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23RD DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION 'BREAKS ALL RECORDS'

The 23rd DMII Biennial Convention to be held on August 16, 2025 has broken a record of sorts this early in the year. For the first time, registration of delegates was closed way ahead of the announced deadline on April 30, 2025. (This was far different from the past when the deadline for the registration of delegates had been extended to be able to reach the required number to fill the venue.)

As of March 15, 2025, a total of 1,906 DMII sisters had registered and fully paid the conference fee of P3,000 with a few reserved for convention guests and the DMII International Board. The main hall of the Newtown Convention Center can accommodate 1,500 made available on a first-come, first served basis. An additional hall will seat the rest of the delegates who can watch the program proceedings at the main hall through a giant LED wall. That's how much interest our

forthcoming biennial convention has generated among our DMII sisters.

The decision to set an earlier registration deadline was made during the First Quarter Board Meeting held at the Charter House in Makati last February 12, 2025 when the 14 Regional Representatives reported the number of delegates coming from their respective regions which when totaled neared the maximum seats of the convention hall.

The working committees were formed to take care of preparations as well as the conduct of the program. International Regent Sis. Annie Ty designated the chairpersons and members of the committees in charge of the various functions and tasks to ensure a well-managed and smooth flow of the convention program. (The list of the committees is on page 6.)

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GOOD-BYE, POPE FRANCIS!

(Editor's Note: Our beloved Pope Francis, the People's Pope went back to our Creator on Easter Monday, April 21, 2025. This beautiful tribute to him was shared by a friend from a post on Messenger written by an unknown author. It has been going the rounds on social media, the same post shared by three different friends.)

It's almost as if he waited.

Pope Francis passed away on Easter Monday. The timing felt

too tender to be coincidental – like he held on just long enough to hear the Alleluia one last time. To witness the Church rejoice in the Resurrection before quietly letting go. As if he needed to see the stone rolled away before stepping into the promise he had spent his life proclaiming.

He carried so much. The

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DMII: PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN THE JUBILEE YEAR



Beloved sisters,

As we reflect on our journey this Jubilee Year, we are proud of the growth we have achieved - not just in numbers, but in spirit. Our success is shaped by the choices we make, the values we uphold, and the commitment we share. Now, let us build on this momentum.

To move forward, let us refocus on our mission: serving others with kindness, compassion, and love. Every act of service, every gesture of care, should be done wholeheartedly and without expectation. Let us challenge ourselves to think differently, embracing innovation and adaptability. Our shift to digitalization is a step in the right direction, enabling us to strategically grow our presence and impact.

As we grow as an organization, let us not forget to grow as individuals. This year, let us prioritize developing our skills, leadership, and personal growth. We can achieve this through expanded programs and mutual support.

Our purpose goes beyond numbers; we are called to be beacons of hope, inspired by our Patroness. Let us make this mission guide our decisions, actions, and interactions. To everyone contributing to this vision, thank you.

May our future be marked by unwavering commitment to our shared purpose, and may we reach new heights together: sama-sama at walang iwanan.

Sincerely in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Cruz', written in a cursive style.

Rev. Fr. JERONIMO M.A. J. CRUZ

DMII International Chaplain

The Role of DMIs in the 2025 Jubilee Year



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother, Mary Immaculate.

As we joyfully enter the sacred season of the **Jubilee Year 2025**, our hearts are stirred by a profound call: **to be Pilgrims of Hope**. This call, proclaimed by our Holy Father Pope Francis, extends not only to the universal Church but personally to each one of us—the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International (DMII)—as women of faith, compassion, and mission.

The Jubilee Year is a time of **renewal, reconciliation, and reawakening**. It invites us to pause and rediscover our identity as Christian women called to bear witness to the Gospel in our families, parishes, and communities. As DMIs, we are uniquely graced to live out this witness through our **Five Mission Thrusts**:

- **Pro-life,**
- **Morality in Media,**
- **Upliftment of Women Workers,**
- **Assistance to Prisoners' Families and Their Victims, and**
- **Youth Welfare**

In this extraordinary year of grace, we are invited to embrace **the spiritual meaning of pilgrimage**—a journey that begins not in distant places, but in the quiet chambers of our hearts. It is a pilgrimage of everyday hope: choosing love over indifference, truth over compromise, and mercy over judgment.

Now more than ever, our mission is vital:

- As **guardians of life and family**, we must foster a culture of love, forgiveness, and respectful dialogue, advocating for the dignity of life at all stages with courage and tenderness.
- As **champions of truth and morality**, we are called to remain discerning, especially in today's digital world, and to promote what is life-affirming, respectful, and rooted in Gospel values.
- As **servants of the poor and protectors of creation**, we must continue to walk in solidarity with the marginalized and heed Pope Francis' call to care for our common home—echoing the Church's hope for a renewed and compassionate world.

This Jubilee also invites us to practice **synodality**—journeying together in faith, listening to one another, and discerning God's will as a community. As DMIs, let us renew our commitment to walk side by side as sisters in mission, building bridges rather than walls, and creating sacred spaces where every voice is heard and every heart is welcomed.

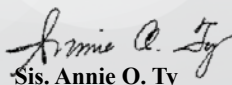
Dear sisters, our presence and witness **matter deeply**. In this Jubilee Year, may each of us become a beacon of hope in our communities. May our Circles be places of prayer, renewal, and meaningful action. May our lives reflect the same courageous "yes" of Mary, whose unwavering faith continues to guide us.

