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Luzon, Visayas Area Conferences Major DMII Q4 Events

LUZON AREA CONFERENCE

*By Sisters Ivylou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent
and Rosa Ann Elca*



a group picture of delegates with Fr. Jerome and the DMII Board

The Luzon Area Conference was held at the events place of Enchanted Kingdom in Sta. Rosa City, Laguna on Nov. 9-10, 2024 hosted by the Diocese of San Pablo. Initially scheduled on October 26-27, 2024, the event was postponed to a later date due to Typhoon Kristine.

The conference participants, numbering some 820 DMII sisters came from the different regions of Luzon – Regions I to VIII. The conference theme was “DMII: A Synodal Community with Mama Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”.

The conference officially started at 2:00 p.m. with the traditional parts of the DMII opening ceremony, from the enthronement and consecration of the image

turn to page 4

VISAYAS AREA CONFERENCE

*By Sis. Conchita P. Niere,
Diocesan Regent
Archdiocese of Cebu*



Former CJ Hilario Davide, Jr. receiving a token of appreciation

The Samosa International Hotel on F. Cabahug St. in Cebu City was the venue of the Visayas Area Conference last November 16, 2024. The conference was hosted by the Archdiocese of Cebu headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Conchita P. Niere, past IVR for Visayas and Region X Representative.

Participating in the conference were 420 delegates from circles in Regions IX, X and XI. A concelebrated Mass by DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, Cebu Diocesan Spiritual Director Fr. Marvin Mejia, Fr. Agerio Pana from Bohol and Fr. Pio Manzano from Holy Angels in Mindanao followed the conference opening ceremonies that began with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother and included the Parade of Circles.

turn to page 6

A Blessed and Joyful Christmas Season to All !!!

DMII: PILGRIMS OF HOPE IN THE JUBILEE YEAR



DMI Sisters,

We celebrate the Jubilee Year and gather as pilgrims of hope. We are a united team, inspired by resilience and determination. Despite life's challenges, we have survived and thrived.

This Jubilee Year, we become beacons of hope for others. Let us channel our resources, talents and compassion to uplift those around us.

Let us reflect on our purpose. We are not merely passengers; we are treasures, inspiring others through our journeys. Our stories, our struggles and our triumphs are testimonies of hope.


Let us offer listening ears and helping hands, share our blessings, big or small, embody kindness, empathy and understanding.

In this Jubilee Year, let us spread hope. May our collective efforts create ripples of compassion, transforming lives and communities.

Together, let us shine as sources of inspiration, guiding others through life's darkness. May hope forever illuminate our path.

Thank you.

Sincerely in our Lord,


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

"DMII: COMMITTED TO AUTHENTIC DISCIPLESHIP AND TRANSFORMATIVE MISSION OF THE CHURCH"



Dear Sisters in Christ,

As the year draws to a close, we reflect with gratitude on the many blessings and shared experiences that have marked our journey as the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International (DMII) in 2024. Our theme this year, *"DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity,"* has guided us to deepen our commitment to embodying the spirit of communion, participation, and mission.

The call to be a synodal community resonates deeply with our Marian identity. Just as Mary responded with unwavering faith to her mission, we are reminded to journey together, listening to one another, discerning the Spirit's guidance, and acting with integrity and compassion. Inspired by her example, we have worked collectively to bring Christ's love to the peripheries—whether through charitable outreach, spiritual formation, or advocacy for justice and peace.

This year, we have witnessed the power of collaboration as we embraced the spirit of synodality in the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International. By walking together in faith and service, we have strengthened our bonds as a community while reaching out to those in need. Our initiatives, rooted in integrity, have been a testament to our commitment to authentic discipleship and the transformative mission of the Church.

As we look ahead to 2025, let us carry forward the inspiration and lessons of this year. May we continue to grow as a synodal community, united with Mary in our shared mission, and empowered to inspire others with our integrity and unwavering faith.

With heartfelt gratitude for your dedication and prayers, I wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with hope and grace.

In Marys loving guidance,


SIS. ANNIE O. TY

International Regent

Luzon Area Conference... from page 1

of the Blessed Virgin Mary up to the Parade of Circles. A welcome performance by the Enchanted Kingdom Dance Artists followed.

DMII Region VI Spiritual Director Msgr. Mario Castillo was presider at the Eucharistic celebration before the program proper.

The first conference speaker was Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. who was introduced by Past International Treasurer and Region VI RR Sis.



IR Sis. Annnie Ty and Region VI RR Sis. Norma Eusebio with the Blessed Mother's carroza during the enthronement processional.

Illuminada Lagunda. His topic was the Divorce Bill being proposed by Congress.

CJ Davide started his talk with the aspect of synodality and the missionary meaning of the DMII. He then discussed H.B. No. 9349 entitled "An Act Instituting Absolute Divorce" authored by Congressman Edcel Lagman, Sr. of Albay and how it nullifies the sacredness of marriage. He stated that divorce defies the Divine Law as stated in the Scriptures. It also violates the Constitution that states that marriage is an inviolable social institution and foundation of the family (Sec. 2, Art. 15 of the Family Code).

He added that cases of violence and separation for whatever reason are isolated cases and asked, "Why should we sacrifice the majority of marriages for the benefit of just a few?" The situation, he said, could be prevented by a careful preparation for marriage – physical, emotional, spiritual, etc. If we allow divorce, the path will be opened for married couples to part ways very easily.

Another intermission number was performed

PARADE OF CIRCLES



Region I



Region II



Region III



Region IV



Officers of Region V with the biggest delegation



Region VI



Region VII



Region VIII

by the Enchanted Kingdom Dance Artists before the video'ed welcome remarks by IVR-Luzon Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya who was not able to come because of a personal emergency.

In her inspirational message, International Regent Sis. Annie Ty said that synodality, in the course of walking and working together, makes the DMII as an organization and its members, stronger both as individuals and part of the community united by our faith and love for the Church through listening, dialogue and action.

Dr. Cynthia Mamon, chief operating officer of Enchanted Kingdom thanked the DMII for choosing their events place as conference venue and gave all the delegates free passes to AGILA , one of the amusement park's senior-friendly attractions.

The conference continued with a presentation by Sis. Gloria Buenaventura, an expert on environment protection and waste minimization, on "Response to the Culture of Waste Avoidance and Minimization". She declared that as Christians, quoting Pope Francis, we must have a serious commitment to respect and protect all creation, and that ecological sin, as defined by the

Vatican Synod of Bishops, is an action or omission against God and a sin against the future generation. "Segregating our waste and learning how to recycle can help a long way," she said. The two main reasons why so much waste is generated are consumerism and greed.

Dinner was served after the afternoon session and the delegates got ready for the Fellowship Night with the theme "Enchanting Night with the DMI's". The delegates started arriving at the venue dressed as princesses and queens and other Disney characters. The opening prayer was followed by a parade of the Enchanted Kingdom Circle of Friends.

Laguna Vice-Governor Atty Karen Agapay, who served as a member of the board of judges for the contest on regional dance presentations, gave her message of support as a DMI sister of Region VI, and made a personal donation of P20,000 as additional fund for the cash prizes. Five regions joined the contest. The grand prize of P15,000 was won by Region IV, 2nd prize of P10,000 by Region III, 3rd prize of P7,000 by Region VII and consolation prizes of P5,000 each by Regions II and V.

turn to page 6



Eucharistic celebration presided by Msgr. Mario Castillo



Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr., guest speaker



IR Sis. Annie Ty's inspirational message



Sis. Gloria Buenaventura (2nd from left) receives a token gift from (from left) Sisters Norma Eusebio, Annie Ty, Lorie Manalansan and Past IR Mila Villanueva.



