



DMI NEWSETTE

vol. XXXIX no. 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

July - September 2022

DMII REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES: GOING BACK TO NORMAL...SOON



Region II Assembly - Region II Representative Sis. Virginia Cabero on the wide screen to welcome assembly participants



Region III Assembly - Screenshot of participants via ZOOM



Region IV Assembly - Group photo of Regional officers with guests from the International Board



Region V Assembly - Sis. Milde Tong and DR Sis. Mercy Ong present a token of appreciation to Msgr. Claro Matt Garcia



Region VI Assembly - Enthronement procession led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio and Region VI RR Sis. Luming Legunda.



Region VIII Assembly - The Assembly participants with the mass celebrant and keynote speaker, Fr. Edwin Bragais.

STORIES INSIDE

BACK TO NORMAL?



My beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

The way things are going on, it would seem that life is back to normal. Save for the face masks that indicate that Covid 19 is still around, daily life looks pretty much the same before the onslaught of the great pandemic. Traffic has again built up, people are always rushing perhaps because of the coming holidays, restaurants are full, the airport is very full and generally people are again talking of meeting face to face and dreaming of get-aways. Back to normal?

After the raging torrents of the Covid pandemic had eased, we would say, life will never be the same. We have learned that our lives are a true gift that only God can give and that our lives are intertwined. We cannot go back to being islands or isolated in our own world. The world cries out in pain especially those who have nothing. We all experienced the same fear and anxiety over the unseen enemy. We have managed to live with the barest and we discovered how simplicity can bring a certain peace and tranquility. We have longed for the joys of fellowship and friendship. We have realized that our lives can be spent aimlessly or with purpose, and it's up to us. We have felt though the happiness in sharing and giving. We have seen the glow in the eyes of those we served, and the timid smile of those who are too shy to receive our acts of generosity. Yet, deep within us, we are aware that we leave the encounter richer and more fulfilled.

By the sheer exigencies of isolation and the quarantine, we have learned the value of silence and reflection. We gained more insight into who we are, the meaning of our existence and the reality of God.

Back to normal?

God had allowed that we experience pain and even loss that we may be able to sift the gold from the dirt in our lives. Like Job, God allowed that he suffer the loss of his wealth, relations and possessions to test his faithfulness to Him. Job realized that his true and everlasting wealth is God Himself.

We cannot go back to normal simply because the old normal is no more. The new order is here - more sensitive, more deep, more appreciative, more creative. It is like Pentecost when the Holy Spirit rested upon each of the apostles and changed their lives.

We pray that as we are given a new life after the pandemic, we may be filled with the Holy Spirit that we may proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ as Mary did and so become humble bearers of the light that will brighten this darkened world.

God be with you and your loved ones now and always.


Rev. Fr. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ
DMII International Chaplain

BECOMING CHRIST'S DISCIPLE THROUGH PRAYER, LOVE AND LIVING BY EXAMPLE



My dear DMI Sisters,

AVE MARIA!

Let us praise and thank God for the gift of life, the gift of sisterhood and the gift of the DMI Community.

With our theme, "The DMI: Journeying Together in Synodality and Discernment with Mama Mary", let us prepare ourselves to journey in synodality with our brethren so that we can walk together harmoniously and in our journey, nobody is left behind and nobody we will leave behind.

In order for the Holy Spirit to empower and work in us, allow me to share three points:

First is PRAYER. Let us pray unceasingly. It is the time when we adore God, praise him, ask forgiveness for our transgressions, give thanks for his unconditional grace and mercy, and ask for the things we need in our temporal and spiritual lives. Let us constantly be in prayer, sisters. It is only through prayers that we are able to communicate with our God and our Blessed Mother. It is through prayers that we are able to establish a deep relationship with our God, with Jesus, our Living God. It is by constant prayers that we are able to comprehend the will of God in our lives.

For us to be able to share and journey smoothly in synodality with Mama Mary as our model and guide, let us always wear the virtues of Mama Mary which she taught us during our exemplification when we embraced the sisterhood in the DMII and our DMI mottos – unity, friendship, humility, charity and sanctity.

Second is LOVE. Pray that love will always reign in our heart and soul. The Bible is all about LOVE. Take time to read the Bible everyday and be guided and reminded of God's great Love. Let's do everything out of love; without it, everything is in vain. With love, we will not feel burdened serving our homes, our families, our work, our community and, yes, the DMII and our Five Missions.

Third is LIVING BY EXAMPLE. It is through baptism that we are commissioned to proclaim the Good News of our salvation. The simplest thing to do is by living a true Christian life starting with our own families. Let our families be living witnesses of God's Word. Let us make others see Jesus and Mama Mary in us. Let us be Jesus's Hands and Feet by serving our neighbors with our 3 Ts – time, talent and treasure. Let us bring more souls to Christ.

Sisters, with PRAYER, LOVE and LIVING BY EXAMPLE, we can be true disciples of Christ following after Mama Mary's footsteps as His First Disciple. Heaven is our true home; we are just pilgrims here on earth. By the grace of God, we will walk together in synodality journeying together towards our True Home.

May our Blessed Mother cover us with her blue mantle of protection always.

Yours in Christ through Mary,

A stylized, cursive signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Asuncion B. Naraga'. The signature is fluid and expressive, with long, sweeping strokes.

SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA
International Regent

DMI REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES: GOING BACK TO NORMAL... SOON

Six DMI regions in the country - Regions II, III, IV, V, VI and VIII - held their regional assemblies during the second and third quarters of the year with three regions bravely 'testing the waters' going face-to-face and two regions having "blended" assemblies while one region still holding theirs online via ZOOM. Compiled in this issue are reports sent in by the Regional Newsette Correspondents on their respective assemblies.

REGION II Assembly - August 13, 2022

*By Sis. Marlie Eduardo,
Regent, Diocese of Cabanatuan*

A "blended" regional assembly was held by Region II led by Region II Representative Sis. Virgie Cabero at the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish, Diocese of Cabanatuan for the face-to-face portion and the other dioceses participating via ZOOM and FB Live. A total of 253 DMI sisters from the circles of the Diocese of Cabanatuan attended the face-to-face assembly and the other dioceses of Region II participated via Zoom – the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan and the Dioceses of San Jose, San Fernando – La Union, and the Prelature of Infanta.

A concelebrated Mass with Bishop Sofronio Bancud, SSS, DD of the Diocese of Cabanatuan started the day's activity. Concelebrating with him were Fr. Mike Veneracion, pastor of the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish and Fr. Isidro Puyat, DMI diocesan spiritual director.

During his homily, Bishop Bancud expounded on the assembly theme "Journeying Together in Synodality and Discernment with the Blessed Virgin Mary". The enthronement ceremony took place after the Mass.

Region II Representative Sis. Virgie Cabero welcomed the assembly participants in her video message after the parade of circles followed by another video message from the International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga who at the time was attending the Region IV Assembly in Bulacan. Pro-Life International Chairperson Sis. Marlin Abratique and Upliftment of Women Workers International Chairperson Sis. Lorie Manalansan rendered their mission reports and the programs of their respective missions via a big screen at the venue.

Pre-recorded videos of songs and dances by the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, Diocese of Urdaneta and the Prelature of Infanta were also shown. The Diocese of San Jose sisters showed video scenes of their parish grounds accompanied by a song. The Diocese of Cabanatuan DMIs also presented a song and dance number. A DMI quiz with prizes also added fun to the event.



Homily and keynote message by Bishop Sofronio Bancud.

REGION III ASSEMBLY – AUGUST 27, 2022

An initial plan to hold a face to face assembly for Region III in Subic, Zambales was shelved on account of a feared Covid 19 surge in the aftermath of the National Elections. A virtual assembly via Zoom was instead held with 316 participants from the four dioceses comprising Region III – the Archdiocese of San Fernando (Pampanga), and the Dioceses of Iba (Zambales), Balanga (Bataan) and Tarlac.

All the important parts of a regional assembly were video recorded participated in by the DMIs of the Diocese of Iba. The other three dioceses also did their video presentation of activities conducted by their circles.

It was a beautiful day as International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga shared and sang some lines of a song about the beauty of smiling and being with sister DMIs during a regional assembly.