As we begin this grace-filled year, I invite each of you to **deepen your spiritual journey**—both personal and communal. Let our prayer life, our sacramental encounters, and our acts of charity be the steady steps of our pilgrimage. Let us be women ablaze with hope—hope that listens, heals, unites, and transforms.

Together, let us journey with Mary, our Model and Mother, who leads us ever closer to her Son.

Happy Jubilee Year, beloved sisters! Let us go forth as true **Daughters of Mary Immaculate—Pilgrims of Hope** for a world longing for light.

With love in Christ and Mary Immaculate,


Sis. Annie O. Ty

International Regent

23rd DMII Biennial Convention... from page 1

As of the time of writing, invitations to prospective guest speakers had been sent, arrangements for the transport of the delegates, especially those coming from the Visayas and Mindanao, are being made and the meals of delegates and other facilities and services to be provided by the Newtown Plaza Hotel are being attended to.

The Dinner and Fellowship on the evening of August 16 will have as theme “DMII’S Creativity and Versatility Evident Across Nations” with regional delegates wearing the traditional attires of the countries they will represent drawn during the meeting. They are as follows:

Region I - Spain	Region VIII – New Zealand
Region II - India	Region IX - Brazil
Region III - Argentina	Region X - Venezuela
Region IV – South Korea	Region XI - Dubai
Region V - Africa	Region XII - Mexico

Region VI - USA	Region XIII - France
Region VII - China	Region XIV - Thailand

A contest for the Best Dance Presentation among the regions is the night’s main feature, again, performing the traditional dance of the countries they represent.

A memorandum of Agreement was also signed between DMII and PASSCOM for the DMII Digitalization Program. (Pls. see separate story on page 5.)

The following day, August 17, there will be a pilgrimage to churches in and around Baguio City. It is a spiritual journey that at the same time will take the participants to a scenic tour of the country’s Summer Capital.

The 23rd DMII Biennial Convention promises to be a very fruitful and enjoyable one with the delegates coming away spiritually and physically renewed.

SEE YOU!



The MOA signing for the DMII Digitalization Program. At left is Josh Alfaro representing Ms. Josh Alfaro, PASSCOM head and Sis. Annie Ty, International Regent. The DMII International Officers and Board witness the signing of the MOA.

Good-bye Pope Francis... from page 1

wounds of a divided Church. The ache of the poor and the forgotten. The weight of hope – for a world more merciful, more human, more like Christ. He walked with a limp, both in body and in spirit, but never without grace. He wasn't perfect. But he was present. And he kept showing up.

And he was different.

He chose the simple path when grandeur was expected. He rode the bus. Paid his own hotel bill. Lived in a guesthouse instead of the papal palace. His first act as Pope was to bow and ask for our prayers. From the beginning, he showed us that true authority kneels. That greatness can look like humility.

He disrupted systems and comforted outcasts. He spoke boldly on justice. Embraced the disabled, welcomed migrants, washed the feet of prisoners. He didn't just talk about mercy – he embodied it. He made the Church feel like a place where the last could be first, and the forgotten, finally seen.

He taught us that holiness isn't perfection – it's presence. That the Gospel is clearest when it sounds like compassion. That faith, at its best, looks like love with skin on.

And now, just after Easter, he's gone.

But maybe that was his final homily. Not delivered from a pulpit but the quiet timing of his death – a soft Amen to a life spent preaching hope.

It brings to mind these words “I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.” – 2 Timothy 4:7

And he did. And he fought – not with anger, but with mercy. He ran – not to be praised, but to make space for others. And he kept the faith – not flawlessly but fiercely.

So yes, we grieve. But we also remember.

We remember how he made us believe again – in a Church that walks with the wounded, in a Gospel wide enough for the doubting, in a God Whose love meets us right where we are.

He reminded me that faith isn't something we hold on for ourselves. It's something we hand off – with open hands and open hearts.

Pope Francis finished his race. And what he leaves behind isn't just a memory. It's the echo of a life poured out. The kind of life that makes you want to love differently. More gently. More boldly. More like him. More like Christ. He waited for Easter because he believed in the promise. And now that promise is his. Light has found him. And love has brought him home.



MOA SIGNED FOR DMII DIGITALIZATION PROGRAM

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between DMII and PASSCOM (Pastoral Communication, Research and Technologies) last February 12, 2025 after the First Quarter Board Meeting.

PASSCOM will provide the DMII Info Management System that includes customized data management, members' ID, accounting and inventory systems.

PASSCOM is a research and technology unit for pastoral communication that provides, among others, info systems for religious organizations. It helps digitize, automate and simplify the data and info needs of churches, parishes, arch/dioceses and other religious institutions and communities. It provides centralized services for its clients' financial and accounting management, administrative management and logistical management and processes.

THE 23rd DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION WORKING COMMITTEES

Executive Committee

Sis. Annie Ty – Chairperson
Vice-Chairpersons – Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya, IVR – Luzon and Sis. Pinky Saavedra – IVR – Mindanao

Food Committee

Sis. Lulu Felicano – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Irma Pulangco, Apolonia Mislang and Eunice Santos

Program Committee (Conference and Program)

Sis. Lorie Manalansan – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Monique Bularan, Shirley Corvera and Vicky Cabero

Registration/Conference Kits Committee

Sis. Biannah Villaueva – Chairperson
Members – Sis. Chodee Amoranto and Josh Alfaro & Co.

