



DMII NEWSETTE

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DMII 42ND ANNUAL OFFICERS' MEETING CONVENED

*By Sis. Ruby P. Macario, Past International Regent
and Co-Editor, DMI Newsette*

Ladies in blue trooped to Sofitel Hotel last May 18, 2024, feeling nostalgic as they walked down its familiar halls. The hotel is expected to close down in a matter of weeks. They came for the Annual Officers' Meeting of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International and over 300 officers from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were in attendance. The organization's

theme for the year is "DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity".

The masters of ceremonies, Sisters Lorie Manalansan, International Secretary and Region V

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The image of the Blessed Virgin Mary is placed on the altar during the enthronement ceremony.



Fr. Godwin Tatlonghari receives an award of appreciation as keynote speaker. With him in photo, from left: Sisters Sionee Naraga and Annie Ty, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Past IRs Sisters Jean Velarde and Ruby Macario.



Congresswoman Stella Quimbo talks about Community Service.



Fr. Jerome installs into office the Alternate RRs, International Auditor-Financial Sis. Salvacion Bata and Chairperson for Ceremonials Sis. Beth Bongon.

2024 Year of Prayer



My dear Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

Greetings of Jesus' Peace!

The Universal Church will celebrate next year 2025 the Jubilee Year, with the theme, "Pilgrims of Hope". This Year 2024 is dedicated as the Year of Prayer in preparation for the Jubilee.

As Daughters of Mary Immaculate, let us reflect on the beauty and necessity of Prayer. Mary is a woman of prayer, meaning to say, that her whole life is attuned to God, directed to God. She has the most intimate relationship with the Father as a beloved daughter, to the Son as His mother, and to the Holy Spirit as His spouse.

Prayer is not just a moment in time when we kneel and utter words of praise, adoration, and supplication to God. Prayer, above all, is a relationship with God that extends beyond the time we say we 'pray'. Without this relationship, our words become empty and strange.

How do we develop a prayerful character?

First by being open to God. We remember that God wants to have a personal relationship with us. That is the reason for the incarnation of Jesus, God who became Man, that our relationship with God may be personal - toward a Person, and not to some inanimate entity or a distant God.

God communicates with us every moment of our lives, whether we are aware of it or not. It is when we become sensitive to His movements that we feel very strongly His presence.

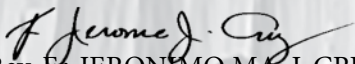
Second, by the constant consciousness that everything is Grace. Our life, strength, intellect, abilities are God's graces and blessings bestowed on us even if we are unworthy of them. This consciousness moves us to be thankful for all the things that come our way. From the rising of the sun to its setting, the grace of God abounds in our lives.

The good that we do is inspired by God and realized through our human cooperation. It is never ours alone. We mirror only the goodness and love of God, and the more we do good and the more we love, the more we approximate the true image of God by which we were created.

Let this year, therefore, bring us closer to God and to one another in the spirit of true synodality. Let our Mother Mary Immaculate lead us, her children to Jesus, her Son.

God bless you, your families and all the people you serve.

Sincerely in our Lord,


Rev. Fr. JERONIMO M.A. J. CRUZ
DMII International Chaplain

IN PURSUIT OF SYNODALITY



My dear DMI Sisters,

During the second quarter of the year 2024, we focus primarily on spreading and actualizing the DMII theme “DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”.

It is indeed a very inspiring and rewarding theme that follows the mandate of the Catholic Church, proclaimed by Pope Francis in October of 2023.

Synodality is journeying together guided by the Holy Spirit. The Regional Assemblies we held in Regions V, VII, VIII and XIII during the second quarter saw synodality in action – DMI sisters getting together for a single purpose: the fulfillment of the DMII’s ultimate goal of evangelizing through reaching out to the community, particularly the least, the last and the lost.

Our CBCP-mandated missions – Pro-Life, Morality in Media, Assistance to Prisoners’ Families and their Victims, Upliftment of Women Workers and Youth Welfare/SMI are our avenues to achieving our goal. Our tasks in these missions are made easier by keeping an open heart and mind and earnestly discerning how to do them best.

With the Blessed Mother as our model and guide, let us walk together along the synodal path leading us to Jesus, her Son.

Yours in Christ through Mary,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Annie O. Ty".

SIS ANNIE O. TY

International Regent



The program hosts, Sisters Shirley Corvera and Lorie Manalansan.

Representative and Shirley Corvera, International Chairperson for Morality in Media announced the opening of the day's program with the traditional enthronement and consecration ceremonies participated in by the Board of Trustees, past International Regents, Mission Chairpersons, Newsette Editor, Special Committee Chairpersons and Mission Area Coordinators. International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and International Regent Sis. Annie Ty led the ceremonies.



The Eucharistic celebration

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Fr. Jerome followed the opening rites.

Rev. Fr. Godwin Tatlonghari, STL, pastor of the Mary Mirror of Justice Parish in Makati City was the keynote speaker. Fr. Godwin served as Commissioner of the Liturgical Commission of the Archdiocese of Manila, Spiritual Director and Procurator of the Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary and Director of the Pre-College Dept. of the San Carlos Seminary. He had also served as parish priest and asst. parish priest of the Parishes of San Antonio de Padua in Singalong, Manila,



Fr. Godwin Tatlonghari, STL, keynote speaker

St. Joseph in Cubao, Quezon City, Our Lady of Penafrancia in Paco, Manila, and San Ildefonso Parish in Navotas City. He also served as chaplain of St. Pedro Poveda College.

Fr. Godwin spoke about Mary as the icon of the Synodal Church citing some mysteries of the

Rosary that give significance to our synodal journey such as the Annunciation (to listen with an open heart and mind), Visitation (to share our own lived experiences) and Crucifixion (Mary at the foot of the Cross, to make space for the marginalized).

In these important events of Mary's life, we learn how to be a Church with a mission of bringing Jesus to the world. As a Church we are always on a journey and with a mission and Mary has always been with us. These roles of Mary are the backbone of the three pillars of synodality: Communion – Mary constantly listens to God's word; Participation – Mary willingly cooperated to God's will; and Mission – Mary's presence shows her loving commitment to God.

The next speaker, Congresswoman Stella Luz Alabastro Quimbo, is the representative of the second district of Marikina to the 19th Congress of the Philippines where she serves as Senior Vice-Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations. In the 18th Congress, she was Deputy Minority Leader and co-chairperson of the Committee on Economic Stimulus. Another high point of interest is that she is a DMI sister from the St. Paul of the Cross Circle, Diocese of Antipolo.

Graduating *summa cum laude* from the UP School of Economics, Diliman, she has since blazed a trail that shows what an empowered woman is truly like. Prior to her election to the House of Representatives, she was founding commissioner of the Philippine Competition Commission, a recipient of the Freedom Flame Award from the Freidrich Neumann Foundation for Freedom, a German foundation dedicated to liberal politics and was with the academe during which she was known as 'Teacher Stella'. The other awards she



Past IR Sis. Sionee Naraga renders her report . . .



. . . and Past International Secretary Sis. Tess Labilles reads the minutes of the last Annual Officers' Meeting Via Zoom.

has received was as Outstanding Young Scientist from the National Academy of Science and Technology in 2009 and as one of the Ten Outstanding Women in the Nation's Service in 2010.

For her talk on "Community Service – Trailblazing in Community and Service", Sis. Stella spoke about how she became involved in her advocacy at a young age. As a child of engineers in government service (her mother served as DOST Secretary), she was often left to the care of her nanny who would bring her to a small chapel outside their village. Eventually she became a member of the Legion of Mary. It was then that she met informal settlers and public school children and was exposed to charity service without her parents' knowledge.

Later in life as a public servant, she was inspired by the Mother of Perpetual Help and assisted many people in need of help. She was confronted with problems such as the high cost of services, high prices of rice, transportation, rent and education as well as health-related concerns. Purity of intention was what she carried under her sleeves, a difficult call for politicians like her. Eventually, this year, her proposal to have universal coverage of social pension for 60-year-olds and above has been approved on second reading in Congress.

It takes a woman, a Marian devotee and a Daughter of Mary Immaculate to achieve such a feat.

After Teacher Stella's talk, DMI sisters designated as Alternate Regional Representatives, the newly designated International Auditor – Financial and Chairperson for Ceremonies were installed into office by International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz.

The 42nd National Officers' Meeting took place in the afternoon with International Regent Sis. Annie Ty calling the meeting to order. A quorum was announced by International Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya.

Sis. Tess Labilles, past International Secretary, read the minutes of the last Officers' Meeting which the body approved. This was followed by the Treasurer's Report by Sis. Isabel Ticzon, past International Treasurer and International Auditor – Financial.

