less fortunate and the marginalized in our society, involving the active participation of the Youth. He added that in doing so, a daughter of Mary should be inspired by Pope Francis’ principle of serving:”To smell like a sheep, work like a sheep, to actually be in a mess that brings solidarity, unity, hope and lasting peace” In Msgr. Cacho’s words, “*Babad sa mga tao sa paglilingkod.*”

Most Rev. Bartolome G. Santos, bishop of the Diocese of Iba, was the assembly’s keynote speaker. Introduced by Sis. Marietta S. Romero, Regent of the Vicariate of San Sebastian, Bishop Santos invited the participants to reflect on the essence of the assembly theme, that like Jesus Who had grown in age and in wisdom favored by God and man, a DMI should also grow in wisdom, full of love, God’s love, and moving on to be transformed by His love and who has that sense of belonging, of being proud and happy as a daughter of Mary, charismatic in charity, immaculate with clear intention, being favored to enjoy suffering but not neglected by God to continue serving as a staunch follower of Jesus and Mary.

To set the mood for the afternoon session, the officers of the Diocese of Iba – DR Sis. Irma, Regent Sis. Violeta Viado of the Vicariate of San Jose and Diocesan Treasurer Sis. Cecille Villar – and Alternate Region III Representative Sis. Lourdes Felicano and International Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya showed their skill in ballroom dancing.

The afternoon session speaker was SK Rene Sarmiento, Knights of Columbus state deputy, North Luzon Jurisdiction. He was introduced by Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya.

SK Sarmiento’s opening salvo “*Mahal ko ang DMI!*” caught the participants’ attention at such an unholy hour (after lunch). He cited the DMII’s growth through its 40 years of existence. He said that every DMI member must be joyful in serving God and humanity as a true daughter of Mary whose virtues she should emulate.

He also cited the many challenges facing the Catholic Church at present such as the blatant disregard of her moral and spiritual teachings. A most grievous example is same-sex marriage which is against the preservation of the sanctity of marriage.



Bishop Bartolome Santos of the Diocese of Iba interviews a senior DMI delegate during his keynote address.



Guest speaker SK Rene Sarmiento, Knights of Columbus Deputy, North Luzon Jurisdiction.

Social Media has also posed a challenge. While it has numerous advantages, there are also a number of adverse effects. According to the American Mediatrix Society, it can endanger the self-image of users resulting in depression. Dr. Rafael Castillo, a columnist of *The Daily Inquirer*, stated that depression could lead to suicide especially among the young.

“These adverse effects of Social Media are a global concern,” SK Sarmiento continued. He therefore called on the DMII to protect and save the youth from the ill effects and threats posed by various social media platforms through its Youth Welfare Mission.

At the end of his talk, SK Sarmiento extolled the importance of the Holy Rosary as the best weapon that a daughter of Mary should religiously carry for her guidance and protection.

Zumba dancing by all the delegates followed as an ice-breaker before the International and Regional Boards’ reports on the accomplishments submitted to them in pursuance of the DMI Missions as well as their forthcoming plans and programs. IR Sis. Ruby Macario also stressed the importance of maintaining good relationship among sisters “as we are all family”.

An added feature of the assembly was the raffle draw of 15 lucky winners of P500 cash and other items.

Vicarial Regent Sis. Antonina Abraham did the closing remarks and led the singing of “Till We Meet Again” as a parting song. Past Regent Sis. Erna B. Ola of San Agustin Circle emceed the day’s program.

The assembly ended with the recessional, the delegates waving their hankies to bid the image of the Blessed Mother good-bye.



Assembly delegates wave their hankies as the image of the Blessed Mother, escorted by the International and Regional Boards led by IR Sis. Ruby Macario and Region III RR Sis. Joanne Dizon, passes by during the recessional.

BAAO, CAMSUR VENUE OF REGION VIII ASSEMBLY

By Sisters Sol Vargas and Irene Ayson

The Regional Assembly of Region VIII was held on October 5, 2019 at the Villa Gaité Function Hall in Baaó, Camarines Sur. The assembly theme was “DMII @ 40: Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor Before God and Man . . . in the Year of the Youth”.

The event was attended by 273 delegates from all over the Bicol Region. The dioceses comprising Region VIII are the Archdiocese of Caceres and the Dioceses of Legaspi, Virac, Daet and Sorsogon. The assembly opened with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by the entrance of colors, the singing of the National Anthem and the DMI Hymn, presentation of circles by Sisters Nilda Bengosta and Hazel and acknowledgment of participants and guests by Sis. Bem Plaza. Region VIII Representative Sis. Fem Abragan gave her welcome message.

International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario restated the Vision and Missions of the DMII underscoring its commitment to serve in various apostolic activities in the parish through the Basic Ecclesial Communities,

particularly its mission thrusts of serving the less privileged and marginalized sectors to help them achieve and enjoy the fullness of life.