Finance and Administration Committee

Sis. Norma Eusebio – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Marilyn San Diego, Marichu Bata, Susan Honculada and Angie Baes

Fellowship & Social Events Committee

Sis. Susan Honculada - Chairperson
Members – Sis. Beth Dipaling, Sis. Evelyn Alcantara and SMI National Officers

Ways & Means Committee

Sis. Juliet Cruz – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Tess Labilles, Milde Tong, Pinky Saavedra and Rose Desales

Committee on Ceremonials

Sis. Beth Bongon – Chairperson
Members – Josh Alfaro & Co.

Conference Documentation Committee

Sis. Sally Estrada – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Ruby Macario and Letty Gano

Logistics Committee

Sis. Monique Bularan – Chairperson
Member – Diocese of Kalookan

Awards & Prizes Committee

Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Agnes Arada and Josie Halog

Liturgical Services Committee

Sis. Thelma Lim – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Cora Bo, Millet Jaurigue and Marlin Abratique

Souvenir Program Committee

Sis. Ruby Macario – Chairperson
Members – Sisters Sally Estrada, Cathy Pineda and Biannah Villanueva

NEWS UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE (NE)

By Sis. Evelyn Nocum, Scribe,
San Jose Circle

Spiritual Pilgrimage Held. A Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Roberto Mallari, D.D. of the Diocese of San Jose at the Sto. Nino de Puncan Parish Church officially started the day-long spiritual pilgrimage of the DMI sisters last January 19, 2025. The activity started in Puncan up to Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

The pilgrims proceeded to San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish after breakfast to pray and be spiritually renewed. Many expressed their gratitude for the chance given them to deepen their faith, find solace and strengthen their bond with God and fellow pilgrims. They wore red shirts symbolizing their commitment to their spiritual journey.

It was a day shared away from worldly concerns to reconnect to their faith and community. The organizers encouraged the participants to carry the lessons of

kindness and devotion to their daily life. The day-long pilgrimage ended in San Jose City. The pilgrims were one in saying that the pilgrimage was an uplifting experience.



The DMI sisters with Bishop Roberto Mallari of the Diocese of San Jose.



Diocesan Recollection Starts Valentine's Day Celebration. Officers and members of circles in the Diocese of San Jose gathered in faith and fellowship last February 8, 2025 for a diocesan recollection cum Valentine's Day celebration. The event was held at the KC Hall, Malasin, San Jose City. A total of 94 participants attended the recollection with the theme "Agents of Hope in the Journey with Mother Mary".

The day began with an opening prayer led by Sis. Charito de Leon and a hymn in honor of Mama Mary. San Jose Circle Regent Sis. Evangeline Ruanto warmly welcomed the attendees followed by inspiring messages from Sisters Marivic Mendoza and Helen Hipolito, past Region II RR.

Rev. Fr. Rufo Ramil Cruz, OP, PhD was the recollection speaker who spoke on faith and Christian values. A Eucharistic celebration after an open

forum brought the morning session to a close.

Valentine's Day was celebrated in the afternoon. The program featured a search for Ms. DMI 2025 and the Best Dressed sister. Sis. Ana Enriquez was crowned Ms. DMI 2025 and Sis. Susan Placido was named Ms. Valentine 2025. The St. Joseph the Husband Circle was cited for having the biggest delegation during the event. The event reaffirmed the DMIs' unity and devotion to Mama Mary.



DMI sisters of the Diocese of San Jose with Fr Rufo Ramil Cruz, recollection speaker.

MIRACULOUS MEDAL CIRCLE HONORS RETIRED PRIEST

*By Sis. Aileen Santos,
Circle Regent*

Members of the Miraculous Medal Circle surprised Rev. Fr. Jovenio Batican, a retired priest of St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Dagupan City with a visit on February 14, 2025, Valentine's Day and gave him a love offering.

The visit was a prelude to an even bigger celebration on March 2nd, his 70th birthday. Some parishioners joined the DMI sisters in celebrating the occasion with gifts, tokens and prayers. It was a simple yet meaningful gathering that brought together the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist parish community who had been blessed by his priestly ministry.

These moments of celebration and gratitude reflect the unwavering commitment of the Miraculous Medal Circle to honoring and supporting the Lord's shepherds who have dedicated their lives to the Church



The DMI sisters with Fr. Jovenio Batican



A JOURNEY OF HOPE FOR THE DIOCESE OF MALOLOS

*By Sis. Nemie Finalla,
Region IV Newsette Correspondent*

Last February 2-3, 2025, the members of the Diocesan Board of Region IV composed of past RRs, Regional Representative, Diocesan Regent, Diocesan Mission Chairpersons and Vicarial Regents conducted a Planning Conference at the Newtown Plaza Hotel in Baguio City with the theme “DMII: Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year”.

A Eucharistic celebration was held at the St. Joseph the Worker Parish Church before the start of the conference. Rev. Fr. Florito Apallas was main celebrant. A short meet-up with the DMI sisters of the Diocese of

Baguio followed.