Past International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga rendered her report covering her term 2022-24. She narrated her past struggle in the beginning of her term when she was challenged by the pandemic, having to meet via Zoom with erratic internet connection. Despite all these, she was able to complete her term, successful to bring together close to 15,000 DMIs to accomplish their mandated missions as a synodal community under Mary.

International Advocate Sis. Nene Ligaya presented for ratification and approval the following



Treasurer's Report by Past International Treasurer Sis. Isabel Ticzon.



International Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya presents the board resolutions for members' ratification.

Board Resolutions:

Resolution No. 01-2024 – Signifying support and confirming DMII's donation to Pro-Life Phils. Foundation for the activity "Respect and Care for Life 2024";

Resolution No. 02-2024 – Amending the date and place of the National Officers Meeting for 2024;

Resolution No. 03-2024 – Condoning the payment of arrears in national membership

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dues and assessments for calamity fund of inactive circles in all fourteen (14) DMII regions; and

Resolution No. 04-2024 – Setting the venue and date of the DMII Biennial Convention in 2025.

Towards the end of the program, it was IR Sis. Annie's turn to deliver a recap of the day's discussions during the Board Planning Workshop at the Bukal ng Tipan Pastoral Care Center in Taytay, Rizal last February 2-3, 2024 during which the International Officers and Board evaluated what level should be performed in the Missions. She acknowledged the Mission Chairpersons' efforts to design and assess programs applicable to the respective areas of DMI circles, the ultimate goal being to empower all officers, form committees to perform specific tasks and carry out flagship projects of the missions.



International Regent Sis. Annie Ty presents the DMII 2024-25 program.

She also called for the organization of new DMI circles and SMI circlettes, the reactivation of inactive ones and the adoption of a sisterhood agreement among circles in a program called "Sister Ko, Tutulungan Ko".

The day's meeting was brought to a close with a closing prayer led by International Vice-Regent for Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra and the recessional.



PILGRIMAGE TO PAMPANGA CHURCHES, DMII's FIRST FOR 2024 HELD

*By Sis. Biennah C. Villanueva,
Chairperson, Committee on Pilgrimage & Formation*

On May 19, 2024, the beautiful and historic towns of Pampanga Province played host to 50 DMI sisters who attended the National Officers' Meeting held at Hotel Sofitel the day before. The activity was organized by the DMII Committee on Pilgrimage and Formation.

Led by International Regent Sis. Annie Ty, some members of the International Board joined the pilgrimage – Region IV Representative (RR) Sis. Marilyn San Diego, Region XI RR Sis. Thelma Lim, Region XIII RR Sis. Beth Dipaling, Pro-Life Mindanao Area Coordinator Sis. Tess Miranda and SMI Luzon Area Coordinator Sis. Monik Bularan.

At their first stop, the pilgrims were welcomed by the DMI sisters of the Immaculate Heart Circle of Sto. Rosario Parish in Angeles City.

The group visited five centuries-old and historic churches in Pampanga – Sto. Rosario (Holy Rosary) Church in Angeles City, Apung Mamacalulu (Archdiocesan Shrine of Christ Our Lord of the Holy



The pilgrims are welcomed by DMI sisters of the Immaculate Heart Circle in Angeles City.

The churches the pilgrims visited



Sto. Rosario Church, Angeles City



Santiago Apostol Church, Guagua



Apung Mamacalulu Church, Angeles City



Sta. Catalina de Alejandria Church, Arayat

Sepulcher) also in Angeles City, San Guillermo Church in Bacolor, Santiago Apostol Church in Betis, Guagua and the Sta. Catalina de Alejandria Church in Arayat.

Among the spiritually-enriching and interesting experiences of the pilgrims are the following:

- * Veneration of the relic of the Passion of the Christ at Apung Mamacalulu Church;
- * The Church of San Guillermo in Bacolor buried in 30 feet of lahar during the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1991. Today, the church's windows are at floor level. Interestingly, it was the location of ABC-CBN's hit teleserye 'Santino'.
- * At the Sta. Catalina de Alejandria Church, the pilgrims attended a Holy Mass celebrated by the parish priest, Fr. Mark Manabat during which they were the main offerors. Fr. Manabat acknowledged the presence of the DMI sisters after the Mass.

The Pampanga Pilgrimage is the first of two national pilgrimages that the Pilgrimage & Formation Committee plans for this year. According to the pilgrims



San Guillermo Church, Bacolor

it was a spiritually enriching and enjoyable bonding experience for everyone who looks forward to the next one later this year.



The pilgrims with IR Sis. Annie Ty and Fr. Mark Manabat

REGION V ASSEMBLY: SYNODALITY IN ACTION

*By Sis. Cecille V. Huidem,
Morality in Media Committee Chairperson,
Mother of Divine Grace Circle*

Three hundred fifty DMI sisters of Region V came together last June 15 for our Regional Assembly. The one-day event was held at the historic Club Filipino in San Juan City.

The opening ceremonies were ably managed by Sis Elizabeth Bongon, Chairperson for Ceremonials. These consisted of the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the parade of colors and the presentation of the participating circles from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Imus, Kalookan, Manila, Novaliches, Paranaque, Pasig and the Vicariate of Puerto Princesa and Taytay (Palawan).

Sis. Julieta Cruz, alternate Region V representative welcomed the attendees.

Centering on the theme “DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”, the main speakers spoke on the various ways by which the DMI sisters may help achieve this.

In her inspirational message, International Regent Sis. Annie Ty emphasized that our synodal mission requires us to put our words into action. DMI sisters should endeavor to bring more people closer to God

by, among others, recruiting and reactivating more members. Further, under the initiative of “Sister Ko, Tutulungan Ko”, we should extend whatever help we can to other circles.

The synodality theme was further expounded by Rev. Fr. Mariano Bartolome, Jr. of the Diocese of Kalookan who is the Diocesan Director of the Commission on Education and Lay Formation and concurrently pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish, Malabon City.

He shared that the Church exhorts us to reach out to everyone, including those in the fringes of society and those who may not be following Church teachings, and walk together in solidarity. Priests like him, as well as church workers, are challenged to “smell like their sheep”, meaning, to be witnesses of our faith and not just teachers.

Sis. Maria Loreto Manalansan, DMII International Secretary and Region V Representative, provided the framework within which synodality becomes a reality- through the promotion of “Servant Leadership”. She cited the pillars of servant leadership, namely spirituality and humility. These, she said, are



Sisters Annie Ty and Lorie Manalansan place the Blessed Mother's image at the altar during the enthronement ceremony.



The registration of assembly participants.



The DMII International Board present during the assembly, first row, from left: Sisters Edna May Landicho, Lorie Manalansan and Sally Estrada, Second row: Sisters Milde Tong, Mila Villanueva, Sis. Ruby Macario, Sis. Juliet V. Cruz, Fr. Jerome Cruz and Sisters Annie Ty, Evelyn Alcantara and Josie Halog.



The assembly speakers, from left: Fr. Mariano Bartolome, Jr., Sis. Annie Ty, Sis. Ruby Macario and Sis. Lorie Manalansan

operationalized through the HOPE behaviors – Be Helpful, Be Optimistic, Persevere and Explore.

On the part of Past International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario, she discussed Mother Mary's essential role in synodality – "Today's Challenge: Like Mother, Like Daughter". Like Mary, she said that our devotion should lead to action, Like Mary, we should relate to each other lovingly. She ended her talk with a song and her signature dance number to the tune of her favorite "I Have a Dream" as an inspiration for everyone to see the good in everything and everyone.

The event culminated with a Eucharistic celebration presided by International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz. His homily focused on total commitment to the Lord.

Regional Secretary Sis. Zenia Velasco delivered the closing remarks. SMI Luzon Area Coordinator Sis. Monik Bularan and this writer were the program emcees.



The program emcees: Sisters Cecille Huidem and Monica Bularan

REGION VII ASSEMBLY COMMEMORATES SYNODALITY AND SERVICE

*By Sis. Agnes R. Arada,
Region VII Representative*

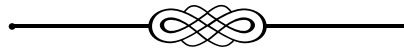
The Diocese of Lucena played host to 470 DMI sisters who attended the assembly of Region VII at the St. Jude Events Center, Division Road, Bgy. Isabang in Tayabas City last June 8, 2024.

At the start of the assembly, Region VII RR Sis. Agnes Arada welcomed the participants from the Archdiocese of Lipa, the Dioceses of Gumaca, Lucena, Boac, Calapan and the Vicariate of San Jose. The diversity and unity represented by the assembly participants set the stage for a day of meaningful discussions and shared purpose.

