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DMII 22ND BIENNIAL CONVENTION: 'T WAS ONE LIKE NO OTHER!

By Sis. Sally T. Estrada, DMII Newsette Editor

Energy to the max! That's how delegates to the DMII 22nd Biennial Convention in Butuan City last Sept. 1 to 2, 2023 would recall about the event.

September 1, Day 1

In the afternoon of Day 1, the throbbing energy started to be felt as delegates in their regional costumes filled the function hall of the Almont Inland Resort Hotel. Everybody felt so involved as each was participant in the program. No one was left behind, as Synodality would have it.

A doxology with animation by the Squirettes of the Diocese of Butuan, the convention host, opened the program. Sis. Shirley Corvera, Butuan vicarial regent and area coordinator for Mindanao of the Upliftment of Women Workers Mission, was the program host.

International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga declared the formal opening of the convention. A message of welcome was given by Region XII Representative Sis. Sheila Peji.

A unique presentation of delegates from Regions I to XIV through short regional ethnic song-and-dance numbers followed as each region was called. It was a constant flow of movements as the delegates exited the stage and the aisles to be replaced by the next until all 1,750 of them have performed. Excellent sounds and lighting contributed to the festive atmosphere.

International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, in relation to the Convention theme "DMII: One in Mission Towards a Synodal Church with Mama Mary" presented a summary report on the Synodal Consultations made last year with the parishes, dioceses, religious organizations and other groups all over the country to be submitted to Rome for Synod '23 this coming October.

His presentation was titled "Salubong". The Synod, a dream of Pope Francis, is likened to the encounter of the Resurrected Christ with His mother. The encounter

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“Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move”



Beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

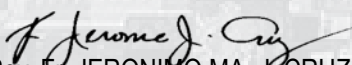
“Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move” -these are the very descriptions of the disciples of Jesus who encountered the Risen Lord on the road to Emmaus and recognized Him at the breaking of the Bread.

At the core of our mission lies a deeply personal relationship with Jesus, our Master. We come to know and love Him through our reflections on the Word of God and the celebration of the Eucharist. This personal connection with Jesus calls us to share the love we have received. Hence, it’s crucial to remember that the essence of our mission is not defined by the material gifts we distribute or the words of God that we contemplate during our prayer time. Rather, the very heart of our mission is Jesus Himself. He is the one who inspires and propels us to embark on this mission.

When we consider our mission, our minds often turn to the peripheries, to the less fortunate in our Parishes. However, now we extend an invitation to explore the peripheries within DMI. There’s no need to travel far to provide assistance, for our sisters are right beside you. We are called to take a stand and organize ourselves for meaningful and impactful projects. We embrace forgiveness and become the bridge that leads to reconciliation. Our mission is to evangelize and guide everyone we encounter closer to God. We are encouraged to make sacrifices and share our material wealth for the sake of God’s Kingdom.

Dear DMIs, engaging in the mission is a demanding endeavor. We are summoned to follow in the footsteps of Mary, our role model. Her resounding “yes” to God’s plan led her to a life filled with purpose and challenges. Let the image of our Patroness, Mary Immaculate, serve as a constant reminder of the profound significance of surrendering to the divine will, which ultimately leads to our glory. As soldiers of Mary and stewards of the Lord’s gospel, we play an integral role in bringing about transformation and collaborating with the Church in building a genuine Christian society.

Yours in Christ,


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

THE PRINCIPAL VIRTUES OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER

Ave Maria!



As we are now on the third quarter of the year, we continue to celebrate Mama Mary's role as co-redemptrix for us.

She was born Immaculate and remained pure, thus her being Queen of Heaven and Earth.

She has ten most important virtues to emulate as highlighted by Saint Louis de Montfort in his Marian Spiritual Masterpiece, True Devotion to Mary.

These ten principal virtues are:

1. Deep Humility

When Mary called herself handmaid of the Lord during the Annunciation and in her Magnificat she was in her deep humility.

Let us ask Mama Mary for a meek and humble heart, attributing our victories to God.

We can be humble when we recognize God's presence in our lives.

2. Lively Faith

Mary is the woman of faith par excellence. When she knew whom she conceived was the savior of all mankind and witnessed His passion, suffering and death, Mary believed that Jesus would conquer death. Jesus gently reproved the doubting Tomas with these words: "Blessed are those who believe without seeing."

Let us ask Mama Mary's most powerful intercession when we are tempted to doubt.

3. Blind Obedience

Mary gave her consent in the Annunciation "be it done unto me according to your word."

She obeyed God's words and trusted God's will in her life.

Let us ask Mama Mary to intercede for us when we are tempted to rebel and go against God. Let us obey God like Mary and Jesus.

4. Unceasing Prayer

Mary always ponders in her heart all what had happened in her life with Jesus. She was in constant prayer and as Jesus was also in constant prayer during His public ministry.

Prayer is our communication with God.

Let us ask Mama Mary to inspire us to be more fervent, constant and faithful to prayer because the devil of laziness can attack us anytime.

5. Constant Self-Denial

Mortification is Mama Mary's way of life. She always denies and sacrifices herself, giving her entire life to God.

We, too, can make sacrifices imitating Mama Mary in her self-denial.

Self-denial can turn us always towards God and away from self.

Let us ask Mama Mary to guide us to be always God-centered.

6. Surpassing Purity

Mary as the Immaculate one, her spotless purity is one of the most sublime virtues to characterize her. Mary is the Perpetual Virgin. She was virgin before birth, during birth and after birth of Jesus. She is saddened to express that most souls go to hell due to sin against holy purity.

Purity can be maintained through a true devotion to Mary.

One can seek restoration of purity if lost, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation/Confession. Contemplation with a statue or an image of the Blessed Virgin Mary helps us aspire purity.

7. Ardent Love

Mama Mary is always fervent in her love to God. She loved God first and foremost and tangibly expressed that love to her neighbors. Her unconditional Yes during the Annunciation was her total love for God and moving in haste to visit her cousin Elizabeth was her concrete display of her love for neighbors.

Ardent love which is sometimes called charity is the greatest of all the virtues.

Let us ask Mama Mary the grace to imitate her in loving God and neighbors.

As St. John of the Cross states: "In the twilight of our existence, we will be judged on love."

8. Heroic Patience

No human being who manifested remarkable patience other than our Blessed Virgin Mary.

All the challenges she faced during her pregnancy, rejections, long travels, finding her lost Son, accompanying Jesus until His death on the cross, Mama Mary manifested an unequalled patience.

Let us call for Mama Mary's assistance when our patience is put to a test.

9. Angelic Kindness

Mama Mary must have treated all with her warm welcome, winning smile, maximum courtesy, attentive listening ears, all these manifest angelic kindness which she performed to the highest degree.

Saint Frances de Sales commented on this virtue: One can attract more flies with a spoonful of honey than with a barrel full of vinegar.

10. Heavenly Wisdom

Mary, Seat of Wisdom, is one of the sublime titles given to her.

Our Lady had a burning love for God and an ardent desire for the conversion of sinners, thus, her unlimited request to pray the Holy Rosary everyday during her apparitions in Lourdes and in Fatima.

The hallmarks of true wisdom are: the dynamic love for God and ardent desire for the salvation of immortal souls.

Let us beg for the intercession of Mama Mary for us to attain wisdom with perseverance until the end.

These are possible, Sisters, to emulate, since we have our Blessed Mother Virgin Mary who was a human being, as our very own model, guide and patroness!

In the Immaculate,


SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA
International Regent

DMII 22nd Biennial Convention... from page 1

is among different people coming from all directions welcoming one another (Pagsalubong) leading to a meeting of hearts and minds (Salubungan) and finding a common ground and moving forward together (Kamanlalakbay), experiencing companionship and belongingness as they journey together, sharing in the Word of God and the Eucharist. Food and fellowship formed part of the consultation meetings which brought a realization among some participants “Kasama pala kami.” Participants were able to speak freely about their joys, frustrations and hope in and for the Church.

For the many still left behind, concrete responses are needed - through increased efforts of the BECs, social action programs addressing the needs of the poor and marginalized, active dialogue between the Church and society, increased collaboration with the government and other sectors, dialogue with other Christian denominations and religions and the openness to/transparency of the Church authority in its consultation and leadership role and in discerning and decision-making.