Rev. Fr. Roque Villanueva, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Olongapo City was the keynote speaker on

the assembly theme “The DMII: Journeying Together in Synodality and Discernment with Mama Mary”. Inspiring the DMIs during his talk, he said that as DMIs discern with Mama Mary, we must remember that God only needs our “nothingness” and in that nothingness, God will do great things, He further mentioned that the DMI marker installed in a public place within the parish capsulizes the essence of synodality, a journey in service, sharing and spirituality.

Before the assembly ended, surprise prizes were given to individuals and groups for being ‘early birds’ and the group with the most number of delegates.

The DMIs of Region III led by Region III Representative Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya thanked the virtual attendance of IR Sis. Sionee Naraga, Past IR Sis. Ruby Macario and IVR-Luzon Sis. Midle Tong. They also thanked DMI Office Secretary Sis. Josie Halog and her daughter Janine for lending technical support during the event.



REGION IV - DIOCESE OF MALOLOS - August 13, 2022

*By Sister Ma. Theresa G. Curia,
Past International Secretary & Region IV Representative*

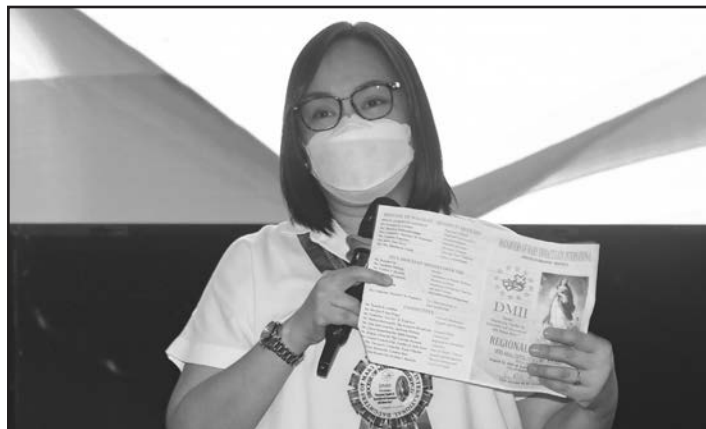
International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga led the guests from the DMII International Board during the Regional Assembly of Region IV (Diocese of Malolos) last August 13, 2022 at the Bulacan Capitol Gymnasium. With her were International Chairpersons Sis. Cora Afuang of Assistance to Prisoners; Families & their Victims and Sis. Biennah Villanueva of Morality in Media. The assembly theme was “Synod on Synodality: A Listening Church”.

The assembly guest speaker was Sis. Ma. Rita Cucio, director of the University Research Center of the Far Eastern University ..

Diocesan Regent Sis. Marilyn San Diego made a comprehensive report on the projects and activities that the circles in the diocese had undertaken despite the pandemic such as the participation of the DMI sisters in major Church events like the 60th Anniversary of the Malolos Cathedral and the declaration of the Nuestra Senora de

Immaculada Concepcion de Salambao, Minor Basilica of La Immaculada Concepcion as a national shrine and the Diocesan Shrine of St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, the various mission projects such as webinars and financial assistance to PPCRV volunteers in response to a request by PPCRV

turn to page 6



Assembly guest speaker, Sis. Rita Cucio

Region IV... from page 5

Chair Sis. Lyla Villanueva, to the families of PDLs as well as the victims of natural disasters.

The Diocese of Malolos has launched a local award called the GEM Award which is given to an outstanding DMI sister in the diocese whose performance is uniquely remarkable and worthy of emulation. While several circles in the Diocese have received the Star Circle Award - either Gold or Silver - given by the DMII National organization to outstanding circles during the organization's biennial conventions, the diocese decided to also award individual members of the circle who have contributed greatly to a circle's outstanding performance.



Sis. Melita Bondoc, first Gem awardee

The first GEM awardee was Sis. Melita SJ Bondoc, regent of the Vicariate of St. Anne. Runners-up were Sisters Encarnacion Lizaso, Wilfreda Villar Cruz, Paulina San Diego, and Luz Yuan. Others nominated for the award were Sisters Paulina Santos de Regla, Eve Bautista, Erlinda Causon, Milagros Reyes and Ma. Cecilia Estinopo.

Awards of Merit were also given to the following diocesan officers: Sisters Apolonia Mislang, Catherine Francisco, Leonisa Francisco and Josie

de la Torre. A posthumous award was given to Sis. Mely de la Pena, Region IV Newsette correspondent who passed away on February 3, 2022.

Rev. Msgr. Albert Suatengco, DMI diocesan chaplain, was celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration during which 80 DMI sisters in the diocese who passed away during the pandemic were specially remembered.

A Dancefest with the eight vicariates of Region IV vying for the top prize added fun and color to the event. The Vicariate of St. Anne was adjudged Dancefest winner.

During her closing remarks, Sis. Tess Labilles thanked the assembly delegates for their active participation as well as the support they extended to the diocesan officers and the organizing committee of the regional assembly.



IR Sis. Sionee receives flowers for her birthday from Region IV RR Sis. Tess Labilles (to Sis. Sionee's left).



The Vicariate of St. Anne, Dancefest winner

REGION V - August 6, 2022

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
Upliftment of Women Workers
Int'l Chairperson & Region V Newsette Correspondent*

The first face-to-face assembly of Region V in close to three years took place on August 6, 2022 at the St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Church in Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Close to 300 DMI sisters representing 48 circles from the dioceses comprising Region V - the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Imus, Kalookan, Manila, Novaliches, Paranaque and Pasig - attended the assembly.

The day's activity started promptly at 8 am with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The processional was led by Past International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario and International Vice-Regent for Luzon and Region V Representative Sis. Milde Tong with some International Officers and Regional Officers and Region V Diocesan Regents.

Sis. Milde welcomed the participants and in her opening message thanked them for "testing the waters" of coming together despite the threat of a covid-19 surge.

International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga in her video message from Bohol extended her warm greetings to the assembly delegates and thanked them for the assistance they extended to victims of Typhoon Odette. She exhorted them to serve their parish and community through servant-leadership and the pursuance of the DMI Missions.

Regional Secretary Sis. Rose Enriquez acknowledged the presence of circle delegates through their respective Diocesan Regents - Sisters Mercy Ong of the Diocese of Antipolo, Jenny Quieta of Cubao, Zenia Velasco of Imus; Monique Bularan of Kalookan, Leah Molina of Manila, Edna May Landicho of Novaliches, Nenette Felipe of Paranaque and Lina Reyes of Pasig.

Keynoting the assembly was Msgr. Claro Matt Garcia, pastor of St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish who was introduced by Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada. Among the concurrent positions that Msgr. Matt holds in the Archdiocese of Manila are as Episcopal Vicar, Office of Guest Priests and as director/promoter of the Marian Youth Movement.

Expounding on the assembly theme "The DMII: Journeying Together in Synodality and Discernment with Mary", he said that the word 'synod' refers to the path to be taken by the people of God who walk together, and 'synodality' enables people who walk together to listen to the Holy Spirit and God's Word while participating in the mission of the Church.

The Synod is one of the legacies of Vatican II. For St. Paul VI, it was meant to reproduce the image of the Ecumenical Council and reflect its spirits and method. For Pope John Paul I, he foresees that the organization of the Synod could be improved with the passing of time. Twenty years later, St. John Paul II saw that it could still be improved where collegial pastoral responsibility could be more fully expressed in a Synod. In 2006, Pope Benedict XVI approved changes in the provision of the Code of Canon Law and the Code of Eastern Churches which had been promulgated in the past. Meanwhile, Pope Francis encourages us to continue with the path of Synodality as this is what God expects of a third millennium church.

Thus through a two-year preparation process with local consultations and a pre-Synod assembly,

turn to page 8



The enthronement ceremony led by Past IR Sis. Ruby Macario and Region V Representative Sis. Milde Tong.

Region V... from page 7

the Church listened and concluded that the “Church’s Synodality is today’s KEY in proclaiming and transmitting the faith”. (The DMII had taken part in this phase of the Synodal Process. Please see page 23 for a summary of the document submitted to the Archdiocese of Manila.)