International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya in her message emphasized the importance of collective action in advancing the missions of the DMII.

Keynote speaker Rev. Msgr. Dennis Imperial , expounding on the assembly theme “DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”, commended the DMIs for their steadfast commitment to inclusivity and diversity in its synodal approach. He highlighted the organization’s proactive efforts to amplify the voices of marginalized individuals, ensuring that no one is left behind or overlooked in the pursuit of a more just and compassionate society.

Youth Welfare/SMI International Chairperson Sis. Evelyn Alcantara underscored the Mission’s thrust of organizing more SMI circlettes within the context of DMII’s broader goals. She added that the shared responsibility encapsulated in the sisterhood agreement “Sister Ko, Tulungan Ko” stresses the importance



DMII INTERNATIONAL AUDITOR-FINANCIAL NAMED

The DMII International Officers & Board announced the appointment of SIS. SALVACION “Marichu” BATA as International Auditor-Financial for 2024-2025.

Sis. Marichu’s home circle is the Immaculate Conception - Karangalan Circle, Diocese of Pasig. She served as regent of the circle.

A B.S.C. graduate, major in Accounting, she was Finance Manager of Club Filipino until her retirement. She is an active parishioner of the Immaculate Conception Parish where she is coordinator of the BEC Pamayanan and member of the Social Services and Development Ministry. She is also treasurer of the Karangalan Ph. 2, B1 Homeowners Association and Manager/Accountant of the Club Filipino Multi-Purpose Cooperative.



of mutual support and solidarity within the DMI community.

International Regent Sis. Annie Ty, in her inspirational message, encouraged her audience to bring the Church closer to the marginalized and underserved population, with the constant presence and guidance of the Blessed Mother in their mission work. She further said that the spiritual foundation upon which the DMI Community stands is rooted in faith and service.

Throughout the assembly, the spirit of synodality permeated every discussion and interaction underscoring the collaborative and participatory nature of the DMII.

At the assembly's end, the bonds forged during the whole-day program will continue to be a source of inspiration and strength for all as they continue their mission activities with Mary, with integrity underpinning their work.



The International and Regional Officers beside the Blessed Mother's altar after the enthronement ceremony.



Region VII Representative Sis. Agnes Arada welcomes the assembly participants.



The awarding of Certificates of Appreciation to the assembly speakers. From left: Sisters Agnes Arada, Annie Ty, Evelyn Alcantara and Merinnisa Ligaya.



The assembly participants – journeying together in the spirit of synodality

REGION VIII ASSEMBLY PARTICIPANTS UNDAUNTED BY TROPICAL CYCLONE 'AGHON'

*By Sis. Nancy Magtangob, Regent,
Immaculate Conception Circle, Diocese of Virac*

Over a hundred DMI sisters from the dioceses comprising Region VIII were set to go to Virac, Catanduanes for their Regional Assembly last May 25, 2024. Only 57 including members of the International Board from Manila who arrived a day earlier were able to make it. Fifty delegates from Mainland Bicol were prevented from making the trip by ferry boat on the morning of May 25 when Typhoon Signal No. 1 was hoisted over Catanduanes and Albay because of the approaching TS 'Aghon' and were made to return to port.

But the Regional Assembly went on as scheduled. In attendance were 29 sisters from the host circle, the Immaculate Conception Circle, and sisters from Our Lady of Fatima Circle of Legaspi City, Virgo Clemens Circle of Oas, Albay and Holy Trinity Circle of Tigaon, Camarines Sur who also arrived the day before.

The assembly started at the Virac Cathedral where a Eucharistic celebration was presided by Very Rev. Fr. Allan Martin Basilio, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish. The participants then moved to Queen Maricel Inn in San Isidro Village, Virac, Catanduanes for the assembly program.

The assembly opened with the traditional enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary led by Rev. Fr. Rico Subian, DMII Diocesan Spiritual Director, guests from the DMII Board – International Regent Sis. Annie Ty, International Secretary and Region V Representative Sis. Lorie Manalansan and Youth Welfare/SMI International Chairperson Sis. Evelyn Alcantara and the Region VIII officers present. Sis. May Anne Torno led the opening prayer.

Fr. Basilio welcomed the assembly participants saying that the DMII theme "DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing



Sis. Annie Ty and Fr. Rico Subian carry the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary during the enthronement and consecration ceremony.

Missions with Inspiration and Integrity" echoes the perfect role of Mary in our synodal journey as we follow her footsteps, our guiding star to God. He underscored the values and aspirations of the DMII as a synodal community.

IR Sis. Annie Ty, in her inspirational message, enjoined her sisters to go about their work in the DMI Missions with kindness, compassion and a joyous and willing heart. The secret to remaining beautiful, she said, is to have a loving heart ready to serve just like our Blessed Mother. She called on Circle Regent Sis. Nancy Magtangob to organize more circles in the Diocese of Virac.

Rev. Fr. Eric John Rojas, Diocesan Economist of the Diocese of Virac, keyed the assembly. He called on the DMIs to be true testaments to the power of faith and perseverance committed amidst the many challenges and difficulties along the way. He said that we should be courageous to overcome obstacles and to



Very Rev. Fr. Allan Martin Basilio welcomes assembly participants.



IR Sis. Annie Ty gives her inspirational message.



Guests from the International Board – front row, from left: Sisters Evelyn Alcantara, Annie Ty, Lorie Manalansan and Josie Halog – with Rev. Fr. Rico Subion and Very Rev. Fr. Allan Martin Basilio

grow strong with the guidance and help of our Blessed Mother. He also expressed his wish that the assembly serve as an avenue for the DMII to build a genuine and true synodal community willing to listen to the call of the Lord at all times.

International Secretary Sis. Lorie Manalansan discussed “DMII: Servant Leaders of the Community” and the characteristics of servant leaders whose priority is to serve with integrity and whose decision-making is based on ethics and principles and serving with humility and always with a higher purpose. She exhorted the DMI sisters to be models of servant leadership in the community.

Youth Welfare/SMI International Chairperson Sis. Evelyn Alcantara stated the need to strengthen the Youth Welfare/SMI Mission as the avenue for Squirettes’ training as future DMIs. She challenged her audience to organize SMI circlettes in their respective circles/parishes.

After the presentation of certificates of appreciation to the speakers, Sis. Nancy thanked all those present who braved the



Rev. Fr. Eric John Rojas, assembly guest speaker



Intermission dance number by the Catandungan Cultural Troupe

waves to come to her “Happy Island” and helped make the event a successful one.

Fellowship and dinner brought the Region VIII Assembly to a close. In spite of the heavy downpour outside, the delegates’ zest for singing and dancing remained undiminished making the night fun-filled and memorable.



Sis. Nancy Magtangob, chairperson of the assembly organizing committee, thanks her committee members and the assembly participants for the assembly’s success.



A group photo during the fellowship program

DMI SISTER NAMED AS ONE OF TEN OUTSTANDING WOMEN OF SAN JOSE CITY FOR 2024

By Sis. Evangeline Ruanto,
Regent, San Jose Circle

Sis. Segundina Salvador of San Jose Circle was awarded as one of Ten Outstanding Women of San Jose City last March 26, 2024 at the Staycation Hotel in San Jose City. A DMI sister since 1989, she was Circle Regent from 1993 to 1994, then a Vicarial Regent and Diocesan Regent for eight years.

The awards program was a project of the San Jose City Government in celebration of International Women's Month. City Mayor Mario Salvador and Vice-Mayor Ali Salvador led the awarding ceremony.

The award categories include outstanding achievements in the fields of business, agriculture, public service, law, culture, community development, small and medium entrepreneurship, education, health and labor/worker.

Sis. Dina was awarded for her achievements in the field of business. From her humble beginnings as a sales lady in a clothing store, she ventured on her own with a capital of only P30 in 1965 buying fabrics in Tayug, Pangasinan and selling them by the kilo in San Jose City. Earning the trust and confidence of her customers and trading partners, she grew her business despite challenges thrown her way such as a fire in the San Jose public market that gutted her stall. She had to rebuild from the ashes and through

hard work and sheer determination, her business grew and expanded. Today, she sells not only textiles but all kinds of ready-made clothes, and has invested and engaged in other businesses. Her three children are now all professionals – a medical doctor, a pharmacist and a lawyer. She is married to Guillermo Salvador who is supportive of her endeavors.



Sis. Segundina Salvador

Sis. Dina's story, along with the other awardees, serves as inspiration to other women in the community who aspire to succeed in their chosen field.