The conference started with an opening prayer led by Upliftment of Women Workers International Chairperson and Past Region IV RR Sis. Tess Labilles. Conference facilitator Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia, alternate Region IV RR and past RR, welcomed the participants. Region IV Representative Sis. Marilyn San Diego then talked about the DMII vision and mission while Diocesan Regent Sis. Catherine Francisco shared the objectives of the conference.

After the program preliminaries, the vicarial regents presented reports on the activities and projects of their respective circles and profile of members, the activities of each mission thrust, their action plan as well as their recommendations as Vicarial Regents. Feedbacks were given by the PRRs and current diocesan officers. From these, a Diocesan Plan was later crafted.

On Day 2 of the conference, the Diocesan Mission Chairpersons presented their annual plan of activities to be implemented by the circles in the Diocese of Malolos.



The conference participants.



From the Diocese of Antipolo – Region V

St. Paul of the Cross Circle's Livelihood Program Flourishes into Full-Blown Business

*By: Sis. Lorie S. Manalansan
Regional Representative, Region V*

The St. Paul of the Cross Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Mission project in the Diocese of Antipolo, Region V, took a significant step forward with the donation of three high-speed sewing machines to the parish. This donation was blessed on August 4, 2024, during the launch of the parish's Livelihood Program, aptly named "Ephatha" or "be open."

The program's first major client was Bishop Ruperto C. Santos, D.D., who ordered chasubles and other garments for priests and bishops in the diocese. This initiative has opened up opportunities for women in the community to earn extra income.



Diocese of Antipolo Bishop Most Rev. Ruperto Santos blessing the 3 high speed sewing machines donated by St. Paul of the Cross Circle

The program's leadership was entrusted to Sis. Maritess Uy as Parish Head and Sis. Gemma Angeles as Head of Ephatha. To date, 120 orders from priests in other parishes have been placed, promising more livelihood opportunities for women.

This project built upon the Circle's 2024 workshop on rag-making, which has expanded to include other products like tote bags made from discarded materials. Orders are pouring in, including for the upcoming Visita Iglesia rites. The group plans to produce aprons using recycled clothing materials, demonstrating the potential for creativity and income in repurposing waste – truly, "may pera sa basura."



Rev. Fr. Vic Flores views the hi-speed sewing machines.

San Jose de Navotas Circle's Chain of Goodness

San Jose de Navotas Circle, with the generous support of sponsors, distributed food, slippers, and heart bracelets symbolizing hope and love to local kids on February 22, 2025. The event, which drew full participation from DMI circle members and Squirettes of Mary Immaculate of San Jose de Navotas, was a resounding success, bringing joy and a sense of community to the children. This beautiful act of kindness showcased the power of love and compassion.



Mother of Divine Grace Circle's DMIs and SMLs Participate in Sto. Niño Festival

The Mother of Divine Grace Circle and the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate joined forces to participate in the Sto. Nino Festival held at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Tugatog, Malabon City, on January 19, 2025. Adorned in vibrant costumes, the groups took part in the 2:00 pm parade, followed by a program featuring diverse dance performances and presentations.

A highlight of the event was the Sto. Nino look-alike contest, where candidate Austin Sison, grandson of Finance Secretary Alona Sison, claimed the grand prize. Additionally, the group won the second runner-up award in the Ati-Atihan Showdown, a testament to their dedication and five nights of rigorous practice, all in honor of Sto. Nino and Mama Mary.



Sto. Nino festival at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish



Sto. Nino look-alike contest

Mother of Divine Grace Circle Sponsors Upliftment of Women Workers Project

The Mother of Divine Grace Circle (Diocese of Kalookan) successfully conducted its diocesan Upliftment of Women Workers project on February 9, 2025, at Carlos Reyes Hall in Tugatog, Malabon City.

Led by Sis. Alona Sison, Chairman for Upliftment of Women Workers, the event featured a demo on making “No-Bake” Blueberry Cheesecake and Mango Graham Bar. Assisted by Sis. Yolly Domingo and Sis. Lilian So, Sis. Sison shared her expertise in creating affordable yet delicious desserts that can be a potential business venture. The project, spearheaded by newly-elected Regent Sis. Avelina Gan, drew attendees from various circles and women parishioners, empowering them with practical skills for entrepreneurship.



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MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE CIRCLE'S IMAGE OF THE UNBORN BLESSED

*By Sis. Jessie Abagat,
Vicarial Regent*

In celebration of Pro-Life Month in February, the DMI sisters of the Mother of Divine Grace Circle and their Squirettes had an image of the Unborn Child blessed after Sunday Mass last February 21, 2025. The image is located outside the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Church in Tugatog, Malabon City. The blessing was done by Parochial Vicar Rev. Fr. Czar Manalansan shown in photo with the DMIs and SMIs.



Immaculate Conception-Karangalan Circle Visits N.T. Soliven Learning Center

By: Sis. Corazon Soliven,
Past Circle Regent

March 8, 2025 - DMI Immaculate Conception-Karangalan Circle visited N.T. Soliven Learning Center for a Parents-Teachers' Conference, sharing valuable insights on children's well-being and safety. Despite time constraints, the team effectively covered the five mission thrusts, including Youth Welfare or SMI, which aims to empower communities and support children's growth. A key discussion point was the importance of parental guidance in social media use, emphasizing careful supervision and open communication for a safe online experience. The organization reaffirmed its commitment to supporting families and creating a safe environment for young people to thrive online and offline. The goal was to equip parents with the knowledge to protect their children in the digital age and invite them to join the organization as part of the Parish Lay Organization.