Pasalubong or the Gift of Mission. Breaking of new grounds and trailblazing must be grounded on spirituality. Journeying together requires conversion, renewal of catechesis and faith formation.

As for the DMIs, our encounters are expressions of synodality with Mama Mary. With the depth of faith, vitality of hope and energy of charity, the DMII is our vehicle for holiness and salvation.

Sis. Shirley Corvera introduced Agusan del Norte Provincial Board Member Rudy Pitogo who represented Provincial Governor Angelica Rosedell Amante, guest speaker, who was not able to attend due to a pressing commitment.

Board Member Pitogo welcomed the delegates to Agusan del Norte, offering them the best that the province can offer. He cited the DMII’s contributions to the community through its missions as well as to the spiritual life of the people.

The upbeat mood continued after dinner during Fellowship Night with its much-awaited Regional Dance Contest and Search for the Star of the Night. (See separate story on page 11.)

September 2 – Day 2



The Blessed Mother’s image at the altar flanked by the DMII International Officers and Board.

The day started with the formal opening ceremony – the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother led by the DMII International Officers and Board, followed by the traditional Parade of Colors, Pambansang Awit and Pledge to the Flag.

Butuan Diocesan Regent Sis. Susan Honculada gave her welcome message during which she reported the profile of the convention delegates coming from 240 circles and 50 dioceses from the fourteen regions of the country who have said their YES to Mama Mary.



Registration and distribution of convention kits.

The largest delegation was from Region V with 267 DMI sisters. She also cited the existing sisterhood in the organization, a living proof of “unity in diversity”.

An intermission number by the Butwa’an Dance Ensemble courtesy of the Tourism Office of Butuan preceded the program proper.

Butuan City Mayor Ronnievic Lagnada, an engineer by profession, graced the event with his welcome message, also saying that the DMII is close to his heart as his mother was very active in the



Region XII Representative Sis. Sheila Peji welcomes the delegates.



Messages from Butuan Diocesan Regent Sis. Susan Honculada, Int'l Vice-Regent-Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra and International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga.



Fr. Jerome Cruz talks on the convention theme and the Philippine Catholic Church Synodal Report.



Butuan City Mayor Ronnievic Lagnada welcomes the convention delegates to the city.

organization while still living.

International Vice-Regent for Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra exhorted her audience to continue working in the DMI Missions with added zeal and deeper commitment to serve the least, the last and the lost under the guidance of Mama Mary.

IR Sis. Sionee Naraga also gave her address, thanking the delegates for their active participation in DMI activities. She told them to remain steadfast in their faith as God is faithful all the time. She warned against “spiritual amnesia” that some might experience in their daily life. She also reminded them of the finer points of being Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

The energy of the previous day was re-ignited as the delegates were acknowledged by way of a 15-second yell as their region was called. The Parade of Circles followed with the regents of the circles marching up front carrying their circle banners.

The day’s first guest speaker was Rev. Fr. Randy Jasper Odchigue, vice-president for Academic Affairs and Research of the Fr. Saturnino Urios University in Butuan City on the topic “Communion and Mission

with Mama Mary”. He presented three main topics in his talk with the aid of PowerPoint.

A lively speaker, the talk was interactive, capturing the attention of his audience till the end.

The first topic was **Anamnesis**, the exact opposite of spiritual amnesia that IR Sis. Sionee discussed earlier. Anamnesia is a Eucharistic concept to remember the ministry of Jesus. “Do this in memory of Me” said at Mass is a way by which we obtain salvation, a bridge between God and humanity, a remembrance of who we are. Church and synodality are synonymous. By synodality, we retrieve our identity as Christ’s followers. He said that DMII gatherings are expressions of synodality.

Second, **epiclesis**, invoking the Holy Spirit to come down upon us as a representation of communion. It is the remembrance of Christ, as early Christians did, made present and real.

People today, however, may be “in the same storm but not in the same boat”. Fractures in society prevent us from walking together caused by biases and the cancel culture. The pandemic served as an x-ray that



Butwa'an Dance Ensemble in an intermission number.



Fr. Randy Jasper Odchigue, inspirational speaker.

reveals the chasm between communities and societies. The inequality between social classes has given way to labelling (e.g., what could be a headache is called migraine for the privileged and *nalipasan ng gutom* for a poor man).

Communion must be effective and not affective.

Third is **ekstasis**, going out of oneself and giving his best. No less than Pope Francis had said “To do mission is to go out of yourself and give the best of what God has given.” There are Christians whose lives stay in Lent without the joy of Easter.

For the DMII, Fr. Odchigue said that its mission to reach out to the community, particularly the marginalized, carried out with love and generosity, is an opportunity to journey with the Blessed Mother on the synodal path leading to her Son Jesus. His parting words: “Let us all be children of the Easter morn.”

The International Chairpersons of the DMII Missions who provide direction for the planning and implementation of programs and activities for the five missions were introduced: Sisters Marlin Abratique for Pro-Life, Milde Tong for Upliftment of Women Workers, Biennah Villanueva for Morality in Media, Cora Afuang for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) and Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare/SMI.

Focus was given to the APFV Mission for the members' full understanding of its goals and objectives which differ from those of other organizations and ministries. The CBCP has given the DMII a mandate to give assistance to FAMILIES of prisoners and victims of crimes, not the prisoners (now called persons deprived of liberty or PDLs) as there are enough groups that already assist them.

Sis. Cora Afuang as APFV chairperson, discussed in its entirety the mission's goals and objectives, the strategies and approaches, action plan and specific activities to implement the action plan and suggested forms of assistance that can be extended to the families as stated in the DMII Red Handbook. The outreach activities that circles can undertake encompass every aspect of a person's life – physical, mental, psychological, moral and spiritual – to empower him as a contributing member of the community.

International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Merinissa Ligaya who concurrently holds the position of International Advocate provided reflections on the clear direction of this CBCP-mandated mission. They are –

1. Awareness that the true focus of the mission are the families of PDLs and their victims and not the PDLs. Why the families? Because other church organizations, ministries and NGOs are already focused on them;
2. Again, why PDLs' families? It is the state's responsibility to strengthen family ties, the family being the basic unit of society. The incarceration of a family member becomes a threat to the family's solidarity and well-being;
3. Effect on the family of a member's incarceration/detention such as social, emotional, etc. can cause disruption of family relationships and/or eventual break-up;
4. Why include the victims? Families of victims are placed in the same situation as families of PDLs;
5. Awareness of the effects on the family being victimized such as physical, emotional, psychological reactions like sense of fairness, expectation of doom, etc.;
6. Understanding the plight of prisoners' families and their victims, that both of them suffer;
7. Why is the DMI the only organization specially



APFV International Chairperson Sis. Cora Afuang.



IVR-Luzon and International Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya.



Bishop Raul Dael of the Diocese of Tandag, motivational speaker.



The election of 2024-25 International Officers supervised by Past IR Sis. Myrna Zapanta as Elecom chair.

tasked to reach out to families of both PDLs and their victims? Because of the vision and goals of the DMII – immersed in the gospel, united and strengthened in faith, committed to the service of God and country and the virtues of the Blessed Mother that it emulates; and

8. The challenges that the DMII faces in the coming days on how to best accomplish the APFV Mission, as social changes impact people's lives.

Bishop Raul Dael, D.D. of the Diocese of Tandag, in his motivational talk on One Mission Towards a Synodal Church with Mary, said that Jesus Christ's mission is to proclaim the Kingdom of God here on earth. The Reign of God is expressed in three pillars – Justice, Peace and Love.

Justice is giving someone what is due him. This, however, is the minimum requirement of justice. Beyond this is one's living a just life.

Peace is not the absence of war, storms or problems. Peace is being in the embrace of God. There is peace if there is order; there is order if Jesus is at the center. The center of our lives is the Cross which Jesus bore for our redemption.

Love in Greek is *eros*, *figlia*, *agape*, the last being its highest form. When Jesus asked Peter three times:

"Do you love Me?", his answers had conditions (*eros* and *figlia*). Peter's love for Jesus had not reached the level of *agape*, committed and unconditional love for Him. Jesus accepted Peter's love on the levels of *eros* and *figlia* until he reached *agape*.

The DMI's Mission of assistance to families of prisoners and victims of crime is an expression of love with no conditions imposed and nothing expected in return. It is kindness and generosity pure and simple born out of love (*agape*).