The celebration of International Women's Month is spearheaded by the Upliftment of Women Workers Mission of the DMII.



ACTIVITY UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE OF SAN JOSE (NE)

By Sis. Elvira Martinez,
Scribe, San Jose Circle

The DMIs of the Diocese of San Jose attended seminars and conferences during the second quarter of 2024. They are as follows:

* **Spirituality of Stewardship Conference.** The conference was held at Lake Isabel, Malasin, San Jose City on April 20, 2024 with the Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, OP, DD of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan as speaker. He said that spirituality and leadership are anchored on the Sign of the Cross, as the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are stewards of one another in the spirit of charity, harmony and unity.



*** National Webinar on Morality in Media. (Please see separate story on page 33.)**

*** Social Transformation Forum.** Held on May 18, 2024, the forum, with the theme “Pagpapanibago ng Lipunan” had Most Rev. Mylo Hubert Vergara, DD, as resource speaker. The forum was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in San Jose City.



*** Ecological Forum.** With the theme “Living Word on Breathing Earth”, the forum was held on May 18, 2024 at the San Geromino covered court in Baloc, Sto. Domingo, Nueva Ecija. Starting with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Most Rev. Roberto Mallari, DD, bishop of the Diocese of San Jose, two resource speakers spoke during the forum: Rev. Fr. Cristino Pine, OFM on climate emergency, ecological issues and conversion, and the use of science and technology on ecological matters and Atty. Claryl Fernandez on enforcement of laws and prosecution of cases on environmental protection.



DIOCESAN EXEMPLIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Nineteen new DMI members were formally accepted to the organization during a diocesan exemplification ceremony performed by the San Jose Circle Exemplification Team. The new members are from circles in Nampicuan, Licob, Guimba and San Jose City.



TEAM-BUILDING HELD BY SAN JOSE CIRCLE

A Team-building workshop titled “Application of Positive Psychology through Team-Building” was held last May 6, 2024 at the Sunflower Resort with Frederick Dennis Mercado, Ph.D, RPSY as resource speaker. The

activity aimed to strengthen and deepen relationship of members in accordance with the virtues enshrined in the DMI Motto.

10th ANNIVERSARY OF *TAHANAN NG DAMAYANG KRISTIYANO* CELEBRATED

The *Tahanan ng Damayang Kristiyano* (TDK). A home for abandoned elderly women in Bgy. Parang Mangga, San Jose City celebrated its 10th anniversary last May 13, 2024 on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. San Jose Circle’s Sisters Edita Violago-Barandiaran and Josenia Garcia were given awards, the former as the fiesta *hermana mayor* and for extending her full support to the TDK and the latter, for being a member of the core group that established the TDK.

“OPERATION *TULI*” A PRO-LIFE PROJECT

The “Operation *Tuli*” was held last June 3, 2024, a joint project of the DMII and the San Jose City Health Dept. and the Mobile Kitchen Dept. The project beneficiaries were residents of Barangays Sibut, Villa Marina and Pinili.



From the Diocese of Balanga – Region III

NEWS ROUND-UP FROM THE DIOCESE OF BALANGA

By Sis. Thelma Manansala,
Diocesan Regent

International Women’s Month Celebrated

The St. Catherine of Sienna Circle took part in the celebration of International Women’s Month with the 2024 sub-theme “*Lipunang Patas sa Bagong Pilipinas*” advocating for equal opportunities for women. The slogan, “*Kakayahan ng Kababaihan, Patutunayan!*” aims to showcase and utilize the full potential of women and girls in national growth and development.



Members of St. Catherine of Sienna Circle with streetsweepers

To honor the women in the community and show appreciation for their contributions, the DMI sisters presented pink roses to policewomen, firewomen and female streetsweepers who keep the community's surroundings clean, protect the rights of citizens and ensure their safety as first responders during calamities and fires.

The DMIs aim to create an enabling environment where women can thrive and play a vital role in the task of nation-building.

“BABAE KA, HINDI BABAE KA LANG!”



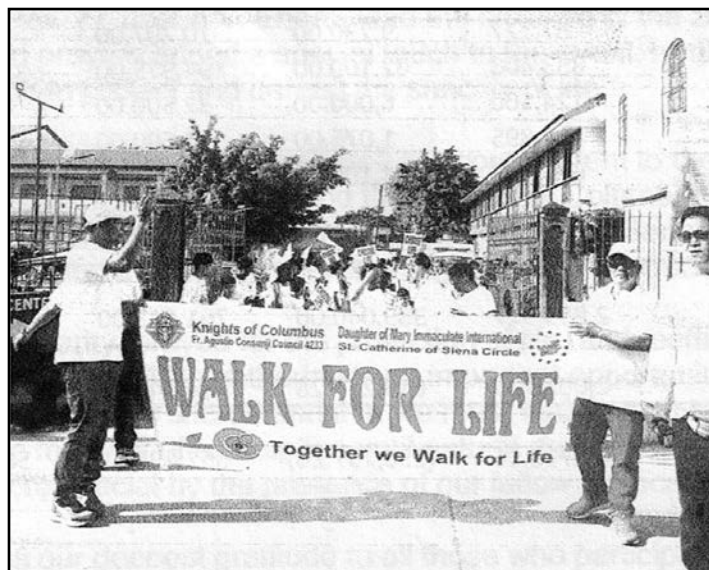
Policewomen in their community were also honored.

Walk for Life 2024

*By Sis. Delia Llave, Regent,
St. Catherine of Sienna Circle*

The St. Catherine of Sienna Circle held a “Walk for Life” during Pro-Life Month aimed at creating a community that values life through the love of Jesus Christ.

The event was joined by various groups who are committed to pro-life causes – the Knights of Columbus, Squirettes of Mary, Columbian Squires and Samal Senakulo.



The Walk for Life starts.

A Eucharistic celebration and blessing of the Tomb of the Unborn by Fr. Josue Enero, parish priest preceded the Walk.

The Walk for Life symbolized the group's solidarity in advocating the protection of life and affirmation of their commitment to be the voice of the voiceless. It also showcased their belief that every human life is sacred and must resist any threat to an individuals' right to life.



Fr. Josue Enero blesses the Tomb of the Unborn.

NEWS IN PHOTOS FROM THE DIOCESE OF MALOLOS

*By Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia,
Region IV Alternate RR
and Regional Newsette Correspondent*



A - NEW SMI's INDUCTED. Fifty-two new Squirettes attended the SMI investiture ceremony at the Sto. Nino Academy Chapel in Bocaue, Bulacan recently. The induction of SMI officers followed.

B - APFV MISSION ACTIVITY. The Our Lady of Consolation and Cincture Circle of Paombong, Bulacan led by Regent Sis. Paulina de Regla extended assistance to a PDL's family detained at the Provincial Capitol BJMP by providing para-legal assistance through Atty. Jeff Labilles (shown in photo talking to the PDL's mother). The circle gave the family a bag of groceries and other items. The circle's Assistance to Prisoners' Families & Victims spearheaded the activity.



C - SMIs PLAY ACTIVE ROLE IN "BANTAYAN ANG KALUSUGAN: PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE" DMI CIRCLE PROJECT.

The SMIs of the Our Lady of Consolation & Cincture Circlette assisted the DMIs during their "Bantayan ang Kalusugan . . ." held in Paombong, Bulacan recently. The SMIs assisted senior citizens who availed of the free services in their laboratory work-ups and other concerns. The circlette always extends support to the activities and projects of the DMI circle.



VISIT TO MOLAVE YOUTH HOME

By Sis. Rosalina Enriquez,
Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Novaliches

In a remarkable demonstration of living the DMI Pro-Life Mission, ten circles from the Diocese of Cubao and five from the Diocese of Novaliches visited the new Molave Youth Home (MYH) in Payatas, Quezon City last Dec. 7, 2023. (Editor's Note: This report was overlooked in the Q1 Newsette issue. Our apologies.)

Sixty DMI sisters from the two dioceses joined the activity led by Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Jenny Quieta of Cubao with the support of Past DR Sis. Edna May Landicho of Novaliches.

During the DMIs' visit, 174 boys and 8 girls were housed in the institution. The MYH is a residential and rehabilitation center for children aged 15 to 18 years old who are in conflict with the law. The Center serves as the Quezon City Government's window in terms of good practices recognized by international organizations.



Bishop Honesto Ongtioco with the DMI sisters. He is shown holding the charcoal painting of Jesus, a gift from the MYH residents.