Msgr Noe Badiola, DMII diocesan spiritual director, as keynote speaker, shared some lessons in life: the teens have all the time and energy but do not have the means, the workers have the money and energy but do not have the time, while the elderly have all the time and money but have no energy; therefore, one must enjoy life at every stage, since it is impossible to have everything all at once. Moreover, he reiterated that living the faith, old age brings wisdom to guide and help others in need; the old have the obligation to help the young generation. Further, he said that people of age have been through many different hardships and experiences that can help others walk in faith. They have committed some mistakes that they can share with the young so they can avoid committing the same mistakes. Quoting the words of St. Francis: “Every individual is invited to strip off the old self and put on a young self.”

turn to page 17



The International Officers and Board stand beside the altar of the Blessed Mother.



Msgr. Noe Badiola, assembly keynote speaker



International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario addresses the assembly delegates. At the presidential table are Sisters Biannah Villanueva, Sol Eugenio, Cora Afuang, Eufemia Abragan, Milde Tong, Lydia Ordonez and Cathy Pineda.

REGION XI ASSEMBLY HELD IN ORMOC CITY

By Sis. Carol N. Quezon, Past Vicarial Regent, Archdiocese of Palo

Ormoc City, the City of Beautiful People, hosted the regional assembly of Region XI last November 8, 2019 at Ormoc Villa Hotel. Twelve circles sent a total of 175 delegates from Leyte and Samar comprising Region XI. The Sto Nino and Tower if Ivory Circles of Tacloban City sent big delegations adding to the 49 registrants from the host circle, the Sts. Peter & Paul Circle of Ormoc City.

The morning session started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Following the Parade of Colors and the traditional singing of the National Anthem and Panunumpa sa Watawat was the Parade of Circles with regents of participating circles carrying their banners as they were being presented to the assembly. The Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Rev. Fr. Isagani Petilos with Rev. Fr. Gilbert Bagaloyos as co-celebrant.

International Vice-Regent for Visayas and Region XI Representative Sis. Yolanda Dagandan declared the formal opening of the assembly and warmly welcomed the delegates. Past Vicarial Regent Sis. Carol Quezon acknowledged the presence of the International Officers, delegates and guests.

Rev. Fr. Gilbert Bagaloyos was the assembly keynote speaker. He was introduced by Past Regional Representative Sis. Leni Larrazabal. Drawing from the assembly theme “DMII @ 40: Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor Before God and Man . . . in the Year of the Youth”, Fr. Bagaloyos underscored the changes in behavior and values of today’s youth compared with yesterday’s and the effects, both good and bad, of new technology in their lives.

The afternoon plenary session focused on the International Officers’ reports started by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario. Reports and updates by the International Mission Chairpersons followed – Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Cathy Pineda for Morality in Media, Solema Eugenio for Upliftment of Women Workers, Lydia Ordonez for Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims and Biannah Villanueva for Youth Welfare.

The Fellowship Night was a colorful and glittery event with the delegates coming in their ball gowns. The night’s highlight was the search for the “Most Popular DMI for 2019”. Seven circles fielded candidates vying for the title.

A choral contest was also held participated in by six circles while the canvassing of votes was being done. Contest winner was

turn to page 18



Rev. Fr. Gilbert Bagaloyos, OFM, keynote speaker, receives a plaque of appreciation from the conference hosts. At right is IVR-Visayas Sis. Yolly Dagandan.



Guests from the International Board perform a dance number.



The DMII International Board with the conference hosts. From left: Sisters Josie Halog, Biannah Villanueva, Cathy Pineda, Alice Tugonon, Ruby Macario, Leni Larrazabal, Sol Eugenio, Lydia Ordonez and Cora Afuang.

QUEEN OF ANGELS CIRCLE MISSION REPORTS

The Queen of Angels Circle of Olongapo City, Diocese of Iba led by Regent Sis. Gloria Pamintuan had successfully implemented a number of activities in pursuance of the DMI missions. Following are some of them:

For Pro-Life, the Circle visited on August 26, 2019 the elderly members of the Missionaries of Charity as well as the young PWDs with cerebral palsy being cared for in the facility. The DMI sisters joined them in their morning prayer and helped feed those who are not able to feed themselves.