Laguna Vice-Governor Atty. Karen Agapay

Luzon Area Conference... from page 5

The search for Star of the Night had ten contestants by the organizers from the Enchanted Kingdom. Sis. W. Salbabida dressed as Cinderella won the Star of the Night award.

The rest of the night had the DMIs listening and dancing to the music of a live band courtesy of Sta. Rosa Mayor Arlene Arcillas.

Day 2 of the conference started with another Eucharistic celebration by Msgr. Mario Castillo followed by a video message by past IR Sis. Ruby Macario who cited some of the challenges on synodality such as cultural resistance, generational gaps, the role of women in the Church, global perspective and embracing these challenges. She also emphasized the importance of walking together, listening, discerning

and decision-making and reminded the sisters to be instruments of service.

Ms. Mary Grace Dimacali, chief executive officer of Mary Grace Café, the last conference speaker, gave a testimony on her faith and devotion to the Blessed Mother and how the grace of God moved in their lives and to be a blessing to the more than 3,000 individuals employed in her company.

Parts of the morning program were an intermission number and games and Zumba as energizers. Conference Chairperson Sis. Norma Eusebio gave her closing remarks and the conference was brought to a close with the retirement of colors and the recessional.

Packed snacks and lunches were distributed to the delegates as they bade good-bye promising to see each other again during the forthcoming 23rd Biennial Convention in Baguio City in August, 2025.



Star of the Night contestants



Region IV, grand prize winner in the regional dance competition



Sis. Mary Grace Dimacali with IR Sis. Annie

Visayas Area Conference... from page 1

Following the welcome remarks of Conference host Sis. Conchita Niere was the talk of Fr. Mejia on the topic “Living a Life of Prayer” in preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year’s theme “Pilgrims of Hope”. He was introduced by Past International Regent Sis. Amelia Veloso.

Mayor Teresa P. Alegado of Consolacion, Cebu, a past regent of San Narciso Circle, talked on Upliftment of Women Workers and discussed how the local government can give support to the mission’s projects and activities through livelihood programs, financial assistance and other means to assist women in the community. Past International Regent Sis. Pureza Guzman introduced Sis. Teresa.

The afternoon session opened with a discussion

by Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. on the Divorce Bill filed by Congressman Edcel Lagman, Sr. of Albay in Congress. He pointed out why divorce is against the Divine Law and violates our Constitution and the Family Code.

Sis. Virginia “Gege” Davide, wife of former Chief Justice Davide, spoke on Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims (APFV). Sis. Eve Bolarde, APFV coordinator for Visayas, introduced Sis. Gege who moved to Cebu after the retirement of her husband from the Supreme Court. She used to be an active DMI in the Diocese of Cubao.

In her inspirational message, International Regent Sis. Annie Ty underscored the importance of



Fr. Jerome Cruz carries the image of the Blessed Mother during the enthronement and consecration ceremony.



Fr. Jerome with fellow priests after the concelebrated Mass with guests from the DMII International Board.



Fr. Jerome and IR Sis. Annie Ty present a token of appreciation to former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr., guest speaker.



Fr. Marvin Mejia receives a token of appreciation from Fr. Jerome Cruz and Sisters Annie Ty and Chit Niere after his talk "Living a Life of Prayer".



Guest speaker Fr. Agerio Pana is awarded a token of appreciation after his talk on Morality in Media.



Tokens of appreciation were also awarded to Sis. Virginia Davide for her talk on Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims ...



... and to Sis. Teresa Alegado on Upliftment of Women Workers.

being a good DMI. She also showed the present DMII organizational structure as well as the officers and members of the DMII International Board.

For Morality in Media, the speaker was Fr. Agerio Pana. With his characteristic humor, he captured the attention of his audience and their laughter filled the hall from the start of his talk to its end. Sis. Isidrita Lim, alternate Region X Representative and regent of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, introduced Fr. Pana.

A much-awaited part of the conference was the Fellowship Night when the delegates re-assembled at the venue dressed in colorful Hawaiian costumes replete with floral coronets on their head and leis around their neck. A contest for the best modern Hawaiian dance

presentation was the night's main feature. The Diocese of Bacolod (Region IX) won first place with the Virgin Most Powerful Circle and Tower of Ivory Circle of the Archdiocese of Palo winning second and third place, respectively

Concluding the day-long conference was the closing remarks by Region IX Representative Sis. Rosalinda Desales. Emcees of the program were Sisters Nenita Divinagracia and Evangeline Quinanola.

At conference end, the delegates thanked the conference host, DR Sis. Chit Niere and the Archdiocese of Cebu DMIs for a very well-managed and enjoyable Visayas Area Conference.



Past and present members of the DMII International Board from the Visayas with Sis. Annie and Fr. Jerome, from left: Sisters Amy Veloso, Narcisa Pepito, Teresa Alegado, Pureza Guzman, Rosalinda Desales, Conchita Niere and Asuncion Naraga.



The conference delegates with Fr. Jerome and Sis. Annie.



Diocese of Bacolod, first place, Hawaiian dance contest



Virgin Most Powerful Circle, Archdiocese of Palo, 2nd place



Tower of Ivory Circle, Arch. of Palo, 3rd place

OUR MINDANAO SOJOURN

By Sis. Sally Estrada, Newsette Editor

For a change, the DMII International Officers and Board held their 4th Quarter Board meeting and Christmas get-together in Mindanao last November 25 to 27, 2024. This change of venue came after a number of years holding the activity in Manila.

It was a truly exhilarating experience for those who joined the trip. It was a synodal journey that brought

us to Cagayan de Oro City and Bukidnon. Those unforgettable three days were indeed a refreshing break from the concrete jungles we live in and coming back spiritually and physically renewed with bonds of friendship made even stronger by being really ‘up close and personal’.

The accompanying photos tell them all.



Touching down at the Laguindingan Airport in Cagayan de Oro City at sunrise on November 25.



Meeting up with the Mindanao sisters for breakfast at McDonald's.



Passing by the Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy in El Salvador, Misamis Oriental.



Lunch at the Del Monte Golf & Country Clubhouse in Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon.



The long but refreshing road trip to Malaybalay . . .



. . . with verdant mountains all around, clouds hovering near their top, a balm for tired bodies and spirits.



Reaching our destination, the Benedictine Monastery in a nature-laden corner of Malaybalay, the Church of Transfiguration in the background.



Lauds and Mass with the Benedictine monks at the Transfiguration Church.



Before the altar of the Transfiguration Church after the Mass.



Partaking of a simple but nourishing dinner prepared by the monastery's kitchen staff before the Board Meeting



Advent retreat on the morning of November 26 with Dom John Paul Manuel, OSB and Fr. Jerome Cruz as retreat masters; their talks centered on Synodality and Jubilee Year 2025 with the theme "Pilgrims of Hope".



At the museum exhibiting the intricately hand - embroidered vestments created by Dom Martin, once the well-known Manila couturier Gang Gomez patronized by well-heeled society matrons.



The DMII Board members meet and greet the Diocese of Malaybalay sisters headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Edith Joromat during the "Fabulous Christmas Party in Red" on the evening of Nov. 26.



Party host, Sis. Lota Gamboa, past alternate Region XII representative welcomes the guests.



The fun-filled exchange of gifts. Photo at right shows Sisters Lota, IR Annie and Edith holding their Christmas gifts.



