

Squirettes of Mary Immaculate
What Lies Ahead?

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Greetings!

The last time that I addressed my fellow sisters in Butuan was on May 28, 2011.

When I last faced you in 2011, this was how your Squirettes statistics looked like:

Region 12	6
Region 13	7
Region 14	9

Today, it looks like this:

Region 12	6	VS.	16
Region 13	7	VS.	7
Region 14	9	VS.	13

Congratulations – keep those Squirettes coming!

Plans

Bagong taon. Bagong Buhay. Bagong Pag-asa. Nandito kami to present our plans for the next two years.

Which BRINGS US TO SMI - STARTING, MAINTAINING and INCREASING the number of Squirettes. They will be the future DMIs. Sila ang ating successors, our future, our hope. Our new call is SMI.

Like I have said time and again WHO/WHERE? Sino at Saan natin kukunin nating Squirettes?

Ang ating mga anak, mga apo, pamangkin, kaibigan ng ating mga anak at apo

Kapitbahay – nandiyan lang sa tabing bahay natin ang anak, apo, pamangkin ng ating mga kapitbahay

Schools – may requirements sa schools na kailangan maging active sa simbahan. I-tap natin ang mga students na ito. Lalo na't marami sa atin ang mga teachers or may mga kaibigang magulang ng ating mga anak at apo. Hikayatin natin sila.

PAPANO? Maraming paraan para maka-attract ng new Squirettes.

Posters: Ipost ang invitations/posters sa bulletin board ng schools, simbahan at barangay

Acquaintance parties: Invite prospective members in a party or gathering kung saan makikita nila kung gaano kasaya ang Squirettes .

Meron na tayong Application Form sa national office na puede nilang fill-up-an. It lists their various interests para alam natin kung saan sila magaling. Plus, merong portion where the parents sign their approval for the children to join the Squirettes.

Give them a list of activities na puedeng gawin –

Join DMI activities

Catechize

Feeding program

Choir

Sports activities

Cause-oriented activities

Orient them on the basic SMI precepts, starting with its MOTTO – TO KNOW, TO LOVE, TO SERVE.

INVESTITURE/INSTALLATION – New Members are invested and new officers that they elect among themselves are installed.

So, tara na, mga kapatid. Let's form new circlettes and increase our number of Squirettes.

For those who are still not sure how much to remit at our national office:

P100 for the one-time charter fee, P100 for the annual circlette fee and P25 for each member.

HINDI AKO MAGSASAWA SA KAKA-INVITE SA INYO TO TAKE CARE OF OUR SQUIRETTES.

So as not to neglect the Visayas and Mindanao areas, we have assigned Area Coordinators in the persons of Sis. Baby Acevedo for Visayas and Sis. Lelis Pimentel for Mindanao. Their role is activity-based. There will be Squirette events to be organized between this year's Biennial Convention and the next Biennial Convention and they will be the ones to coordinate these in-between events.

Having mentioned the Biennial Convention – we have chosen as theme "Riding the Wave of Faith in God through Mary (in the year of Faith)". We are blest that we are holding our convention in the Year of Faith and have chosen it as our theme. Faith is the virtue that should remind us that God continues to extend His hands to us through His Mother.

Youth – Their Struggles

The youth of today are faced with so much struggles in the ocean, in the sea of humanity. They are beset with-

the confusion that broken homes bring about – to sleep over at daddy's or at mommy's place?
peer pressure – to taste drugs, smoke pot, cigarettes, drink beer, alcohol and a host of other temptations

Confused relationship with the opposite sex

- is it first love? true love? puppy love?
- others are doing it, should we also?

- it is just a simple kiss, no malice about it

One thing leads to another and, before you know it, they themselves are PARENTS, mommies at so young an age.

Couples in showbiz continue to expose our youth in their kind of relationships – complicated and petty.

(Examples: James Yap and Kris Aquino, Heart Evangelista and Chiz Escudero, Kim Chiu – Maja Salvador – Gerald Anderson, and of late the Barreto sisters, mother and brother – all washing their dirty linens and tear-soaked hankies in front of primetime TV... and the youth)

Thank God for Miracles

Thank God for something like ABS-CBN's ***Be Careful With My Heart***, where there are no contravidas, no nerve-wracking screaming and where a kiss is just a kiss and has no malice at all. Ser Chief and Maya have become wholesome everyday household names on morning TV.

We need miracles and we need them ASAP – as in A – S – A – P. People are already going to Mars!!! Do you know that so many people signed up already for the one-way trip to Mars in 2023? - 10,000 as of last count! This only means that this EARTH has become so unbearable to the max that people are thinking of leaving it for something as unknown as Mars.

I've said it before and I will say it again – I BELIEVE IN MIRACLES. Angels exist and they are here to guide us.

Last December, a miracle happened to me and the word Angel has been transformed into another form. My daughter-in-law gave birth prematurely at 6 months. This little baby was born 570 grams light, her lungs undeveloped and unable to give her air that she had to be on ventilator for 1 month, and her eyes (the last body organ to be developed before a person is born) in danger of being blind. AT ALL COST – we gave her all that were needed: medicines for the lungs, blood transfusions every time her IV needle was dislodged, neonatal ICU confinement, and human milk fortifier because the mother could not express mother's milk for the baby and a mother-donor supplied the milk. This was in December.

Today, that tiny wisp of an infant is 3 kgs heavy and 50 centimeters long. And we named her ANGEL. She drinks milk from a bottle and demands that we do so everytime her brain says so. Her eyes can now see, and she just passed her hearing test. She is our Angel Elise. Our Angel. One miracle from God.

Our Own Miracles

And I do believe that in our corner of the world called SQUIRETTES OF MARY IMMACULATE – we are creating our own miracles.

As I earlier said, that circlettes in Regions 12 to 14 have grown by 14 in a year's time is such an outstanding feat.

Just imagine, in Boracay two years ago, there were only 2 Mindanao delegates. Now in San Mateo, there are 21 registered delegates! What a miracle indeed!

The Squirettes now realize that the best thing we could offer the Lord in return is to share our experience with God to others, through evangelization and promoting devotion to Mary which brings us closer to God. This has been our commitment.

Our Prayer

The countdown begins for the much-awaited 14th Biennial Convention of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate.

To the delegates, now numbering 229, thank you for your participation. To those who are unable to attend, be our prayer warriors! Our ardent prayer is that, this year and for always, our Biennial Convention (and all DMI and SMI assemblies, conferences and conventions for that matter) would be a success. And, in the long run, there will be more and more Squirettes. There will be more and more future DMIs.

Thank you!

(23rd Mindanao Area Conference
Butuan, April 26, 2013)