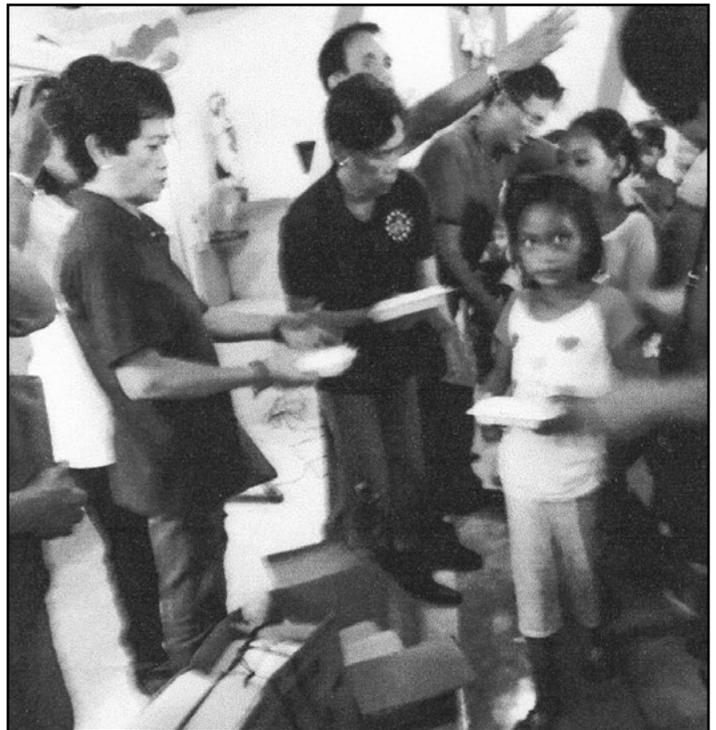
A Feeding Program was also conducted by the Queen of Angels Circle on September 10 for 350 indigent residents of Sitio Mapanao Purok 4 and 5 in Subic, Zambales.

The circle's Pro-Life Committee is headed by Chairperson Sis. Juanita Geronilla.

For Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, the Circle's committee headed by Sis. Evangeline Adan visited the shoe repair shop of a couple who had just been released from detention to provide assistance. The wife was later invited to the circle's DMI Hall to receive materials they can use in their shop as well as a bag of groceries for the family.



The DMI sisters visit the repair shop of the couple who were beneficiaries of their assistance.



Circle members distribute food during their Feeding Program.



The DMI sisters during their visit to the Missionaries of Charity.

DIOCESE OF BALANGA DMI, HOLD ADVENT RECOLLECTION AND CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Diocese of Balanga (Bataan) held a Diocesan Advent Recollection and Christmas Party last December 7, 2019 at the Tierra Feliza Clubhouse in Balanga City. The recollection theme was “Unity in Diversity in Line with the Year of Inter-Religious Dialogue”.

Bro. Francis Vigo was the recollection speaker. Diocesan Regent Sis. Digna Banzon welcomed the recollection participants coming from the different circles of the Diocese.

A Diocesan Christmas Party was held after the recollection. Enlivening the event were the colorful presentations of the participating circles.



Recollection speaker Bro. Francis Vigo



The recollection participants

108 NEW DMI MEMBERS EXEMPLIFIED IN THE DIOCESE OF MALOLOS

By Sis. Mely de la Pena, Region IV Correspondent

It was a rich harvest that the Diocese of Malolos had last November 16, 2019 when 108 new DMI sisters were exemplified at Bulwagang Hermandad, St. Martin of Tours Parish in Bocaue, Bulacan.

The 108 new members came from 15 circles in nine vicariates of the Diocese. With this new addition, the total DMII membership in Region IV has grown to 857. The nine vicariates of the Diocese of Malolos have 26 active circles.

The Exemplification Team of Sto. Nino de Meycauan Circle led by Diocesan Secretary Sis. Ketchie Francisco administered the Long Conferral rites with Region IV Representative Sis. Aida de la Cruz performing the Rites of Commissioning. Diocesan Regent Sis. Teresita Labilles administered the Oath of Obligation while DMII Diocesan Spiritual Director Msgr.

Albert Suatengco invested them with the Crown of Mary symbolic of their vow to be soldiers of Christ and partners of the Church in the task of evangelization as well as stewards of the Gospel to make the Philippines a true Christian nation. He also delivered an inspirational message in which he extolled the qualities and virtues of a true daughter of Mary.

Also present to give words of encouragement to the new members were Vicarial Regent Sis. Zeny Mabagos of the Vicariate of St. Francis of Assisi, Past International Secretaries and Region IV Representatives Sisters Ma. Theresa Curia and Tessie Villarino and Past RR Sis. Piling San Juan.



Msgr. Albert Suatengco invests the new recruits with the Crown of Mary.

DIOCESE OF MALOLOS HAS TWO NEW CIRCLES

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

Two new circles have just been organized in the Diocese of Malolos – the San Diego de Alcalá Circle in Valenzuela City with 46 charter members and the St. James the Apostle Circle in Plaridel, Bulacan with 31 members.

The charter members were conferred membership during the short conferral ceremonies performed followed by the installation of their charter officers into office.