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Catechism on the Unborn Child

By: Sis. Corazon Soliven,
Past Circle Regent

February 22, 2025 - Immaculate Conception Parish-Karangalan, in collaboration with the Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Mary Immaculate, and Squirettes of Mary Immaculate, held a catechism session focusing on the sanctity of life, particularly the unborn child. Reflecting on Catholic Church teachings, the session emphasized the dignity of life in the womb and our Christian duty to protect it. Psalm 139:13

beautifully underscores this: “You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb.” Rev. Fr. Abe Arganiosa’s talk guided participants in understanding their role in safeguarding life’s most vulnerable stage. The session concluded with St. John Paul II’s powerful message: “The Gospel of life is the heart of Jesus’ message.” May this inspire us to defend the unborn, cherish life, and honor its sacredness.



APOSTOLIC VICARIATE OF PUERTO PRINCESA AND TAYTAY HOLDS 43RD FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

*By: Sis. Zenaida Villegas
Vicarial Regent, Vicariates of Puerto Princesa & Taytay*

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International (DMII) of the Apostolic Vicariate of Puerto Princesa and Taytay celebrated its 43rd Founding Anniversary on February 22-23, 2025, at the Diwata Hall in Quezon, Palawan. Themed “DMII: Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year,” the event brought together 85 members from eight Circles. The Immaculate Conception Circle hosted the celebration.

The first day’s program began with the Enthronement and Consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where Past Vicarial Regent Sis Nitz Austria and Vicarial Regent Sis Zeny Villegas carried the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. This was followed by a Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Rodillo “Khokoi” Contridas, Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception Parish in Quezon. Rev. Fr. Demars Hengoni, Parish Priest of St. Francis of Assisi in Barangay Bacungan, Puerto Princesa City, delivered a talk on “Mary, Mother of Jesus and A Virtuous Woman.”

The evening’s social event featured the highly

anticipated Ms. DMII 2025 competition, where five candidates showcased their evening gowns and catwalk skills. Sis Perlie Parreñas from the Assumption of Our Lady Circle was crowned Miss DMII 2025. The night concluded with lively dance performances from each Circle.

On the second day, DMII members attended Holy Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish, celebrated by Rev. Fr. Tommy Rodriguez, Parochial Vicar. He emphasized the importance of emulating Mary’s virtues, particularly simplicity, humility, and charity. The DMII also highlighted its achievements, including the creation of three new Circles and the reactivation of one inactive Circle.

The event concluded with the distribution of tokens and certificates, recognition of outgoing Regents, and closing remarks from Vicarial Regent Zeny Villegas. The DMII members departed with cherished memories, and a debriefing was held to discuss potential improvements for future events.



Rev. Fr. Rodillo “Khokoi” Contridas, Parish Priest of Immaculate Conception Parish in Quezon with DMI sisters

DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO'S WALK FOR LIFE

By Sis. IvyLou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

More than a hundred DMI sisters of the Diocese of San Pablo accompanied by their Squirettes gathered early morning of February 22, 2025 at the Dona Leonila Park in San Pablo City to participate in the annual Walk for Life.

With the theme “Together We Walk for Life”, the activity was part of the DMII Pro-Life Mission’s advocacy for the sanctity of life in all stages from womb to tomb, from conception to natural death. The diocese of San Pablo joined the call by the Sanguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas encouraging various religious organizations to take part in the nationwide celebration of life. The participants marched in solidarity, raising awareness about the importance of protecting the most vulnerable members of society.

Each circle was well-represented during the event with members proudly carrying their respective banners symbolizing their commitment to the cause. They walked in unity fostering a sense of camaraderie and shared purpose as

they prayed and reflected along the route.

The Walk ended at the Cathedral of St. Paul the First Hermit where a Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Msgr. Jerry Bitoon, parish priest and cathedral rector assisted by Rev. Sebastian Eric Ambrocio, deacon. In his homily, Rev. Ambrocio emphasized the significance of the Chair of St. Peter as not merely a physical one but a representation of the divine authority entrusted to St. Peter and his successors by Jesus Christ. He elaborated on the deeper meaning of authority, stressing that true leadership is rooted in humility; the greater one’s authority the deeper one’s humility should be. He encouraged the faithful to take an active role in advocating life and reminded them that service to others must stem from a deep and personal relationship with God.

After the Mass, the Walk participants came away inspired carrying with them a renewed commitment to uphold the dignity of every human being.



Participants in the Walk for Life

REGION VI DMI CIRCLES CELEBRATE WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

To celebrate the World Day of the Sick on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11, 2025, the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist, Diocese of San Pablo, Laguna organized a visit and food donation event at the Laguna Provincial Hospital – Bay District. The initiative was spearheaded by Vicarial Regent Sis. Edith Eusebio with 18 DMI sisters from four circles – Mother of Life, Theresian, St. Augustine and St. John the Baptist Circles - led by their regents participating in the activity.

A short program was held at the hospital's conference room attended by patients, their families and hospital staff. VR Sis. Edith introduced the DMI organization and its Pro-Life mission, stressing the importance of supporting the sick, both corporal and spiritual. Sis. Candy Beltran of the Mother of Life Circle shared biblical passages about God as the Divine Healer, followed by a pray-over session and distribution of rosaries and prayer guides. The hospital's administrative officer led the six staff members present during the event.