The decisions are arrived at after discerning and deciding based on a consensus that flows from obedience to the Holy Spirit. This is done with a Synodal Spirituality consisting of: 1) Humility; 2) Openness to conversion and change; 3) Leaving behind prejudices and stereotypes; 4) Overcoming Clericalism

and promoting participation; and 5) Continuing to dream, hope and pray for a better Church community.

A brief Question & Answer portion ended the speaker’s presentation.

A Eucharistic celebration by Msgr. Matt followed the closing message by Sis. Lorie Manalansan, International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers.

The Region V Assembly officially ended with the recessional and distribution of packed lunches. While bidding each other good-bye, the DMI sisters expressed the hope that their next gathering will be a bigger one . . . and soon.



Msgr. Claro Matt Garcia, guest speaker



Guests from the International Board with Region V officers



A video message from International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga



REGION VI – JULY 23, 2022

*By Sis. Sis.Llarina Mojica,
Alternate Region VI Correspondent*

The Region VI Assembly was held last July 23, 2022 hosted by the Vicariate of St. Polycarp led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Chodee Amoranto.

A total of 115 participants from 18 circles of the Diocese of San Pablo attended the assembly, a “blended” one - partly face-to-face and virtual via ZOOM.

Opening the day’s activity at the St. Polycarp Parish Church in Cabuyao City, Laguna was the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Mardie Maligat, parish priest.

Fr. Maligat’s homily featured the acronym of

DMI – Discern, Mature and Inspire. He emphasized that in order to become a true DMI we must learn to make good judgment coupled with prayers to attain maturity and serve as inspiration to others.

Messages were given by International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga, Region VI Representative Sis. Luming Lagunda, IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde Tong and Diocesan Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio.

Rev. Fr. Raymund Owen Sadian, spiritual director of St. Peter’s College Seminary HS Dept., was the assembly keynote speaker on the theme “Journeying Together in Synodality and Discernment with Mama Mary”.

continue to page 9

REGION VIII ASSEMBLY – JULY 30, 2022

By Sis. Sonia Ozaeta,
Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Legaspi

The Region VIII Assembly was held at the La Roca Veranda Suites and Restaurant in Cogon, Legaspi City on July 30, 2022. Hosted by the Diocese of Legaspi (Albay), the assembly was attended by 150 delegates from Camarines Sur, Camarines Norte, Catanduanes and Albay.

Special guests from the International Board were International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga and Past International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario accompanied by Office Secretary Sis. Josie Halog and Region VIII Representative Sis. Eufemia Abragan.

The day's program started with the enthronement ceremony participated in by the region's diocesan and vicarial regents. Program host was Diocesan Treasurer Sis. Rhoda Gutierrez of St. Rose of Lima Circle, Bacacay, Albay.

The participating circles and dioceses were presented by Sis. Sonia Ozaeta, regent of the host diocese followed by the welcome message of Region VIII RR Sis. Fem Abragan.

A Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Fr. Edwin Bragais, DMI diocesan spiritual director who was also the keynote speaker.

The afternoon session started with the Parade of Circles. Speeches and presentations by guests followed. For entertainment, the diocesan regents danced a ballroom tango led by a dance instructor which eventually brought some participants to the dancefloor. Host DR Sis. Susan Ozaeta thanked the assembly participants and the organizing committee for another successful regional assembly.



The Region VIII Assembly guests with Sis. Susan Ozaeta (at left): Sisters Sionee Naraga, Ruby Macario and Eufemia Abragan.



Region VI... from page 8

Fr. Sadian reminded his audience regarding our synodal journey:

- We should make our journey together with our family and relatives;
- Avoid being alone;
- No one should be left behind and nobody should leave someone behind;
- Let us be good listeners to all;
- Acknowledge our failure;
- Reconciliation and healing should take place in our heart and in all our undertakings.

International Chairpersons for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Sis. Cora Afuang and for Upliftment of Women Workers Sis. Lorie Manalansan discussed the activities being done as well as those proposed for 2002 of their respective missions.



Participants from the Vicariate of St. Polycarp in the face-to-face portion of the "blended" assembly with Fr. Mardie Maligat.

OUR LADY OF MANAOAG REPLICA ENSHRINED AT THE ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHEDRAL IN DAGUPAN

*By Sis. Aileen Santos,
Diocesan Regent*

A replica of the image of Our Lady of Manaoag was permanently enshrined in a chapel at the Metropolitan Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Dagupan City last August 3, 2022. This is to commemorate the period in the history of the Church in the Philippines, in June and July, 1898, when it served as the temporary haven of the venerated centuries-old image of the Mother of God to protect it from the revolutionaries towards the end of the Spanish regime.

Through this installation, the St. John the Baptist Cathedral will serve as an alternative pilgrimage site for all the faithful seeking succor of Our Lady of Manaoag and will receive the same plenary indulgences as if they are visiting the Minor Basilica of Our Lady of Manaoag in Manaoag, Pangasinan.



Archbishop Charles Brown celebrates Mass.

Most Rev. Socrates Villegas, DD of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan officiated the enthronement ceremony. The DMIs joined the faithful of Pangasinan and other provinces who attended the event.

Apostolic Nuncio to the Philippines Most Rev. Charles Brown blessed the pedestal and the image of Our Lady of Manaoag the following day, August 4, 2022.



The DMI sisters pose with the replica of our Lady of Manaoag.

DIOCESE OF CABANATUAN DMI CIRCLES PARTICIPATE IN DEP- ED'S BRIGADA ESKWELA

By Sis. Marlie Eduardo,
Diocesan Regent

The DMI circles in the Diocese of Cabanatuan joined Dep-Ed's Brigada Eskwela in preparation for the opening of School Year 2022-23. Each circle in the diocese adopted various programs as an external partner of Dep-Ed in its Brigada Eskwela program.

This year's theme "*Brigada Eskwela: Tugon sa Hamon ng Ligas Balik-Aral*" highlighted the circles' collective effort to lend support services and provide school needs in pursuance of DMI's Pro-Life Mission.



DMI sisters of San Agustin Circle pack school supplies for distribution to learners in the 27 barangays of Jaen, Nueva Ecija.



OUR LADY OF SOLEDAD CIRCLE CELEBRATES FATHER'S DAY

By Sis. Laverna Abad Santos,
Circle Regent



Fifty tricycle drivers who are fathers in Poblacion, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija received token gifts from the DMIs of Our Lady of Soledad Circle to celebrate Father's Day. The project was with the blessing of their parish priest, Fr. Edilberto de la Rosa.

DIOCESE OF BALANGA SPONSORS LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM FOR PDLs' WIVES

By Sis. Thelma Manansala,
Diocesan Regent

Statistics in 2021 shows that 7,000 more individuals were put in jail due to peddling of drugs. Many of them were heads of families who turn to peddling drugs to be able to provide for the family. Once in jail, the PDL's family is left without a breadwinner.

The DMI's Upliftment of Women Workers Mission addresses this particular problem of the community. Four circles in the Diocese of Balanga led by the St. Dominic de Guzman Circle sponsored the training for livelihood of five wives of PDLs in Abucay, Bataan. Police Chief Major Dennis Duran assisted the DMI sisters in identifying the five wives who need help the most. The St. Catherine of Alexandria, Sto. Rosario and St. Michael the Archangel Circles assisted in the program.

The training in fish deboning and smoked fish (*tinapa*) processing was held last June 25, 2022 at the Science Building of the Bataan Peninsula State University, courtesy of University President Gregorio Rodis and Extension Office Director Dr. Bernadette Gabor. Ms. Maria Lea Gaudia of the Extension Office conducted the training.

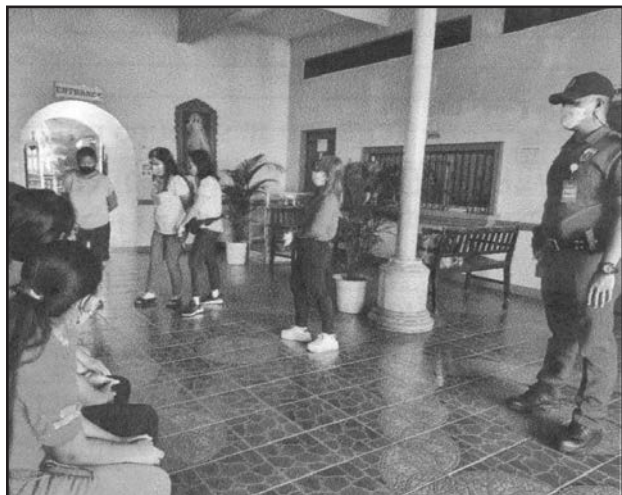
Prior to the actual training, the circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee met the trainees at the St. Dominic de Guzman Parish Church on June 24 to brief them about the training, assuring them that it will

be for free, including food and transportation going to the venue. They were also given tweezers, a tool they will use during the training.