Visiting the Cathedral of St. Augustine in CDO.



Lunch at a restaurant near the cathedral.



The last stop before the flight back to Manila, the Shrine Church of the Black Nazarene also in CDO.



REGION II ASSEMBLY HELD IN STO. TOMAS, LA UNION

*By Sis. Resurreccion Orendia,
Diocesan Regent, Diocese of San Fernando - La Union*

Close to four months of preparation paved the way for holding Region II's Regional Assembly last August 24, 2024 at LUMPC Marco's Dine-in and Events Center in Sto. Tomas, La Union.

Delegates from the dioceses comprising Region II joined the event headed by their diocesan regents – The Diocese of Urdaneta headed by DR Sis. Taciana Manongsong of Mater Admirabilis Circle, Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan headed by DR Sis. Luz Shiela Quinto of Queen of the Faithful Circle, Diocese of San Jose (NE) headed by Sis. Marivic Mendoza of St. James Circle, Diocese of Cabanatuan headed by DR Sis. Milagros Casares of Divina Pastora Circle, Prelature of Infanta headed by Sis. Mila Diasanta of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle and the Diocese of San Fernando (La

Union), the host diocese, headed by Sis. Resurreccion Orendia of St. Francis Circle.



The Parade of Colors

turn to page 12

Region II Assembly... from page 11



Talk on synodality by Bishop Daniel Presto



Inspirational message by International Regent Sis. Annie Ty

Guests from the DMII International Board headed by International Regent Sis. Annie Ty included International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya, Region II Representative Sis. Virginia Cabero, Sis. Evelyn Alcantara, International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI, Sis. Tess Labilles, International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Juliet Cruz, International Auditor for Membership and Sis. Josie Halog of the DMII Office.

The Assembly started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother followed by a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Most Rev. Daniel Presto, bishop of the Diocese of San Fernando (La Union) with Fr. Ronald Raymund Chan, parish priest of the Basilica Minore and Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in Agoo, La Union as concelebrant.

International Regent Sis. Annie Ty delivered her inspirational message after which reports were rendered for the DMII Missions: Sis. Merinnisa

Ligaya for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims on behalf of APFV International Chairperson Sis. Ma. Clotilde Tong, Sis. Lourdes Pelicano, Pro-Life coordinator for Luzon representing Chairperson Sis. Angie Baes, Sis. Tess Labilles, International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers with Sis. Apolonia Mislang, UWW Luzon Area Coordinator and Sis. Evelyn Alcantara, International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI with Sis. Monica Bularan, SMI Luzon Area Coordinator.

At day's end, Sis. Rexie Orendia thanked all those present for a successful regional assembly – Region II Representative Sis. Virginia Cabero and Alternate RR Sis. Agnes Laron for their guidance and support, the assembly guests as well as the delegates themselves whose active participation in the day's program made the event the success that it was.

Diocese of San Jose (NE) has been chosen as host of the next Region II Assembly.

Speakers on the DMI Missions



IVR Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya on Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims



Sis. Tess Labilles on Upliftment of Women Workers



Sis. Evelyn Alcantara on Youth Welfare/SMI



During the “lunchcom” with Bishop Daniel Presto. With him are Sisters Marilou Guerrero, past Diocesan Regent, and Rexie Orencia, present DR of the Diocese of San Fernando (La Union) and Alternate Region II Representative Sis. Agnes Laron



St. Francis Circle officers and members, assembly hosts



Dance intermission numbers



REGION XII ASSEMBLY IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY

*By Sis. Shirley Corvera,
Morality in Media International Chairperson,
Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Butuan
and Region XII Newsette Correspondent*

Four hundred fifty-five delegates from the five dioceses of Region XII- the Dioceses of Bukidnon, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Surigao del Norte and Tandag converged at the Grand Caprice Convention Center in Cagayan de Oro City last November 23, 2024 for their Regional Assembly.

The opening ceremony started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother followed by the traditional rites and the Parade of Circles.

Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada declared the formal opening of the assembly and warmly



The enthronement ceremony

turn to page 14

Region XII Assembly... from page 13

welcomed the delegates, presenting the Region's organizational structure and sharing the good news about the increase in membership and creation of new circles in the region.



Sis. Susan Honculada welcomes the assembly delegates.

International Regent Sis. Annie Ty, in her inspirational message spoke on the assembly theme “DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary, Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”. She underscored the importance of journeying together in the accomplishment of the organization's mission thrusts and becoming the light not only in their circle and the community but also to the world.

The next speakers reported on the DMII Missions. For Morality in Media (MIM), International Chairperson Sis. Shirley Corvera gave an update on the activities undertaken by circles in the 14 regions and presented a video on “Bayanihan to Bashing-an: Navigating Filipino Culture in the Digital Age” produced by the Broadcasting Society of LSPU – Sta. Cruz Campus that won the gold award in the 3rd EdukCircle Vlogging Competition. The vlog is about keeping our values and culture in the digital age where people can disagree without disrespect and share without shaming through empathy, respect for people's feelings and being kind. She also shared part of Fr. Richard Lagos' video on social media evangelization.

Disturbing images flashed on the screen showing victims of crime served as opener of the presentation of Sis. Luz Almeda, Mindanao Coordinator for Assistance to



Inspirational message by IR Sis. Annie Ty.

Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV). She pictured the plight of prisoners and their families and discussed the programs and activities done with emphasis on the importance of tapping the support of line agencies and socio-civic organizations to help in the implementation of the mission's projects.

SMI National President Sq. Elaisa Marie Honculada, in her talk on Youth Welfare/SMI alluded to the 2024 movie “Inside Out 2” which shows how the youth grew from the basic emotions to facing the biggest villain of every story – anxiety which drives them to go astray. This poses a challenge to the DMIs to provide them with spiritual guidance and moulding them in love and in prayer just like our Blessed Mother did. Selected Squirettes from the Diocese of Cagayan de Oro rendered an intermission dance number at the end her talk.

Pro-Life International Chairperson Sis. Angie Baes discussed the scope of the Pro-Life Mission and suggested possible projects and activities in the pursuance of the mission.

The afternoon session opened with the talk of the keynote speaker, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Dumadag,

SPEAKERS FOR THE DMI MISSIONS



Sis. Shirley Corvera, Sis. Luz Almeda, Sq. Elaisa Honculada, Sis. Angie Baes



Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Dumadag, keynote speaker



The Eucharistic celebration



Sis. Annie Ty passes on the light to Sis. Pinky Saavedra during the renewal of vows.



The Bollywood dancers of India – dance contest winners



The Star of the Night candidates are flanked by Sisters Annie Ty and Susan Honculada.

the spiritual director of the St. John Marie Vianney Theological Seminary in Cagayan de Oro City who expounded on synodality, particularly the dynamic movement in Mary's interior life – PRAY, LISTEN, ANALYZE, DIALOGUE AND DISCERN (PLADD). These are Mother Mary's inspiration in pastoral service that we, as her daughters, should adopt as we go about our mission activities.

A Eucharistic celebration followed with Archbishop Jose Araneta Cabantan, D.D. of the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro as main celebrant with Fr. Dumadag as concelebrant.

A renewal of commitment to the DMII and devotion to the Blessed Mother was a solemn and moving ceremony that came after the Mass during which IR Sis. Annie lighted her candle from a big candle on the altar of the Blessed Mother. The light of her candle was then passed on to IVR-Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra, then to Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada down to the diocesan regents, vicarial regents, circle regents and all DMI sisters present. Once all the candles were lit, they recited the renewal of vows together.

