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ARCHDIOCESE OF DAVAO HOSTS MINDANAO AREA CONFERENCE

*By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, MIM Coordinator for Mindanao
and Region XIV Correspondent*



The Mindanao Area Conference delegates in a group photo. In foreground are the International Officers, conference organizers and guests.

The Mindanao Area Conference attended by DMI sisters from the three regions of Mindanao – Regions XII, XIII and XIV – was held last August 15-16, 2024 at the SMX Convention Center in Lanang Premier, Davao City. The conference theme was “DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”.

BREAKING!!!!

DMII 23rd BIENNIAL CONVENTION

August 16, 2025

Newtown Convention Center, Baguio City
(Story on page 5)

The conference officially opened with the entrance of colors and the Parade of Circles with circle regents representing the conference delegates carrying their respective circle banners. These were followed by the traditional opening ceremonies – the National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance and the song “Tayo’y Dabaweno” to welcome the delegates. Archdiocesan Secretary Sis. Virginia Palac led the opening prayer.

Region XIII Representative Sis. Elizabeth Dipaling, head of the conference Organizing Committee, declared the opening of the conference. The welcome

address was delivered by Atty. Agnes Monfort on behalf of Davao City Mayor Sebastian Duterte

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga led the launching and blessing of the Oratio Imperata for World Peace. He also talked on the conference theme about walking together and journeying with our Blessed Mother on the synodal path to Jesus.

The Fellowship Night with the delegates coming in retro attire featured a regional dance contest and Search for Ms. DMII Mindanao Area. The latter was a fund-raising event won by the candidate from the Diocese of Butuan.

The enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother’s image opened Day 2 of the conference.

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THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS

(A Prelude to a Most Holy Day)



John 1:9: "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world."

My dear Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

As we find ourselves in the midst of preparing for Christmas, let us not lose sight of the true meaning of this joyous celebration. Amidst the gift lists, parties, and festivities, remember the humble beginnings of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Born in a manger, He was welcomed by Mary, Joseph, lowly shepherds, and animals.

In the hustle and bustle, let us shift our focus from material gifts to the enrichment of our spirits. Let charity and love prevail! As we enjoy this special time of the year, let us glance over "the other side of the fence" and extend a helping hand to our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Only when we prioritize kindness, compassion, and generosity can we truly proclaim: "Merry Christmas!"

Warmest greetings to each and every one of you.

May your hearts be filled with love, joy, and the spirit of the season.

Sincerely in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. Cruz".

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



DMII: A SYNODAL COMMUNITY WITH MAMA MARY, DOING MISSION WITH INSPIRATION AND INTEGRITY



My dear DMI Sisters,

Greetings of peace and joy in Jesus through the loving heart of our Blessed Mother Mary!

As we reflect on this year's DMII theme, we are reminded of the profound role of our Blessed Mother as a model of discipleship and unity in mission. In our work as Daughters of Mary Immaculate, we are called to journey together in communion with the Church and with one another, following the path of Jesus, guided by Mary's unwavering faith and love.

In this synodal journey, we walk in solidarity – listening, discerning and responding as one body to the needs of our brothers and sisters, especially the most vulnerable. It is Mama Mary who accompanies us on this sacred mission, filling us with inspiration as we strive to live with integrity, fidelity and compassion in every aspect of our service.

With Mama Mary as our guide and inspiration, may we continue to nurture our communities with a spirit of openness, humility and dedication. Let us embrace the mission entrusted to us with hearts full of faith, ensuring that our actions reflect the integrity of our commitment to the Church, to society and to each other.

May we continue to be filled with the grace of the Holy Spirit as we move forward, always with communion and with a burning desire to bring Christ's love to all corners of the world.

Together, as one Synodal community, let us continue to inspire and serve with hearts rooted in the values of our beloved Mama Mary.

Yours in Christ through Mary,

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

SIS ANNIE O. TY

International Regent

Archdiocese of Davao... from page 1

This was followed by a concelebrated Mass by Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga, Fr. Allan Rodriguez and Fr. Ian, DMII spiritual director of Ipil – Sibugay.

Vice-President Sara Z. Duterte was the main guest speaker who talked on “Women in Government”.

Ms. Jojie Ilagan-Bian, a much sought-after speaker on wellness talked on “Living a Life Full of Love and Wellness”. She cited the seven dimensions of wellness – physical, spiritual, emotional, financial,

environmental, vocational and intellectual. She said that wellness is not only the absence of sickness but also the capability to thrive, to care for one’s mind, heart, body and soul. When one’s mind focuses on wellness, she is able to build resilience and successfully survive life’s challenges.

International Regent Sis. Annie Ty’s inspirational message opened the afternoon session followed by presentations by the International Mission Chairpersons - Sis. Angie Baes for Pro-Life, Sis. Shirley Corvera for Morality in Media and SMI National President Sq. Elaisa Marie Honculada for Youth Welfare/SMI.



The enthronement and consecration ceremony



The Parade of Circles



Mass processional



Conference guest speaker, VP Sara Duterte with the DMII Board



Guest speaker Ms. Jojie Ilagan-Bian with Sisters Pinky Saavedra and IR Sis. Annie Ty



Dance contestants of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga

23rd DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN BAGUIO CITY

The 23rd DMII Biennial Convention to be hosted by Luzon in 2025 will be held in Baguio City on August 16, 2025.

This was approved by the International Board during a special meeting via Zoom held last October 18, 2024.

Venue of the convention is the Newtown Convention Center, the events place of the Newtown Plaza Hotel, 42 C.M. Recto Drive, Leonard Wood Road, St. Joseph, Baguio City. The venue can

accommodate 1,500 participants.

The convention program includes the election of the International Officers for the term 2026-27 and the Fellowship Night's contest for the Best Regional Presentation. The line-up of convention speakers is still being drawn out.

This early, DMI sisters are urged to make plans for the event as registration will be on a first-come-first-served basis and will be closed as soon as the 1,500 total registrants is reached.



Newtown Convention Center



The Newtown Plaza Hotel



The message of International Vice-Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra was followed by an open forum to clarify certain topics discussed by the speaker.

The installation of diocesan, vicarial and circle regents in the three Mindanao regions took place with

IR Annie administering their Oath of Office.

The conference delegates voted Region XII as host of the next Mindanao Area Conference.



A group photo during Fellowship Night



*Ms. Mindanao Area Conference
2024 from the Diocese of Butuan*

I m m e d i a t e
Past Region XIII Representative Sis. Lucina Binoya gave the closing remarks that brought the conference to a close.

Sis. Ma. Ma. Cynthia Aranas of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle emceed the program.

REGION VI ASSEMBLY HELD IN SAN PABLO CITY

*By Sis. Ivylou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent*

Close to 300 DMI sisters from the Diocese of San Pablo held their Regional Assembly at the San Pablo City Convention Center in San Pablo City. The assembly participants came from the Vicariates of St. Polycarp, St. John the Baptist, San Antonio de Padua and St. Paul the First Hermit. Some International Officers headed by International Regent Sis. Annie Ty attended the assembly.