Bishop Dael said, "The worst time is the best time to love." He exhorted his audience to live a simple life, just like Mary, to be detached, being close to everything but not to be possessed by them.

Our Blessed Mother continues to journey with us, appearing in various parts of the world to bring the message of salvation to her children.

Mary's Immaculate Heart is full of her Son's memories, both the joys and the pains. DMIs who are mothers bear the same memories in their hearts. His last words: As DMIs, you must follow after Mary on the synodal journey to her Son."

The election of the 2024-25 DMII International Officers was held with the past International Regents

present led by Sis. Myrna Zapanta acting as chair of the Election Committee (Please see separate story on page 15.)

The concluding part of the afternoon's program was an anticipated Concelebrated Mass with Bishop Cosme Damian Almedillo, D.D. of the Diocese of Butuan as main celebrant. Concelebrants were Bishop Raul Dael, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Fr. Randy Odchigue and DMII Spiritual Directors Fr. Max Ceballos of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro and Diocese of Butuan's Fr. Renato Abbu of Agusan del Norte and Fr. Roy Garcia of Agusan del Sur.

In his homily, Bishop Dael talked about the impending Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus. In doing so, Jesus did not talk about death but of life and hope, not about suffering but His Resurrection.

He cited Mass readings for the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary time (Sept.3) when Jeremiah (Ch. 20: 7-9 in the first reading), facing persecution and death proclaimed "My God, it is You Whom I seek" and near death felt being so alive, and St. Paul's letter to the Romans in the second reading (Ch. 12: 1-2) with a plea "to give yourselves as a living and holy sacrifice pleasing to God."

The Bishop then related his own story during the beginning of his episcopal ministry in Tandag when he was diagnosed with cancer and had to be in hospital for surgery and chemotherapy. After surgery, the doctors suggested that he be injected with a pain reliever, a nor-

mal post-surgical procedure which he refused a number of times. He told his audience that the pain he suffered he offered to his priests in Tandag who were undergoing difficulties and crises in their lives.

He said that DMIs who are mothers suffer many pains which they bear without pain reliever – the pains caused by their children, failed family relationships and many more. The Bishop united his pains with the mothers and the millions more in this world.

Repeating the last portion of his earlier presentation, Bishop Dael's concluding words: "Peace is not the absence of stress and problems in our lives. There is peace if there is order; there is order when Jesus is at the center. . The heart of Mary is full of her Son's memories, both the joys and the pains. You as her daughters must follow after Mary on your way to her Beloved Son."

IR Sis. Sionee declared the formal closing of the convention program followed by the recessional.

The Gala Night saw the delegates donning their evening gowns in different shades of blue for the Star Circle Awards and a night of music and dancing. (See separate story on page 14.)

The DMII 22nd Biennial Convention served to re-energize the sisters for the work that lies ahead for the DMI Missions after the pandemic. It was an event that the delegates will long remember until the 23rd rolls along. See you in Luzon, sisters!



The past International Regents with Fr. Jerome Cruz and IR Sis. Sionee Naraga. From left: Sisters Myrna Zapanta, Perla Arguelles, Pureza Guzman, Ruby Macario, Lelies Pimentel, Mila Villanueva and Jean Velarde.

THE PARADE OF CIRCLES



Region II



Region III



Region IV



Region V



Region VI



Region VII



Region IX



Region X



Region XI



Region XII



Region XIII



Region XIV

THE FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

The color and pageantry of the day's opening program on Day 1 continued after dinner when the delegates went back to their assigned sections of the hall for the Fellowship Program.

After the welcome address of Sis. Annie Ty, past International Vice-Regent for Mindanao and currently Mindanao area coordinator for Morality in Media and a dance number by the Butwa'an Dance Ensemble, the evening's program hosts, Sisters Maricor Honculada and Janice Paradiong introduced the Board of Judges for the dance competition and search for the Star of the Night: Dr. Pepito Mosquito, a Doctor of Education major in Educational Management who is currently

director for Culture and Sports of the Merchant Marine Academy of Caraga in Butuan City and chairman of the Performing Arts and Media Arts of the Butuan City Council for Culture, Heritage and Arts, as chairman with Mr. Ronald Allan Butalid, chairperson of the PE Division of Fr. Saturnino Urios University and proprietor and director of the Butwa'an Arts Center and Ms. Selma Sanz, Master Teacher II, group head, Sports and Personality Development of Agusan National High School and rhythmic gymnastics trainer of Butuan and Caraga Region as members.



Sis. Shirley Corvera , opening program host



Doxology with Butuan Squirettes as animators



Provincial Board Member Rudy Pitogo, representing Agusan del Norte Governor Ma. Angelica Rosedell Amante, welcomes the delegates to the province.

The accompanying photos of the Regional Dance Contest with the theme “DMII Unity and Solidarity through Dance Amid Cultural Diversity” show it all.

Adjudged winners were: Second Runner-Up – Region IX, first runner-up – Region XIII and Champion – Region XIV.

For the search for the Star of the Night, a fund raiser for the DMI Missions, the following regions fielded their candidates: Sis. Aileen Santos – Region II, Sis. Aura Eunice Santos – Region III, Sis. Marilyn San Diego – Region IV, Sis. Monica Bularan – Region V, Sis. Brigida Alican – Region VI, Sis. Norivic Laroa – Region IX, Sis. Lou-Anne Cultura – Region XII, Sis. Emma Palanca – Region XIII and Sis. Alma Santiago – Region XIV.

– Region XIV.

Sis. Marilyn San Diego of the Diocese of Malolos (Region IV) was crowned Star of the Night 2023 with the biggest cash donation. Sis. Monica Bularan of the Diocese of Kalookan (Region V) was Best in Production Number while Sis. Alma Santiago of the Diocese of Dipolog (Region XIV) was Best in Communication.

Cheers and loud applause from the winning regions reverberated throughout the hall, as the winners were announced. The night’s activity ended with the delegates looking forward to the next day’s program and the Gala Night.



Presentation of regions through song and dance.



Sis. Annie Ty’s welcome message.



The Contest Board of Judges, from left: Mr. Ronald Allan Butalid, Dr. Pepito Mosquito, chairman, and Ms. Selma Sanz.



Fellowship Night hosts, Sisters Janice Paradiang and Maricor Honculada



Sis. Monique Bularan of Region V, Best in Production Number.



Star of the Night candidates



Sis. Alma Santiago of Region XIV, Best in Communication



Sis. Marilyn San Diego of Region IV, Star of the Night 2023

The Regional Ethnic Dance Contest



Region XIV – Evolution of Subanen, Tausug and Yakan Tribal Dances – Champion



Region XIII – Medley of Tribal Dances in the Davao Region 1st Runner-Up



Region IX – Bucasoy - 2nd Runner-Up



Region II – Sayaw sa Banga



Region III – Sublihan



Region IV – Halamanan Festival



Region V – Medley of Tagalog Folk Dances



Region VI – Jotabal



Region X – Koradang de Bohol



Region XI – Curacha

THE GALA NIGHT – A PHOTO COVERAGE

Shortly after dinner, the convention delegates now in their evening gowns in all shades of blue re-assembled at the hotel function hall for the Star Circle Awards and a night of dancing to music by a live band. Please see the accompanying photos.



IR Sis. Sionee Naraga during the International Regent's Time.



Region V Representative Sis. Lorie Manalansan, Circle Star Awards host.



A group of Circle awardees after receiving their plaques from IR Sis. Sionee Naraga (at left) and Past IR Sis. Ruby Macario (3rd from right).



Mission International Chairpersons Sis. Biannah Villanueva, Sis. Cora Afuang, Sis. Cathy Pineda and Sis. Marlin Abratique (at back, middle). Not in photo - Sis. Milde Tong.



The live band on stage lures delegates to the dance floor. . .



. . . as a group watches from one side fronting the stage.



Biggest Delegation Award was won by Region V. DRs Sisters Lourdes Que and Lea Molina of Manila, DR Sis. Monique Bularan of Kalookan and DR Sis. Mary Ann Bihag of Pasig with Region V RR Sis. Lorie Manalansan.



Dance pa more, along the aisles and by their seats, until almost midnight.