The afternoon session ended with the closing remarks of Region XII Alternate RR Sis. Elnora Abuel during which she thanked the working committees who worked hard to make the event a success followed by the recession.

A short break before Dinner and Fellowship gave the delegates the chance to put on their authentic costumes of countries assigned to their group. The night's theme was Crazy Rich Asians and the different dioceses were assigned an Asian country each – Bukidnon – China, Butuan – Japan, Cagayan de Oro – Korea, Surigao del Norte – India and Tandag – Thailand. It truly was a GLITZ AND GLAM NIGHT made more festive by the dance presentations of dioceses vying for the best entry won by Surigao del Norte's Bollywood dancers. The Chinese fan dancers from Malaybalay won second place.

A search for Star of the Night was also held as a fund-raiser won by Sis. Aremie Sarigumba of the Diocese of Malaybalay. She was crowned by IR Sis. Annie assisted by Region XII RR Sis. Susan Honculada.

Lucky delegates went home with raffle prizes giving the event the 'Christmas feels' as the Yuletide Season was fast approaching.

DIOCESE OF ILIGAN HOSTS REGION XIV ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Region XIV
Newsette Correspondent & MIM
Mindanao Area Coordinator*

The regional Assembly of Region XIV was held last November 24, 2024 at D'Orchard, Purok La Purisima in Tubod, Iligan City.

The assembly was attended by 364 DMI sisters from the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan, and the Dioceses of Ozamis, Dipolog and Iligan, the assembly host.

Iligan Diocesan Regent Sis. Lorena Salaban, assembly host, welcomed the delegates after the program opening consisting of the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother, the ceremony accompanying the Parade of Colors and the presentation of the participating circles represented by their regents carrying their circle banners.

Assembly speakers during the day-long program were:

Iligan City Vice-Mayor Marianito Alemania who welcomed the delegates to his city;

Dr. Cora Estenzo, a licensed clinical psychologist and head

consultant of People Psyche and professor of MSU-IT who talked on Depression and Suicide;

International Regent Sis. Annie Ty who delivered an inspirational message;

A Lay Minister of St. John Vianney who talked on the presence of the Blessed Mother in the DMII; and

Rev. Fr. Nazzer Zaragosa, DMII diocesan spiritual director.

A Eucharistic celebration was presided by Bishop Joey Rapadas of the Diocese of Iligan. In his homily, the Bishop gave a reflection on the allegiance of hearts, on being intimate with God Who is King of the Universe.

Highlighting the Dinner and Fellowship was a dance presentation contest with the theme "Fiesta sa Nasyon" won by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. Lucky delegates happily brought home prizes won during the evening's raffle draw.



Sisters Annie Ty, Angie Baes and Pinky Saavedra stand beside the Blessed Mother's altar during the enthronement and consecration ceremony.



The Parade of Circles



Bishop Joey Rapadas is flanked by Sisters Pinky Saavedra and Annie Ty.



The Archdiocese of Zamboanga dancers, dance contest winners.

"CHILDREN OF CALASANZ: THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD" MIRACULOUS MEDAL CIRCLE'S 2024 CHRISTMAS OUTREACH

*By Sis. Tessie G. Mendoza,
Circle Regent*

The children's Christmas Party at Calvary Riverside in Quezon City last December 7, 2024 was part of the non-formal educational mission of the Miraculous Medal Circle of Dagupan City that started in June, 2024. The event's theme was "Children of Calasanz: The Light of the World" which brought together the community to share the joy of Christmas with the less fortunate, particularly streetchildren who are the mission's beneficiaries.

This Christmas outreach project of the circle was held in collaboration with Bro. Rodel Reyes, Sch.P of the Calvary Riverside Mission who hails from Dagupan City. The partnership between the two groups ensured that the children were able to experience the true spirit of Christmas.

The event featured exciting games, a hearty meal and the distribution of gifts including school supplies and goodies filled the children with joy and gratitude.

Speaking about the collaboration, Bro. Rodel said: "This event reminds us of the power of community and shared mission. The support of the Miraculous Medal Circle made the celebration more meaningful for the children we serve. The DMI sisters' generosity

and compassion brought light to these young hearts, reflecting the spirit of St. Joseph Calasanz."

The circle played a vital role in organizing and providing much-needed resources for the successful activity during which the children's joy and laughter filled the air, warming the hearts of the sisters with the resolve to continue and even strengthen their commitment to support the mission of St. Joseph Calasanz and keep the light of Christ brightly shining in the lives of those who need it most.



The children-beneficiaries of the Calvary Riverside Mission.



The Miraculous Medal Circle sisters who attended the outreach activity.

SAN JOSE CIRCLE ACTIVITIES IN PHOTOS

By Sis. Elvira Martinez, Circle Scribe



Gift-Giving to PDLs' Families. In celebration of Prison Awareness Month, the San Jose Circle led by APFV Committee Chairperson Sis. Liza Villamante gave gifts to five families of PDLs (persons deprived of liberty) at St. Joseph the Husband Church in Bgys. Abar 1st and Caanawan who received gift bags containing rice and groceries and cash.



Red Wednesday Celebrated. The San Jose Circle members joined the parish in celebrating Red Wednesday, a day honoring Christian martyrs who were persecuted defending their Christian faith, last November 27, 2024. The church glowed in red light during the Mass and mass goers wore red symbolizing their solidarity with the Christian martyrs.

Diocesan Formation and Christmas Get-Together. A talk on “DMIs as Pilgrims of Hope” was given by Rev. Fr. Peter Albino, Jr. pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in Talugtug, Nueva Ecija and concurrently director of the Diocesan Commission on Catechesis and Biblical Apostolate last November 23, 2024. The talk preceded the diocesan Christmas Get-Together. His talk centered on the celebration of the Jubilee Year 2025 beginning on Nov. 27, 2024 until Dec. 25, 2025. Circles in attendance were St. James Circle of Lupao, St. Cecilia Circle of Guimba, St. Joseph Circle of Rizal, St. Christopher Circle of Licab, and San Jose Circle of San Jose City.



DIOCESE OF MALOLOS HOLDS 2-DAY RETREAT

By Sis. Nemie Fatalla,
Region IV Newsette Correspondent

The Diocese of Malolos held a two-day spiritual retreat at the Angels' Hills Retreat House in Tagaytay City last November 16-17, 2024 attended by 249 officers and members of Region IV. The activity was part of the annual planning program of the diocese.

The two-day retreat was facilitated by Rev. Fr. Joel M. Villanueva, OSJ who conducted the activity in his energetic and inspiring, yet full of his characteristic humor which held the participants' interest throughout the entire sessions. Fr. Joel led the group to understand more about the Blessed Mother as he discussed her role in the life of Jesus as well as his personal experiences such as granting his prayers for his needs which helped him develop a stronger faith and devotion to her.

The retreatants were given time for contemplation and self-awareness in the quiet of Angels' Hills, thus, they were able to connect with the Lord and Mama Mary in prayer.

Fr. Joel celebrated Mass on Day 1 of the retreat. DMI Diocesan Chaplain Msgr. Albert Suatengco was

Mass celebrant on Day 2.

Real bonding was developed among the sisters during the retreat as they prayed, ate, sang and danced together aside from the inspiring talk of their retreat master. It truly was a memorable experience.



A group photo of Region IV diocesan officers with Msgr. Albert Suatengco and Fr. Joel Villanueva.



Eucharistic celebration officiated by Msgr. Suatengco and Fr. Joel.