The fun-filled visit brought hope, joy and love to MYH's residents who entertained their guests with songs and dances including an interpretative dance of the song "Anak" that tugged at the heart. They also gifted the sisters with miniature colorful flowers in vases that they themselves made from art and glossy paper. In turn, they received 225 gift packages containing toiletries and some clothes and given snacks.

Culminating the activity was a Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, D.D. of the Diocese of Cubao who received a charcoal painting of the face of Jesus made by a resident. Visibly showing his deep appreciation, the Bishop carried the gift throughout the rest of the morning.

The visit ended with Christmas carols, spreading hope, joy and love that the Season always brings.



Most Rev. Bishop Honesto Ongtioco celebrating the Holy Mass.



The Newly erected Molave Youth Home building in Payatas, Quezon City.



From the Dioceses of Kalookan – Region V

Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle's Rooftop Gardening

By Sis. Nelia Ricarte,
Circle Regent

This activity aims to encourage other people with vacant rooftop or open spaces on their lot to build rooftop or open gardens, help them save money and start their own business. Instead of buying vegetables from the market, they may just pick vegetables from their garden for their own use or sell excess ones to others.



NEWS UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE OF ANTIPOLO

By Sis. Cora Afuang,
Past APFV International Chairperson

The first quarter of 2024 was remarkably a very productive period for the circles of the Diocese of Antipolo. With Diocesan Regent Sis. Alma Luces at the helm, a number of activities were undertaken as follows:

Visit to Kanlungan ni Maria. The DMIs of St. Paul of the Cross, Our Lady of Light, St. Francis, Nuestra Sra. De la Paz Y Buen Viaje, Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary and Immaculate Conception of Marikina Circles trooped to *Kanlungan ni Maria*, a haven for the elderly who are mostly abandoned, in support of Pro-Life Philippines' project "*Pagmamahal sa Buhay, Sandigan ng Kagalingang Panlahat*" co-sponsored by DMII. The sisters entertained the residents of Kanlungan, brought snacks and lunch and distributed some gift packs that they donated. The half-day activity proved to be therapeutic to the elderly residents who enjoyed the program and games that the DMIS conducted.



The DMI sisters arrive at the Kanlungan ni Maria

Media Seminar for Students. A back-to-back seminar by the Pro-Life and Morality in Media Committees was attended by students of SSS National High School last February 17, 2024. The topic, "Role of Social Media in the Lives of High School Students" was expounded by Ms. Ruth Giselle Reyes, a media practitioner. After Ms. Reyes' talk, Sis. Cora Afuang, past president of Pro-Life Phils. took over to talk on "Awareness on Teenage Pregnancy". The project was spearheaded by Sisters Annalie Calma, MIM chairperson and Susan Ong, Pro-Life chairperson.



PDLs' families receive gift packs from the sisters.

Seminar on Mental Stress for Families of PDLs and Victims. A diocesan seminar entitled "Say Yes to Lusog Isip, No to Sakit Isip" was conducted for families of PDLs and victims of crime in coping with mental stress. Mr. Rolie de los Reyes, a registered guidance counselor from UP-Diliman, taught the participants how to handle mental stress brought about by the absence of a family member/breadwinner. He also provided some spiritual messages and insights making the seminar a recollection of sorts. The participants were served lunch courtesy of Concepcion Dos Barangay Captain Jane Zubiri de la Rosa and given gift packs donated by Congresswoman Stella Quimbo. Both donors are members of St. Paul of the Cross Circle.



Students listen to the speaker during the MIM seminar.

Blood-Letting by the St. Paul of the Cross Circle. In coordination with the Red Cross of Marikina City, the circle conducted a blood-letting activity on March 3, 2024. Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Susan Ong, a doctor, led the circle sisters in overseeing the activity. An ample amount of blood was collected during the blood-letting, enough to save the life of some patients needing this life-giving element.



Diocesan Lenten Recollection

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

On March 23, 2024, 9 circles convened to have their Lenten Recollection with Father Geoffrey Zacarias, Spiritual Director, as speaker.

141 DMI members gathered at San Agustin Quasi Church, Mabuhay, Paliparan where DMI's Spiritual Adviser is the Parish Priest, who was assigned by Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista of the Diocese of Imus. It was an opportune time for DMIs to know him better.

It was a spiritual pilgrimage to the Cross. Most important values learned: to be kind, thankful, and supportive. It was a day of working together as a team and showing respect to each other and most especially to God.



—o0o—

Santo Niño De Molino Circle Visita Iglesia 2024

26 DMI pilgrims joined the Visita Iglesia in Pampanga, who journeyed to seven churches in Pampanga at the Archdiocese of San Fernando:

1. The Saint Augustine Parish
2. Immaculate Conception Parish
3. Santiago Apostol Parish
4. San Guillermo Parish
5. Metropolitan Cathedral of San Fernando
6. Archdiocesan Shrine of Apung Mamacalulu
7. Holy Rosary Parish "Pisamban Maragul"

A Holy Mass was officiated by their very own Parish Priest at the Archdiocesan Shrine of Apung Mamacalulu.



—o0o—

Santo Niño De Molino Circle 33rd ANNIVERSARY AND RECOGNITION DAY 2024

Thirteen members were awarded for being loyal to the organization for 15 and more years since the circle was created in 1991.

This giving of recognition since 2013 becomes significant this year as the awards committee recognizes the organization's strength in its 33 years of existence and likened it to Jesus Christ's earthly life for 33 years.

Recognition of members shall be held every five years, in ceremonies that will make DMI sisters feel that their mission and activities are valued and appreciated. The committee reviewed the status of membership and created guidelines in recognition during the Women's Month.

1. Certificate of loyalty
2. Gold star / Silver star awards shall receive Image of Mary

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Immaculate. Six members got the gold star award and 1 was a silver star awardee.

3. Special awards wherein a member shares and gives her precious time, skills, experiences, talents and treasures to the DMII organization.

4. Certificate of Recognition of extra attributes and significant contributions



From the Diocese of Paranaque – Region V

HYDROPONICS GARDENING RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE'S PRO-LIFE PROJECT

*By Sis. Helen Balmores,
Circle Pro-Life Committee Chairperson*

More than 50 participants attended a Hydroponics Gardening Workshop last March 23, 2024 conducted by Mr. Jose Diego Roxas, a licensed agriculturist from the Bureau of Plant Industry, Dept. of Agriculture and a B.S. Agricultural Biotechnology graduate of UP-Los Banos.

The participants were members of the Risen Christ Circle and the Basic Ecclesial Communities of Holy Eucharist Parish in Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City.

The workshop started with a lecture on hydroponics gardening, a technology that grows plants (vegetables and flowering plants) not in soil but a water solution as growing medium.

Mr. Roxas later demonstrated the use of empty plastic soda bottles and styropor cups where lettuce seedlings can grow to full maturity and harvested.

Each participant brought a 1.5 or 2-liter plastic bottle and was taught to prepare it as seedling container with the root

immersed in the water solution. With proper care, the lettuce plant can be harvested in three to four weeks.

A Q & A session followed the lecture-demo.

The Hydroponics Gardening Workshop was a project of the circle's Pro-Life Committee headed by Chairperson Sis. Helen Balmores. It was held at the Filsino Bldg. of Sis. Milde Tong, International Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners Families & their Victims. Circle Regent Sis. Sylvia Arellano lent her full support to the activity.



The lettuce seedlings to be distributed to the participants



Pro-Life Committee members and officers of the Risen Christ Circle with the Workshop lecturer, Jose Diego Roxas (fifth from right, seated).



Lettuce seedlings planted in a hydroponic container, a plastic soda bottle cut according to specifications by the lecturer.

DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO DEDICATES MAY TO MAMA MARY

By Sis. Ivylou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

The centuries-old tradition of the Catholic Church in the Philippines of honoring the Blessed Virgin Mary in the month of May continues to this day. In the Diocese of San Pablo (Laguna Province), DMI circles together with their SMI circlettes conducted various activities during the month to honor the Blessed Mother.

The activities ranged from daily recitation of the Rosary, floral offerings before the Blessed Mother's altar as well as the crowning of her image in parish churches as well as in parishioners' homes.

Various parish organizations take turn in undertaking these Marian activities with DMI circles and SMI circlettes taking charge of certain days of May. Among the Marian activities undertaken by the circles in the Diocese are as follows:

- Our Lady of Salvation Circle led the Rosary and offering of flowers on May 1, 2024;
- Our Lady of Miraculous Medal SMI Circlette offered flowers on May 2nd.
- The Theresian Circle, assisted by the SMIs offered flowers on May 1 and 2.
- The DMIs and SMIs of San Antonio de Padua attended Mass and offered flowers on May 17, 2024.