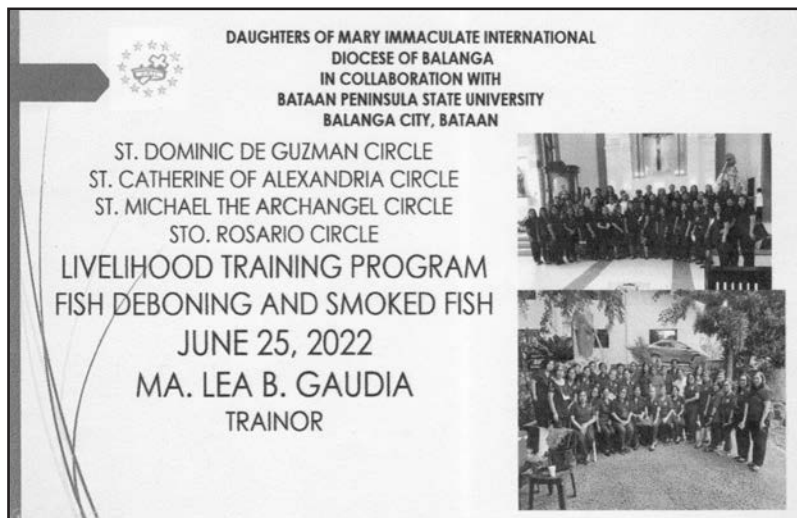
The trainees were taught how to debone milkfish (*bangus*) in not more than two minutes which will eventually earn for them P20 per deboned fish. They also learned to process smoked fish using their kitchen cookware such as pots and pans. The quality of the smoked fish they processed is comparable, in terms of taste and color, to those commercially prepared using drums and ashwood.



Ms. Ma. Lea Gaudia demonstrates how to debone milkfish.



Briefing of PDLs' wives conducted by Diocesan Regent Sis. Thelma Manansala



A tarpaulin posted on the wall announcing the training program

ELEVENTH DMI CIRCLE ORGANIZED IN THE DIOCESE OF ANTIPOLO

By Sis. Cora Afuang,
APFV International Chairperson

A new circle has been added to the Diocese of Antipolo. The creation of the St. Francis Xavier Circle in the St. Francis Xavier Parish in Bgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City brings to eleven the circles in the Diocese under the stewardship of Diocesan Regent Sis. Mercy Ong.

A total of 29 ladies, all of them active church workers in the parish were exemplified last June 26,

2022. Heading the list of charter officers who were installed was Regent Sis. Aurea de la Paz.

The new circle was organized through the efforts of the St. Paul of the Cross Circle of SSS Village, Marikina City.



The charter officers and members of the St. Francis Xavier Circle



COLLECTION/UPCYCLING OF PLASTIC WASTES A DMI PRO-LIFE PROJECT

By Sis. Cora Afuang,
APFV International Chairperson

The St. Paul of the Cross Circle of the Diocese of Antipolo has jumpstarted an environmental project in cooperation with the The Plastic Flamingo or The PLAF, an organization that has ventured into projects addressing environmental problems in the country particularly plastic pollution.

The advocacy of The PLAF is to collect plastic wastes and transform them into eco-lumber for use in the construction of houses and other products for the home.

Envisioned to be a National Pro-Life activity, Sis. Marlin Abratique, International ProLife Chairperson for 2022-23, has requested Region V to run a pilot of the project as The PLAF's collection/drop-off points are located in the NCR with the Diocese of Antipolo through the St. Paul of the Cross Circle taking the lead. Other circles and dioceses in Region V will eventually follow.

turn to page 14

Plastic wastes such as plastic wrappers and sachets, bottles and packaging of items ordered online (the condition is that they should be dry) are collected from the households of DMI sisters on specified days and brought to The PLAF's collection point near their area. (A list has been provided in the write-up about The PLAF webinar conducted in September, 2021 published in the October-December 2021 issue of the DMI Newsette.). The St. Paul of the Cross Circle plans to eventually make plastic waste collection a community-wide effort in SSS Village, Marikina City.



Plastic wastes are collected from houses of DMI sisters. Photo shows Sisters Cora Afuang and Diocesan Regent of Antipolo Mercy Ong during the collection activity.

ABOUT THE PLASTIC FLAMINGO (THE PLAF)

The PLAF was founded by a French couple, Francois and Charlotte Lesage who traveled to Southeast Asia during their honeymoon and visited the Philippines after Thailand and Vietnam, they fell in love with our country and its beautiful tourist destinations. They learned that the Philippines ranks No. 3 (after China and Indonesia) in polluting the oceans of the world with plastic waste. It is believed that by the year 2050, there will be more plastic than fishes in our oceans, Thus the start of their advocacy.

Francois and Charlotte founded The Plastic Flamingo in 2018 for the purpose of collecting and upcycling our plastic wastes. They formed a group to research and later fabricated plastic wastes into usable products. The PLAF's fabrication plant is located in Brgy. Potatan, Muntinlupa City and makes eco-lumber and some other products offered at low prices for the construction of houses and other purposes.

The PLAF collects a wide array of plastic wastes from households and offices - plastic wrappers, sachets, bottles, plastic parts of broken articles, etc. the condition being they should be DRY.

During this pandemic, on-line shopping has become the common practice, An online-shopping package, no matter how small, uses plastic wraps much bigger and voluminous than the item ordered itself. It is hard to imagine how much more plastic waste is added to aggravate the already-grave condition of our environment.



DIOCESE OF CUBAO GRANTS SCHOLARSHIP TO 20 PDLs' CHILDREN

By Sis. Jenny Quieta,
Diocesan Regent

Twenty children of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) were given scholarship by the DMI Diocese of Cubao for School Year 2022-23.

All the scholars are enrolled in public schools – 19 elementary and high school students and one in college. A quarterly allowance of P1,000 is given to the scholars. The first quarter allowance was given to them last August 28, 2022 at the Sacred Heart Parish Shrine.

The scholarship also includes their school uniforms and school supplies during enrollment and financial support for their daily expenses.

The families of the scholars thanked the DMI sisters for the help they received during the online classes and their return to face-to-face classes.

The DMIs in the diocese are committed to continue the scholarship program for more beneficiaries in the future.



The scholars of the Diocese of Cubao receive their quarterly allowance from the DMI sisters.

DIOCESE OF CUBAO HOLDS CATECHISM FOR PDLs' CHILDREN

Catechism for the 20 scholars of the Diocese of Cubao was held on August 28, 2022 as part of the day's activity when their quarterly allowance was given to them. The catechism was conducted by the Morality in Media Committee. It aims to strengthen the children's faith in God despite the challenging circumstances they are in.

A Eucharistic celebration was held before the catechism, also attended by the scholars' mothers or guardians. The children's families offered envelopes during the offertory as love offering which also symbolized the offering of themselves as a family.

The Catechism began with an opening prayer led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Adelaida Ayson followed by a welcome message from the Diocesan Regent, Sis. Jenny Quieta. Inspirational messages were also given by Sis. Biannah Villanueva, Morality in Media international chairperson and Fr. Randy Flores, SVD, pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish.

Bro. Alejandro Golingo, Jr., OP Lay Dominican conducted the catechism. He spoke about true faith in God, and quoted

the Bible verse: "*Huwag kayong mawawalan ng pananampalataya sa Diyos, sapagkat dakila ang naghihintay na gantimpala para sa inyo.*" The children also learned how to read the Bible.

A sharing session was held towards the end of the activity participated in by the scholars, their guardians and the DMI sisters.

A closing prayer led by Sis. Evelyn Santos, regent of Sta. Perpetua Circle concluded the activity.