The retreat participants

RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE SPONSORS SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER ISSUES

“Gender Issues: Confusion, Rejection or Acceptance . . . Pag-Usapan Natin” This eye-catching and attention-getting topic of a symposium announced in tarpaulin streamers posted around the churchyard of Holy Eucharist Parish in Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City as well as parish announcements during masses gathered a sizeable crowd on October 5, 2024. The symposium was sponsored by the DMI Risen Christ Circle.

The symposium participants included DMI sisters from the other circles of the Diocese as well as members of the Basic Ecclesial Communities, the Youth Ministry and other parishioners of Holy Eucharist Parish.

Bro. Bernard Canaberal, the symposium resource speaker, is a long-time media practitioner, entertainment trainer and lecturer on media production and literacy education and a film-maker.

Sis. Sonia Manlapig, co-chairperson of the circle’s Morality in Media (MIM) Committee and past International Chairperson for MIM, welcomed the participants to the symposium.

Past International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, chairperson of the circle’s MIM Committee introduced Bro. Bernard who is currently president of Pro-Life Philippines. His latest work is a film on the life of Fr. Fernando Suarez entitled “Suarez, the Healing Priest”. A multi-awarded media practitioner (Catholic Mass Media, KBP Golden Dove, Cebu Catholic Mass Media, Film Academy of the Phils, Signis Asia Media), he was former drama manager of DZRH, program host of Radio Veritas 846 and national director of the Family Rosary Crusade.

Along with Bro. Bernard’s intro, Sis. Mila also explained the choice of the symposium topic. Whereas before the MIM Mission stayed within the realm of traditional and ‘safe’ talks as guardians of media – campaign against immorality and indecency in print and broadcast media, the shift has been necessitated by the rapid technological advances giving rise to social media in all its forms

and complexities.

Bro. Bernard’s talk kept the participants in rapt attention as he delved into the symposium topic replete with realistic sound effects. He started by citing verses from Genesis when God created Man and Woman - Adam and Eve – and their eventual fall when they ate fruit from the Tree of Knowledge that God had forbidden. From then on, their eyes were opened to what is good or evil.

“There can only be man or woman as the Bible says”, he emphatically stated. And deviations from these gender identities that we see today had been the creation of the environment and social media. He also said that a person’s character is shaped by the home, the church and school where he learns to give, care, share and love (values formation).

Some young people with gender issues go through a transformation process (as transgenders) involving physical, emotional and mental preparation prior to the actual procedure. For transformation from woman to man, it would require puberty blockers, testosterone medicines or injections and double mastectomy. The desire to “be transformed” is triggered by trans-activists online.

Over time, however, some transgenders realize that they have made a mistake and would want to go back to their gender of birth (detransitioners).

As of October, 2024, 38 countries have passed laws legalizing same-sex marriage while 35 countries prohibit it on a national level. In the United States, the gay rights movement has made huge progress especially during the past two decades when laws prohibiting homosexual activity has been struck down. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer individuals can now openly serve in the military. Same-sex couples can marry and legally adopt children. The movement’s advocacy for employment, housing and transgender rights, however, has yet to be realized.



Bro. Bernard Canaberal, symposium speaker



Sis. Sonia Manlapig, symposium host, welcomes the participants.



Sis. Mila Villanueva introduces symposium speaker, Bro. Bernard Canaberal.

Bro. Bernard earlier posed questions on how various institutions (the family, church and school) might react to current gender issues. His suggestion is to go back to the Bible for the answers. He quoted:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)

“And God said let there be light. And there was light.” (Genesis 1:3)

“God said let us make man in our image, to our likeness. Let them rule over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, over the cattle, over the wild animals that crawl along the ground.” (Genesis 1:26)

“So God created man in his image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27)

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom and the Knowledge of the holy is understanding.” (Proverbs 9:10)

The Prophets of old lead the way, see the future, carry the Cross, wear the crown and hold the truth. And as modern-day prophets, our task in the Information Age is to be at the SERVICE OF TRUTH.

And as for the stand of the Catholic Church on gender issues, Bro. Bernard quoted Pope Francis who said: “If the person

is gay and he searches for the Lord and has goodwill, who am I to judge?”

A loud and long applause from his audience ended Bro. Bernard’s talk. Fr. Tony Villanueva, acting pastor of Holy Eucharist Parish, who listened to Bro. Bernard thanked and extended to him the appreciation of his parishioners for the very informative presentation that enhanced their awareness regarding gender issues that confront us today.

The symposium left a powerful impact on the participants that at the time of writing, two other circles in Region V had invited Bro. Bernard as resource speaker on the same topic.



The officers and members of Risen Christ Circle, symposium sponsor



Fr. Tony Villanueva responds to Bro. Bernard’s talk.



The DMI sisters of the Diocese of Paranaque who attended the symposium.

ERRATUM

In the article Risen Christ Circle Sponsors “Empowering the Retirees Symposium, p. 20, DMI Newsette July-September, 2024 issue, the photo at right captioned “Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Helen Balmores welcomes symposium participants” showed Sis. Shiela Agbuya, vice-chair of the Pro-Life Team. The correct photo of Sis. Helen is shown here.



Our Lady of the Lilies SMI Circlette's Youth Apostolate

By: *Sis. Vita Zaldivia,
Vicarial Regent*

Our Lady of the Lilies Squirettes of Mary Circlette provided snacks to about 100 children at depressed areas surrounding Soldiers Hill Village on October

20, 2024, after conducting catechism class at Mary Cause of Our Joy Parish Church. Catechism class is an ongoing activity every Sunday, in cooperation with different assigned organizations and ministries.



SMI President Cyra Namit, SMI Lady Counsellor Alieza Perena and Circle Regent Edna Espina were coordinators of this project.



With Rev. Fr. Rusti V. Cruz, Mary Cause of Our Joy Parish Priest

CALLED TO SERVE: MY VERSION OF UPLIFTING WOMEN WORKERS

By *Sis. Nunally Repatacodo*

With an open heart, I welcomed the appointment to head the Upliftment of Women Workers Mission of our circle, a chance at pushing further my advocacy.

Sis. Marianne Araza, a new circle member then, was only one of the many faces in our community whose personal struggles touched my heart. As I got to know her narrative as a single mom, I decided to be God's channel of blessing.

I am currently employed at SAV1 Skills Training and Development Center, as a certified TESDA Trainer and Assessor. It was by divine providence that a new Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) was introduced to the Center. I encouraged Sis. Marianne to avail herself of the Bookkeeping NC III course, a 39-day workshop and a 10-day on-the-job training. This ultimately bore fruit when she passed the National Assessment. Sis. Marianne is now gainfully employed at a local Daycare Center. By God's grace and mercy, this has uplifted her morale as she looks forward to a brighter future for her two kids.

Upliftment of Women Workers means a lot to many as they are given opportunities of empowerment suited to their skills

and interests. We are actively inviting co-parishioners to avail themselves of TWSP offered by TESDA. This commitment to serve God through my professional engagements has opened the many avenues for others.

Let us praise God Whose love reigns in us. What a joy to serve in HIS name!



Trainer



Trainee

DIOCESE OF IMUS BLESSED WITH THREE NEW CIRCLES

By: Sis Elizabeth E. Sangalang,
Circle Regent

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, Diocese of Imus, through the inspiration and guidance of its Diocesan Regent Sis. Emelie 'Inday' Ramos has created 3 new circles this 2024, as follows:

1. **Nuestra Señora Del Pilar Circle** was created last April 21, 2024 in Silang, Cavite, headed by Regent Lilian Ramos. The circle was created by Sto. Nino de Molino Circle.
2. **Our Lady of Peñafrancia Circle** was created last September 24, 2024 at the San Agustin Parish in Paliparan, Imus City, Cavite, headed by Regent Jackie Zoleta. The circle was

created by Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle.