2024-2025 DMII OFFICERS ELECTED

The election of the 2024-2025 DMII International Officers was held on September 2, 2023 with Past International Regent Sis. Myrna Zapanta, chair of the Election Committee, laying the ground rules for the conduct of the election. Composing the incoming International Officers and Board of Trustees are the following:

Sis. Annie Ty	– International Regent
Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya	– Region III Representative, International Vice-Regent for Luzon (IVR) and International Advocate
Sis. Norivic Laroa	– Region X Representative and IVR for Visayas
Sis. Ma. Pinky Saavedra	– Region XIV Representative, IVR for Mindanao
Sis. Ma. Loreto Manalansan	– Region V Representative, International Secretary
Sis. Norma Eusebio	– Region VI Representative and International Treasurer
Sis. Leticia Gano	– Region I Representative
Sis. Virginia Cabero	– Region II Representative
Sis. Marilyn San Diego	– Region IV Representative
Sis. Agnes Arada	– Region VII Representative
Sis. Corazon Bo	– Region VIII Representative
Sis. Rosalinda Desales	– Region IX Representative
Sis. Thelma Lim	– Region XI Representative
Sis. Susan Honculada	– Region XII Representative
Sis. Elizabeth Dipaling	– Region XIII Representative



The newly-elected DMII International Officers with IR Sis. Sionee Naraga (at left) and Fr. Jerome Cruz (at right).

STAR CIRCLE AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING DMI CIRCLES

Congratulations to 19 outstanding circles who were Gold Star Circle awardees and to 26 Silver Star Circle awardees for 2022 who received their trophies during the Gala Night on Sept. 2, 2023.

GOLD STAR CIRCLE AWARDEES 2022

MORNING STAR CIRCLE
Diocese of Iba, Region III

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CIRCLE
Diocese of Iba, Region III

QUEEN OF ANGELS CIRCLE
Diocese of Iba, Region III

STA. CLARA CIRCLE
Diocese of Malolos, Region IV

ROSA MYSTICA CIRCLE
Diocese of Malolos, Region IV

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS CIRCLE
Diocese of Antipolo, Region V

MEDALLA MILAGROSA CIRCLE
Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SAGRADO CORAZON CIRCLE
Diocese of Cubao, Region V

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE
Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SAGRADA FAMILIA CIRCLE
Diocese of Cubao, Region V

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE
CIRCLE, Diocese of Imus, Region V

SAN JOSE DE NAVOTAS CIRCLE
Diocese of Kalookan, Region V

NUESTRA SENORA DE NIEVA CIRCLE
Diocese of Kalookan, Region V

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF KARANGALAN CIRCLE
Diocese of Pasig, Region V

QUEEN OF ALL HEARTS CIRCLE
Diocese of Pasig, Region V

MOTHER OF LIFE CIRCLE
Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI

TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Palo, Region XI

QUEEN OF DIVINE GRACE CIRCLE
Diocese of Butuan, Region XII

ST. JOSEPH THE SPOUSE
OF THE BVM CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Zamboanga, Region XIV

SILVER STAR CIRCLE AWARDEES 2022

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE
Diocese of Iba, Region III

ST. COLUMBAN CIRCLE
Diocese of Iba, Region III

IMMACULATE HEART CIRCLE
Archdiocese of San Fernando, Region III

HOLY MARY CIRCLE
Diocese of Malolos, Region IV

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION
& CINCTURE CIRCLE
Diocese of Malolos, Region IV

ST. GABRIEL OF OUR LADY
OF SORROWS CIRCLE
Diocese of Antipolo, Region V

REGINA MUNDI CIRCLE
Diocese of Cubao, Region V

JESUS MARY JOSEPH CIRCLE
Diocese of Cubao, Region V

STO NINO DE MOLINO CIRCLE
Diocese of Imus, Region V

NSTRA. SENORA DE LA MERCED CIRCLE
Diocese of Imus, Region V

OUR LADY OF THE ROSE CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Manila, Region V

JUBILLEE 2000 CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Manila, Region V

OUR LADY OF DIVINE LOVE CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Manila, Region V

OUR LADY OF FATIMA BACOOD CIRCLE
Arch. of Manila, Region V

SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA CIRCLE
Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CIRCLE
Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI

STO. ROSARIO CIRCLE
Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI

ST. PAUL THE FIRST HERMIT
CIRCLE, Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI

OUR LADY OF SALVATION CIRCLE
Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI

STS. PETER AND PAUL CIRCLE
Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI

OUR LADY OF PURIFICATION CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Zamboanga, Region XIV

OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE
Arch. of Zamboanga, Region XIV

SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Zamboanga, Region XIV

OUR MOTHER OF
PERPETUAL HELP CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Zamboanga, Region XIV

OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY
OF MANAOAG CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Zamboanga, Region XIV

SAN ANTONIO M. CLARET CIRCLE
Archdiocese of Zamboanga, Region XIV



MISSION BEST PRACTICES CITED

Five circles had been awarded for outstanding DMII Mission projects for 2022 to showcase meaningful activities that other circles can adopt in their parishes and communities. They are:

St. Paul of the Cross Circle, Diocese of Antipolo, Region V for Prolife. Recognized for its Care for the Environment Project involving the segregation, collection and recycling of plastic waste materials, a sustained and continuing activity wherein the plastic wastes are collected regularly, brought to a drop-off point and processed to eventually become eco-bricks, eco-logs and other building materials for the construction of houses, thus contributing to a clean environment and benefitting people's lives.

Queen of Divine Grace Circle, Diocese of Butuan, Region XII for Morality in Media. Recognized for regularly guesting at Radio Station DXSM's program "Haligi'g Sukaran" by Sis. Mercedes Atupan who introduced and promoted the DMII's Mission thrusts as well as its vision, mission and activities for the Church, the community and the youth.

Morning Star Circle, Diocese of Iba, Region III for Upliftment of Women Workers. Recognized for the contribution of its two sisters as frontliners (barangay health workers) during the pandemic despite the personal risks involved. They were part of the unsung heroes whose selfless dedication in serving the community is a good representation of what the DMII stands for.

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle, Diocese of Recognized for the "Sulat Mo, Padala Ko" Project which helps maintain the connection/communication of the PDLs with their families through the letters that the DMI sisters deliver or mail. The sisters also look after the welfare of the PDLs' families by providing material, moral and spiritual support to the family members.

San Jose de Navotas Circle, Diocese of Kalookan, Region V for Youth Welfare/SMI. Recognized for the Rosary Devotion the Squirettes did daily during the whole month of October, Rosary Month, with their Tita DMIs during the pandemic, showing their deep faith in God and devotion to the Blessed Mother.



St. Paul of the Cross Circle for Pro-life presented by Pro-Life Int'l Chairperson Sis. Marlin Abratique



Queen of Divine Grace Circle for Morality in Media presented by MIM Int'l Chairperson Sis. Biannah Villanueva



Morning Star Circle for Upliftment of Women Workers presented by UWW Int'l Chairperson Sis.. Milde Tong



Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims presented by APFV Int'l Chairperson Sis. Cora Afuang



San Jose de Navotas Circle for Youth Welfare/SMI presented by SMI Int'l Chairperson Sis. Cathy Pineda

ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CIRCLE'S CONSUMER COOPERATIVE

The St. Raphael the Archangel Circle Consumer Cooperative in Tarlac City was registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority in 2017 and has been helping its members as well as non-members by providing financial assistance during emergency needs.

Aside from its lending activity, the cooperative also sells basic commodities like rice and eggs at affordable prices and enables members to venture into

livelihood activities such as backyard farming of goats and chicken.

The cooperative's lending and retailing businesses have contributed to its growth.

The St. Raphael the Archangel Circle Consumer Cooperative will soon be upgraded to a multi-purpose coop to broaden its line of business and avail of subsidies and funding from the government.



Retailing of rice and eggs



Backyard farming of chicken and goats

DIOCESE OF TARLAC HOLDS DIOCESAN EXEMPLIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS

Twenty-four new members were added to the roster of three circles in the Diocese of Tarlac during the diocesan exemplification rites held on June 23, 2023 at the St. Raphael the Archangel Parish Church in Tarlac City.

The exemplified members came from three circles – La Purisima Circle with 14 candidates, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Circle with six and St. Raphael the Archangel Circle with four.

The exemplification team of the St. Raphael the Archangel Circle which hosted the activity conducted the ceremony. The newly exemplified members will infuse young blood to their respective circles.