Other circles in the Diocese held separate activities to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick as follows:

St. Paul the First Hermit Circle attended Mass at the St. Paul Cathedral in San Pablo City and offered prayers and lighted candles at the Tomb of the Unborn. Later they distributed cupcakes and bottled water to vendors within the cathedral grounds.

The Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Circle and Our Lady of Salvation Circle visited the sick in the parish, among them their sick DMI sisters or family members. The Our Lady of Salvation Circle members extended their Pro-Life advocacy by also offering flowers, candles and prayers before the Tomb of the Unborn on March 2, 2025.

San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle visited the sick in the parish bringing them fruits to cheer them up. One home visited was that of Sis. Carol whose father was ailing as well as Sis. Myrna Bolanos, a sick circle member. —Sis. IvyLou Flores



DMI sisters visit the sick to pray over and cheer them up.

THERESIAN CIRCLE CONDUCTS ANNUAL 'WATCH YOUR HEALTH' PROJECT

*By Sis. IvyLou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent and
Sis. Paulita Canonizado,
Past Region VI Representative*

The Theresian Circle's 'Watch Your Health' Project for 2025 was held last February 2, 2025 at the Batong Malake covered court in Los Banos City.

This year though, the project beneficiaries were a bit less, owing perhaps to the increasing number of healthcare facilities now available to the community.

Theresian Circle Regent Sis. Angelita Umali and the members of the circle's Pro-Life Committee spearheaded the activity with assistance from the Batong Malake barangay officials.

Test results were released on February 9 with health workers and medical volunteers on hand to help explain the test results. Doctors from the Sto. Domingo Diagnostics and Medical Center provided more personalized interpretations upon request.

The Pro-Life Mission of the DMII is deeply rooted in the values of compassion, service and the sanctity of life. By organizing health-related projects, such as 'Watch Your Health', the mission actively upholds its advocacy for the dignity and well-being of individuals, particularly the less fortunate. Access to healthcare is a fundamental human right. Through this initiative, the DMII extends medical assistance to those who may otherwise be unable to afford proper care.

Moreover, the 'Watch Your Health' initiative is just one of the many ways the Theresian Circle and other DMII circles all over the country manifest their commitment to Christian service and a testament to their unwavering dedication to create a significant impact on society through small acts of kindness that are done collectively.



DMI sisters assist health volunteers during the activity.

NUESTRA SRA. DE LA PAZ Y BUENVIAJE CIRCLE'S "TARA NA MGA KA-VIAJE!"

By Sis. Agnes Arada,
Region VII Representative

In the spirit of generosity and care, the DMI sisters of the Nuestra Senora de la Paz y Buenviaje Circle together with their parish priest Rev. Fr. Julius Lacaran extended their hand to the elderly residents of the parish community during their "Ka-Viaje: Dalaw, Damay, Dasal" outreach project last February 12, 2025. They distributed food packs to the senior citizens demonstrating their love and compassion to those who need help the most.

The day's activity started with a short prayer service uplifting the spirit of both the volunteers and the beneficiaries. The atmosphere was warm as the

DMI sisters engaged in conversation, listened to their stories as well as giving them messages of faith and encouragement. Twenty-five seniors around Barangay Wawa were visited.

One beneficiary, Lola Maria thanked Fr. Julius and the DMI sisters and expressed deep appreciation for the care and concern that they showed.

The success of this activity was made possible through the generosity of the DMI sisters, parish volunteers and donors. Their collective efforts exemplified the mission of the DMI to serve with faith, hope and love.



DMI sisters of Nstra. Sra. De la Paz y Buenviaje who participated in the outreach activity



Distributing food packs to the elderly residents of Bgy. Wawa.

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MARIAN CIRCLE'S OUTREACH PROJECT

On February 13, 2025, sisters of the Marian Circle visited their sick elderly members who are no longer able to attend meetings and other DMI activities. They received red roses and fruits to cheer them up. The sisters also offered prayers including a Rosary for them.



ACTIVITY UPDATES FROM REGION IX

By Sis. Rosalinda Desales,
Region IX Representative

Regional Board Meeting Held. The Regional Board Meeting of Region IX was held at Uncle Tom's Restaurant in Iloilo City on March 1, 2025.



San Carlos Diocesan Board Meeting on February 2, 2025. The Diocesan Board meeting of the Diocese of San Carlos was held at the Sto Rosario Parish Church in Bgy. Paraiso, Sagay City, Negros Occ. Rev. Fr. Art Arnaiz, a classmate of Sis. Rosalinda Desales was a special guest. Fr. Arnaiz in his short talk on the theme “DMII: Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year”, said that as pilgrims, we encounter others along the way. As DMIs, we should be bearers of Light and Hope by being open, compassionate and understanding. Sometimes, we experience dryness in our hearts. We should keep moving forward and Pray Until Something Happens (PUSH).



DMIs and SMIs at 50th Presbyteral Anniversary of Msgr. Florentino Baynosa. DMI sisters and Squirettes of the Diocese of San Carlos participated actively during the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Presbyteral Ordination of Msgr. Florentino Baynosa of the Holy Family Chaplaincy. Bishop Gerry Alminaza of the Diocese of San Carlos delivered the homily during the Thanksgiving Mass. Squirettes shared their talents to entertain the guests.