3. **Our Lady of Lourdes Circle** was created last October 5, 2024 at the St. Jude the Apostle Parish, Vista Verde, Mambog 4, City of Bacoor, Cavite, headed by Regent Dorothy Violeta. The circle was created by Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle.

WELCOME dear sisters to our Sisterhood. May your circles grow and prosper with more fruitful and dedicated members. Congratulations to the circles who worked hard to create them for the greater glory of God and Mama Mary!



Nuestra Señora Del Pilar Circle



Our Lady of Peñafrancia Circle



Our Lady of Lourdes Circle

DMII Sisters Visit Bahay Tuluyan ng mga Bata

*By: Sis. Inday Ramos,
Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Imus*

November 8, 2024 - Three circles of the Diocese of Imus visited girls housed at Bahay Tuluyan, Damariñas City. These circles were Inay Maria Magnificat Circle, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle, and Santo Niño De Molino Circle. Gifts consisting of items needed by the facility, plus food and game prizes were brought for the girls. The DMIs were able to interact with the girls and some were teary eyed upon knowing the sad experiences of the girls. After the completion of the

mission, the DMI sisters left the facility with heaviness in their hearts knowing the sad state of these kids, aged 3 years to 17 years old, but feeling fulfilled because of mission accomplished, thankful for the chance of giving Joy to the children even for just a few hours. The JOY, FULFILLMENT, GRATEFULNESS felt are GOD'S WAY to reward them for one mission accomplished. Thank you, sisters of the Diocese of Imus.



DIOCESE OF KALOOKAN UPDATES

Eighteen new DMII members were formally accepted to the organization during the Diocesan exemplification ceremony by the Diocesan Team. The duly exemplified new members were from NUESTRA

SENORA DE NIEVA, SAN JOSE DE NAVOTAS, IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY AND BIRHEN NG LOURDES Circles.



18 new DMII Members



Exemplification Team



SMI Investiture ceremony for Mother of Divine Grace Circlette's new members.

16 New SMI members' investiture last November 30, 2024 from Nuestra Senora de Nieva Circlette.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle's Rosary Devotion

By: Sis. Nelia Ricarte, Regent

The DMII – Immaculate of Mary Circle and its Squirettes of Mary Immaculate Circlette sponsored the rosary devotion last October 17, 2024. The Squirettes led the Holy Rosary and three Squirettes were assigned

to talk about the 3 Martyrs of Tlaxcala, the first martyrs of evangelization in Mexico: Sts. Cristobal, Antonio and Juan aged between 12 and 13.



Rosary devotion jointly sponsored by DMII and SMI, Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle, Malabon



Squirettes led the recitation of the Holy Rosary.



Talk on 3 Martyrs of Tlaxcala, aged 12 and 13.

From the Archdiocese of Manila – Region V

HOW JOURNALING IS A TOOL FOR GOOD MENTAL HEALTH AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

*By: Sis. Yollie Eriga Del Pilar
Our Lady of Divine Love Circle
Archdiocese of Manila, Region V*



Resource speaker, Ms. Rachel Salinel

Did you know that taking time to write down your thoughts and feelings consistently and regularly is not only therapeutic, but it is also good for mental health? In her session entitled “***Journaling for Good Mental Health and Personal Development***”, during a December 14 webinar, writer/journalist Rachel Salinel, said that journaling is a tool of emotional exploration. It is a way to channel difficult feelings and thoughts into creative outcomes. Through this, we listen rather than run away from our emotions. It is an opportunity for positive self-talk and helps us identify negative thoughts.

In journaling, Ms. Rachel cited that one should write freely (no checking of grammar nor spelling, no fear of judgment, no limit, no editing but simply writing down your thoughts and feelings at the moment). This can be done in multiple ways, such as: plain writing or with multi color pens/markers or with drawings or photos and done on a regular basis.

She also cited that, while it is like writing a diary, optional added steps would be to answer the questions: Why? How? What's Next?

Moreover, based on studies, Rachel cited the following benefits of journaling:



The guest speaker engaging Sis. Susan Argel in her experience at journaling

1. It decreases symptoms of asthma and arthritis and other health conditions
2. It improves cognitive functioning
3. It strengthens the immune system
4. It counteracts negative effects of stress
5. It provides release of emotions
6. It provides a venue of self-expression and creativity

Rachel discussed that, besides the what, who, where, when, why of journaling, there are interesting ways of maintaining a journal of your day. She suggested a contemplative way of journaling by listening to God's word through reading the Bible, hearing mass and then writing your reflections about a word. or phrase that struck you the most in these activities. She said that by listening to God and hearing Him speak and you writing specifically about your thoughts through this encounter, you will eventually gain an appreciation and gratitude of God's important part in our life and growth.

Writing a journal is indeed a personal journey which can eventually be published as a book, an article, a vlog or even as a movie. Definitely, it can be shared to inspire and to serve as a legacy or memoir.

She also encouraged her audience to visit the facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/akingmunimuni> as a guide to develop the beautiful hobby of journaling.



Group photo of potential journal writers

A Webinar on Mental Health Issues and Challenges Today

*By: Sis. Yollie Eriga Del Pilar
Our Lady of Divine Love Circle
Archdiocese of Manila, Region V*

Mental health challenges affect millions of people worldwide and can manifest in various forms, including anxiety, depression, and stress. These challenges often arise from a combination of genetic, environmental (i.e. social media), and psychological factors. Unfortunately, mental health struggles are still highly stigmatized, leading many to suffer in silence and avoid seeking the help they need, thus, making it a highly relevant issue even among the young generation today.



*Dr. Ric S. Guanzon, Dean
of Don Mariano Marcos
Memorial State University*

With this in mind, the Our Lady of Divine Love Circle invited an expert on the topic, Dr. Ric S. Guanzon to conduct a webinar. Dr. Guanzon is Dean & Consultant at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University and a Board Member of the Phil. Guidance Counseling Association among his accolades.

Common Mental Health Struggles

The Speaker cited the following:

- **Anxiety:** Characterized by constant worry or fear, anxiety disorders can severely impact daily life, causing individuals to avoid social situations, work, or even basic activities.
- **Depression:** A persistent feeling of sadness, hopelessness, and a lack of interest in activities once enjoyed. Depression can lead to difficulty functioning at home or work and is often accompanied by physical symptoms like fatigue and changes in appetite.
- **Stress:** Chronic stress, often triggered by work, relationships, or major life changes, can take a toll on both mental and physical health.

Over time, unmanaged stress can contribute to other mental health disorders.

Barriers to Seeking Help

Stigma surrounding mental health often prevents people from seeking treatment. Many fear being judged, misunderstood, or dismissed by others. Others may not have access to proper care or lack awareness of their condition. As a result, untreated mental health issues can worsen, leading to a decline in quality of life and overall well-being, and worst, thoughts of suicide.

Breaking the Silence

Increasing awareness and reducing stigma, as Dr. Ric emphasizes, are crucial steps toward addressing mental health challenges. Society must recognize mental health as equally important as physical health, and individuals should feel empowered to seek support without fear of judgment. Therapy, medication, and support groups are valuable resources, and even small steps—like talking to a trusted friend or approaching a person to help him with these symptoms—can make a significant difference.