After the registration of delegates, the opening ceremonies took place starting with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by a Eucharistic celebration co-presided by Fr. Jerome Cruz, DMII International Chaplain and Fr. Rey Hayag, Episcopal Vicar of District III and acting Region VI Spiritual Director.

In his homily, Fr. Jerome said that discernment of spirit is what God wants us to do, to be able to distinguish good from evil. God gives us opportunities to change, he stressed; but sometimes people refuse to change and continue the way they are. "Change is possible regardless of how old we are. Growth is a continuing process. It is the sign of life for the better." The missions of the DMII are an avenue for its members to be evangelizers, to be part of the synodal community where we journey together with nobody being left behind.

Region VI Representative Sis. Norma Eusebio gave her welcome address followed by Past RR Sis. Iluminada Lagunda's introduction of IR Sis. Annie Ty.

In her inspirational message, Sis. Annie emphasized the virtue of humility in the DMIs' interaction among themselves as well as in going about their tasks in the missions where the very pillars of synodality – communion, participation and mission – are actualized.

A video message from Past IR Sis. Ruby Macario came next. She extended her congratulations to the assembly delegates with an accompanying video presentation of past DMI activities. She ended her message with her signature song "I Have a Dream".

The next speaker was International Secretary and Region V RR Sis. Lorie



Fr. Jerome Cruz during the Eucharistic celebration



The assembly speakers: From left: Sis. Annie Ty, Sis. Ruby Macario, Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya, Sis. Lorie Manalansan and Sis. Tess Labilles

Manalansan who was introduced by Past Region VI RR, International Treasurer and International Auditor-Financial Sis. Isabel Ticzon.

Sis. Lorie's topic was "DMII: Servant Leaders in the Community". She said that Jesus Christ is the ultimate model of a servant leader. Spirituality being an essential element of servant leadership, she gave ways to develop it and its primary component, humility. She also gave the principles of effective servant leadership. She ended her talk with some videos of past successful DMI Mission activities.

International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya was introduced by Past IVR for Luzon and Region VI RR Sis. Alice Capiral. Sis. Nene's talk centered on the Mission Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, clarifying that this mission focuses on the FAMILIES of the PDLs and victims, the PDLs already being beneficiaries of other religious organizations and NGOs. The mission is a mandate given to the DMII by the CBCP as stated in the Red Handbook.

Sis. Nene reminded the assembly delegates to change the course of the DMI's activities toward the families left behind by the PDLs and the victims of crimes because they are the "hidden victims".

The next speaker was Sis. Teresita Labilles, International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers. She was introduced by Past International Treasurer and Region VI RR Sis. Elvie Arambulo. Sis. Tess talked on women empowerment and ways to build a supportive community of women. She emphasized that as Daughters of Mary Immaculate, it is appropriate that "we support the holistic development of our female employees by offering them chances for personal, emotional, and spiritual growth via our events and initiatives, all the while shielding them from gender-based abuse." She also identified key activities that we may undertake to fulfill our mission.

After the series of fruitful talks and joyful dance presentations by the SMIs and DMIs of the vicariates, awards of appreciation and recognition were given to the guest speakers and to Sis. Norma Eusebio and the assembly working committees.

To conclude the event, Sis. Brigie Alican, vicarial regent of St. Paul the First Hermit in her closing remarks thanked all those present for making the event a success. The closing prayer was led by Sis. Josefina Hernandez, regent of the Our Lady of the Assumption Circle.



The DMII Board present and the Region VI officers with Fr. Jerome Cruz (at center)

REGION IX REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AT MARZON CONVENTION CENTER

*By Sis. Rosalinda Desales,
Region IX Representative*

The Region IX Assembly, held last July 6, 2024, was hosted by Diocese of Kalibo headed by Diocesan Regent, Sis. Gabrielle C. Quimpo, at Marzon Conventon Center, Kalibo, Aklan. The event was attended by 400 DMIs coming from Diocese of Kalibo, Archdiocese of Jaro, Diocese of Bacolod, Diocese of San Carlos, and Archdiocese of Capiz.

It started at 7:30 a.m. with the distribution of kits, followed by the Enthronement of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 9:00 a.m. Invocation was led by Sis. Ma. Fe T. Rabe, Circle Regent of Our Lady of Mediatrix of all Graces. Welcome address was made by DR Sis. Gabrielle C. Quimpo, Diocese of Kalibo. Inspirational message came from Fr. Justy More, in behalf of Most Rev. Jose Corazon T. Tala-oc, D.D., Bishop of Diocese of Kalibo, who was at a CBCP conference. Some of the salient points presented by Fr. More:

1. Pasok Po – As DMI, we should include everybody, no restriction, with the belongingness of one another, doing with the same mission together.
2. Bayad po - We should give or share God's blessing to us.
3. Sukli Po – To give back the love that we have received from God.
4. Para Po – We should stop a moment to pray or to contemplate God's goodness bestowed upon us, to rediscover the DMII principles and Christian virtues.

Past International Regent Sis. Jean Velarde introduced the keynote speaker, International Regent Sis. Annie O. Ty.

Sis. Annie expounded on the theme, DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary Doing Mission with Inspiration and Integrity. She conveyed the background of Synod or Synodality: Listening, Discernment and Conversation, plus the objectives of Synod. She mentioned that, as DMIs, we should focus this year on the programs/projects of our 5 missions. Our Priority Flagship Targets: Performance visibly on our Mission Thrusts; Organize DMII Circles and SMI Circlettes; Reactivate or Reorganize inactive Circles and members. Quotable quotes of IR Sis. Annie Ty from Pope Francis "TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF". Never forget to take care of yourself, not so much of the outside, but of the most precious part of you: your soul and heart. Listen to your soul in silence and speak to God, following the rhythm of your heart.

IR Sis Annie O. Ty shared her tearjerker personal experiences in Kalibo, Aklan many years ago.

The awarding of Certificates of Appreciation came next.

The business meeting started at 1 pm followed by the testimonial of the 5 missions in AV presentation. The presenters were the following:

- DR Sis. Bebera Barrido from the Archdiocese of Jaro
- PDR Sis. Majella Verdejo from the Diocese of Bacolod
- PDR Sis. Rosalinda L. Desales from the Diocese of San Carlos
- PVR Sis. Lourdes San Agustin from the Archdiocese of Capiz
- PDR Sis. Lilian D. Romero from the Diocese of Kalibo

Additionally, the testimonial reports of the five missions were presented by:

- DR Sis. Divina Francia from the Diocese of San Carlos - Prolife
- DR Sis. Marissa A. Baltazar from the Diocese of Bacolod - Morality in Media
- DR Sis. Bebera Barrido from the Archdiocese of Jaro - Assistance to Prisoners' Families & Their Victims
- VR Sis. Teresita Yotingco from the Archdiocese of Capiz - Upliftment of Women Workers
- Past International SMI President, Mrs. Jonah Eliza P. Tordecillas, - Youth Welfare (SMI)

The AV presentation of Prolife, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & Their Victims and Upliftment of Women Workers shared by Archdiocese of Jaro was prepared with the assistance of Past Regional Representative Sis. Emma Victoria.