Present to lend support to the activity were the diocesan and circle officers.



The Exemplification Team of the St. Raphael the Archangel Circle



The new DMI sisters during the exemplification ceremony.

DMII REACHES OUT TO FLOOD VICTIMS OF REGION IV

*By Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia,
Regional Newsette Correspondent*

A nationwide fund-raising activity was undertaken by the DMII through the International Board to extend assistance to the victims of the severe flooding in Bulacan caused by Typhoon Egay.

A total donation of close to P240,000 was spent for family relief packs benefitting families in the Vicariates of St. Anne and St. Francis and San Diego de Alcalá covering the towns of Obando, Hagonoy and

Paombong and the Vicariate of Sta. Maria I in Marian Bukid, Sta. Clara and Bagbagin.

The DMI circles in these areas helped in the distribution of the relief goods with assistance from their local government units and other civic groups.

The Diocese of Malolos thanks the donors for their generosity.



Distribution of relief packs to flood victims.

REGION V HOLDS SERVANT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
Region V Representative &
Regional Newsette Correspondent*

Region V held a Servant Leadership Workshop last May 27, 2023 at the Unilab Bayanihan Center in Pasig City. Diocesan, Vicarial and select Circle Regents attended the workshop conducted by Region V RR Sis. Lorie Manalansan.

The purpose of the workshop was to remind the Region's leaders to observe the true meaning of servant-leadership in the DMII. The activity started with the DMI Prayer and a petition to the Holy Spirit for guidance during the session as well as in future undertakings.

Attendees were reminded that unlike the typical leaders who exercise authority, power and control

over their respective organizations, the servant leader first and foremost has to equate her leadership with service. Said model is observed not just by religious organizations but by multi-national corporations such as Starbucks, Ritz-Carlton Hotel, American President Lines and others as this had been proven very effective over traditional or autocratic form of leadership.

Prior to the main discussion, the group was presented with the Seven Factors of Good Leadership as identified by Leadership Guru John C. Maxwell: Character (a leader's integrity), Relationships (demonstrating love not by subordination), Knowledge

turn to page 20

Region V holds servant leadership... from page 20

(of the job), Intuition (of one's own strength and weaknesses), Experience (using this to grow from and be better), Past Successes (to build a record of trust, and Ability (to lead and deliver good results).

As leaders in the DMII, we are tasked to take care of the needs of our team as well as to serve, to comfort and be with them in their journey just like the Greatest Model of Leadership, Jesus Christ, did.

The Eight Principles that empower were also discussed supported by Biblical quotations. These were:

1. The Power of Conviction – Having a deep sense of spirituality (*Proverbs 4:23: Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flow the springs of life.*)
2. The Power of Servant Leadership – Practicing humility consistently (*Mark 10:45 "Jesus has said He had come to serve, not be served."*)
3. The Power of Vision – Exercising our imagination. (*"Without vision, a team will always choose comfort over convenience."*)
4. The Power of Letting Go – Shared leadership. (*2Timothy 2:2: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust this to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."*)
5. The Power of Optimum Capabilities – Putting to good use our God-given talents, passion and experiences. (*Romans 12:6-7 We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith, if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to be a leader, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."*)
6. The Power of Creativity – Moving our missions forward through innovation. (*Luke 5: 37-39 "No one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined. But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins."*)
7. The Power of Concentration – So as to be focused on our work and Jesus Christ, not ourselves, (*Mark 1: 35-39 "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. Simon and his companions went to look for him, and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else – to the nearby villages – so I can preach there also. That is why I have come" So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons."*)
8. The Power of Hope – To ensure our determination in pursuit of the common good and not to be shaken despite the challenges. (*1Peter 1:3-5 "God has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . . An inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away . . . Reserved in heaven for you who are protected by the power of God."*)

Breakout groups were then formed after discussion of how to apply the 8 principles in their ministry. Each group was given a common assignment to brainstorm on the challenges confronting their leadership and their respective dioceses, vicariates and circles. The exercise also served as a way of getting to know each other better.



The workshop participants in a group photo.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE OF THE OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CIRCLE

By Sis. Veronica Bambilla, Past Vicarial Regent

Last April 15, 2023, the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of Bacoar City held a fund-raising activity, its annual Garage Sale that many parishioners look forward to. This year's Garage Sale was the first after three years of the pandemic.

Spearheaded by the Welfare Committee headed by Sis. Merlie Joaquin, pre-loved items of good quality were offered for sale – clothes, handbags, household items and more.

The activity netted more than P13,000 to be used to augment the circle's fund for its mission projects.



The Garage Sale venue became a hub of activities as sellers and buyers transact business.

Photo



NEWS

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CIRCLE HOLDS SUMMER TEAM-BUILDING ACTIVITY

The Socials Committee of the OLQP Circle headed by Sis. Lani Ponferrada organized the circle's summer activity cum team-building last May 1, 2023 at a private resort in Silang, Cavite. Food was overflowing

as everyone brought something to share. The swimming pool and videoke corner became favorite spots during the fun-laden day with games and prizes adding to the fun. The accompanying photos tell it all. – Sis. Veronica Bambilla, past vicarial regent.



FREE PNEUMONIA VACCINATION FROM OUR LADY OF THE LILIES CIRCLE

*By Sis. Vita Zaldivia,
Vicarial Regent*

The Our Lady of the Lilies Circle in Soldiers Hills Village, Muntinlupa City gave free pneumonia vaccines to parishioners of the Mary Cause of our Joy Parish last July 4, 2023.

The circle's Pro-Life Committee headed by Chairperson Sis. Helen Ramos spearheaded the project.

Circle Regent Sis. Edna Espina, Vicarial Regent Sis. Aurora Borromeo and Parish Priest Fr. Tito Ranola lent support to the project.

Two hundred individuals, 50 of them seniors from outside the village in Bgy. Potatan, received the free vaccination.