The Feast of Our Lady of Fatima is celebrated every May 13. It is also on this day that the DMII Diocese of San Pablo celebrates its Foundation Day.



A flower-bedecked altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Flores de Maria celebration by (from top) Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal SMI Circlette, DMI and SMI members of the Theresian Circle and Circlette, Our Lady of Salvation Circle

OUR LADY OF SALVATION CIRCLE TAKES LEAD IN FLORES DE MARIA CELEBRATION

The Our Lady of Salvation Circle was the lead organization in the month-long celebration of Flores de Maria at the Immaculate Conception Parish in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Headed by Circle Regent Sis. Ignacia Flores, preparations for the celebration started as early as April with invitations given to prospective hermanos/hermanas mayor and to Catholic young girls as sagalas. After the final list was drawn up, they were given a recollection on May 25 with the theme "Blossoming Faith: Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and Spirituality of Flores de Mayo". Bro. John Oliver de Luna was the speaker who gave a distinction between Flores de Mayo and Santacruzan; i.e., the former pertains to the festivity honoring Mama Mary while the latter honors the Cross of Jesus.

The grand procession on May 31 included different images of the Blessed Mother including those from parishioners' homes and the sagalas in their beautiful gowns representing the Marian titles. The 16 pairs of hermanos and hermanas also joined the procession. A Holy Mass presided by Parochial Vicar Fr. Neil Allen Flores, a floral offering by the hermanos and hermanas, the sagalas and other mass goers and the crowning of the Blessed Mother's image ended the month-long celebration.

In his closing message, Fr. Joseph de la Rosa, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish thanked those who helped make the grand event a very successful one.



The DMI sisters of Our Lady of Salvation Circle

DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO HOLDS SEMINAR ON FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

By Sis. Ivylou Flores

The Diocese of San Pablo's Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) Mission conducted a seminar for Free Legal Assistance last March 20, 2024. The activity was held at the Dos Marias Events Center in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Aimed at equipping the DMI sisters with the necessary skills and knowledge in performing their tasks in the APFV Mission, Atty. Magi S. Magana of the Public Attorney's Office discussed the laws governing the subject such as R.A. 9262 (Anti-Violence Against Women and Children) and R.A. 7309 (an Act Creating a Board of Claims Under the DOJ for Victims of Unjust Imprisonment or Detention and Victims of Violent Crimes and for Other Purposes). Knowledge of these laws will help the DMI sisters in assisting the families and victims of PDLs.



PAO's Atty. Magi Magana before the seminar participants.

THERESIAN CIRCLE'S MEDIA INFORMATION LITERACY SEMINAR

*By Sis. Paulita M. Canonizado
and Sis. Dalisay Maligalig*

A Media and Information Literacy Seminar was conducted by the Morality in Media (MIM) Committee of the Theresian Circle last March 4-5, 2024 for students of Paciano Rizal in Bgy. Tuntungin-Putho, Los Banos, Laguna. MIM Chairperson Sis. Rita Laude spearheaded the activity.

A total of 35 Grade 6 students attended the seminar. They were shown video clips (episodes) of Merriam's Online World in which a ten-year-old tech savvy and active social media user named Merriam loves playing on-line games.

Facilitating the session were professors from the College of Arts & Sciences of UP-Los Banos – Madelyn Garcia, Maybelle

Holanda and Christopher Alonte.

In the five episodes shown, Merriam had to deal with overcoming gender stereotypes, cyber bullying, phishing and hacking, sorting through voluminous and inconsistent information found online as well as how to identify credible sources and how to deal with the proliferation of fake news. Tips were also given on how to behave online.

The facilitators also emphasized the important role of parents and guardians in the setting of privacy and security measures with regard to online devices.



The Grade 6 students of Paciano Rizal Elementary School during the seminar



The students as they interact with a seminar facilitator.

From the Diocese of Bacolod – Region IX

NEW CIRCLE ORGANIZED

*By Sis. Rosalinda L. Desales,
Region IX Representative*

The St. John the Baptist Circle has been added to the list of circles in the Diocese of Bacolod. The new circle is based in the Quasi-Parish of St. John the Baptist in Bgy. Punta Taytay, Bacolod City. It received its charter last May 27, 2024 after the exemplification of its fifteen charter members by the St. John Nepomuceno Circle exemplification team, its mother circle.

The circle has now grown to 19 members and more are being recruited with the support of Very Rev. Fr. Lou-an Torre Franca, parish priest and Diocesan Regent Sis. Marissa Baltazar of the Diocese of Bacolod.



The newly-exemplified DMI sisters of St. John the Baptist Circle with the St. John Nepomuceno exemplification team.

REGION IX NEWS ROUND-UP

By Sis. Rosalinda Desales,
Region IX Representative



REGION IX CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

The DMI circles in the Dioceses of Bacolod and San Carlos joined in the celebration of International Women's Month by posting streamers in their respective parishes. The celebration served as a tribute to the extraordinary role of women in society. This annual celebration underscores women's achievements and is an occasion for everyone to show appreciation, respect, love and care for them.

Photo



NEWS

News in Photos from St. Anne Circle



ST. ANNE CIRCLE'S CENACLE PRAYER. The St. Anne Circle of Sto. Rosario Parish, Bgy. Paraiso, Sagay City, Negros Occ. has a Cenacle Prayer Group that meets twice a month as part of the members' faith-sharing to enhance their spiritual life and to provide a venue where they can talk about and share their learnings about God's word as part of their spiritual enrichment program.



ST. ANNE CIRCLE'S PRO-LIFE PROJECT. One of the advocacies of the Pro-Life Committee of St. Anne Circle is to save the environment. A tree-planting activity was held last March 9, 2024 at Hda. Maya in Cadiz City headed by Sis. Teresita Rayco. Sis. Deding Metoda provided snacks for the group.



ST. ANNE SMI CIRCLETTE OFFICERS INSTALLED. The new set of SMI officers of the St. Anne Circlette was held last March 10, 2024 at the Holy Family Chaplaincy with Rev. Msgr. Florentino Baynosa as installing officer. Twenty SMIs were in attendance.

Erratum

Region IX RR Sis. Rosalinda Desales is currently connected with the Lopez Sugar Corp., not La Paz Sugar Corp. as stated on p. 9 of the January-March, 2024 issue of the DMI Newsette "Meet Your 2024-25 International Officers and Board."

NEWS UPDATES FROM THE OUR LADY OF CANDLES CIRCLE

Our Lady of Candles Circle Scholar Graduates *Cum Laude*. Bro. Ruchild Marfil, a released PDL and his wife Novelita are proud parents of a scholar of the Our Lady of Candles Circle who graduated on June 23, 2024 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, *cum laude*.



Livelihood Training Program on Rug-Making at BJMP. Thirty-five PDLs attended the orientation and demo on Rug-Making at BJMP, Nanga, Pototan, Iloilo last March 8, 2024. The trainors came from the Our Lady of Candles Circle headed by Sis. Emma Victoria with Sisters Gina Calvo, Sonia Parucho, Ofelia Hervias, Mayflorencia Lope and Elsie Santacera of CWL.



NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE STO. NINO DE TACLOBAN CIRCLE

By Sis. Sonia Alvarino



Tree-Planting for Pro-Life Mission. The DMIs and SMIs of Sto. Nino de Tacloban Circle and Circlette conducted a tree-planting activity last May 4, 2024 at Bgy. New Kawayan, Tacloban City. They planted 150 various hardwood seedlings.



“Together. We Walk for Life”. The Sto. Nino de Tacloban Circle joined the Walk for Life last April 27, 2024. The activity was organized by the Archdiocese of Palo and the Council of the Laity.

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Learning Session for Pupils of Rizal Central School. Pupils of Rizal Central School attended a learning session sponsored by the Sto. Nino de Tacloban Circle last May 9, 2024. The activity was a project of its Morality in Media Committee.



From the Diocese of Tandag – Region XII

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CIRCLE CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

By Sis. Aida Polinar, Vicarial Regent

The Immaculate Conception Circle of Tandag City, Diocese of Tandag, joined the opening of International Women's Month in March held by women from various sectors of the community. A Holy Mass started the day's program followed by a motorcade and a program held at the city gymnasium.

Among the activities undertaken by the circle during the month was giving tribute to the city's female street cleaners during a program held at the Shacene Function Room in coordination with the City Social Welfare & Development Office represented by

RSW Jonalyn Josol. Present during the program were International Regent Sis. Annie Ty, Circle Regent Sis. Teresita Milla and Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Eppie Pimentel. They gave inspirational messages to boost the morale of the 19 street cleaners present and to take pride in the service they give to their community.