The assembly, hosted by the Diocese of Kalibo, with guests Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz, IR Sis. Annie Ty, IVR Luzon Judge Nene Ligaya, IVR Visayas Sis. Norevic Laroa and Sis. Jose Halog

DUMAGUETE HOSTS REGION X ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Norevic Laroa,
Region X Representative*

The Regional Assembly of Region X was held last August 31, 2024 at the Essencia Hotel in Dumaguete City. Region X covers the Archdiocese of Cebu, Diocese of Tagbilaran and the Vicariate of Dumaguete. The assembly theme was “DMII: A Synodal Community of Mary Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”.

The entrance of colors and enthronement and consecration of the image of Mama Mary led by International Regent Sis Annie Ty officially opened the assembly. The Parade of Circles and the welcome remarks of Region X Representative Sis. Norevic Laroa followed after her formal declaration of the assembly opening.

In her inspirational message, IR Sis. Annie Ty expounded on the meaning of Synodality, of journeying together, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit to evangelize and fulfill both the mission of the Church and of the DMII. She exhorted her audience to be guided by the virtues of the Blessed Mother as we go about our tasks in the Missions. She also mentioned the flagship projects laid out by the International Missions Chairpersons for the year, underscoring the urgent services needed by the least, the last and the lost. “Our missions are a reflection of our collective journey, our

walking together to lead others and to become the light illuminating the path for others and creating a future filled with compassion and unwavering faith.”

Rev. Fr. John Renil Quiliope keyed the assembly. He started his talk with a reading of the Holy Gospel. He then explained the assembly theme. He said that in times of helplessness, we are drawn to discover that God is in control. Awareness of this makes the future leader to be one who draws to claim his irrelevance in the contemporary world, and allows him to enter into a deep solidarity with the anguish underlying all the glitter of success and being the light of Jesus.

A Eucharistic celebration was presided by Fr. Quiliope and two other priests from the Dumaguete Cathedral.

The afternoon program consisted of talks on the mission Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims by IVR Luzon Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya and the mission reports of the dioceses comprising Region X. Presenters were Sis. Rosalinda Sienes of the Vicariate of Dumaguete Sis. Isidrita Lim of the Diocese of Tagbilaran and Sis. Eve Bolarde of the Archdiocese of Cebu.

The assembly ended with the closing remarks and prayer by Sis. Rosalinda Sienes.



Enthronement and consecration ceremony led by IR Sis. Annie Ty, IVR-Luzon Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya and Region X Representative Sis. Norevic Ligaya.



Awarding of plaques of appreciation and tokens to the assembly speakers and guests



The Parade of Circles



The assembly participants

SAN JOSE CIRCLE PARTICIPATES IN DIALOGUE OF LIFE

*By Sis. Elvira Martinez,
Circle Scribe*

The DMI sisters of San Jose Circle actively participated in the Dialogue of Life, a program of the St. Joseph Cathedral. Using the Triple Communication Approach, the Dialogue of Life (DOL) is a meeting to proclaim the Word of God to a particular group of people. In San Jose City, the DOL meetings were held

in the different barangays, and had been held in Bgy. Canawan on June 28, 2024, Josephine Village, Bgy. Calaocan on July 19, Bgy. F.E. Marcos on July 26, Rufina IV Subd., Bgy. Sto Nino 2 on August 13 and Encarnacion Subd. on August 27.



DOL participants on their way to a barangay



DOL meeting in progress

From the Diocese of Balanga – Region III

DMII HOSTS MISS DIOCESAN DMI 2024 AND GALA NIGHT

*By Sis. Thelma D. Manansala
Diocesan Regent*

For the past years, the DMIs became active both in church work and community work. It was suggested by a number of DMIs that a festivity night which will showcase the beauty and talent of DMIs with the utmost aim of raising fund for forthcoming projects be held. Thus, the idea of holding a fund-raising activity and gala night was decided. Each Circle would have a Miss DMI who will be its representative for the Miss Diocesan DMI 2024, with scheduled date on June 8, 2024 from 4pm onwards, to be held at Crown Royale

Hotel. The criteria for choosing were decided, with 50% of the total score coming from the money they solicited and the remaining 50% from the average score for Talent, Face of the Night and Best in Gown.

The first and last canvassing was held last May 29, 2024 coinciding with the Diocesan Board Meeting for May. The top three who solicited the highest amount were from St. Dominic Circle, Sto. Rosario Circle and St. Joseph Circle.

June 8, 2024 showcased the glamorous side of the DMIs as they wore their glittering and shimmering cocktail and party dresses. The party started with the usual preliminaries of the program, presented in video-audio visual. The said preliminaries were strictly followed by the best in evening gown where the Miss DMI contestants paraded in their best gown, with a little introduction of themselves. After the parade in best-in-gown, to have time for the contestants to dress for the talent portion, each circle had its surprise presentation, dancing the waltz, tango and other classical dances. The real surprise of the night were the talents presented by the candidates, which were exceptional and unique. One of the DMIs showcased her talent by playing the baton as majorette, while one did an interpretative dance about caring for the environment, one performed the native dance of Ifugao, and a puppet show. This activity proved that the DMIs as workers of the Lord possessed exceptional talents also. Emerging as the winners were the following:

Best in Talent and Best in Gown - DMII of St. Dominic Circle; Face of the night - Sis Carmelita F. Santos from Sto. Rosario Circle. Miss Gala night was from Mary Queen of the Apostles, Sis. Loreta Quezon. The Ms. DMI grand winners were the following: Fifth Runner up - Sis. Rowena F. Bautista from San Juan Bautista Circle; Fourth Runner up - Sis. Amor M. Quitalig from St. Francis of Assisi; Third Runner Up - Sis. Ernestina Jo T. Verzola from St. Catherine

of Sienna; Second Runner up - Sis Elizabeth A. Perez from St. Joseph Circle; First Runner up - Sis. Carmelita F. Santos from St. Rosario Circle, and Miss Diocesan DMI 2024 - Sis. Rosalie C. De Guzman from St. Dominic De Guzman Circle.

It was a successful event, attended by an overwhelming number of Sister DMIs, who enjoyed the unlimited showcasing of talents through dancing while enjoying each other's company. The judges who were tasked to do the search for those Titles were Miss Barbie Monsalez former Beauty Queen and now owner of Kontesera Beauty Products, Fr. Jason Quicho, the Spiritual Director of the DMII for the Diocese of Balanga and Mr. Arnel E. Batilez MAPEH Teacher in Senior High at Bataan National High School.



The winners of the Miss Diocesan DMI 2024



Almost 200 members of the DMII from Diocese of Balanga joined the Miss DMI 2024

Second *Hapag Kalinga* Kicks Off

By Sis. Dorothy M. Galicia, Regent,
Sto. Rosario Circle



The DMII Sto. Rosario Circle participated in the second round of the *Hapag-Kalinga ng Birheng Milagrosa ng Orani* feeding program of the Minor Basilica and Shrine Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary, Orani, Bataan.

The pilot edition of the program focused on feeding selected students from the Alikabok Elementary School, which ran for 120 days. This time, the parish decided to make the second edition of the program community based.