San Diego de Alcalá Circle. The officers of the San Diego de Alcalá Circle were installed last October 26, 2019 at the San Diego de Alcalá Parish Church. Sis. Yolanda Fernandez is the circle's charter regent. A Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Flint Capiral who later gave an inspirational message preceded the installation.

Members of the National Shrine of Fatima Circle

and the Sto. Rosario de Maysan Circle under the Vicariate of San Diego de Alcala composed the installation team. Heading the team was Vicarial Regent Sis. Malou Reynoso. Region IV Representative Sis. Aida de la Cruz and Diocesan Regent Sis. Teresita Labilles gave words of encouragement to the new DMI sisters. Parochial Vicar Rev. Fr. Carlo Zoro also graced the occasion. The installation team received certificates of appreciation from the officers of the circle.

St. James the Apostle Circle. The installation of the St. James the Apostle Circle was held on Sept. 22, 2019. The circle was organized through the efforts of Vicarial Regent Sis. Sylvia Mariano of the Vicariate of St. Martin of Tours and Regent Sis. Beth Escalante of the Queen of Flowers Circle of Bocaue, Bulacan. The charter regent is Sis. Rosario Agtarap. VR Sis. Sylvia was the installing officer. Rev. Fr. Elmer Ignacio, pastor of St. James the Apostle Parish gave a short inspirational message.



The San Diego de Alcala Circle members

The newly installed officers of St. James the Apostle Circle



Baao, Camsur Venue... from page 12

Other speakers included IVR-Luzon and Region V Representative Sis. Milde Tong who gave an update on goings-on in the National Organization and the International Mission Chairpersons – Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Cathy Pineda for Morality in Media, Lydia Ordonez for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, Sol Eugenio for Upliftment of Women Workers and Biannah Villanueva for Youth Welfare.

The Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Rev. Fr. Louie Occiano, pastor of St. Bartholomew Parish, Baao. In his homily, he challenged the DMII in bringing out the discipleship role in the young people.

Raffles and the distribution of certificates ended the assembly with the closing remarks of Sis. Helen B. Gaité. The delegates went home with renewed vigor and enthusiasm in carrying out and in sharing their faith experiences especially with the youth.



Fr. Louie Occiano, pastor of St. Batholomew Parish, celebrates Mass.

An unfreezing exercise by the delegates



Sis. Helen Gaité delivers her closing remarks.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MANILA UNDERTAKES TREE-PLANTING PROJECT

By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
Region V Correspondent

"Save the Earth, Plant a Tree" is the battle-cry of the DMII Pro-Life Committee headed by International Chairperson Sis. Cora Afuang as part of an advocacy to respect and protect life and the environment. A nationwide Tree-Planting project was launched during the latter half of 2019. Among the first to undertake the project was the Archdiocese of Manila.

In coordination with the Knights of Columbus Luzon South Jurisdiction, the DMII Archdiocese of

Manila headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Lilia Mendoza conducted the Tree-Planting activity on Sept. 21, 2019. Sis. Lilia and Sis. Jocelyn Eleazar, regent of Our Lady of Fatima Bacood Circle led the DMI sisters in planting some 1,000 tree seedlings of fruit-bearing trees at the National Bilibid Prison Compound in Muntinlupa City.

The DMI sisters battled the inclement weather that day to show their support in saving Mother Earth as part of their pro-life advocacy.



The DMI sisters hold the tree-seedlings that they are preparing to plant.



Diocesan Regent Sis. Lilia Mendoza plants the seedling of a jackfruit tree.



Region XI Assembly... from page 13

the Tower of Ivory Circle with the Sto. Nino of Tacloban Circle and Our Lady of Assumption of Maasin, Leyte as runners-up.

The much-awaited announcement of the winner in the "Most Popular DMI of 2019" was finally made: The candidate of the Sts.

Peter & Paul Circle, Sis. Rebecca Acuin, was proclaimed DMI Queen amid the cheers of her circle sisters.

It was another successful and happy event with the delegates thanking and congratulating the assembly hosts for a job well done.



Sis. Rebecca Acuin of Sts. Peter & Paul Circle is crowned as Most Popular DMI 2019.



The conference hosts in a formal pose.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSE SMIs AND THEIR GRACE-FILLED MOMENTS

By Sis. Leticia Vicente Abarra

To Squirettes, digital devices (smartphones and iPads) are the love of their young life. Unplug them for a moment and FOMO (Fear of Missing Out) feelings creep in and they feel they have missed the good times.

However, Our Lady of the Rose Circle Lady Counselor Sis. Ma. Corazon Quitay has managed to outsmart the bubbly millennials. She choreographed a series of religious dances for the Squirettes who were entranced. The dances vary in themes based on various occasions they are to be performed, like the Carinosa in June and the Kutikutitap in December.