The scholars attending the catechism

UPDATE FROM THE REGINA MUNDI CIRCLE

By Sis. Vilma C. Valera, Past Regent

Medical-Optical Mission Held. The Regina Mundi Circle of the Minor Basilica of Mt. Carmel in New Manila, Quezon City conducted a medical and optical mission in Bgy. Damayang Lagi last August 12, 2022.

A total of 400 residents of the barangay availed of the service of a team of medical and optical volunteers, 200 of them receiving free eyeglasses.

The Medicaard Foundation was a project partner of the Regina Mundi Circle in this activity which is held yearly. The Social Services Ministry of the parish also extended assistance to the outreach project by helping provide the venue, the Fr. Mark Horran Hall of the Mt. Carmel Church.

The Aboitiz Foundation was a major donor in this medical-optical mission.



The DMI sisters and the medical and optical team and other volunteers during the outreach activity

From the Diocese of Paranaque – Region V

RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE SPONSORS COMMUNITY PANTRY IN CELEBRATION OF PARISH FIESTA

The Risen Christ Circle of Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City sponsored a fiesta community pantry last June 17, 2022 for indigent families living in sitios of Barangay Moonwalk.

Nine days before the feast of Corpus Christi, fiesta community pantries were set up by various parish organizations and ministries.

The DMI sisters held a campaign for donations in cash and in kind and were able to prepare 200 grocery bags for the intended beneficiaries. They were given stubs beforehand for an orderly distribution of the goods.

Spearheading the activity were IVR-Luzon and Region V RR Sis. Milde Tong, Past IR Sis. Mila Villanueva, International Auditor for Membership Sis. Juliet Cruz assisted by past and present circle officers led by Regent Sis. Modesta Beltran.



DMI sisters of Risen Christ Circle who helped in the Community Pantry project, from left: Sisters Lulu Cruz, Cecille Romero, Elsa Benganio, Milde Tong, Modesta Beltran, Juliet Cruz, Mila Villanueva and Mila Brion.

SEVEN SMIS RECEIVE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

By Sis. Llarina Mojica,
Alternate Regional Newsette Correspondent

The first-ever awards ceremony for Squirettes of Mary members achieving academic excellence was held at Lola's Place in Bgy. Sto Domingo, Bay, Laguna last August 11, 2022. The event was attended by the SMI awardees, vicarial SMI coordinators, circle SMI lady counselors, the SMI Area Coordinator for Luzon

Sis. Chodee Amoranto, Diocesan Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio and Region VI Representative Sis. Luming Lagunda.

The awardees were senior high school and college students who graduated with honors. They are:

Circlette Level



Ma. Dania Apolonio
magna cum laude
and valedictorian,
BS Agriculture
Majoring in Agri Systems,
UP Los Banos

Circlette Level



Rizelle Louisse Cantalejo
cum laude,
BS Industrial Engineering,
Pamantasan ng Cabuyao

Vicarial Level



Alejandra Arlene Quidayan
dean's lister,
1st year college,
Perpetual Help College

Vicarial Level



Mary Beatrice de Castro
with high honors,
Grade 11,
San Pablo City
Science Integrated
School

Vicarial Level



Althea Gwyneth Domingo
with honors,
senior high school

Diocesan Level



Ma. Jaymee Palenzuela
SMI Diocesan President
cum laude
BS Agriculture
major in Horticulture,
specializing in crop physiology,
UP Los Banos

Diocesan Level



Mary Joy Ancheta
National SMI VP for Luzon
summa cum laude
and valedictorian
BS Human Ecology,
major in Human Settlements
Planning, UP Los Banos

SMI Diocesan Coordinator Sis. Liza Arpon spearheaded the activity. The active support she has given to the SMIs even at the height of the pandemic instilled in

them the principles and values of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate.

MATER PURISSIMA CIRCLE SUPPORTS LIVELIHOOD PROJECT FOR WOMEN

By Sis. Merle Gutierrez, Past Diocesan
Regent, Archdiocese of Lipa

The Mater Purissima Circle of Batangas City conducted an activity for its Upliftment of Women Workers Mission last August 16, 2022 spearheaded by Committee Chairperson Sis. Auring Buenviaje at the Lingap Pangarap Center, Cuta Journal, Batangas City. The circle donated seven sacks of clothing material and two gallons of alcohol.

The donation of clothing material was turned over to women who make foot rugs and round hand rags to be sold. The materials are cut into strips and sewn by the women, their only means of livelihood.

Sis Auring said that this will be a continuing project of the circle to help the project beneficiaries. The



Sisters Auring Buenviaje, Loida Guillo and Merle Gutierrez turn over the the clothing materials to women who sew them to produce foot rugs and round hand rags.

other members of the committee are Sisters Loida Guillo, Linda Castillo, Kriziel Andal and Josie Dangal.

Batches of clothing materials will again be donated in September and December.

LECTURE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES – A PRO-LIFE PROJECT



Vicarial Regent Sis. Marilou Magboo presents a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Mary Lyndberg Almero lecturer on Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Mary Lyndberg Almero, an infectious diseases specialist, conducted a lecture on infectious diseases

sponsored by the Mater Purissima Circle at the Lingap Pangarap Center in Batangas City on July 16, 2022.

Dr. Almero discussed the symptoms, prevention and cure for diseases such as dengue, leptospirosis, typhoid, acute infectious diarrhea, tuberculosis, Herpes Zoster, shingles, pneumonia, monkeypox, HIV and Covid 19.

An open forum followed the lecture. The questions asked by the participants, mostly women, were related to their experiences. Pro-life Chairperson Sis. Isabel Renee Daria emceed the program. The members of the Pro-Life Committee are Sisters Ching Antenor, Merle Gutierrez, Goring Faytaren and Zeny de Guzman. Vicarial Regent Sis. Marilou Magboo also attended the lecture.

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY HELD

The diocesan assembly of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Isabela de Basilan was held last August 20, 2022 with 318 participants coming from circles in the Eastern, Central and Western Vicariates of the Archdiocese and Basilan.

As early as 7:00 a.m., the assembly participants started arriving to register at the Royce Convention Center of Grand Astoria Hotel where they received their assembly kits.

The enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother led by Region XIV Representative Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Diocesan Regent Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Pro-Life Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Angie Baes and the diocesan officers signaled the start of the day's activity followed by the traditional DMI opening rites.

Sis. Marilyn welcomed the assembly participants followed by Sis. Pinky's opening message.

The ensuing talks centered on the five DMI Missions - "Parenting in the New Normal" by Sis. Lucia Loreli Macrohon for Pro-Life, who emphasized the importance of positivity and discipline, Orientation Skills Development Program by Ms. Sheva Fuentevilla of TESDA for Upliftment of Women Workers, "Social Media Effects on Moral Development of Adults, Youth and Children by Fr. Mariano Villagrancia for Morality in Media, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their



Diocesan Regent Sis Marilyn A. De Asis bearing the Diocesan Banner

Victims by Diocesan Mission Chair Sis. Sonia Garcia, and Youth Welfare/SM! Mission by Sis. Juliet Peralta, alternate Vicarial Regent for the Western Vicariate.

In-between talks on the DMI Missions was an inspirational message from Most Rev. Moises Cuevas of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga on the assembly theme "DMII Journeying Together in Synodality and Discernment with Mama Mary".

The day's program continued after lunch with dance presentations by the Mt. Carmel Circle of Ayala

turn to page 20



Regional Representative Sis Maria Pinky B. Saavedra holding the image of the Blessed Mother



Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Leh C Taib



Bishop Moises Cuevas, giving his Inspirational Talk to the DMI

BIRTH OF A NEW CIRCLE, THE 35TH IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,
Diocesan Regent

August 7, 2022 saw the birth of a new circle, the Mary Queen of Heaven Circle, in the equally-young Parish of St. Vincent in Talisayan, Zamboanga City.

Composing the new circle are 30 charter members who were exemplified in the morning and its charter officers led by Regent Sis. Imelda Cawili Conte installed in the afternoon. The new circle owns the distinction of having the biggest number of recruits as charter members.

The Mary Queen of Heaven Circle has the full support of Rev. Fr. Sulpicio Soliva, the pastor of the parish. Vicarial Regent Sis. Elnora Gerochi of the Western Vicariate started recruiting members for the new circle two months before its formal organization with the help of the Charter Regent.