Launched on June 17, 2024, the parish went to the community of Sitio Iguana Phase 2 in Barangay Pantalan Luma, Orani, Bataan to feed 30 children in need of nutritious food. This time, the program will run for 90 days, just in time to prepare the children for the upcoming

academic year 2024-2025 come July of this year.

DMI Orani, with the assistance of the Knights of Columbus, was assigned to feed the children of Sitio Iguana Phase 2 on Tuesdays. This is also in cooperation with various sponsors who with cheerful hearts are helping in providing the necessities for the said program.

These 30 children, about to enter school in the near future, were assisted by their parents, relatively young for their age and struggling to provide good food and health for the family.

Nonetheless, the efforts of the parish community, together with the help of various religious organizations like the DMI, help to alleviate the situation that the children are going through by the help of this program. With nutritious food that are provided to them, they will also learn the value of taking care of their well-being in order to become active children inside and outside of the school.

As the program progresses, the hope of every DMI member is to realize that this program is not merely for the satisfaction of the program as it is, but rather to see the smiles of the children as a sign of their nutrition being in good hands.



"Uplifting Spirits: The DMI Sto. Rosario Circle's Compassionate Outreach at Bataan District Jail"

*By Sis. Sheryl S. Villarico
Sto. Rosario Circle, Diocese of Balanga*

The Bureau of Jail Management and Penology – Bataan District Jail in Doña, Orani, Bataan accommodates approximately 400 Persons Deprived of Liberty, including both those awaiting trial and individuals serving sentences of up to six years. As part of DMI's sisterhood's mission, it is committed to extending assistance to the families affected by incarceration.

Recently, in collaboration with JO2 Joel Adrian Yuson and JO2 Audrey Joy Isip, the Circle, led by Regent Sis. Doris Galicia and Assistance to Persons Deprived of Liberty Chairperson Sis. Remedios Nava, conducted an outreach effort.

On June 22, 2024, essential groceries were distributed to six carefully selected families. Beyond providing material support, this initiative was an opportunity for the DMI sisters to establish connections with these families, offering comfort during what is undoubtedly a trying period in their lives. Among the families encountered, one member's story stood out:

A mother in her twilight years travels from Mariveles to Orani regularly to visit her son, who is imprisoned and grappling with health complications arising from diabetes, including a recent stroke. Witnessing this mother's commitment and unconditional

love for her son left a profound impact on the DMIs. Her resilience and dedication illustrated the enduring strength of a mother's love, transcending adversity and distance. This also shows her unwavering faith in God as she professed that she is part of their Church Ministry in Mariveles.

Moved by such heartwarming encounters, the DMI- Sto. Rosario Circle pledges to continue organizing and expanding its charitable initiatives, determined to concentrate on supporting particularly vulnerable groups within the BJMP inmate population, such as elderly individuals, women, persons with disabilities, and those suffering from illnesses. By focusing its efforts on these marginalized groups, the aim is not only to provide material assistance but also to instill hope and dignity in their lives.

Through ongoing acts of generosity and compassion, the DMIs aspire to uphold the inherent worth and resilience of all individuals and families who are facing the challenges of incarceration. The circle remains steadfast in its mission to bring comfort and support to those who need it most, ensuring that no one faces his struggles alone. The aim is to provide hope to the families of Persons Deprived of Liberty, showing them the transformative power of God's love and the strength found in unflinching faith in God.



The mission is to extend assistance to families affected by incarceration.

Organic Vinegar Making as Backyard Industry

*By Sis. Rebecca Appellido, Regent,
St. Michael the Archangel Circle*

Inspired to make a difference in the lives of the most vulnerable sector of the community especially the wives of families whose earning is below the poverty line, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International from St. Michael Circle thought of a way on how they could help to upgrade the living standard of these families. Upon going around the Barangay, they found out that majority of the families in this barangay have monthly income that cannot even give their children 3 square meals a day. The husband's earnings seem not to be sufficient to provide their kids even 3 decent meals a day.

Motivated by their great desire to help these families increase their family income, wives who are just staying at home were invited one afternoon on the 11th of April 2024 for demonstration of vinegar making from banana peelings which is considered as a waste material and ready to be thrown away. In this kind of project, the housewives of the poor families can start

their own business of vinegar-making in their kitchen at a very minimal expense. This project is very feasible as banana peelings are thrown away and resources of materials are readily available because banana cue is one of the favorite street foods of Filipinos. Here in the town of Orion, there are many street vendors and one of their problems is the disposal of banana peelings. They were glad upon knowing that these waste materials can be collected and used as raw material for making organic vinegar in the back yard. This vinegar will also be saleable because organic vinegar is most in demand due to its health benefits to the body and is sold at higher prices than ordinary vinegar.

Process of making Organic Vinegar from banana peelings: Collect banana peels from vendors of Banana Cue or fried bananas. Clean the peelings with tap water and drain for a couple of minutes. Slice the peels into smaller pieces, put in a casserole with enough water to cover the entire peels. Boil for some minutes until the peels soften. Separate the mixture with a strainer. Set aside the liquid part, smash the softened banana peels until smooth texture is obtained. Add the previously boiled water and mix thoroughly until the water and the mashed peels are blended together. Strain again the mixture, put the liquid part in a wide-mouthed clean bottled container, add some old vinegar covered with a very tight cloth and let it stay under the sun to ferment for 15-30 days. After 15 days, put the vinegar in a clean bottled container, ready to be sold.



Participants prepare banana peels to process into organic vinegar



The finished product

ST. JOSEPH CIRCLE SIGNS MOU ON YOUTH WELFARE WITH BATAAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

By Sis. Melissa Reyes

The St. Joseph Circle of Balanga, Bataan sponsored a seminar on “Sexual Grooming and Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation” for students of the Bataan National High School, a result of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on Youth Welfare between the circle and the school. Circle Regent Sis. Priscila Imperial and the school’s Guidance Counselor, Ms. Jennifer Talaugon representing the principal signed the MOU.

PSSG Dhanielle Garcia of the Balanga National Police Office was the seminar speaker. She discussed “Sexual Grooming

and Online Sexual Abuse and Exploitation”. She said that there are two ways that children are exploited: Online sexual abuse where children are tricked or forced into sexual activity over chat, video or photos, and physical or face to face meeting with the children to physically abuse them. She warned her audience about how the groomers lure their victims who, in most cases, are left in their home unsupervised by older family members or are constant users of the internet. She gave them pointers on how to avoid the dangers posed by such persons both online and during face-to-face encounters.



Resource speaker PSSG Dhanielle Garcia before the seminar participants.



The signing of the MOU on Youth Welfare between St. Joseph Circle and the Bataan National High School.

ST. DOMINIC CIRCLE’S UPDATES ON NEW LAWS

*By Sis. Thelma Manansala,
Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Balanga*

A bomb joke is no joke at all. This in a nutshell was the subject of PSSG Denato Cruz from the Bataan Provincial Ordnance and Canine Unit. The DMI sisters learned about the penalties imposed on bomb jokes under the Anti-Bomb Joke Act, the highest being P1 million depending on the severity of the joke and the areas identified as bomb risk.