During the Canonical Coronation of the 300-year image of the Virgen de la Rosa de Macati, the young dancers welcomed the 2,000 guests of the Sts. Peter & Paul Parish with a liturgical dance number. The SMI dancers likewise graced the Rededication of the Manila Cathedral in December.

Practice sessions of at least three hours, thrice a week have kept these girls away from their gadgets. They have channeled their time into a more useful and significant endeavor – DANCING FOR THE LORD.

Since then the SMIs of the Our Lady of the Rose Circlette have been rendering liturgical dance numbers regularly before the celebration of the *Misa ng Bayang Pilipino* every first Sunday of the month from 7:00 to 8:30 a.m. In addition, they also get to present their religious dance numbers during the Children's Mass on Sunday afternoons.

Dancing for the Lord is just one facet of the SMIs' service. They also assist in the children's catechism classes on Sunday afternoons and serve as commentators, PowerPoint operators and collectors during the 4:00 p.m. Children's Mass.

These involvements in the Squirettes' activities do not stop the Squirettes from being active participants in other youth assemblies. In 2019, they attended the SMI Biennial Convention in Olongapo City in May and the Parish Youth Assembly, the First Youth Leadership Camp, and the launching of the Year of the Youth on December 2, 2018.

Squirettes have become student missionaries. They are *buhay na buhay* indeed!



The Squirettes of the Our Lady of the Rose Circlette

DIOCESE OF CUBAO CONDUCTS FORUM ON DEPRESSION AND MENTAL HEALTH

By Sis. Merceditas A. Esguerra

The Fatima Circle of Quezon City through Circle Regent Sis. Beth Bongon who is also DMII Chairperson for Ceremonials initiated a Forum on Depression and Mental Health for the Diocese of Cubao last Sept. 13, 2019. A total of 96 participants composed of DMI sisters, parents and guardians, students and others attended the activity held at the Auditorium of Our Lady of Sacred Heart School in Quezon City.

Co-sponsoring the event were Ms. Josephine Legaspi, the Knights of Columbus Diego Silang Council 7656 of Fatima Parish and Our Lady of Sacred Heart School.

The Forum sought to enlighten and make parents and guardians aware of the manifestations and signs of depression and mental health disorders among children, a critical social problem that confronts families today.

The resource person was Ms. Sally Bonganlota, asst. director of the Institute of Family Life and Children Studies of the Philippine Women's University. As a consultant and professor, she specializes in human resource management and development, human behavior in organizations, parenting, family and mental health, family solidarity, spirituality and human values. She holds masters degrees in psychology and government management.

Excerpts of Ms. Bonganlota's talk prepared by Sis. Merceditas Esguerra appear on page 25 titled "Conversation on Depression and Mental Health".

A lively open forum followed Ms. Bonganlota's presentation.



Forum speaker Ms. Sally Bonganlota



The Fatima Circle of QC sisters with Diocesan Regent Sis. Biennah Villanueva, DMII International Auditor for Financial Sis. Lydia Ordonez and some KC brother knights.



The forum audience

OUR LADY OF BEAUTIFUL LOVE CIRCLE LAUNCHES A "CANCER-FREE COMMUNITY"

By Sis. Trina Gamboa-Roces, Circle Scribe

A "Cancer-Free Community" Project was launched by the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Circle of Merville, Paranaque City last August 28, 2019. It was a Breast and Cervical Screening program offered free of charge to all women, especially the financially challenged. The screening, if done in a private clinic, would cost P2,000. The circle's partners for this project were the Philippine Cancer Society (PCS) and the Rotary Club of Paranaque North.

The objective of the PCS is the prevention of

cancer in women, particularly breast and cervical cancer, being the second cause of death among women. In cases of medical findings as a result of the screening, the PCS will assist the patient if treatment becomes necessary. More than a hundred women in the community benefited from this initial project. The circle aims to reach more women in the neighboring mission areas.

OLBL Circle Regent Sis. Marylyn Sy Tapay assisted by other circle officers spearheaded the activity.



The officers of the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Circle who spearheaded the "Cancer-Free Community" Project.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO

By Sis. Fortunata Aquino,
Region VI Correspondent



The DMI sisters during the clean-up of Sampaloc Lake.

Diocese of San Pablo's Clean-Up of Sampaloc Lake

The clean-up of Sampaloc Lake is a continuing activity of the DMII Diocese of San Pablo as stipulated in the Memorandum of Understanding it signed with the San Pablo City Dept. of Tourism last April 3, 2018. In addition to the actual clean-up activity being undertaken, the latest on October 12, 2019, the Diocese also donated brooms and dust pans to be used for the regular upkeep of the lake's vicinities.

4th SMI Sportsfest Held

The 4th SMI Sportsfest was held on August 3, 2019 at the Sta. Rosa Multi-Purpose Complex in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. The theme was "SMI as Youth Leaders of Today: Honing Character in Sports and Dancing thru the Grace of Mama Mary".