In the Western Vicariate, Sis. Elnora monitors the activities of seven circles while her alternate, Sis. Juliet Peralta, takes charge of five. The two visit the circles under their care on the Sundays when each circle is scheduled to sponsor the Mass.

Things are looking up for the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. Most anticipated is the face-to-face Region XIV Assembly on October 22, 2022 at the Royce Convention Center of the Grand Astoria Hotel in Zamboanga City. Delegates from the Dioceses of Dipolog, Iligan and Ozamis will join their sisters from the Archdiocese of Zamboanga, the assembly host, in this regional assembly.

Prior to the regional assembly, a Diocesan Assembly, the 38th for the Archdiocese, was held on August 20, 2022. (Please see story on page 19.)



The charter officers and members of the Mary Queen of Heaven Circle

Diocesan Assembly... from page 20

Parish and the St. Ignatius de Loyola Circle of Tetuan Parish serving as energizer for the afternoon session.

A closing message by Sis. Angie Baes and a Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Leh Taib, DMI archdiocesan spiritual director, brought the day's session to a close.

The assembly's final activity was the recessional during which the image of the Blessed Mother is returned to its place at the back of the hall while the DMI sisters wave goodbye with their blue ribbons while a Marian song is sung. The recessional always brings tears to the eyes of many sisters in many such assemblies.



Diocesan Regent Sis Marilyn A De Asis, Rev. Fr Leh C. Taib Spiritual Director, Regional Representative Sis Maria Pinky B. Saavedra

A PRO-LIFE WEBINAR: BASIC CONCEPTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS: PROMOTING THE CULTURE OF LIFE

By Sis. Marlin Abratique,
Int'l Chairperson for Pro-Life

A well-attended webinar took place last June 4, 2022 sponsored by the International ProLife Committee.

Resource speaker was Atty. Zosimo Abratique on the topic “Basic Concepts of Human Rights: Promoting the Culture of Life”.

Atty. Abratique is the lifetime partner of Sis. Marlin. A former OIC, Regional Human Rights Director of the Commission of Human Rights of Region I and the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR), he is at present the Senior Partner of the Abratique, Dumawing and Associates Law Office in Baguio City. Also a former Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus, Pinehurst Council No. 5379, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Pacdal, Baguio City, he is lecturer and speaker on other topics such as “Violence Against Women and their Children”, Data Privacy Act and other related legislations.

During the seminar via Zoom attended by 312 participants from various DMI circles nationwide, Atty. Abratique traced the evolution of human rights with the story of Creation up to the upheaval in the local setting in 1986 which gave birth to the present Philippine Constitution, its Bill of Rights and a government agency dedicated to the promotion and protection of human rights. He explained the different theories of the rise of societies, the conflicts within which gave rise to concepts of human rights being the limitations on the authority of societies over the individuals. He then explained the characteristics of human rights and the three basic rights enshrined in the Constitution - right to life, liberty and property.

As the right to life is a supreme right, he gave an

overview of the threats to life as follows:

1. Poverty
2. Homosexuality and same-sex union
3. The problems of Overseas Filipino Workers
4. The devaluation of the Sacrament of Marriage
5. Divorce
6. Extra-judicial killings and the death penalty
7. Impact of mass media to family life

In wrapping up his sharing, he suggested reading the *Evangelium Vitae* or the Gospel of Life by St. John Paul II. He also discussed the famous case of Roe Vs. Wade on abortion now undergoing serious challenge in the Supreme Court of the United States.

To end his talk, he quoted the words of Sen. Jose W. Diokno: “Human rights are more than legal concepts; they are the essence of man. That is what makes man human. That’s why they are called human rights. Deny them and you deny man’s Humanity.”



Husband and wife tandem of Atty. Zosimo Abratique and Sis. Marlin Abratique

CATHOLICS IN THE MULTIVERSE OF INFODEMIC: What's Within the Feeding Bottle of Social Media?

By Sis. Biannah Villanueva,
Int'l Chairperson for Morality in Media

This pandemic has impelled on the people lots of changes, decisions and orientations regarding various things, specifically social media. For its third quarter offering, the Morality in Media (MIM) Mission Team sponsored a webinar entitled "Catholics in the Multiverse of Infodemic: What's Inside the Feeding Bottle of Social Media?". Aimed at strengthening the awareness of DMI members on social media in the context of the pandemic, the webinar was held on July 3, 2022 with 200 participants coming from various circles in the country.

The webinar speaker was Mr. Ron Mark Elarcosa who presented his talk after the formal opening consisting of an opening prayer by Sis. Ging Manulat, MIM coordinator for the Visayas and the traditional DMI opening ceremony led by Sis. Evelyn Alcantara, MIM coordinator for Luzon. Program host was Sis. Rose Enriquez, co-chairperson for DMI Pilgrimage and Formation, of the Mater Dei Circle, Diocese of Novaliches.

The welcome remarks by International MIM Chairperson Sis. Biannah Villanueva came next. In her message, she stressed the importance of having a deeper understanding of the different aspects of social media to become better promoters of morality in media.

International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga in her inspirational message encouraged the DMI sisters in their role in promoting good media as part of their mission.

Sis. Ma. Caroline Soliven-Elarcosa of the Immaculate Conception-Karangalan Circle, Diocese of Pasig



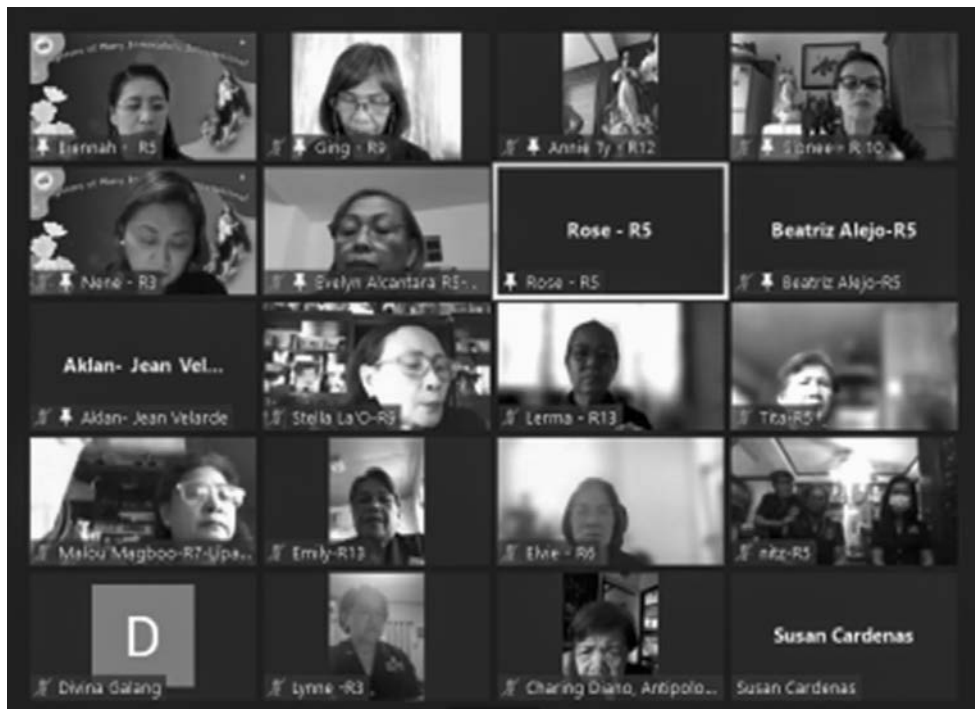
Mr. Ron Mark Elarcosa, MIM
webinar speaker

made a thorough introduction of the speaker who happens to be her partner for life. They just got married last year.

Mr. Ron Mark explained social media as one kind of multiverse where information thrives. It is important to note, however, that not all information here are necessarily good and true. As users of social media, we can be virtuous people, but if we are not careful, we can also become corrupt people.

With social media, infodemic or the rapid spread of information seems inevitable and as promoters of morality in media the participants were reminded by the speaker to be mindful of misinformation, disinformation and malinformation.. Specifically fake news in the context of the Church, Mr. Ron Mark gave tips on how these can be fought. For his final advice, he assured his audience that for as long as they continue to Discern, Make sacrifices and Imitate the virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary, they will be able to promote morality in media.