PSMS Katherine Gonzales of the HR Dept. of PNOC talked about the Sexual Abuse/Sexual Harassment Act. She said sexual harassment takes many forms – not only physically touching the victims but by mere gestures made and words said.



PSSG Denato Cruz talks about bomb jokes.



PSMS Katherine Gonzales of HR-PNOC

VICARIATE OF ST. ANNE'S MISSION ACTIVITIES

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

The Vicariate of St. Anne, Diocese of Malolos through the Our Lady of Consolation and Cinture Circle of Paombong, Bulacan undertook a multi-pronged activity for the DMI missions last August 3, 2024.

Led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Melita Bundoc of the Vicariate of St. Anne and Circle Regent Sis. Paulina de Regla, the circle was able to accomplish different activities for the five mission thrusts.

For **Pro-Life**, the circle distributed 5 kilos of rice, groceries and cash to 20 indigent families of Buga, Bagong Ilog.

For **Morality in Media**, a lecture was given to day care students of Buga on the bad effects of over exposure to cellphones.

For **Upliftment of Women Workers**, the vicariate distributed rice, groceries and cash to two fish vendors as their starting capital.

For **Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims**, the sisters extended assistance to the wives of PDLs by giving them rice, groceries and cash.

For **Youth Welfare/SMI**, the DMIs and SMIs of the vicariate donated rice, seedlings and calamansi trees to twenty parents of day care pupils.

The activities are simple, yet significant. They do not require much time and effort to enable the DMI sisters to be of service to the Church and other sectors of the community.



Region V Teambuilding 2024

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
International Secretary
and Region V Representative*

Following their 3rd Quarter Regional Meeting, the Region V Daughters of Mary Immaculate Regional officers conducted their teambuilding activity. This is with the intent of fostering the DMII virtues through exercises among the Diocesan and Vicarial Regents of said region and for them to get to know each other better for shared support in pursuing the DMII missions.

First activity was for each participant to draw lots on room assignments. This was done as Regional Assembly yielded positive feedback where members were grouped with other sisters from different dioceses. Surprisingly, this made the participants elated at meeting other colleagues from Region V. Both assignments were initiated by Regional Secretary Sis. Zenia "Jing" Velasco.

In the ensuing Regional Meeting agenda, DRs provided updates on activities in their respective areas. They also shared

strategies in one of their major assignments which was to re-activate Circles who have stopped meeting due to various reasons, as well as starting a new Circle. Other discussions were on future plans and forthcoming national events.

Venue was provided by Alternate Regional Representative Sis. Juliet Cruz in Tagaytay which had ample space for the 20 plus participants. Meanwhile the teambuilding activities were conducted by Regional Correspondent and Events Head, Sis. Edna May Landicho.

Among the games which elicited lots of laughter was the Lava Walk, where the participants had to step on a carton-tile and with a spare one, and move toward a goal together. This activity was an exercise in teamwork, unity and strategic planning.

The same held true for the Caterpillar walk where balloons in between the members had to stay in place while the group went around a relay point ensuring that none of the balloons would fall nor burst. This exercise, including the “Longest Line,” aimed at ensuring effective communication, improving focus on the goal while being sensitive to each one in the team, and commitment to task. Other activities were less physical like identifying biblical quotes and identifying who said these as well as the “Pinoy Henyo” guessing game. Traditional sungka tournament and mahjong were also played by those who missed these table games, when gadgets and internets were unheard of.

As is common in DMII activities, praying the rosary, laughter, impromptu Zumba sessions and picture taking were dominant activities too, along with enjoying shared meals. At the end of the

2-day event, the hard-working DRs and VRs went home feeling recharged and ready to move the missions forward with enthusiasm and dedication.



Region V officers flash their smiles



Participants in We Woke Up Like This look



Caterpillar Walk

From the Diocese of Antipolo – Region V

Diocese of Antipolo Sponsors Seminar on DMIs' Response to the Culture of Waste

*By Sis. Cora T. Afuang,
Past Pro-Life and APFV International Chairperson*

It was a very productive morning last August 30 for the 78 DMI members of the Diocese of Antipolo who trooped to the Barangay Hall of Concepcion Dos to listen to a very vital topic which is important to everyone – waste management. The DMIs came from 10 circles of the Diocese. The activity was graced by the presence of the Regional Representative of Region 5, Sis. Lorie Manalansan. In addition, the Barangay Captain of Concepcion Dos (also a DMI) – Kapitana Jane Zubiri was present to welcome the sisters. Overjoyed at the presence of so many sisters, she happily donated P5,000 to be raffled off later on but eventually given to the Circles to fund future projects

The speaker (also a DMI member) was Sis. Gloria Buenaventura, a retired chief of the City Environment and Management Office (CEMO) of Marikina City. She titled her talk “DMIs' Response to the Culture of Waste”. She cited the reasons why DMIs should get involved in waste management namely:

1. Pope Francis is calling for it
2. The Bible particularly calls for it
3. The DMI red book mentions it specifically in the Prolife mission.

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According to the speaker, per the Vatican Synod of Bishops, we commit ecological sin if we do acts and habits of pollution and destruction of the harmony of the environment. Further, she mentioned that people generate too much waste due to the surge in consumerism as well as greed. Everyone is called to minimize waste at source, but the ideal situation is waste prevention or avoidance.

We should remember the Rs of waste management namely: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle/Compost, Respond/React and Reject. To effectively practice the various Rs, waste segregation is necessary.

We should reduce and recycle wastes for the following reasons:

1. For economic reasons
2. For ecological reasons
3. To prolong the life of landfills
4. For a cleaner and safer environment
5. For good health



St. Paul of the Cross Circle attendees

The positive effects of waste management can be summarized in the 7Fs of Waste Management namely: Feed, Fertilizer, Fuel, Factory returnables, Fine Crafts. Filling Materials and Fermentables.

In conclusion, she asked the DMIs to act as influencers in their homes, community and organizations by :

1. Avoiding the creation of wastes
2. If creation is unavoidable, reduce the amount generated
3. Reuse
4. Recycle
5. Refuse or reject
6. Impose policies in the organization to sustain environmental initiatives
7. Review and revisit programs and conduct of events that may not be environment friendly.

Kudos to Diocesan Regent Sis. Alma Luces and Diocesan Prolife Chairperson Sis. Susan Ong for organizing this very informative seminar.



Token of appreciation is presented to environmental expert Sis. Gloria Buenaventura by Region V RR Lorie Manalansan

From the Diocese of Imus – Region V

DIOCESE OF IMUS HOLDS SMI PALARONG PINOY

*By Sis. Beth E. Sangalang, Regent,
Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle*

Last July 17, 2024, the SMIs of Imus held a diocesan-wide sportsfest that was different from the usual sports competitions. It was a sportsfest of Filipino childhood games such as the Patintero, Hulahoop, Jackstone, Pick-up Sticks, Chinese Garter, and Banana Relay. This unique sportsfest after the pandemic was held at Orientville Subdivision in Molino 1, City of Bacoor and was participated in by five different circlettes in the diocese. They

held a short but colorful parade around the subdivision which was followed by a Cheering Competition. Rev. Fr. Geoffrey Zacarias, DMII Diocesan Spiritual Director, was present to bless the activity and gave the inspirational talk before the activity started.