The activities this year included "Amazing Grace" which tested the knowledge of the SMIs regarding Mama Mary and her virtues, praying the Rosary and about the SMI organization.

The opening program started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother. It also included the selection of Ms. SMI Sportsfest 2019. Sq. Nathalie Fontanilla of the San Lorenzo Ruiz Circlette won the title and a crown. The morning activity ended with a Eucharistic celebration.

Seventeen circlettes participated in the sports events held in the afternoon. St. Polycarp Circlette was over-all champion, emerging as Best in Amazing Grace and the Circlette with the Biggest Delegation. The other winners were: Mother of Life Circlette – Best in Cheer Dance Competition and Best in Costume, San Lorenzo Ruiz – Best in Basketball, St. John the Baptist – Best in Tug of War for big category and Theresian Circle for

small category, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal – Early Bird, and St. John the Baptist – Best in Yell.

The event was the SMI's culminating activity for the Year of the Youth aimed to promote sportsmanship and camaraderie among the Squirettes in the Diocese of San Pablo.



Participants in the SMI Sportsfest

MATER PURISSIMA CIRCLE SPONSORS POSTER-MAKING CONTEST

By Sis. Kriziel Karmella Andal

Last November 16, 2019, an On-the-Spot Christmas Poster-Making Contest was organized by the Mater Purissima Circle of Batangas City through its Morality in Media Committee. The contest showcased the artistic talent of ten young contestants from youth organizations in Batangas City. The contest theme was “The True Spirit of Christmas: Birth of Jesus Christ, Love in Action”.

The contestants were all able to utilize their creativity resulting in individual masterpieces depicting the true meaning of Christmas.

The Board of Judges composed of Fr. Angelo Marcelo, pastor of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Fr. Dennis Maglasang, M.F., resident priest of the Basilica, Ms. Ivy Rose Garcia, senior manager for marketing and advertising of AXA Phils., and Mr. Eljeyson Corea, an anime artist of GUHIT Pinas. The contest winners were Denniel Ace Velasco – first place, Wally Mastela - 2nd place and Erickson Marzon – 3rd place. They received cash prizes and were awarded certificates for their achievement.



The first place winner Denniel Ace Velasco



The contestants in the Poster-Making Contest with DMI sisters of Mater Purissima Circle.

OUR LADY OF PEACE CIRCLE JOINS CELEBRATION OF “WORLD DAY OF THE POOR”

*By Sis. Sally Dastas, Regent.
Our Lady of Peace Circle*

The St. Francis Xavier Parish in Nasugbu, Batangas celebrated the “World Day of the Poor” spearheaded by its Ministry on Social Services composed of the DMI Our Lady of Peace Circle, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Women’s League and the Ladies of Charity.

The NECS Senior Uno Faculty and staff headed by Ms. Rachel Bacit assisted in the activity.

The day’s program started with a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Arce and some priests followed by a *Libreng Binyagan* during which 109 children of the program beneficiaries were baptized. A Medical Mission was simultaneously held, conducted by young volunteer doctors, Drs. Baylosis, Alfaro and Sosing. Free medical consultations

and medicines were given to the beneficiaries.

Ms. Susan Barcelon and her group prepared the simple but hearty meal served to the beneficiaries.

Grocery bags were also distributed for them to bring home.

It was the third time that the parish celebrated the “World Day of the Poor”.



The Libreng Binyagan at the St. Francis Xavier Parish Church



LIVING ROSARY OUR LADY OF PEACE CIRCLE’S CULMINATING ACTIVITY FOR ROSARY MONTH

*By Sis. Sally Dastas, Regent.
Our Lady of Peace Circle*

The Our Lady of Peace DMI Circle and SMI Circlette sponsored the culminating activity of the celebration of the Holy Rosary Month by the St. Francis Xavier Parish in Nasugbu, Batangas last October 29, 2019.

The activity was attended by the DMI sisters and the Squirettes, members of the Parish Youth Council, altar servers and others.

The program included a film showing about the Blessed Virgin Mary and living rosary at the courtyard of St. Francis Xavier Parish Church.



The Living Rosary at the church courtyard

CONVERSATION ON DEPRESSION AND MENTAL HEALTH

(Excerpted by Sis. Merceditas Esguerra from the presentation of Ms. Sally Bonganlota at the Forum on Depression and Mental Health held on Sept. 13, 2019 by the Diocese of Cubao. - Ed.)

Mental Health Defined/Women's Mental Health Issues

Mental health is a state of mind that helps us realize our potential, cope with normal stress, and work productively and fruitfully. The term includes our emotional, social and psychological well-being. The importance of having a healthy mind in all stages of life cannot be overemphasized. Mental health affects our thoughts, feelings and actions.



It also helps to determine how we handle stress, relationships and the choices we make.