Each was given a gift package containing rice, groceries, pre-loved clothes and some cash.

The DMI sisters of the Immaculate Conception Circle donated funds for the activity which the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee spearheaded.



The female street cleaners with the DMI sisters (seated in foreground) during the program.



The circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee with IR Sis. Annie Ty (3rd from right).

DIOCESE OF TANDAG HAS NEW CIRCLE

By Sis. Leonora Cruz Cotares, Diocesan Regent

A new circle named Mother of Divine Mercy Circle was officially organized last January 20, 2024 at the Mother of Mercy Parish in Barobo, Surigao del Sur with the exemplification of its 19 charter members and installation of the circle's charter officers headed by Charter Regent Sis. Vanessa Naman. Composing the Exemplification Team were Vicarial Regent Sis. Aida Polinar and sisters from the Immaculate Conception Circle of Tandag City, Queen of Heaven Circle of Hinatuan and Our Lady of Fatima Circle of Bislig City.

The Mother of Divine Mercy Circle was created through the efforts of Past Regent Sis. Reineria Nazareno, Vicarial Regent Sis. Cecile Yu, Circle Regent Sis. Vel Alcantara and other sisters of Queen of Heaven of St. Augustine Parish in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur.



The exemplification ceremony presided by Vicarial Regent Sis. Aida Polinar.

From the Diocese of Butuan – Region XII

DIOCESAN LENTEN RECOLLECTION HELD

*By Sis. Shirley Corvera, MIM International Chairperson
and Region XII Newsette Correspondent*

The DMII Diocese of Butuan conducted a diocesan Lenten recollection last March 8, 2024 at the Bishop Hall of the St. Joseph Parish in Butuan City.

The recollection, held on International Women's Day, had about 130 sisters as participants.

The recollection speaker, Rev. Fr. Efren Saga, pastor of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish in Carmen, Agusan del Norte, who is a charismatic recollection facilitator, effectively connected his meaningful and touching reflections to the DMII's 2024 theme "DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity". Meanwhile, Diocesan DMII Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Renato Abbu gave the Sacrament of Penance to those who made confession in an adjacent room.

Fr. Saga made reference to the homily of Archbishop Soc Villegas in his Ash Wednesday Mass regarding the three meanings of Lent: First, it is a springtime for the soul, a time to renew our personal relationship with God; second, Lent is a time to go slowly, to invest time for prayer and discernment, to recognize the presence of God and walk together with others in prayer and mission; and third, Lent is the time to remember and be grateful, to become a blessing to others and inspire righteousness and greatness. Servant leaders build communities, not legacies.

A Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Saga ended his talk. Region XII RR Sis. Susan Honculada and Butuan Diocesan Regent Sis. Shirley Corvera presented him with an award and token of appreciation as recollection speaker.

'SERVICIO DEL AMOR Y DE CALIDAD' – A JOINT APFV AND UWW MISSION PROJECT

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,
Area Coordinator for APFV – Mindanao
and Region XIV Newsette Correspondent

A joint project titled “*Servicio del Amor Y de Calidad*” was held by the DMII Archdiocese of Zamboanga last April 12, 2024 at Citi Mall in Zamboanga City. Spearheading the project were Sisters Maritess Go, diocesan chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims (APFV) and Mila Espinosa, diocesan chairperson for Upliftment of Women Works (UWW).

A total of 40 participants from the families of parolees attended the whole-day activity. They were joined by several DMI sisters from the three vicariates of the Archdiocese who brought donations of groceries and other items for the parolees’ families.

The first part of the day’s program was a talk about the Do’s and Dont’s when attending the Holy

Mass by Sis. Athena Valmoria of St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle. A raffle draw followed with religious items as prizes for the winners in the Q & A on the Holy Rosary.

The UWW Committee demonstrated to the participants how to process salted eggs and pickled bamboo shoots by Sis. Rosa Climaco of the St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle, *empanada* and *cuchinta* by Sis. Isabel Bejeramo of the Mother of Perpetual Help Circle of Guian.

The DMI sisters from the different circles also prepared lunch for the participants.

The project was in collaboration with the Bureau of Parolees headed by Chief Officer Jason Garcia.



The demonstration sessions in progress.



The participants are welcomed to the event.

DMII RADIO PROGRAM OVER STATION DXXX IS ALIVE AND WELL

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis

A series of topics has been scheduled for the DMII radio program aired over RPN DXXX every Sunday from 1 to 2 p.m.

Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Mindanao Area Coordinator for Morality in Media hosts the program with Sis. Susan Cardenas, Diocesan Chairperson for MIM as co-host.

For the first quarter, circles in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga took turns in discussing the following topics:



The DMI sisters get ready for their radio program.

Circle	Topic	Date
La Virgen de Fatima Circle of Maricaban	A - "Unlocking Personal Growth, Crafting Meaningful New Year's Resolution, A Transformation For 365 Days" B - "Mental Health and Wellness in Adulthood, Navigating Challenges and Cultivating Resiliency"	January 7, 14 and 21
St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle of Tetuan	"Accountability Is a Virtue"	January 28
Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle of Guian	"Punctuality"	February 4
Divine Mercy Circle of Divisoria	"Spirituality"	February 18
Our Lady of Fatima Circle of Putik	"What to Give Up for the Season of Lent"	February 25
St. Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary	"What Do You Mean by Abstaining in the Catholic Tradition?"	March 3
Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Circle	"The Importance of Conserving Water"	March 10
St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Sangali	"Why Do We Celebrate Women's Day?"	March 17
Nuestra Senora la Virgen del Pilar de Zaragoza - MCIC	"Our Palm Sunday Tradition in the Catholic Church"	March 24
	"Selected DMII Cantada de Pasion sa Radyo"	March 26
Our Lady of Purification Circle, Sta. Maria Parish	"The Significance of Easter Celebration"	March 31

Topics for the second quarter are being readied at the time of writing.

SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR CIRCLE CELEBRATES 30TH CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

*By Sia. Marilyn de Asis,
Regional Newsette Correspondent*

The San Isidro Labrador Circle of Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City celebrated its 30th charter anniversary last April 28, 2024.

Founded in 1994, the circle's charter regent was Sis. Ester S. Ibalio and the charter vice-regent was Sis. Marilyn de Asis. Several of the charter members are still active such as Sisters Virginia Salazar, Lourdes Locson, Eloisa Locson, Mabeng Jamolod and Querubina Barrientos. At the end of Sis. Ester's term, Sis. Marilyn succeeded her as regent and went on to serve as diocesan secretary when the late Sis. Paciencia Manalac was diocesan regent.

The Exemplification Team then was headed by Sis. Teresita Penaflor and the District Regent was the late Sis. Gloria Torres. Three of the circle's charter officers served as diocesan officers - Sis. Lourdes Locson in the Audit Committee, Sis. Virginia Salazar as Diocesan Pro-Life Chairperson and Sis. Marilyn de Asis who now serves as Mindanao Area Coordinator for Morality in Media. Prior to her present position, she was Mindanao Area Coordinator for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims.

The present regent of San Isidro Labrador Circle is Sis. Lucia Isidro with Sis. Jennifer Domingo as vice-regent.

Rev. Fr. Louie Alejandro, pastor of Talon-Talon Parish, graced the event.



Charter Vice-Regent Sis. Marilyn de Asis and Charter Regent Sis. Ester Ibalio



The officers of the San Isidro Labrador Circle with Fr. Louie Alejandro

CATHOLICS IN THE WORLD OF MEDIA - AN MIM WEBINAR

*By Sis. Shirley L. Corvera,
Morality in Media International Chairperson
and Region XII Newsette Correspondent*

On April 20, 2024, close to a thousand DMI sisters from the different regions of the country attended a national webinar via Zoom sponsored by the Morality in Media (MIM) Mission, Catholics in the World of Media – Forms, Effects and Morality in Media with Rev. Fr. Richard P. Lagos, a much sought-after media evangelizer as resource speaker.

Of the 1,395 registered participants, a few were not able to join the webinar due to power outages/interruptions in their areas such as in Bataan and Butuan City. Some circles met in one place to view the webinar as a group, calling it a watch party or party viewing.

The webinar started with an opening prayer led by Sis. Sonia Alvarina, MIM Area Coordinator for Visayas followed by the National Anthem, Pledge to the Flag and DMI Hymn led by Sis. Irma Pulangco, MIM Area Coordinator for Luzon.