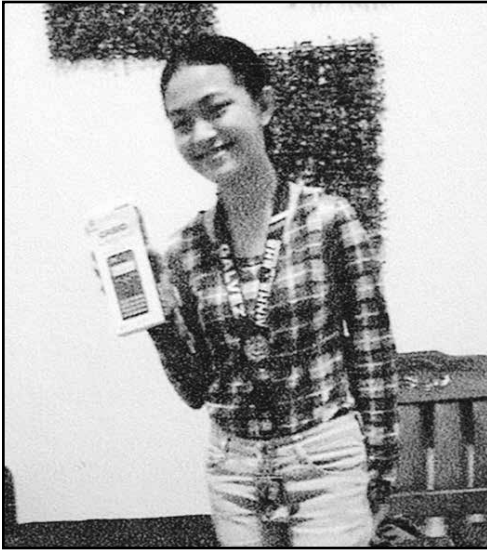


The vaccination team

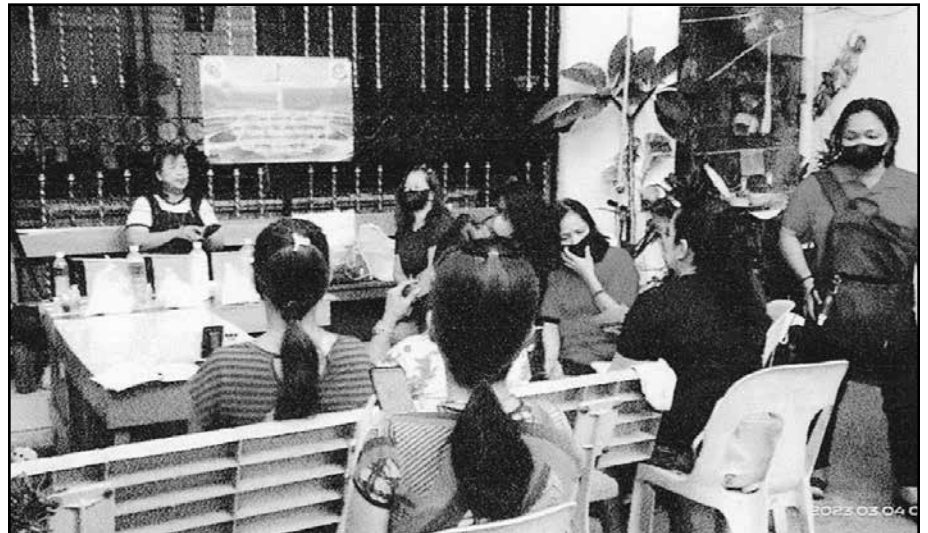


Circle members who assisted in the activity

UPDATES FROM SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA CIRCLE

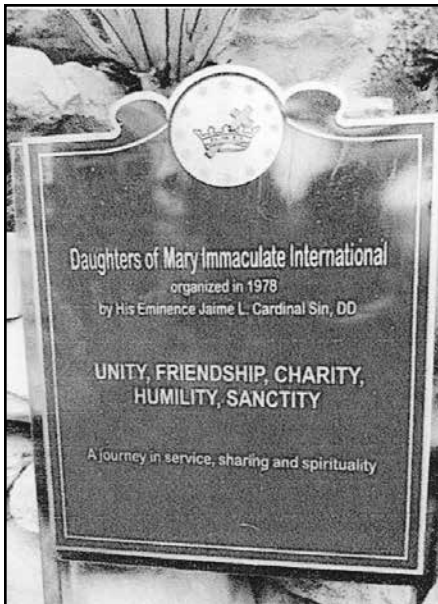


Assistance to a PDL's Granddaughter. Seventeen-year-old Sheila Ann Galvez, a Grade 11 student, was beneficiary of the circle under its APFV Mission. The assistance was in the form of school supplies, uniforms and other school needs such as a scientific calculator. Sheila was left in the care of an aunt when her grandmother was detained for drug-pushing. She is an honor student of Malabon National High School.



Liquid Soap-Making Demo.

A demonstration on how to make dishwashing liquid, liquid detergents fabric conditioner, cologne and perfume was conducted at the parish church patio by the Commission on Social Services with the DMI circle as project partner. Sis. Fel Azween conducted the free training aimed at providing a livelihood opportunity to the participants.



DMII Marker Unveiled and Blessed. A DMI marker had been unveiled and blessed. A project of the San Antonio de Padua Circle, the marker now stands at the grotto within the church patio after being blessed by Fr. Silverio Mutia, parish priest.

SAN LORENZO RUIZ CIRCLE: NOURISHING LIVES WITH LOVE

By Sis. Helen Cocson,
Diocesan Chairperson for Morality in Media

The San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle of San Pedro City, Laguna is currently leading an uplifting initiative for the Pro-Life Mission – a nourishment program for the children of Maligaya, a community of informal settlers in the city. The Feeding Program was officially launched on July 30, 2023 with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Frederick Yapana, pastor of San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish.

Beneficiaries of the Feeding Program are children aged 7 to 9 years old who are found wasted in various degrees. The DMI sisters provide them meals, not only to satiate hunger but also as an expression of love for and their dedication to life. They also show their com-

mitment to make life better for these underprivileged children, thus helping uplift their lives. Believing in the profound impact of compassion, they also nourish something divine within each child's spirit.

The DMI sisters of San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle find inspiration in the compassion shown by our Blessed Mother and rely upon her for guidance and strength as they work tirelessly, generously giving their time, talent and treasure. The sisters take turn in performing their assigned tasks to attain the nourishment and care that the children need. There may be millions more of children needing nourishment and care in this world, but as St. Teresa of Calcutta once said : “If you cannot feed a thousand people, just feed only one.”



The children of Maligaya with Rev. Fr. Frederick Yapana and DMI sisters of San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle.

SELF-CARE OF THE ADULTESCENT SEMINAR SPONSORED BY THE THERESIAN CIRCLE

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

The Theresian Circle of the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist sponsored a seminar on “Self-Care of the Adultescent” for the Grade 10 students of the Tuntungin-Putho Integrated National High School last May 17, 2023. The seminar was part of a series entitled “Knowing Thyself” that the Morality in Media Committee has designed and been conducting regularly. The MIM Committee chair, Sis. Rita Laude, spearheaded the activity.

Conducting the seminar was Dr. Teri-Marie Laude, a faculty member of the UPLB College of Human Ecology who is also a medical doctor. Dr. Laude discussed a variety of topics, from the adolescent reproductive health to psycho-social well-being and medical health awareness. She suggested that parents and guardians of students be invited and encouraged to attend such seminars so that they will also be aware of the changes that their teenaged children are experiencing. The knowledge will therefore promote a more healthy and harmonious relationship within the family.



Dr. Teri-Marie Laude, resource speaker



The Grade 10 students of Tuntungin-Putho Integrated National High School while listening to the seminar speaker.

Photo



NEWS

6TH DMI MARKER IN REGION VI UNVEILED BY MOTHER OF LIFE CIRCLE

The sixth DMII marker in the Diocese of San Pablo was unveiled at the patio of San Antonio de Padua Parish in Batong Malake, Los Banos, Laguna where the Mother of Life Circle is based. Rev. Fr. Leandro “Doy” Bariring blessed the marker. The unveiling was done with the assistance of Diocesan Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio, Vicarial Regent Sis. Liza Quidayan and Sis. Tess Banzon of the Theresian Circle.



TWO VICARIATES HOLD VICARIAL ASSEMBLIES

By Sis. Agnes Arada, Region VII Representative

Vicariates I and II in the Archdiocese of Lipa held their respective assemblies – Vicariate I with three circles in attendance in Nasugbu, Batangas on August 5, 2023 and Vicariate II also with three circles in Balayan, Batangas on July 16, 2023.

Vicariate I

The assembly was held at the La Javierada Hall of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Nasugbu attended by DMI sisters of Our Lady of Peace Circle of Poblacion, Nasugbu, assembly host, Nuestra Senora de la Paz y Buen Viaje Circle of Wawa, Nasugbu and Marian Circle of Lian, Batangas.

The opening ceremony consisting of the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary led by DMII diocesan officers and members and the Philippine National Anthem and Pledge to the Flag led by Sis. Dijinirah Guyagon of the Nuestra Senora de la Paz y Buen Viaje Circle officially started the day's program. Marian Circle Regent Sis. Rosario de Luna led the opening prayer followed by the Parade of Circles.

The keynote speaker was Rev. Fr. Jonhsen Guevarra who spoke on the assembly theme “A Journey in Service, Sharing and Spirituality”. He was introduced by Sis. Rachel Basit. Fr. Guevarra stressed the deep spirituality of DMIs which sets them apart from other organizations, reminding them that everything one does is for the glory of God. How? Through AIM – Attitude, Intention and Motivation. After his talk, he was awarded a certificate of appreciation by Region VII RR Sis. Agnes Arada, Diocesan Regent Sis. Issa Daria and Vicarial Regent Sis. Rosalie Dastas.

A Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Fr. Bladimir Calingasan ended the morning session. Lunch was accompanied by singing and dancing by the assembly participants themselves, getting them geared up for the afternoon session consisting of accomplishment reports on the activities and projects for the DMI missions by Circle Regents Sisters Helen Ayo of the Nuestra de la Paz Circle, Ofe Lamano of Marian Circle and Vissia de Guzman of Our Lady of Peace Circle which hosted the event. DR Sis. Issa Daria and VR Sis. Sally Dastas gave constructive assessments of their reports.



The organizing committee of the assembly – Vicarial Regent Sis. Vissia de Guzman, and Circle Regents Sisters Helen Ayo and Ofe Lamano with Region VII RR Sis. Agnes Arada and Diocesan Regent Sis. Issa Daria.



Fr. Jonhsen Guevarra, keynote speaker

Vicariate II

The Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Circle of Balayan, Batangas hosted the Vicariate II Assembly at the Immaculate Conception Parish on July 16, 2023.

Participating in the assembly with the theme “Lifting Up Mama Mary’s Love and Care through DMII Missions and Actions” were the Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Circle, St. Anthony de Padua Circle of Kaylamay, Nasugbu and St. Raphael the Archangel Circle of Calaca, Batangas.

The day-long event started with the enthronement ceremony followed by the Parade of Colors and presentation of participating circles. A Eucharistic celebration ended the morning session followed by a hearty lunch.



The enthronement ceremony with Vicarial Regent Sis. Marie de Padua.

Rev. Fr. Eugene Penalosa III, the event’s keynote speaker, highlighted Mary’s significant role in the DMII missions and actions. He reminded the assembly participants that the organization will always be an instrument of God’s mercy through the Blessed Mother by reaching out and helping people in need through the DMII’s mission thrusts.