Following are results of some studies done on women's mental health issues:

1. Women have more mental issues than men; they go through a lot in life, including pregnancy, childbirth, keeping home, earning a living, etc.
2. More women attempt to commit suicide but few often succeed. Men who die from suicide are at four times more than women. She gave as an example the Japanese culture where high-profile men who committed wrong would prefer to take their own life rather than lose face.
3. Women are twice as likely to succumb to panic disorder, generalized anxiety and phobias.
4. Women are also twice as likely to develop PTSD or post traumatic stress disorder after a traumatic event. PTSD is a mental health condition that is triggered by a terrifying event, either by experiencing or witnessing it.

Motherhood is both a responsibility and an opportunity. In the Philippines, women have an ally in the Magna Carta of Women (R.A. 9710) whose general concept is to protect women from possible abuse.

On Femininity, Womanliness, Career and Family



Femininity is the quality of being female while womanliness is possessing the characteristics, attributes and traits expected from women by society, like the natural role of becoming a mother. The human life cycle and the different stages of married life against the backdrop of man's basic physiological and psychological needs serve as examples.

The Human Life Cycle

Humans are gifted by God with two qualities – knowledge and will - to know what is right and wrong. Depending on their use, these qualities can bring out the brutal, beastly, satanic and divine nature of man. The first three are triggered by one's failure to obey reason, and when divinity is uppermost in the mind, it gives wisdom and faith.

Stages of the Human Life Cycle

Stage 1 – From infancy to pre-school. These are the formative years when a child strongly needs a mother's presence. It is marked by play, imitation and education.

Stage 2 – The adolescent years, a period of self-discovery, enterprise and adventurousness. While a child undergoes behavioral changes, they need guidance and prayer as they move on from their teens to early adulthood. The basic needs for food, clothing, shelter and from danger and threat are met in the first two stages.

Stage 3 – Maturity and Mid-Life. As they move to maturity, many things are happening all at the same time. This is where the basic need for love and belonging arises. People seek independence,

turn to page 26



understanding, belonging and acceptance of family and relationships, while developing a sense of community and society. In mid-life, the basic need for self-esteem; i.e., to be recognized and appreciated, to respect and be respected is of prime importance.

Stage 4 – Retirement. As retirement beckons, when the last basic need, that of self-esteem or self-actualization is felt, people have a sense of completeness in the physical, social, emotional and spiritual aspects of their lives. As they start to mellow, they “live the life”, are happy and have a sense of calm.

Stages of Married Life (Newly Married, Middle Years and Later Years)

The **honeymoon stage** is filled with romance and professions of love, entertaining feelings of being together forever. They find petty differences as cute and endearing, part of the getting-to-know-you-better phase.

After this period when the young couple (in terms of marital togetherness) has become adjusted to the life they vowed to live, and continuing into the **middle years stage**, some changes can happen. The couple is now bothered with what used to be minor differences. The demands of work, family, household and personal circumstances take their toll on the marriage as both parties will try to make a name for him/herself and/or assert authority in the home and/or workplace. This is the period when the realities of socio-cultural and behavioral influences between genders become apparent. Earning capacity, social status, career position and dependence to or independence from one partner become marital issues. Many times the once-loving partnership turns into competition as one tries to outdo the other. Expectations of a perfect marriage not going to happen often leads to disappointment. One or both partners could redirect their focus outside of the marriage.

It does not help either that men, by nature, can put up a front of being laidback and seem unaffected by the goings-on in the marriage, family and home front, things get compromised, including the children, husband-wife relationship, career and home; priorities begin to change. This is the period when cracks in the marriage begin to show up. One or both partners may already be hurting the other without realizing it. They may try to stick together and sort out the challenges or approach friends and family, in many cases, they let the situation be. Sometimes when pride creeps in, the thought of giving up on the marriage may likely come into the picture.

After going through and putting the challenges of the critical middle years behind them, the couple will move on to the later years. Referring to this period as the **awakening** when one comes to terms with oneself upon seeing the unfavorable (or disastrous) outcome of the critical middle years. Pride takes a back seat as the more aggressive partner will realize and fully accept his/her role in the marriage and home, save the ties that bind them and keep the family united.

Relating to her personal experiences, the speaker shared significant lessons she learned in life:

- Women need to balance their life – wife, home, career, self.
- Women should accept their primary role.
- The wife should be the husband’s helpmate, main supporter
- The happiness of a woman is in the love of her husband.
- Give up resentment, bitterness, tension, frustration, unnecessary worry

A happy marriage is one where there is love from the husband, both partners have self-dignity and are living a life full of heart-felt desires.