DIOCESE OF BUTUAN HOLDS DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Shirley Corvera, Diocesan Regent
and Region XII Newsette Correspondent*

Three hundred DMI sisters from the 15 circles of the Diocese of Butuan converged at the LJ Mega Convention Hall in Butuan City last November 30, 2024 to strengthen their bonds and renew their commitment to the organization and their devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The solemn enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother opened the assembly followed by the Parade of Circles

In her welcome remarks, Diocesan Regent Sis. Shirley Corvera thanked the active participation, cooperation and support of everyone especially those who worked hard to perform their assigned tasks in committee assignments. Specially cited was SMI National President Sq. Elaisa Marie Honculada who helped in the technical aspects of the program such as the attractive PowerPoint presentations used. Sis. Shirley also announced the impending separation of DMI sisters of Agusan del Sur with the creation of the Diocese of Prosperidad. She declared the formal opening of the assembly after giving a preview of the day's program.

The one-minute yell from each circle present energized the assembly participants and set the mood for the day's program.

Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada in

her message gave the meaning and importance of synodality, an assessment of how and where the DMII stands in the accomplishment of its missions and reminded everyone about the qualities of a true DMI. Sis. Susan donated an ample amount from the regional fund in support of the assembly.

Rev. Fr. Renato Abbu, Jr., DMI diocesan spiritual director, keyed the assembly, talking on the theme "DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity". His lively talk focused on the deeper meaning of synodality and Mother Mary's qualities which he hoped every DMI can embody and emulate, serious topics that Fr. Abbu made light by providing comic relief to everyone's enjoyment.

Engr. Pierre Anthony Joven, son of Sis. Pelagia Joven, past Region XII alternate representative, gave an interesting take on how we should prioritize our tasks in life and how we see ourselves in the next five or ten years. He distributed questionnaires for the participants to answer leading them to later be enlightened about what gives more meaning to life and what we should devote more time to.

A Eucharistic celebration came next which Fr. Abbu officiated. Liturgical music was provided by the KC Choir of the
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Sisters Susan Honculada and Susan Astillo, vicarial regent, carry the image of the Blessed Mother during the enthronement and consecration ceremony.



Fr. Renato Abbu, keynote speaker

Diocese of Butuan holds... from page 19

Immaculate Conception Parish after which lunch was served.

Socials and advance Christmas Party were held in the afternoon. The 13 circles present each rendered a 3- to 5-minute Christmas presentation consisting of songs, dances and skit.



Sisters Shirley Corvera and Margarita Ampo, circle regent, award a certificate of appreciation to Sis. Susan Honculada.

Proclaimed winners were the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Circle of Bayugan City and the Queen of Divine Grace Circle of Nasipit, Agusan del Norte.

Games, raffle prizes and exchange gifts enabled everyone to imbibe the Christmas spirit and to feel the joy of giving and sharing.



A dance presentation

DIOCESE OF BUTUAN HAS 3 NEW CIRCLES

*By Sis. Shirley Corvera,
Diocesan Regent*

The last five months of 2024 saw the organization of three new circles in the Diocese of Butuan with a total of 65 new DMI members. The Diocese now has 15 circles.

The Mary Queen of Heaven Circle of the Sacred Heart Parish in Tungao, Butuan City was chartered on August 26, 2024 with 22 members. They were exemplified and their charter officers led by Regent Sis. Celedonia Butcon installed after a Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Guy Arnold Pineda, parish priest. Circle Regent Sis. Marietta Calo of the Immaculate Conception Circle, the sponsoring circle, led the exemplification and installation ceremonies with Alternate Diocesan Regent Sis. Charito Canete as inducting officer and Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada as installing officer.

The Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Circle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Bayugan

City, Agusan del Sur replaced the inactive Sacred Heart of Jesus Circle. The new circle has 28 members composed of some sisters from the old circle and new recruits. Its officers led by Sis. Imelda Yangson were installed after the exemplification ceremonies on October 19, 2024. Its sponsor is the San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Marietta Hinay.



Mary Queen of Heaven charter members with Fe. Arnold Pineda and the exemplification team.

Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada, Butuan Diocesan Regent Sis. Shirley Corvera and Past Alternate RR Sis. Pelagia Joven led the exemplification and installation ceremonies.

The Our Lady of Fatima Circle of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in New Paradise, Libertad, Butuan City was officially organized on November 16, 2024 with the exemplification of 15 new sisters led by Charter Regent Sis. Bonifacia Barsatan. A Holy Mass presided by Rev. Fr. Cassion, parish priest preceded the exemplification

and installation ceremonies. In his homily, Fr. Cassion said that the DMI can be the embodiment of the virtues of the Blessed Mother. The Our Lady of Prosperity Circle initiated the formation of the new circle. Present to conduct the ceremonies were Our Lady of Prosperity Circle Regent Sis. Wynida Dubouzet, Sis. Susan Honculada and Sis. Shirley Corvera.

The Diocese of Butuan donated a 4-foot image of the Immaculate Conception to each of the three new circles.



The officers and members of the Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Circle with the Region XII officers.



The charter members of the Our Lady of Fatima Circle with the diocesan exemplification team led by DR Sis. Shirley Corvera.