During the afternoon session, regents of the three circles rendered reports on the mission projects and accomplishments of their respective circles. Coaching and mentoring were given by Diocesan Regent Sis. Issa Daria. Region VII Representative Sis. Agnes Arada also graced the event which was spearheaded by Vicarial Regent Sis. Marie de Padua with the assistance of the circle regents.



Rev. Fr. Eugene Penalosa III with Sis. Agnes Arada, Diocesan Regent Sis. Issa Daria and Sis. Marie de Padua

From the Diocese of Caceres – Region VIII

PRO-LIFE MISSION ACTIVITIES OF LITTLE FLOWER CIRCLE

By Sis. Estrella Oliva, Circle Regent

The Pro-Life Committee of the Little Flower Circle, St. Anthony of Padua Parish in San Francisco, Iriga City held various activities for the DMI’s Pro-Life Mission during the second quarter of 2023.

Headed by Chairperson Sis. Luz Esparcia, the committee visited the Iriga City Maternity House and Puericulture Center to extend assistance to young mothers who received pre-natal check-up and lecture on breast-feeding as well as various tips on how to take care of themselves and their babies. They were also given various articles for the use of their babies and financial assistance for their post-natal needs.

The DMI sisters will check on the mothers in their homes after three months. Circle Regent Sis. Luz Esparcia, Vicarial Regent Sis. Prinsibini Monsalve and Diocesan Regent Sis. Evelyn Bernales fully supported the project.



The Pro-Life group of Little Flower Circle while visiting a young mother and her baby at the Iriga City Maternity House.

LITTLE FLOWER CIRCLE SPONSORS FLORES DE MAYO AND SANTACRUZAN



DMI sisters with the children who offer flowers at the altar of the Blessed Mother during the Flores de Mayo.



The sagalas who participated in the Santacruzán



From the Diocese of Kalibo – Region IX

THE SMI HYMN, A CREATIVE JOURNEY FOR OUR LADY OF LOURDES CIRCLETTE

By Sq. Angelika O. Tajaran, SMI Hymn Lyricist

We have won! We Squirettes of Our Lady of Lourdes Circlette of Makato, Aklan had a double celebration last December, 2022. It was a Christmas Season we will forever remember: WE WON THE 2022 COMPOSE AND SING AN SMI HYMN CONTEST! The great news from the National SMI Committee and a post on Facebook made every Squirette in our circlette as well as our Tita DMIs so very proud of our accomplishment: our having given the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate organization a legacy, a song that will be sung in all present and future SMI gatherings all over the country.

The announcement of our winning also brought back every memory we had while creating our winning piece.

Writing a poem allows us to express unspoken emotions. Giving life to a poem is gaining people's empathy and sympathy. When the announcement about the Compose and Sing an SMI Hymn Contest from the National Contest Committee was forwarded to us by Ate Sjden Tumanon, our past circlette president, a group of us with talent in writing and music got together to exchange ideas on how to come up first with a beautiful poem expressing a Squirette's faith and love for Mary Immaculate with the help of our Tita DMIs and spiritual directors who shared their knowledge and wisdom during our monthly activities and corporate

masses as well as our shared experiences in our circlet. These helped us create a poem that speaks about the passion, promises and motto that every Squirette has internalized.

Every song we sing and every word we utter will undoubtedly ring. This was what we believed while constructing the music and rhythm of our poem. As singers, we experimented with tunes and tempo of different genres, combined them, tried again until it resulted to what we believed was the best version.



The team of Squirettes who composed the winning SMI Hymn.

Our journey towards being grand winner was hard and challenging. Yes, because of our hectic schedule in school, we were afraid that we would not be able to meet the deadline, coming out with the lyrics and the music and the recording of the hymn. But because of the encouragement of our dear titas, the *pangungulit* of Tita Nerli and our faith and trust in our God-given talents, we finally made the deadline.

All the accolades, applause and congratulations we received we owe to our Tita DMIs who always strive to bring out the best in us. They were with us in this journey – as our mothers, guides and mentors. Thank you, titas, for your love, support and trust.

Our winning this contest is a great blessing from God. It has brought great honor not only to our circle and the Our Lady of Lourdes-Makato Circle but also for the Diocese of Kalibo.



The winners receive their plaque and prize.



From the Diocese of Bacolod – Region IX

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE DIOCESE OF BACOLOD

Diocesan Regent Sis. Majalla Veralejo reported the following from the Diocese of Bacolod – Negros Occidental:

The diocese has nine active circles – Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, St. Jude Thaddeus, St. John Nepomuceno, Maria Auxilladora de los Cristianos, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and San Nicolas de Tolentino Circles under two vicariates, the North Vicariate composed of the Bacolod Cathedral, Redemptorist Church Bacolod and San Nicolas de Tolentino, Talisay City. The vicarial regent is Sis. Ma. Milagros Verano. The South Vicariate under Vicarial Regent Sis. Rosalina Tabujara covers Mansilingan, Lasalleville, Alijis and Sum-ag.

St. Jude Thaddeus Circle of Bgy. Alijis, Bacolod City reported the following mission activities:

For Assistance to Prisoner's Families & their Victims, the circle gave a job to the daughter of a PDL, Sheila Estocato as caregiver of a sick DMI sister,



For Upliftment of Women Workers, Grace Cruz, a single mother, was beneficiary of financial assistance from the circle as additional capital for her fish and vegetable business.

MODEL GREENYARD GARDEN LAUNCHED IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PALO

By Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid, Past Pro-Life Int'l Chairperson &
Region XI Newsette Correspondent

Last July 8, 2023, the Tower of Ivory Circle of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, V & G Subd. in Tacloban City and the St. Elizabeth of Hungary Circle of Bgy. Libertad, Palo, Leyte launched a Model Greenyard Garden as a project showcase for the other circles in Region XI (Leyte and Samar).

The project was spearheaded by Sis. Edna Apurillo, diocesan regent of the Archdiocese of Palo. Region XI Representative Sis. Igmedia Balagapo gave her full support to the project headed by Tower of Ivory Circle Regent Sis. Yolly Dagandan and St. Elizabeth of Hungary Circle Regent Sis. Ofelia Ladrera.

A 600-sq. m. lot inside the ground of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish has been set aside by Parish Priest Fr. Elmo Borguete to serve as the model greenyard garden to be planted various garden vegetables under the acronym TA-KA-A-PE-KA derived from a local dialect meaning "to beckon everyone to join". The acronym stands for:

TA-ngkong ha kada libreng lote (water spinach in every yard)
KA- malunggay ha kada balay (moringa in every household)
A-lugvate ha kada lote (malabar spinach in every lot)
PE-pechay ha kada plastikay (Chinese cabbage in every plastic container)
KA-mote ha kada bakante (sweet potato in every vacant lot)

The Model Greenyard Garden and the Five DMI Missions

The Model Greenyard Garden project of the Archdiocese of Palo has also given the opportunity for the circles to pursue all the DMI Missions as follows:

Pro-Life chaired by Sis. Asuncion Paquibot to implement the project in their respective communities.