From the Archdiocese of Jaro (Region IX)

DMII RECIPIENT OF BJMP REGIONAL AWARD

*By Sis. Emma Victoria, Region IX Representative
and DMI Newsette Correspondent*

The Bureau of Jail Management & Penology celebrated its 28th founding anniversary last August 30, 2019 at Smallville 21 Hotel, Smallville Commercial Complex in Mandurriao, Iloilo City.

One of the events organized by the BJMP Regional Bureau in observance of the nationwide anniversary celebration was the giving of awards of recognition to individuals and groups who have contributed greatly to the success of its mandated function of safekeeping and development of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs).

The DMII of the Archdiocese of Jaro was one of the special awardees as BJMP's effective partners in its programs and activities. The award was received by Region IX RR Sis. Emma Victoria. With her were Sisters Regie Badie, Sonia Perucho, Mila Jamayo and Ludy Hubag.

The awards are given to inspire more lay faithful to be involved as service providers in the BJMP facilities in their respective communities.



Sis. Emma Victoria during the awards ceremony.



From the Archdiocese of Davao (Region XIII)

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CIRCLE EXTENDS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DETAINEES' CHILDREN

*By Sis. Evelina Ramos, Vicarial Regent,
St. Peter Vicariate, Archdiocese of Davao*



*Photo taken during the turn-over of the circle's donation, from left:
Sr. Rosa Hong, Regent Sis. Leny Pavo and Sisters Nenita Remolar and
Elena Cacayan.*

The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle of Davao City through its Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Committee (APFV) extended financial assistance to three young students of the Anawim Elementary School. The fathers of the young boys are currently detained at the Davao Penal Colony. Anawim is a school run by the Trinitarian sisters for the benefit of poor families.

The Regent and APFV Committee Chairperson of Mt. Carmel Circle turned over the cash assistance of P3,000 to Sr. Rosa Hong, school administrator, who said that the donation will be used for the recipients' snacks and school projects during the second semester of the school year.

PREPARATIONS FOR 22ND DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION IN FULL SWING

Preparations are in full swing for the DMII 22nd Biennial Convention on May 8-9, 2020 to be held at the Iloilo Convention Center on Megaworld Blvd. In Mandurriao, Iloilo City. The theme of the convention is “DMIs: Faithful Advocates of Christian Unity in the Year of Ecumenism and Inter-Religious Dialogue”

Past International Regent Sis. Perla Arguelles is the over-all convention chairperson assisted by Region IX Representative Sis. Emma Victoria and the Convention Working Committee.

A preliminary program has been drawn up to be circularized to all the DMI circles in the 14 regions in the country through their respective RRs and Diocesan and Vicarial Regents.

Parts of the convention program are the General Membership or Business Meeting and the election of the International Officers and Board of Trustees for 2021-2022. Confirmation of invited convention speakers is being awaited at the time of writing.

The Fellowship Night is scheduled in the evening of May 8. The motif is Barrio Fiesta featuring a contest among the regions entitled “Philippine Fiesta Cavalcade”. Each region will present a festival number depicting the region’s local customs and traditions. Delegates will come in the traditional attire of their region.

On May 10, the delegates will have a tour of pilgrimage sites. Iloilo also offers

several historical landmarks and interesting tourist attractions for delegates to want to stay a bit longer.

Registration for the convention is currently on-going with discounted conferences fees for early registrants. Deadline of registration is on April 15. No on-site registration will be entertained.

SEE YOU IN ILOILO!



The Iloilo Convention Center, venue of the 22nd DMII Biennial Convention



Daughters of Mary Immaculate International

Lot 23-A, Block 6, Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Parañaque City

Tel. No. 8810-9530

Website: www.dmiinternational.org

Executive Officers

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sis. Ruby P. Macario | - International Regent |
| Sis. Ma. Clotilde R. Tong | - Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon |
| Sis. Yolanda U. Dagandan | - Vice-Int'l Regent - Visayas |
| Sis. Teresita M. Miranda | - Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao |
| Sis. Brigida Cecilia R. Abratique | - International Secretary |
| Sis. Isabel S. Ticzon | - International Treasurer |

Rev. Fr. Jerome Ma. J. Cruz
International Chaplain

DMI Newsette Editorial Board

- Sis. Salvacion T. Estrada - Editor

Contributors

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sis. Eufemia M. Abragan | Sis. Nemie A. Gurdriel |
| Sis. Corazon T. Afuang | Sis. Hilaria P. Hipolito |
| Sis. Lucina A. Binoya | Sis. Merinnisa O. Ligaya |
| Sis. Laura V. Cespon | Sis. Asuncion B. Naraga |
| Sis. Joan Mary L. Dizon | Sis. Catalina Rebecca A. Pineda |
| Sis. Aida Y. de la Cruz | Sis. Emma M. Victoria |
| Sis. Eufelia A. Dollentas | Sis. Biannah C. Villanueva |
| Sis. Solema V. Eugenio | |