A certificate of appreciation for his scholarly and impactful talk was presented to Mr. Ron Mark by Sis. Biannah. MIM Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Annie Ty gave her closing message. The closing prayer by Sis. Beatriz Alejo, regent of the Immaculate Conception-Karangalan Circle ended the activity.



A screenshot of the webinar participants

A SUMMARY REPORT OF THE DMII SYNODAL CONSULTATION

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International was one group which participated in the recently-concluded Synodal Consultations undertaken by all parishes and dioceses all over the country for submission to the Archdiocese of Manila and to Rome alongside those of other countries all over the world, in preparation for Synod 2023 when the Synod of Bishops meet to deliberate on the Church's journey in the 3rd Millennium.

The Consultation Process

The International Regent appointed three committee heads to initiate consultations in Regions I to V, VI to X and XI to XIV.

The DMII's consultation process was a combination of face-to-face and virtual meetings via Zoom. With groups of six to eight participants per circle/diocese. The circle regent/diocesan regent presided the meeting to explain the details of the Synodal Process and Consultation. The synodal process consisted of 1) Prayer to the Holy Spirit, listening and reflecting, 2) Discernment and 3) Participation.

The ten themes with guide questions provided in the Synod document were summarized into three main questions for the DMI:

1. **SALAMAT:** What is the organization thankful for to the Church?
2. **SANA:** What do you think is lacking in the Church? What does the DMI "dream" to have from the Church?
3. **SIGURADO:** What can the DMI share with the Church?

The Consultation Experience: (Questions provided by the Synodal Process document)

1. **What was most significant about the whole experience of the consultation? What are the high points and low points? What dispositions, attitudes or feelings were striking?**

The participants felt happy that they were able to meet after a long time cloistered in their homes during the pandemic. They also welcomed the opportunity of being able to share their experiences and sentiments about their role in the Church and also became better aware of their duties and responsibilities as DMI members.

They also expressed the desire for their parish priests to be aware of the work they are doing for the DMI missions in their communities as well as those of the whole organization. As a result, more parishioners will know the DMI's role in the parish and be encouraged to join as members.

They also expressed the wish to erase the "myth" of the DMI as having only "well-to-do" members, thus their reluctance to join the organization.

Sama-samang paglalakbay is the heart of synodality. A listening Church and participative leadership will bring us all together in one journey towards a church for all.

Summary of the Answers to the 10 Fundamental Questions:

1. The Journeying Companions
 - Family members
 - Other DMI sisters
 - Squirettes of Mary (SMI)
 - Parish Priest
 - Different Ministries in the Parish
 - Leaders
 - Catholic Organizations
 - Catholic Parishioners
 - Members of Religious Groups (Nuns, Priests, Brothers)

The road companions are:

- Inactive DMI members
- Parishioners who are not involved in church activities
- Non-practicing Catholics
- Church members in problematic and complex relationships

- Those who are busy with themselves
- Those who do not believe in God

The parish priest initiates and leads the journeying together in most parishes. All are included irrespective of their parties and positions in society. They are supposed to be together in the Church mission according to our faith. God is the one asking us to journey together. There is no selection process as to who must join and be included. People who refuse to heed the call are the ones who find themselves left behind in the journey.

As a Catholic organization, DMIs are thankful to the church for this initiative. It was a chance for everyone to join in a process of consultation and forming alliance through church projects through the Parish Council.

2. Over-all what were the fruits that the Holy Spirit has brought about through this experience?

This experience has brought about the virtues of patience, humility, and understanding especially for the Regents, Vicarial Regents and Diocesan Regent to set up the consultation meetings, explain to the members the synodality process, act as facilitators and notetakers during the consultation and encourage members to participate in the process despite the short time given to the organization to conduct the whole synodal process.

The commitment of members to the DMI was brought to the fore as they joyfully participated in the process and completed the writing of the Consultation Reports of their respective circles and vicariates.

Current Reality of Synodality

Reflections on SALAMAT –

1. The DMIs are grateful that the CBCP has entrusted to the organization the Five Missions

(Pro-Life, Upliftment of Women Workers, Morality in Media, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Youth Welfare) and has chosen the DMI as the Mission Partner in these endeavors.

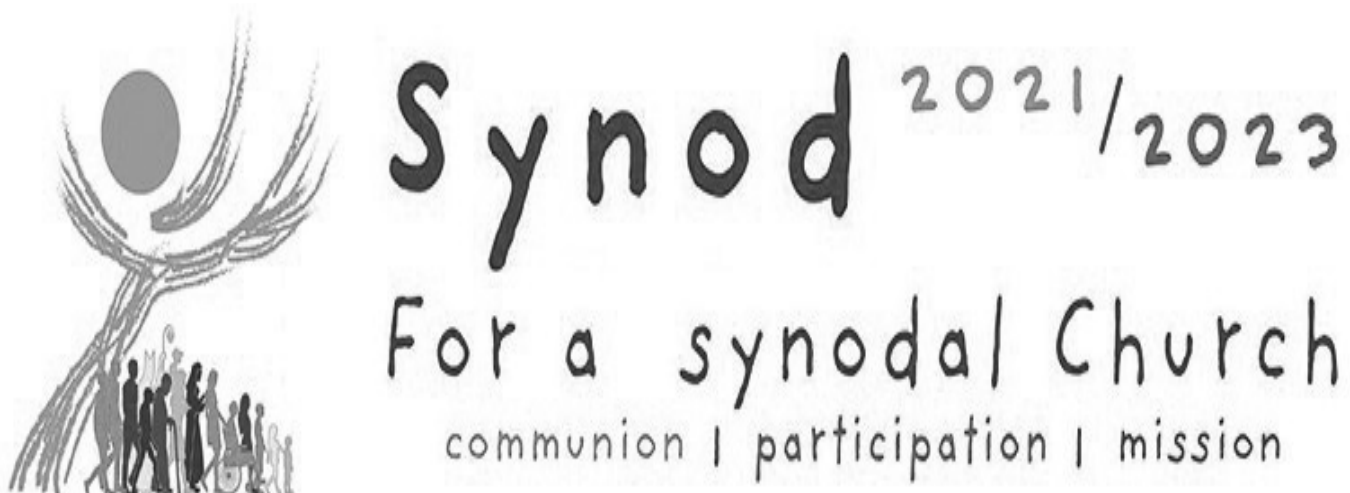
2. The DMIs are grateful to the Church for opening its doors to its members to participate in church activities such as Marian events.
3. The DMIs are grateful to the Church because it is where they receive the Sacraments that will enrich their soul.
4. The DMIs are grateful to the Church which serves as a constant reminder of God's everlasting love. It is also a community where as brothers and sisters, they offer their crosses and unite with the Lord's Passion for the glory of God the Father.
5. The DMIs are grateful that the Church has supported them in bringing the devotion to the Blessed Mother closer to churchgoers and their families.
6. The DMIs are grateful that the Church serves as its guardian and protector, a perfect place for worship.
7. The DMIs are grateful to the Church because it gives the members the spiritual, mental and emotional strength they need. It gives them the courage to face life's trials.
8. The DMIs are grateful that the Church has kept their faith especially during this pandemic.
9. The DMIs are grateful and proud to be Roman Catholics and so grateful to be part of their respective parishes.

Reflections on SANA –

1. The DMI participants desire to strengthen their partnership with the parish by involving themselves with the mission of the church by working through the parish social services ministry, obtaining proper training and learning to become a catechist, and helping the church in its feeding programs and other basic ecclesial community programs.
2. Participants envision that the church should be more in touch not only with members

of church organizations and regular churchgoers, but also with the community. The parish priest should not be untouchable but should be approachable. There should be regular dialogues with the parish priest and church groups like the DMII to avoid misunderstandings and to put forward areas for improvement in interpersonal relationships among members of church organizations. Often it is what the priest desires that is implemented and followed. Members of church organizations (even the Parish Pastoral Council) become obedient enforcers of what the priest wants.