The organizing Tita DMIs were successful in taking the kids' attention from their gadgets and in encouraging them to join the

outdoor activities. It made them realize that there is fun and life outside of the internet and that it is a way to help them improve their health. There was success in fulfilling the main objective of this sportsfest to develop the value on sportsmanship and camaraderie among the fellow Squirettes in the diocese.

All who joined this activity are considered Winners because they all gave their best and extended warm friendship among other Circlettes. Congratulations to the organizers and the participants.



Winners all in their sportsmanship and camaraderie

From the Diocese of Paranaque – Region V

RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE SPONSORS “EMPOWERING THE RETIREES” SYMPOSIUM

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



Emiliano Manahan, Jr., resource speaker

The Risen Christ Circle sponsored a Pro-Life symposium on “Empowering the Retirees” last April 24, 2024 at the Holy Eucharist Parish in Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City.

Mr. Emiliano Manahan, Jr., an advocate, author, consultant and vlogger was the resource speaker. Mr. Manahan has a 40-year experience as a Human Resources practitioner both in private

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companies and government agencies who is now retired. He said that retiring with a purpose and direction can be rewarding as it gives meaning and joy even after an active career life. He also updated the participants on the latest legislation and pending bills on Senior Citizens. He is a member of the Couples for Christ, St. Thomas More Ministry.



Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Helen Balmores welcomes symposium participants.

The symposium participants



Risen Christ Circle Spreads Joy, Hope and Love to an Orphanage

The Risen Christ Circle ProLife Committee visited the abandoned children in the Little Mary's Home, Inc. located on Washington Street, Merville Subdivision, Parañaque City last July 6, 2024. Several children of various ages are given temporary shelter and residential care in this non-stock, non-profit child caring agency headed by Sister Grace.

The Orphanage takes care of the wellness, education, value formation and support of these abandoned, neglected and surrendered children. To provide a stable and loving home for the orphaned children, assistance is appreciated.

The DMI Sisters, to make the children happy and hopeful, provided them with a program where games were joyfully played, giving opportunity for the children to show their talents. Prizes were generously awarded. The group donated some of their basic needs as well, like grocery goods, rice, vitamins, and their lunch.

Even with the limited stay with the children, the DMIs felt happy, light-hearted, hopeful and looking forward to another visit. It

is the wish of the ProLife group to visit the orphaned children more often to give them the love, care and comfort which they missed during their early years. - *By Sis. Helen Balmores*



Members of Risen Christ Circle's Pro-Life Committee with Sis. Grace and the children of Little Mary's Home.

Mother of Divine Grace Circle: Giving of groceries and food for *trysikad* drivers/flood victims

*By Sis. Jessie Abagat
Vicarial Regent, Diocese of Kalookan*

The Mother of Divine Grace Circle (Diocese of Kalookan) in Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Tugatog, Malabon City, led by Circle Regent Sis. Tess Ocampo, distributed bags of groceries and at the same time provided breakfast for *trysikad* drivers who are also flood victims of Bagyong Carina.



Recipients were trysikad drivers

This happened last August 3, 2024 in front of the parish church. The drivers were also advised to attend the mass first. The groceries and the food were sponsored by DMII member Sis. Avelina Gan who celebrates her 60th birthday this month. The activity was also followed by the First Saturday Rosary Devotion in the afternoon.



DMIs in front of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Malabon



SMI DIOCESAN SPORTSFEST HELD

The Diocese of San Pablo held the 6th SMI Sportsfest last August 25 at the Jose Rizal Coliseum in Calamba City.

The main theme of the Sportsfest was “Alay kay Maria Buhay Kristiyano sa Laro ay Sama-Sama. Pagtutulungan at Pagkakaisa sa Liwanag ng Pananampalataya ay Madarama”. The Squirettes of Mary numbering some 50 were led by SMI President Sq. Mara Ella Tayag. Featured were Pinoy traditional games such as tug of war, patintero, Limbo rock and Mary went to market.

Before the games began, the enthronement and consecration of Mama Mary's image and a Eucharistic celebration took place.

These were followed by an inter-circlette dance competition.

The search for Ms. SMI Sportsfest showcased the talents of the candidates in their Filipiniana attire.

The event was able to promote teamwork and cooperation among the participants aimed at building stronger relationships, mutual support and the true essence of sportsmanship. Gracing the event were Region VI Representative Sis. Norma Eusebio, Diocesan Regent Sis. Chodee Amoranto and past National Officers of Region VI Sisters Illuminada Lagunda, Elvie Arambulo and Isabel Ticzon.



The sportsfest participants



The Region VI past and present officers with Ms. SMI Sportsfest 2024

REGION VI CONTINUES TO PURSUE UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS MISSION

St. Paul the First Hermit Circle. On July 1, 2024, the St. Paul the First Hermit Circle led by Regent Sis. Allyn Azucena joined the Rotary Club of San Pablo City South in the latter's kick-off project "Handog Kalinga Para sa mga Lola" (displaced lolas) at Nazareth Bahay Pag-ibig in San Pablo City. A tie-up Project with the Rotary Club of Alaminos Downtown and the Rotary Club of Silangang San Pablo, the project benefitted 21 lolas who were provided healthy meals, free hair trim and gift packages containing dusters, blanket, towels, toiletries and hygiene kits.

Theresian Circle. Led by Regent Sis. Dalisay Maligalig, the circle facilitated a seminar and demonstration on container gardening in Bgy, Tuntungin-Putho in Los Banos, Laguna last

August 13, 2024. The participants were mostly mothers of identified malnourished children. Project partner was the Agricultural Training Institute (ATI Calabarzon) led by Dr. Rolando Maningas, center director, with his team Ms. Vira Elyssa Jamolin, training specialist III, Engr. John Mendoza, training specialist I, and Ms. Kathryn Paladin, technical staff.

Entitled "AGRI NANAY: Nurturing Families through Container Garden", the project aims to make vegetables and other crops readily available for the family table for free. The participants went through the whole process - establishing a container, seedlings preparation, etc. They will be given starter kits for their container gardens at home.



The trainers from ATI-Calabarzon with the seminar participants



The lolas and sisters of the St. Paul the First Hermit Circle in a group photo

MOTHER OF LIFE CIRCLE UNDERTAKES PROJECT FOR THREE MISSION THRUSTS

*By Sis. Liza Arpon, Regent,
Mother of Life Circle*

The Mother of Life Circle held an Anti-Pneumonia Vaccination project at Bgy. Batong Malake Covered Court in Los Banos, Laguna in collaboration with Provincial Governor Ramil Hernandez and District 2 Representative Ruth Hernandez.

Spearheaded by Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Nelia de Castro and Regent Sis. Liza Arpon, the project had the members of church organizations in San Antonio de Padua Parish and their families as beneficiaries. Initially meant for fifty senior citizens, the vaccination was administered to 300 individuals including non-seniors.