And we as DMIs, can touch and save many lives through our role as evangelizers and protector of our community's well-being. By prioritizing mental health, we can foster a society where individuals are supported in their journeys toward healing and well-being.



Attendees of the Health Issues webinar

Diocese of San Pablo celebrates “Christmas in Our Hearts”

By Sis. Ivylou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

The DMI Diocese of San Pablo actively participated in the 37th Anniversary celebration and annual outreach program of the Pagmamahal sa Kapwa Foundation, Inc. (PSKFI) last December 7, 2024 at Angela de Lucia de Rosa Chapel in Los Banos, Laguna,

The said outreach program was in collaboration with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) of Los Banos.

Starting the activity was a community prayer led by the Franciscan Sisters of the Lord followed by a Eucharistic celebration and blessing of the gifts. Welcome messages were delivered by Sis. Norma Eusebio, PSKFI founder and concurrently Region VI Representative, Atty. Eric Paul Peralta and Dr. Diomedes Racelis, PSKFI vice-president and president, respectively and Engr. Grace Bondad, PCCI president.

The activity started at 9:30 a.m. and the project collaborators and volunteers sprang into action taking charge of providing free medical and dental check-ups, eye cataract screening, bone scanning, legal clinic and consultation, free haircut and gift-giving to more than a thousand children, women and the elderly from Los Banos and surrounding communities.

Through the celebration, the PSKFI members were able to bring “Christmas in our Hearts” as they partied and enjoyed the gift-giving as an opportunity to share the spirit of Christmas with those present.

The celebration ended with a final blessing and closing message of Kaibigang Angela de Lucia de Rosas. The annual celebration served as a testament to the positive impact that collaborative effort and community-driven initiatives can achieve so much to encourage health literacy and provide more access to health care.



The project collaborators: Sis. Lorna Garcia of Theresian Circle, Region VI RR Sis. Norma Eusebio, founder of the PSKFI and PCCI's Merle Balicao.



Parishioners line up to avail of free medical and dental services.

MOTHER OF LIFE CIRCLE CONTINUES TO UPLIFT WOMEN THROUGH LIVELIHOOD SEMINARS

By Sis. Ivylou Flores

The Mother of Life Circle conducted a training seminar last November 8, 2024 at the Barangay Batong Malake Livelihood Building in Los Banos, Laguna on *supot*, doormat and empanada-making. Fifty-five participants attended the seminar spearheaded by Circle Regent Sis. Liza Arpon and Upliftment of Women Workers Committee Chairperson Sis. Magdalene Josephine Seno.

Vice-Regent Sis. Glo Austria gave the opening remarks followed by the introduction of the resource speakers by Circle First Guide Sis. Mercy Baradas.

Project Development Assistant/Training Coordinator Ms. Jemellie Villarina with Asst. Livelihood Trainer Mr. Tristan Grantoza and Livelihood Trainers, Ms. Leslie Sietereales, Ms. Monica Morales and Ms.

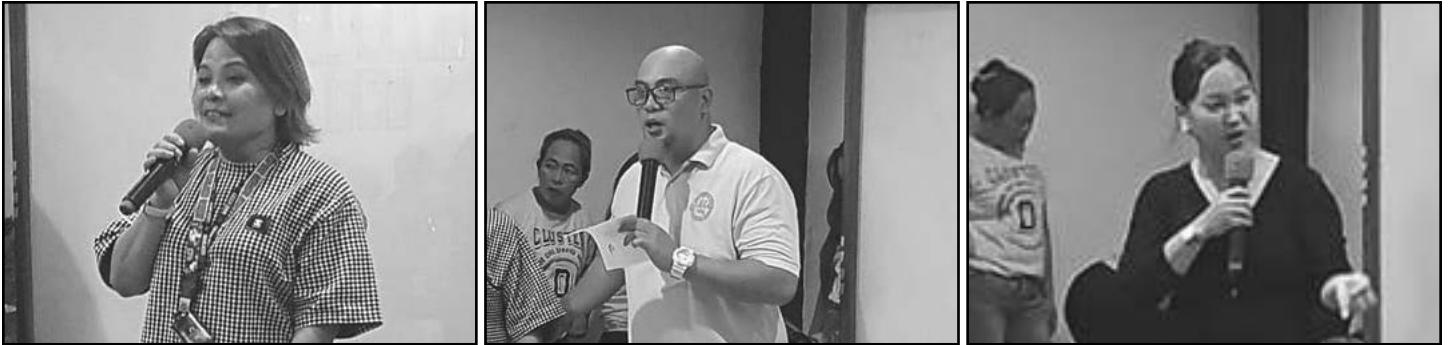
turn to page 30

Mother of Life Circle... from page 29

Sophia Burbos from the Special Livelihood Office of the Provincial Government of Laguna were the resource speakers. They showed the step-by-step guide on how to make *supot* and pork empanada.

The activity was part of the circle's program to

provide skills and livelihood opportunities for women in the community. At the end of the seminar, Sis. Edith Eusebio, Regent of the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist awarded certificates of appreciation to the resource speakers. Regent Sis. Liza Arpon gave her closing remarks followed by the closing prayer led by Sis. Dading Punzalan, circle custodian.



Resource speakers from the Laguna Special Livelihood Services Office while conducting the seminar.

OUR LADY OF SALVATION CIRCLE HOLDS MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION ON IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH FIESTA

The Our Lady of Salvation Circle held a medical-dental mission last December 4, 2024 during the celebration of the 422nd parish fiesta of the Immaculada Concepcion Parish on December 8.

Spearheaded by Circle Regent Sis. Ignacia Flores, the activity was held at the Don Bosco Gym located beside the parish church. Some 300 individuals composed of children, pregnant women and senior citizens from Sta. Cruz and nearby communities availed of the onsite free services such as medical and

dental consultation and treatment, free medicines and routine laboratory tests such as urinalysis, CBC, blood chemistry and ECG.

This mission was able to provide the immediate health care needs of the community with the support of the Provincial Government of Laguna. Volunteer medical doctors from the Sta. Cruz Medical Society through its president, Dr. Gilson Valendo, assisted during the mission.



Parishioners await their turn to be attended by the volunteer doctors.



MORALITY IN MEDIA SYMPOSIUM

*By: Sis. Charito M. Bibale,
Morality in Media Chairperson
Barangay Sang Virgen Circle Archdiocese of Lipa*

A Symposium on Morality in Media was held on August 22, 2024 at the School Covered Court of A. Sandoval Memorial National High School among its Grade 12 students.

After the Opening Prayer, a Welcome Message was delivered by Mr. Wilfredo M. Dakila, the School Principal.

The Speaker, MS. AILEEN CONSTANTINO PEÑAS, spoke on different social media platforms, which most students are already familiar with. During the talk, the speaker gave rewards to students who correctly answered her given questions. She mentioned the advantages and disadvantages of using those platforms. She also informed them on the Do's and Dont's in using the social media. She finally pointed out that there is always a Digital Footprint or Data trail left by interactions in the digital world, which become public records of: 1) what you said, 2) what you said about you, 3) what you liked, retweeted or shared, and 4) where you are or have been. All these things will

put yourselves in danger, she warned. With this, she advised all the listeners to be very careful in using the social media. The symposium was sponsored by the Barangay Sang Virgen Circle.



Certificates of appreciation are awarded to the guest speaker and the school principal.



Guest speaker, Ms. Aileen Constantino Peñas, with teachers and Grade 12 students.