Morality in Media International Chairperson Sis. Shirley Corvera welcomed the participants present by region. She then cited the objectives of the MIM webinar to equip the sisters with the required skills to recognize the effects of media, to develop in each one the zeal to promote good media and to take action against bad media. The excellent credentials and wealth of knowledge and experience of Fr. Richard Lagos, she said, will provide the participants with meaningful insights on the mission's objectives in consonance with this year's DMII theme, "DMII: A Synodal Church with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity".

International Regent Sis. Annie Ty who once served as MIM Area Coordinator for Mindanao acknowledged the complications and challenges the Mission faces such as the prevalence of fake news, untrue posts and other deceptions in social media that DMIs must be aware of to be able to guide their children and the youth on the proper use of media.

Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada introduced the resource speaker, Rev. Fr. Richard P. Lagos, M.A., E.M.A.S. He is the former National Director of YOUCAT Philippines, founding director of HOPE Foundation, a healing and renewal center for persons suffering from mild to moderate degree of addictions, founder of Servus Amoris Foundation which is committed in the helping ministry and profession like priests, religious, missionaries and lay people, and founder of Katekeo Movement, an association of youth catechists and evangelizers. Fr. Lagos is currently the

parish priest and shrine rector of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Shrine of the Holy Face of Jesus in Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija.

Starting with a prayer of praise and thanks, Fr. Lagos cited the current grouping of people in six generations according to their traits, characteristics and use of technology. These are: 1) SILENT GENERATION (1928-1945) – a generation that was born into the Great Depression and political instability, known to be thrifty, respectful and loyal; 2) BABY BOOMERS (1946-1964) – considered an economically influential generation because of their economic success; 3) GEN X (1965-80) – they are known to be street smart, though highly skeptical. They are not in the mood for drama and always strive to get things done. 4) GEN Y/MILLENNIALS (1981-1996) – considered book smart and tech savvy, have the mentality of "fun first, work later". 5) GEN Z (1997-2012) – social natives who are always digitally connected. Probably the most "woke" generation, always discussing global and social issues. 6) GEN ALPHA (early 2010s-2020s) – the most materially endowed and tech savvy generation. Born into the age of iPads, these are "screenagers" who cannot be away from screens. Hence the youth today are the number one consumer of digital content and the most prolific content creator.

According to the speaker, "You are what you share." We should face the ugly truth that we are all slaves of social media. Most people enjoy posting their daily activities, places visited, food eaten, outfit of the day, and the like. Some choose to vent out their anger, frustrations and negative feelings by ranting. Thus

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Rev. Fr. Richard Lagos, webinar resource speaker

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our lives are now defined by our perceived value and not by our true beauty. So, how can we project a positive image? Fr. Lagos summarized the answer through this quotation from Philippians 4:8: "Finally, my brothers and sisters, whatever is TRUE, whatever is NOBLE, whatever is RIGHT, whatever is PURE, whatever is LOVELY, whatever is ADMIRABLE – if anything is EXCELLENT or PRAISEWORTHY – think about such things.

HOW CAN WE USE SOCIAL MEDIA FOR GOOD? Fr. Lagos gave eight tips that can be applied to lead us to the right path in the implementation of our Morality in Media Mission and the achievement of our goals.

1. **USE YOUR VOICE FOR GOOD.** "Social media is the ultimate equalizer. It gives a voice and a platform to anyone who is willing to engage." – Amy Jo Martin
2. **DON'T BE TOO QUICK TO JUDGE.** "How would your life be different if . . . you stopped making judgmental assumptions about the people you encounter? Let today be the day . . . you look for the good in everyone you meet and respect their journey." – Steve Maraboli
3. **THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK.** "If people do not know you personally and if they cannot see you as you type, what you post online can be taken out of context if you are not careful in the way your message is delivered." – Germany Kent
4. **FIND AN ADVOCACY.** "An advocacy is, at its core, an exercise in empathy." – Samantha Power
5. **LEARN TO UNLEARN.** "It is not hard to learn more. What is hard is to unlearn when you discover yourself wrong." – Martin Fisher
6. **ASPIRE TO INSPIRE.** "Find your voice and inspire others to find theirs." – Stephen Covey
7. **LIVE AN AUTHENTIC LIFE.** "The authentic self is a soul made visible." – Sarah Ban Breathnach
8. **COLLABORATE.** "Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much." – Helen Keller

Moreover, Fr. Lagos gave additional tips to correctly convey one's identity on social media:

1. Take care of the identity you offer in your profile (photo, name and descriptions).
2. The social media you use is part of the message.
3. The message has more impact if formal and technical quality is taken care of.
4. Be aware of the breadth of the audience. Everything reaches everyone.
5. Avoid polarization. Unite, not criticize.
6. Be positive and encourage.
7. Pay attention to what you share with others.
8. Prudence and human relationships that arise through social media.

We should use technology to evangelize. As DMLs, we are called to be evangelizers of God's love; we should make a difference. The challenge is how we can be creative in doing so. There are many web pages we can follow and subscribe to and applications we can install in our mobile phones, like Word of the Day, Hallow, Mary, Divine Mercy, Laudate, Truth and Life, The Pope, and so on. Posting meaningful, positive and inspiring quotes, articles and stories or sharing posts from Catholic applications is definitely a good start.

At the end of his talk, Fr. Lagos extended his invitation to Pilgrimage of Hope, a Marian pilgrimage to France and Italy on October 10–24, 2024 that he organized. A prayer, the Hail Mary, was prayed to acknowledge the important role of our Blessed Mother, the first evangelizer, in salvation history.

Sis. Shirley thanked Fr. Lagos and all those who helped make the webinar a success. She then presented a virtual certificate of appreciation to the speaker.

In her closing remarks, Sis. Marilyn de Asis, MIM area coordinator for Mindanao, thanked Fr. Lagos for his very meaningful and insightful talk and the attendees for their active participation and support.



Sisters Annie Ty and Shirley Corvera

APFV MISSION SPONSORS NATIONWIDE VALUES FORMATION WEBINAR

The DMII Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) Committee headed by International Chairperson Sis. Ma. Clotilde "Milde" Tong sponsored a nationwide webinar on Values Formation last May 25, 2024 attended by participants from 13 of 14 regions of the country. Region VIII (Bicol Region) was not able to participate as the activity coincided with their Regional Assembly in Virac, Catanduanes.

Sis. Milde's welcome message officially started the webinar followed by the opening prayer by Sis. Eunice Santos, APFV Area Coordinator for Luzon, and acknowledgment of participants by Sis. Eve Bolarde, APFV Area Coordinator for Visayas.

The resource speaker and facilitator was Sr. Myrna Bas of the Daughters of Charity – Philippines and is currently president of Sta. Isabel College Manila who was introduced by Sis. Milde.

Sr. Myrna started the session with an opening prayer song "I Will Stand as Witness of Christ" through a PowerPoint presentation which she made use of during the entire presentation outlined as follows: I – Issues, II – Personal Interior Silent Reflections, III – Interactive Sharing of Reflections/Open Forum, IV – Faith Life Valuing Experiences, V – Deepening and Conclusions, and VI – Challenges and Commitments.

The first input, through a video "Sino Ako", served as springboard to know more of oneself before

God, Creator and Giver of Life. It was a powerful tool which affirmed the participants to draw out their feelings, choose line or word that touched their beings and why they were touched.

In the process, the participants were encouraged to share their thoughts and insights, and with enthusiastic eagerness and generosity of mind and heart, spontaneously expressed their wisdom, realizations and commitment to give of themselves, hopefully in **assisting prisoners' families and victims** as their participation in the Mission of the Church in their respective parish communities.

The facilitator shared an add-on: the "Works of Mercy", both corporal and spiritual, which serve as an invitational form of serving others as much as possible. In truth, as baptized Christian Catholic, Sr. Myrna said, this is a basic responsibility to exercise their duties to fellow human individuals, "as keepers of my brothers and sisters" in Jesus Christ.

Finally, Sr. Myrna asked the participants: Who will show the way? The DMI Circle officers and members? With the help of God's grace. And with the prayers, hope and trust in God's Providence, the DMIs may now be better equipped to pursue this Mission.

(Editor's Note: We thank Sr. Myrna Bas, D.C. through Sis. Milde for writing portions of this report.)



Sr. Myrna Bas, DC, resource speaker



Circle members participate in the webinar as a group. It is called watch party.

LUZON AREA CONFERENCE

26 - 27 October 2024

Enchanted Kingdom,
Santa Rosa City,
Laguna



DEADLINE OF REGISTRATION

31 August 2024

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REGISTRATION FEE

Php3,500 per head
Circle Fee: Php500

MORE INFORMATION

<https://bit.ly/DMIIR6LAC>



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