During the activity, the Morality in Media Committee headed by Sis. Nene de Leon distributed 300 rosaries and prayer leaflets while the Youth Welfare/SMI Committee headed by Lady Counselor Sis Nene Amar and the Squirettes assisted their Tita DMIs in their tasks during the activity.

The SMLs headed by their Diocesan President Sq. Lorie San

Juan held a fund-raising drive selling cookies during the event.

Sis. Mercy Baradas, chairperson of the circle's Membership Committee also took the opportunity to recruit prospective members of the circle.



The beneficiaries of the Anti-Pneumonia Vaccination await their turn while Squirettes stand ready to assist their Tita DMIs.

OUTREACH PROGRAM: KITA SIMBAHAN, KITA KAIBAHAN

By Sq. Hannah Macariola,
Our Lady of Lourdes – Makato SMI Circlette

The Our Lady of Lourdes Circle and Circlette of the Diocese of Kalibo, Parish of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, conducted an Outreach Program (For Prolife Mission and Community Service) with the Theme: "Kita Simbahan, Kita Kaibahan" at Sitio Dawog, Barangay Calimbajan, Municipality of Makato in the Province of Aklan on July 8, 2024. The event started with a Eucharistic

Celebration by the OLLC SMI Spiritual Director, Rev. Fr. Peter Kim I. dela Cruz, followed by the distribution of charity packs of groceries, hygiene kits, rice, slightly used clothes, dishwashing liquid made by DMI sisters (Upliftment of Women Workers) and a Prayer Card of Oratio Imperata in Time of Grave Tension in the West Philippine Sea (Morality in Media).



The DMIs and SMIs in the outreach program



2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION BY THE OUR LADY OF LOURDES DMI CIRCLE AND SMI CIRCLETTE



The DMIs and SMIs of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle and Circlette get together every first Saturday of the month to pray the 2000 Hail Marys before the grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at the Parish of the Most Holy Name of Jesus in Makato, Aklan. – Sq. Hannah Macariola

NEWS UPDATES FROM THE OUR LADY OF CANDLES CIRCLE

Our Lady of Candles Circle Paralegal Training Held. The archdiocesan Volunteers on Prison Pastoral Care. Archdiocese of Jaro, conducted Paralegal Training for core group members last March 5, 2024. Three speakers were from the BJMP Regional Office and the main facilitators were from the Commission on Human Rights. One of the speakers was Sis. Emma Victoria, past Region IX Representative.

Assistance Extended to Fire Victims. The circle's Pro-Life Committee donated assorted items at Mandurriao Elementary School which served as evacuation center for the victims of a fire last March 5, 2024. The fire occurred at Zone 1, Bgy. Airport in Mandurriao, Iloilo City. Thirty-six houses were totally damaged with 14 partially damaged. There was no reported casualty.



From the Diocese of Tandas – Region XII

LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION CIRCLE SPONSORS MEDIA SEMINAR FOR PARISH YOUTH APOSTOLATE

*By Sis. Leonora Cruz Cotares,
Diocesan Regent*

The Youth Camp of the Parish Youth Apostolate in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur was the venue of a media seminar that echoed the very successful DMI national webinar sponsored by the Morality in Media Committee, “Catholics in the World of Media” last April 20, 2024 with Fr. Richard Lagos as resource speaker.

Sis Jeanette Y. Palang-Zayas, a Mass Com graduate of the University of Sto. Tomas handled the seminar held last July 13, 2024 attended by 70 participants,

The Youth Camp was held at the Divine Mercy Chapel in Palasao, Cantilan. The circle provided lunch for the participants. The circle's Morality in Media Committee is headed by Sisters Isabel Luchi Orozco and Ma. Victoria Blando. Sis. Delia Quezon is the circle regent.



The seminar participants with the La Purisima Concepcion circle members.

38TH DIOCESAN CONVENTION HELD BY DIOCESE OF DIPOLOG

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

The Zamboanga del Norte Cultural and Sports Center in Estaka, Dipolog City was the venue of the 38th Convention of the Diocese of Dipolog last June 29, 2024.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Thalma Soronda led the opening ceremonies with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Parade of Circles by circle regents represented the twelve circles attending the convention numbering some 200 participants. A Living Rosary ended the first part of the day's program.

Region XIV Representative and IVR Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra and MIM Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Marilyn de Asis addressed the delegates followed by a Eucharistic celebration presided by Msgr Isagani Josel, V.G. and Msgr. Dionilo Andog, V.F.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Thalma Soronda presided the diocesan business meeting after lunch followed by a fellowship program featuring a Search for Ms. DMI Queen 2024 won by the candidate from Sibutad circle. Runners-up were Ms. Humility from Sicayab Circle, first runner-up, Ms. Unity from Tampilisan Circle, 2nd runner-up, Ms. Charity from Labason Circle, 3rd runner-up, Ms. Friendship from Dipolog Circle. 4th runner-up and Ms. Sanctity from Dapitan Circle, 5th runner-up.



The enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The awarding of prizes and certificates to the winners and convention guest speakers ended the day's program.



The Eucharistic celebration



Awarding of tokens of appreciation to convention guest speakers

CELEBRATING WOMEN BREAKING BARRIERS AND ACHIEVING GOALS: A TESTAMENT TO EMPOWERMENT

*By Sis. Jeannylynne Urbina-Torres
St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle
(Bagac, Bataan)*

In a world where gender equality remains an ongoing battle, celebrating the successes of women breaking barriers and achieving their goals is not just a necessity but a cause for jubilation. Recently, an event organized by the Mission on the Upliftment of Women Workers showcased the indomitable spirit of women from various regions, coming together to honor these triumphs and inspire further empowerment.

The program commenced with a moment of reverence led by Sis. Apolonia A. Mislang, the Area Coordinator of Luzon, as attendees bowed their heads for the DMII Prayer. This spiritual beginning set the stage for a gathering filled with a sense of purpose and unity.

As the strains of the National Anthem echoed through the venue, the room swelled with pride, reinforcing the significance of collective identity. Following this, Sis. Leny Basilan, Area Coordinator of Visayas, led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, a symbolic reaffirmation of loyalty and dedication to the nation.

The atmosphere was further charged with emotion as the attendees joined in singing the DMII Hymn, led by a stirring AVP presentation. The hymn served as a reminder of the shared values and aspirations driving the community toward progress and empowerment.

Sis. Teresita D. Labilles, Past Regional Representative and International Mission Chairperson dedicated to the upliftment of women workers, then delivered a warm welcome, setting the tone for the event. Her words resonated with hope and determination, emphasizing the importance of supporting and empowering women in their journey towards success.

The inspirational message delivered by Sis. Annie O. Ty, International Regent, stirred hearts and ignited passions. Her message of resilience and perseverance resonated deeply, inspiring every woman present to strive for greatness despite the odds.

The introduction of the esteemed guest speakers, facilitated by Sis. Marilyn P. San Diego, RR of Region IV, marked a pivotal moment in the program. Dr. Ma. Gina L. Pateña, Vice President of the Philippine Federation for Local Councils of Women, and Atty. Jett D. Labilles, each shared their insights and experiences, showcasing the diverse paths to success and the importance of breaking down barriers.