From the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan – Region XIV

2025 DIOCESAN OFFICERS ATTEND LEADERSHIP TRAINING

*By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,
Region XIV Newsette Correspondent*

International Vice-Regent for Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Pro-Life International Chairperson Sis. Angie Baes and Diocesan Regent Sis. Bella Tandoc spearheaded the Leadership Training Workshop for the newly-installed circle officers of Region XIV held last January 25, 2025. The workshop's goal is for the 2025 DMI Missions projects to be in sync with those that the workshop will provide.

A total of 76 officers from the 17 circles in the Archdiocese attended the activity held at the Marian Center of Sta. Maria Parish in Zamboanga City. The Our Lady of Purification Circle headed by Regent Sis. Bernadette Mariano hosted the whole-day event.

IVR Sis Pinky set the tone for the workshop by discussing the DMII organizational chart starting with the International Officers and Board of Trustees composed of the representatives of the 14 DMII regions all over the country, then the chairpersons of the five missions and special committees that take care of the other necessary functions in the organization. Diocesan Regent Sis. Bella discussed the skills and qualities of efficient DMII leaders followed by a presentation of the Five DMI Missions by the diocesan chairs – Sisters Edwina Francisco for Pro-Life, Mila Espinosa for Upliftment for Women Workers, Jacinta Tan for Morality in Media, Maritess Go for Assistance

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to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Noeme Yap for Youth Welfare/SMI. Sis. Angie Baes was the day's program emcee.

The rest of the workshop was spent mapping out the strategic plans and programs for the missions. Special mention was given to the St. Joseph Circle of Ipil with the largest number of participants, the great distance that they travelled from Ipil, Sibugay to Zamboanga City notwithstanding.



The speakers during the Leadership Training Workshop with program emcee Sis. Angela Baes.

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INVESTITURE CEREMONY HELD FOR 88 NEW SMIs

The Marian Center in Sta. Maria Parish, Zamboanga City was the venue of the Investiture Ceremony and installation of officers of the Squirettes of Mary in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan last February 9, 2025.

A total of 88 recruits from 13 SMI circlettes in the Archdiocese officially became Squirettes of Mary, the biggest number coming from the circlette of Sangali with 17 aspirants. The other circlettes are from Ayala, Claret, Divisoria, Guiwan, Mampang, Putik, Penafrancia, Sinunoc, Sta. Maria, Talon-Talon,

Tugbungan and Tetuan.

Spearheading the activity were Diocesan Regent Sis. Ma. Bella Tandoc, Diocesan SMI Chairperson Sis. Noeme Yap and Our Lady of Purification Circle Regent Sis. Bernadette Mariano.

The newly-installed SMI Diocesan Officers gave a briefing on the SMI organization and the duties of members after which the Lady Counselors pinned membership pins on the new SMIs. Tita DMIs were present to lend their support.



Newly invested Squirettes receive their pins and certificates of membership from the diocesan officers and lady counselors after the investiture ceremony.

PRO-LIFE PARADE HELD JOINTLY BY DMII AND K of C

Four parishes comprising Central Vicariates 1 and 2 of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga held a Pro-Life Parade last March 15, 2025. The activity was a joint project of DMI circles and the Knights of Columbus.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Anjoe Rivero at the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception started the activity. In his homily, Fr. Rivero gave reflections on LOVE both for

fellow human beings – whether friends or enemies – as well as for the environment.

The parade started when the rains stopped. Starting point was the cathedral, then on to Purisima Street, Mayor Jaldon Street, Governor Alvarez Street, then back to the cathedral. The participants who were mostly seniors successfully finished the hour-long parade.



DMII and K of C members hold Choose Life placards during the Pro-Life Parade.



MARCHA DE LAS MUJERES '25 ATTRACTS BIG CROWD

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis

This year's *Marcha de las Mujeres* of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga was held last March 7, 2025 in celebration of International Women's Day on March 8.

A large crowd of women wearing purple T-shirts assembled at Alejo Alvarez St. representing religious organizations such as the DMII and Catholic Women's League, other private and government groups, schools and universities and different private offices in Zamboanga City. The different barangays in the Central, Eastern and Western Vicariates 1 and 2 also

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Delegation from the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International in the Marcha de la Mujeres.

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sent delegations. Some men, also wearing purple shirts joined the Marcha ending up before the grandstand where a short program was held. The delegations that joined the March were acknowledged by the program emcee through the banners they carried.

This year's Marcha was very well-attended, taking more than an hour for all the participants to reach the grandstand area for the ensuing program.



5TH SMI AREA CONFERENCES SLATED

For 2025, the major activity of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate is the holding of Area Conferences, its fifth, in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The schedules are as follows:

Visayas Area Conference -May 18 to 19, 2025
at the Resort Negrense Hotel, Purok Bayanihan, Bgy. Punta Taytay, Bacolod City

Luzon Area Conference – June 7 to 8, 2025 at
Caliraya Resort Club, Bgy. Lewin, Lumban, Laguna

Mindanao Area Conference – June 10 to 11, 2025 at Louza's Pavillion, Bgy. Casisan, Malaybalay, Bukidnon

The main theme of the conference is "SMIs as Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year". Tita DMIs are requested to drum up attendance of Squirettes in these conferences to be able to spend a meaningful and uplifting activity during their summer vacation.



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