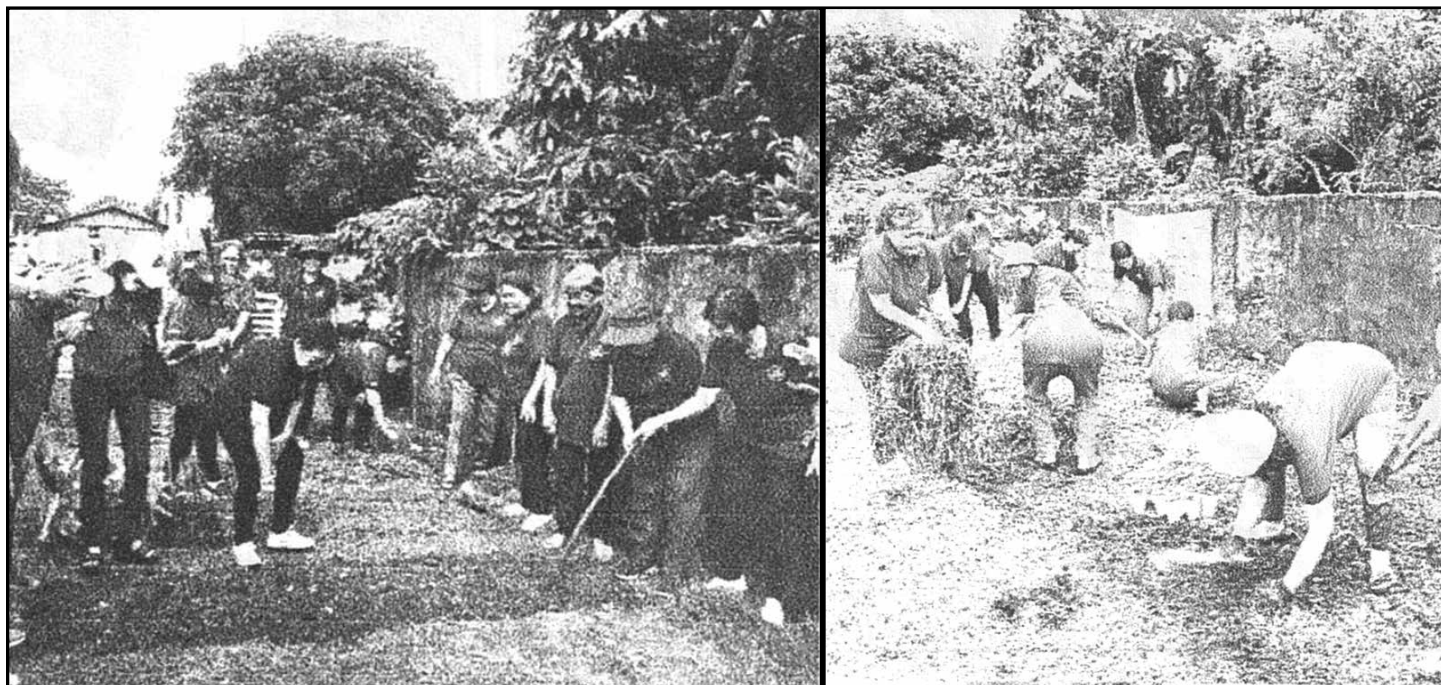
Morality in Media chaired by Sis. Rosario Orejola to promote the importance of the project in the locality.

Upliftment of Women Workers chaired by Sis. Nida Catubao who is concurrently the coordinator of the Mission in the Visayas to encourage other circles in Region XI to replicate the project in their respective areas.

Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims chaired by Sis. Irene Norma Abulencia to encourage PDLs' families to set up greenyard gardens in their respective houses.

Youth Welfare/SMI chaired by Sis. Trina Maria Candaza to assist and coordinate in the initiatives and efforts of all the Missions in pursuing the project.

Overall, the ultimate goal of the Model Greenyard Garden is to equip its proponents and beneficiaries entrepreneurship skills that include creating opportunities, stimulating social change and improving lives.



Participants in the successful launching of the Model Greenyard Garden – DMI sisters of The Tower of Ivory and St.Elizabeth of Hungary Circles.

SERIES OF SKILLS DEMOS CONCLUDES ARCHDIOCESAN NUTRITION MONTH CELEBRATION

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Past Diocesan Regent

The culminating activity of the celebration of Nutrition Month by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga was a series of skills demonstrations spearheaded by the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee headed by Sis. Mila Espinosa and the Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims headed by Sis. Maritess Go last July 28, 2023 at Citimall, Zamboanga City.

The theme was “Gender Equality for A Sustainable Tomorrow”. The project beneficiaries were the families of BJMP parolees and PDLs on probation in the city under Mr. Jason Garcia and Ms. Lourdes Guanco.

The participants were taught several skills such as knitting of bags and other articles by Ms. Lorraine Olaso, hair-cutting and sampalok candy-making by Ms. Vicky Mayo, chorizo and longanisa-making by

Ms. Aida Mendoza, Basic Nutrition for Diabetes and Hypertension by Ms. Ma. Theresa Go, reflexology and wellness by Ms. Millet Concepcion and spiritual inputs such as praying the Rosary, the 2000 Hail Marys and others by Sis. Ernie de Paralta.

Also present during the activity were IVR-Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra and Past DR and APFV Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Marilyn de Asis who gave inspirational messages as well as circle officers in the Archdiocese who are expected to transfer the skills they learned to their respective circle members and eventually to members of their parish communities.

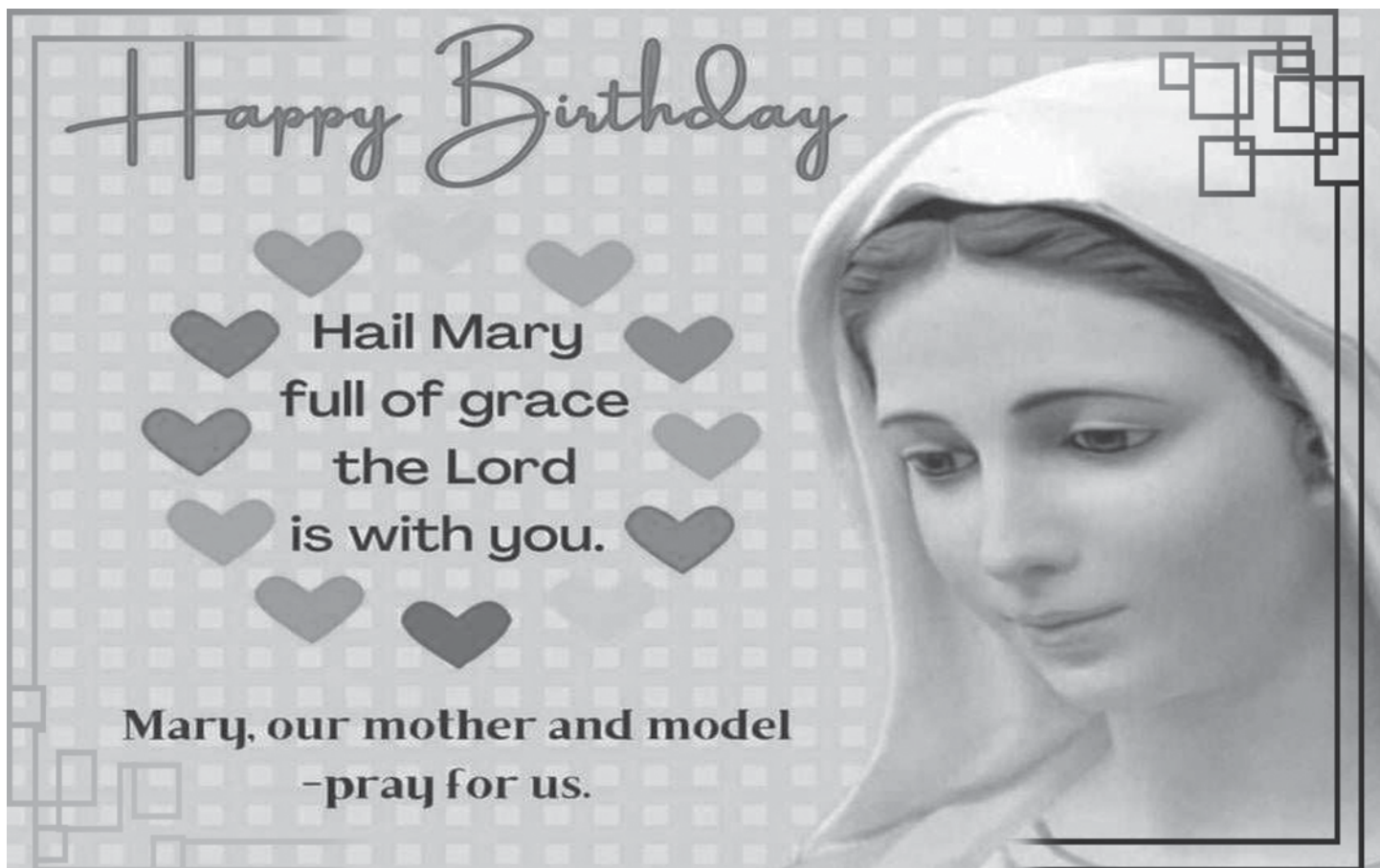
The ultimate goal of the project was to provide the participants with the necessary skills to be able to provide additional income for their families.



A trainor demonstrates how to debone bangus.



A Zumba session between demo classes



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