Dr. Ma. Gina L. Pateña, Vice President of the Philippine Federation for Local Councils of Women, passionately delved into the discourse surrounding the rights of women during her address. With unwavering conviction and expertise, Dr. Pateña illuminated the fundamental importance of recognizing and upholding the rights of women in society. Drawing from her extensive experience and research, she eloquently articulated the various dimensions of women's rights, emphasizing the need for equal access to opportunities, education, healthcare, and decision-making processes. Dr. Pateña's impassioned advocacy served as a rallying call for gender equality, urging all stakeholders to actively contribute to the advancement of women's rights and the creation of a more inclusive and equitable world. Her words resonated deeply with participants, igniting a renewed sense of commitment to championing the rights and dignity of every woman.

Amidst the celebration of achievements, Sis. Teresita D. Labilles returned to the stage to recognize and honor individuals with the Awarding of Certificates of Appreciation. Their contributions to the upliftment of women workers served as a beacon of hope for future generations, illustrating the power of collective action in effecting positive change.

The program then transitioned into a lively Q&A session moderated by Sis. Catherine H. Francisco, District Chairman of Region IV. The exchange of ideas and perspectives highlighted the importance of collaboration and solidarity in overcoming challenges.

During the Q&A session, Atty. Jett D. Labilles gracefully fielded inquiries from participants regarding the rights of women in society. With expertise and empathy, Atty. Labilles addressed each query with precision and clarity, delving into the legal intricacies surrounding women's rights. From discussions on gender equality in the workplace to issues of reproductive health and domestic violence, Atty. Labilles navigated the complexities with finesse, offering valuable insights and empowering participants with knowledge. His responses not only shed light on existing laws and protections but also ignited a deeper conversation on the systemic changes needed to ensure the full realization of women's rights in society. Through his expertise and advocacy, Atty. Labilles exemplified the importance of legal representation in championing gender equality and fostering a more just and equitable society for all.

As the event drew to a close, Sis. Luz Binoya, Area Coordinator of Mindanao, delivered her Closing Remarks, expressing gratitude and admiration for the collective efforts

toward empowerment. Her words served as a poignant reminder of the impact that can be achieved when women unite to pursue common goals.

Finally, Sis. Aida Y. Dela Cruz, PRR of Region IV, led the attendees in a Closing Prayer, invoking blessings for continued strength and resilience in the journey ahead. Her words of wisdom and guidance provided solace and inspiration, reinforcing the importance of faith and perseverance in the face of adversity.

The celebration of women breaking barriers and achieving

goals is not merely an event but a testament to the indomitable spirit of resilience, determination, and empowerment. As we reflect on the strides made and the challenges that lie ahead, let us draw inspiration from the stories shared and recommit ourselves to building a more equitable and inclusive society for all.

In conclusion, the event served as a powerful evidence to the resilience, strength, and determination of women in overcoming barriers and achieving their goals. As we reflect on the successes celebrated and the challenges ahead, let us be inspired to continue the fight for gender equality and empower women to reach greater heights of success and fulfillment.



Inspirational Message



Online participants



HUMILITY

*By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia,
Alternate Region IV Representative*

(Editor's Note: This article is the second in a series on DMII Values)

Many things can be said about a humble person. But one trait of humble people that is perhaps underrated is a healthy sense of humor, especially one that can make fun of themselves.

One favorite story about Queen Elizabeth was the time she was walking outside Balmoral Castle in Scotland. It is a well-known fact that the Queen stayed there during the summer months and would often take a walk along the village road. In one of these walks, two American tourists passed by, and obviously not recognizing the Queen asked: Do you live nearby? The Queen answered: Oh yes. I stay here during the summer months. In fact I have been doing that since I was two years old. The tourist then asked her: Do you get to see the Queen? She answered: Well I don't usually see her, but this guy, referring to her assistant, he regularly sees her. The two even had a groupie with the Queen.

Can you imagine what their relatives must have told them when they returned to the States once they showed them the

picture?

The Queen, although she had been ruling for seventy years did not take it against the tourists that they did not recognize her. It says a lot about the worldwide famous person that she was. She did not only have a good sense of humor. She did not demand that people recognize nor pay her homage. She knew herself and her appraisal of who she was did not depend on what other people think of her. One is humble if he or she has a healthy self-esteem and does not need other people's recognition to be himself or herself.

In our daily interactions with our colleagues at work, or our companions in the ministry, do we encounter people like the Queen who don't mind if they are not given the attention that they deserve? Many times we compliment them by saying that they are low maintenance people. Magaan na kasama. Hindi mabigat dalhin at pakisamahan. Walang kyeme kyeme.

Humble people do not demand attention to themselves nor do they demand special treatment. Nor do they ask to

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Humility... from page 27

be first in the billing, as we say. They do not call attention to themselves. Hindi kulang sa pansin. Humble people are happy with who they are, they do not need other people's affirmation to be happy. They can attend to their needs; they even put other people first.

They know their place. They will not claim any privilege which does not belong to them nor would they underrate themselves and allow others to trample on them. They know what they're worth and are contented to be who they are.

I have a friend who I respect a lot. She was one of my supervisors when I was a newbie in the profession, but we later became friends. When I was barely starting, she did not ask me questions in public which I was ignorant about. She was ahead of me on many areas but she never made me feel inferior because of my lack of expertise. For her it is a normal part of growing up in the workplace to start from ground zero. On several occasions, I felt her changing the topic of the conversation if the others were trying to pry over my financial status or my travel experiences or family background.

Much later, when I was able to be more professionally equipped and financially stable, I looked back to her supportive role in my life with gratitude. And I hope I am able to do the same for others as she did to me. She exuded humility to me and how I wish I were but a fraction of who she was to me.

How does one get initiated into the art of being humble? I would not know how to answer this question. This is too broad a topic and too many layered. I only know when I meet anybody if she is humble or not. I get inspired by her presence. I feel I want to learn from her. I do not feel insecure or inadequate before her. I feel the urge to become better, even to be like her. And I just

feel I get uncomfortable when I am with someone who is not. I feel I want to get out of the radius of where she is. And I don't want to be like her.

Perhaps it is not bad to be uncomfortable in the presence of people deprived of humility. For even Jesus told us to be humble.

Let me quote Jesus' words from where I pick up His humble stance as a humble Teacher:

I came to serve and not to be served. (Mark 10:21)

If anybody invites you to a banquet, do not take the first seats, let somebody of more important position be invited. (Lk 14: 18-19)

Those who exalt themselves shall be humbled. And those who humble themselves will be exalted. (Lk 14:11)

So even Jesus wants us not to regard ourselves as greater than others, but to know our rightful place. I will consider it the best gift from God if our friends could tell us to stop for a while once we start showing signs of being arrogant. I wish our friends can call our attention if we are becoming boastful and are acting like divas.

Is there anyone who can help us in our human development programs to assess ourselves if we are getting difficult to be with? Is there a program that groups can enter that trains the members for humility? I never hear of a humility guru.

Let us pray for this gift. And let us pray that we can have true friends who can call our attention if we are already treading into dangerous grounds.

Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like Yours.



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