REGION IX OFFICERS ATTEND REGIONAL BOARD MEETING

By Sis. Rosalinda Desales,
Region IX Representative

The Diocese of San Carlos hosted the 4th quarter Regional Board Meeting last November 9, 2024 at Palau Hotel in San Carlos City. The meeting was attended by 143 regional officers from the archdiocese and dioceses

comprising Region IX.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Msgr. Erwin Magnanao was held before the meeting.



Region IX Representative Sis. Rosalinda Desales presides the meeting.



The regional officers with Msgr. Erwin Magnanao.

ST. ANNE CIRCLE INITIATES RENOVATION OF ADORATION CHAPEL

The St. Anne Circle initiated the renovation of the Adoration Chapel of the Sto. Rosario Parish Church with assistance from generous donors

Blessing of the renovated chapel was held last October 7, 2024, feast of the Holy Rosary. Bishop Gerardo

Alminaza of the Diocese of San Carlos did the blessing after his celebration of Holy Mass.

The St. Anne Circle received a certificate of appreciation for the completion of the project.



St. Anne Circle officers receive the certificate of appreciation awarded to the circle.



The newly renovated Adoration Chapel of Sto. Rosario Church

ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CIRCLE CELEBRATES PRISON AWARENESS MONTH

Persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) of Guimba City Jail were visited by DMI sisters of St. Thomas de Villanova Circle headed by Past International Regent Sis. Pureza Guzman in observance of Prison Awareness Month last October 11, 2024. A Holy Mass was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Ildefonso Cachuela, director of the Jaro Archdiocesan Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (JACPPC). Sis. Pureza talked about the importance of the Holy Rosary after the Mass.



The DMI sisters with the PDLs during the Mass.



ARCHDIOCESE OF JARO CIRCLES CONDUCT TREE-PLANTING PROJECT



The DMI sisters during the tree-planting activity

Four circles of the Archdiocese of Jaro took part in a tree-planting activity at the Leganes Integrated Katunggan Eco Park in Leganes, Iloilo. The four circles were Mother of St. Augustine of Hippo Circle of Pavia, Our Lady of Montserrat Circle of Grand Plains, St. Joseph Husband of Mary Circle of Balantang and Our Lady of the Barangay Circle of Barotac Nuevo.

DIOCESE OF BACOLOD'S MEDICAL-DENTAL-OPTICAL MISSION

A total of 980 individuals availed of the medical-dental-optical mission conducted by the Diocese of Bacolod led by the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Circle of the Redemptorist Parish at the Redemptorist Monastery on December 1, 2024.

Along with the mission, a Christmas Party and Gift-Giving also took place with 100 children in attendance. The Squirettes of St. John Nepomuceno Circlette hosted the party with help from their Tita DMIs.

With the Olivia Yanson Medical Foundation as project partner, all the circles of the Diocese of Bacolod participated in the medical-dental-optical mission. They were Our Lady of Perpetual Help Circle, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Circle, St. Jude Thaddeus Circle, St. John Nepomuceno Circle, St. John the Baptist Circle and Maria Auxilladora de los Cristianos Circle.

Volunteer doctors gave free consultation and free medicines assisted by the DMI sisters.



The DMI sisters assist in the registration of patients.



Mission beneficiaries await their turn to avail of the free consultation and treatment.



DMII Sisters Go on Marian Pilgrimage

DMI Sisters Sonia Alvarino of Sto. Nino de Tacloban Circle and Yolanda Dagadan and Genara Berenquer of Tower of Ivory Circle went on a Marian Pilgrimage last September 8 to 24. They are in front of the La Sagrada Familia Basilica in Catalonia, Spain.



DIOCESE OF TANDAG HOLDS YEAR-END ASSESSMENT, CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

*By Sis. Leonora Cruz Cotares,
Diocesan Regent*

A year-end assessment and Christmas get-together was held by the Diocese of Tandag last December 1, 2024 at the Kaliguran Convention Center in Cagwait, Surigao del Sur.

A Holy Mass officiated by Rev. Frs. Benjamin Raze and Jefferson Jeffrey Opson followed the enthronement ceremony. A

short program came next during which prizes donated by Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada were raffled off.

The diocesan Christmas get-together which was the last part of the day's program carried a Hawaiian motif featuring a dance contest and a search for the Star of the Night.



DMI sisters in their Hawaiian costumes



Winners of the Search for the Star of the Night

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

170 PAROLEES' FAMILIES RECEIVE GIFTS FROM ZAMBOANGA DMIs

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

Diocesan Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) Sis. Maritess Go spearheaded the gift-giving activity held last December 5, 2024 at the Pasonanca covered court in Zamboanga City. The Probation Office of Region 9 was a project partner which identified 170 families of parolees as beneficiaries of the project.

Gift bags containing rice and groceries were distributed to the families. The circles that participated in the gift-giving activity were: St. Ignatius Loyola of Tetuan, San Isidro Labrador of Talon-Talon, Transfiguration of Sinunoc, Our Lady of Fatima of Putik, St. Theresa of Mampang, St. Joseph of St. Joseph Spouse of

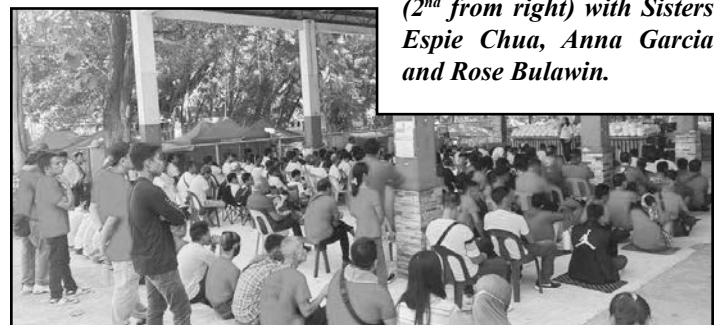
the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel of Ayala, San Antonio Ma. Claret of Claret Parish, Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage of Tugbungan, Mother of Perpetual Help of Guiuan, Holy Trinity of Pasonanca, Divine Mercy of Divisorio and Mystical Rose of Westmincom. The DMI sisters donated the gift bags received by the families.



IVR Mindanao and Region XIV RR Sis. Pinky Saavedra (2nd from right) with Sisters Espie Chua, Anna Garcia and Rose Bulawin.



The DMI sisters who participated in the gift-giving activity.



The parolees' families during the gift-giving

REGION XIV SMIs VISIT ORPHANAGE TO SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

SMI diocesan officers together with several Squirettes from circlettes in Zamboanga City and their Lady Counselors visited the DSWD Talon-Talon Logoy Diutay Orphanage to distribute gifts and spread Christmas cheer to the residents. The joy and laughter of the children during the activity had helped motivate the SMIs to show kindness and compassion not only during Christmas but all year round.

The activity was spearheaded by Sisters Annielyn Padilla and Ginalyn Ursua participated by nine

circlettes in the Archdiocese: Nuestra Senora del Pilar de Zaragoza, Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Manaoag, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Lady of Purification, Our Lady of Peace and Mary Queen of Apostles Circlettes. Diocesan Regent Sis. Stephanie Palanca led the group who visited the orphanage. - Sis. Marilyn de Asis



The SMIs and their Lady Counselors ready the gifts to be distributed to the children.



Archdiocesan Youth Welfare/SMI Chairperson Sis. Annielyn Padilla with the head of the orphanage.



Daughters of Mary Immaculate International

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

Tel. No. 8810-9530

Website: www.dmiinternational.org

Executive Officers

Sis. Annie O. Ty	- International Regent
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