3. Participants desire to see more unity among members of church organizations. There are times when an activity is spearheaded by the DMI, other church organizations shy away from joining and/or reluctant to become part of the activity. Members of the DMI are oftentimes viewed as rich and well to do. It is the hope of the DMIs that the priest and the church to be a uniting force among church organizations and churchgoers so as to achieve the joy of journeying together towards the Church mission.
4. The Church should harness the youth including the Squirettes of Mary to be involved in church services like the choir groups, lectors, commentators, etc.
5. DMIs hope that people appreciate and recognize the Church everyday and not only when they are in need of something. Attending Mass enhances one's mood and improves one's spiritual health. It not an opportunity to flaunt one's new clothes or jewelry. It is an opportunity to strengthen our faith. The church is a glorious place for prayer, peace and reflection.
6. There should be more open communications and more participation and involvement of parishioners and lay people. Extend assistance to those small church organizations and groups who are not so active because they are not given recognition or support. Support is not necessarily only financial but also encouragement that what they are doing is good.
7. There is a need for sustainable projects to be embarked on by the church for the poor in the community. There is a need for a social media technician to take care of our online live streaming to improve our virtual masses.
8. The church is the focal point in bringing the Blessed Mother closer to the churchgoers and the community. Activities of the DMI like the living rosary, 2000 Hail Marys, novenas and triduum in honor of the Blessed Mother should be supported by the parish priest as this will encourage the churchgoers to join and participate in these activities.
9. What is lacking in the church now is discipline. Some people are allowed to enter the church dressed indecently. Also, tolerating coming to mass late and taking the Holy Eucharist for granted. There's a need for more reminders.
10. It is hoped that there will be more teachings on the Word of God, Basic Catechism, etc. whether face to face or online.



Reflections on SIGURADO

1. The DMI is composed of a pool of women in various fields of profession and endeavor who can be tapped to render their services and talents to the Church in various mission work (medical/dental, education, skills training, legal, social and print media and finance).
2. At the parish level, the DMIs can be active workers in social services and BEC programs.
3. The DMIs can help the church in deepening the knowledge and awareness of churchgoers and believers about the Blessed Mother and in propagating devotion to her.

Feedback

Among the feedback from the circle meetings, what was particularly significant, surprising or unexpected? What new perspectives or new horizons opened up?

1. **Journeying together** during the pandemic had proven difficult for senior citizens who are locked in their homes. DMIs are grateful for the opening of churches later, limited at first, with pandemic protocols still in place and strictly observed for everyone's safety.
2. **Listening.** The Church needs to listen to anybody who desires to be heard for advice or counsel. Conflicting opinions, discrimination and biases sometimes hinder communication with lay people. The underprivileged and marginalized sector needs to be heard. There's need to understand opinions different from ours. Let's listen both with our ears and our hearts.

As for the DMIs, majority of their parish priests listen to the lay people, particularly through the church's projects and activities and prayer meetings.
3. **Speaking Out.** There should be freedom of speech for everyone. However, the right to speak should be used to unite and not destroy the group and blend it into a functioning and united one.
4. **Celebrating.** Journeying together requires a communal listening to the Word of God and celebration of the Eucharist together. This strengthens our faith in God and enlivens our

spirit in following the path leading to Jesus. Training, recollections and retreats are also means of celebrating.

5. **Co-responsible in the Mission.** The Church is the Church of the Poor – the poor in spirit and the poor in material things. The Church's mission is evangelization on the Words of God and the Kingdom of God through the Sacraments, the Eucharistic celebration, the Bible, ensuring justice for the poor and care for the people and the environment. Parishioners who do not live up to Christian virtues are poor in spirit themselves and cannot be co-responsible with the Church's mission.

This co-responsibility in the mission is shown and implemented through various means such as –

- Formation of BEC (Basic Ecclesial Communities) or MSKs (Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano)
 - Participation in the PPCRV (Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting)
 - Providing guidance in the choice of elective national officials
 - In the care for the environment
 - Providing scholarships to poor but deserving students from the community.
6. **Dialogue in Church and Society.** Dialogues between Church and society are done through meetings of the PPC and UBAS (Ugnayan ng Barangay at Simbahan). Collaboration with other dioceses is done through meetings of officers of church organizations like DMI, CWL, KC, etc.. With the DMI, there were Parish Synodal Teams where parish org's and ministries were participants as well as the DMI Consultation Team at the same time. Radio programs are one venue used by the DMII to make its missions and other activities known.
 7. **With Other Christian Denominations –** Ecumenism. It is important to observe the proper mindset and attitudes in dialogues with other denominations and observe healthy discussions with them. This is observed by the Catholic Church in the distribution of aid in calamity

areas. Charity and love to all is practiced.

The DMII brings back faithful to the Church through sponsorship of mass weddings and baptisms.

- 8. Authority and Participation.** Meetings of the Parish Pastoral Council ensure the participation of the lay community in the plans and activities of the Church. There is participative management observed vs. authoritative management where the parish priest's decision prevails. This, however, does not happen in some parishes. There is need for rapport between the priest and the lay people of the parish.

Supporting the Church through financial offerings, tithes and patronizing products and services of co-members are our responsibility for the Church of the Poor.

- 9. Discerning and Deciding.** During monthly meetings, the parish priest and all officers of the PPC sit down and discuss problems/issues

at hand. The pros and cons are presented before any decision is arrived at.. The old adage – two heads are better than one – is clearly practiced here. Presentation of opinions – whether for or against – is employed.

The DMII assures its unceasing support to the church, its projects and humanitarian service to fellow men, be they church members or fellow Filipinos who are in dire need of help through medical missions, food pantry, etc.

- 10. Forming Ourselves in Synodality.** Most parish priests introduce Synodality in their parish by way of open communication with church organization leaders, formation seminars/recollections, Bible studies are organized. Church organizations are encouraged to do their respective missions and the needed support, if ever, is given. Organizations are reminded to demonstrate preferential treatment for the poor within accepted procedures and processes.



Sali na!
COMPOSE & SING
THE SMI HYMN CONTEST

- 1** THE SMI HYMN should be solemn and exemplifies the virtues of Mama Mary.
- 2** Lyrics in PDF format, while the recording of the song should be in MP3, max of 4 mins.
- 3** Submit entries to Tita Cathy Pineda via email: catalinarebeccapineda@gmail.com
- 4**
 - Composition and lyrics (40%)
 - Music and melody (30%)
 - Originality and creativity (30%)
- 5** Cash Prize for winner: ₱5,000.00
- 6** Deadline for entries is until October 31, 2022

For Inquiries:
FB Messenger: Cathy Pineda
FB Messenger: Mary Joy Jabanés Ancheta

THE COMPOSER/SINGER OF OUR SMI HYMN MIGHT BE IN YOUR CIRCLETTE/DIOCESE

SMIs ON THE MOVE

Past SMI National Treasurer (2016-18) Jara Alcantara and Past SMI National Treasurer (2011) Justine Calderon had a surprise meeting on board an American Airlines plane enroute to the United States from the UK. Justine, a flight attendant, was a cabin crew for Jara's flight from London where she currently works as a hospital nurse. She flew to the USA to meet up with her mother, Sis. Evelyn Alcatara, Morality in Media coordinator for Luzon, in Philadelphia. Through Justine, Jara's flight was upgraded to business class.



Daughters of Mary Immaculate International

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

Tel. No. 8810-9530

Website: www.dmiinternational.org

Executive Officers

Sis. Asuncion B. Naraga	- International Regent
Sis. Ma. Clotilde R. Tong	- Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon
Sis. Conchita P. Niere	- Vice-Int'l Regent - Visayas
Sis. Lucina A. Binoya	- Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao
Sis. Teresita D. Labilles	- International Secretary
Sis. Iluminada C. Lagunda	- International Treasurer

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

DMI Newsette Editorial Board

Sis. Salvacion T. Estrada - Editor

Contributors

Sis. Eufemia M. Abragan	Sis. Virginia Cabero
Sis. Brigida Cecilia R. Abratique	Sis. Merinnisa O. Ligaya
Sis. Corazon T. Afuang	Sis. Ma. Loreto S. Manalansan
Sis. Agnes P. Arada	Sis. Sheila O. Peji
Sis. Cristina M. Ballesteros	Sis. Catalina Rebecca A. Pineda
Sis. Igmedia Balagapo	Sis. Ma. Pinky B. Saavedra
Sis. Ilda G. Borlongan	Sis. Biennah Elena C. Villanueva