



# DMI Newsette

*To Jesus through Mary*

VOL. XXX, No. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

April - June 2013

## DMII Holds National Officers' Meeting

It was a "homecoming" of sorts for over 200 DMI sisters, official delegates from dioceses, vicariates and circles from all over the country when they converged at the new Conference Hall of the Fr. George Willman Center of the Knights of Columbus in Intramuros, Manila last May 11, 2013. The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International held office at the KC Building for over 30 years before moving to Mary's House, its own home in Pasay City in 2008. The KC Building has been renamed Fr. George Willman, S.J. Center in honor of the KC founder in the Philippines.

The event was the DMII National Officers' Meeting which takes place in May alternately with the Biennial Convention (the 18<sup>th</sup> was held in Tagaytay City last year). The day's program started with International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva calling the meeting to order, followed by a declaration by the International Advocate Sis. Miriam Angot that there was a quorum to transact business.

In her opening remarks, Meeting Committee Chair Sis. Cora Afuang, International Secretary and Region V representative, underscored the vital role that delegates contribute to the success of the meeting. She specially cited and thanked Sis. Tess Curia, EVP

of the Knights of Columbus Fraternal Asso. of the Phils. and a DMI sister of the Rosarian Circle of the Diocese of Malolos for very ably handling the physical arrangements with the KC Administrative Staff standing ever ready to attend to the needs of the participants.

A concelebrated Mass by Msgr. Pedro Quitorio III, spokesperson of the CBCP Media Communications and Fr. Jerome Cruz, DMI international chaplain,

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*The presidential table with International Regent (IR) Sis. Mila Villanueva and Past IR Sis. Lydia Ramirez and other international officers. Program host Sis. Ruby Macario stands at the rostrum.*

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#### Upcoming DMI Events

**LUZON AREA CONFERENCE, Naga City, October 18-20, 2013**

**19<sup>th</sup> DMI BIENNIAL CONVENTION, Tagbilaran City, April 25-26, 2014**

## Revised Schedule of Regional Assemblies and Conferences

### 2013

Mindanao Area Conference	April 27-28	Butuan City
Region XII		
Region VIII	May 19	Virac, Catanduanes
Region X	June 8	Cebu City
Region V	July 12-13	Puerto Princesa City, Palawan
Region I	July 27	Cauayan City, Isabela
Region II	August 18	Urdaneta City, Pangasinan
Region VII	August 21	Nasugbu, Batangas
Region IV	September 14	San Jose del Monte, Bulacan
Region III	September 21	Angeles City
Region IX	October 5	Iloilo City
Luzon Area Conference	October 18-20	Naga City
Region XI	October 26	Tacloban City
Region VI	November 16	Laguna
Region XIV	November 23-24	Ozamis City

### 2014

Visayas Area Conference	January 18	Cebu City
Region XIII	March	Davao City
19 <sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention	April 25-26	Tagbilaran City, Bohol



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*From the International Regent*

**MESSAGE**



Greetings!

In this second quarter, as we reflect on our renewed faith in the Lord and the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us also reflect on how best we can echo this faith to others. Inspired by this thought and following the advice of His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, your International Board traveled to Hongkong to introduce to the Filipino migrants there the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International and its vision and mission. Twelve of us, together with International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz composed the group to initiate the membership recruitment process there. Each personally shouldered her travel expenses.

Our mission began with a series of meetings. Upon arrival on May 31st, we met with Rev. Fr. Charleston Plateros and Sr. Felicitas Nisperos at the Pastoral Center for Filipinos in Central District, Hongkong side, who then referred us to Rev. Fr. Emil Lim, the chaplain and adviser of the Filipino migrants in Hongkong. The next day we went to the Annunciation Parish in Tsuen Wan, some 45 minutes by the underground rail and another 15 minutes by bus. There we met with Sr. Gabrielle who is in charge of the Formation Program for the Migrants and Rev. Fr. Peter Leung, pastor of Annunciation Parish. Upon hearing our presentation, both readily approved our proposal to organize a DMI circle in the parish. They invited us to attend the Sunday Mass the following day.

The Mass must be one for migrant workers for we saw the church filled to the brim with almost 500 Filipinas in their Sunday best. We were all teary eyed as we watched them take charge of the activities during the Mass - the servers resplendent in their acolyte vestments, the choir in their beige uniforms, the collectors in their white blouses and black skirts. We, the DMI 'missionaries', came in our Class A uniforms. We must have made an impression, too, as 47 women came to attend our presentation after the Mass with a sumptuous pot-luck breakfast to boot.

And so . . . as it was meant to be . . . a new circle was born in Hongkong on June 2, 2013. And we shall name this circle the Our Lady of the Annunciation Circle.

On August 3, we shall return to Tsuen Wan for the formal exemplification of the circle's charter members and the installation of its charter officers.

Let us pray that with God's protection and Mother Mary's guidance, we will be able to continue spreading the Faith through the formation of more circles here and abroad.

Ave Maria!

**SIS. MILA A. VILLANUEVA**  
**International Regent**

## DMI Holds National Officers' Meeting...Cont'd from Page 1

preceded the business meeting. The Youth Choir of the Catholic News Organization provided liturgical music during the Mass.

In his message that followed, Msgr. Quitorio talked about the "White Vote", the mid-term elections (May 13<sup>th</sup>) being just two days away. He pointed out three important points. In the first, "Halalan at Buhay", he said that the Church has a mission in politics, its moral dimension. "Politics is the greatest obstruction to total human development in the Philippines," he declared. There is therefore a need for God's people to evangelize politics. He happily noted that for the first time, the laity in this election has emerged to be in the forefront in the fight for clean election.

His second point dwelt on the Year of Faith (Porta Fidei) and the Decade of the Era of New Evangelization. The Church will celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> year of Christianity in the Philippines on March 16, 2021. The Monsignor then mentioned the social dimension of faith and exhorted his audience to vote like Christ. "Go out, teach, educate. Stand up to your faith," he said.

His third point cited the crises that confront the Catholic Church today. His final message: "Put the lamp on the lamp stand", for Catholics to stand up and be counted. He said that the arena of battle is the media. Being so, media must be proactive. He called on the DMIs to influence people through the media.

The Business Meeting commenced with the reading of the minutes of the National Officers' Meeting held on May 15, 2011 by Past International Secretary Sis. Lita Canonizado.

Past International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez then rendered the final report of her term. Among these are the "one parish, one circle" campaign which netted 58 new circles and 24 SMI circlettes, including the two DMI circles established in California and one in Macau, the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Tagaytay City in 2012 which recorded the largest delegate attendance (1,600+) in DMI history, and the outreach projects of the organization during calamities such as the "Habagat" in Luzon and Typhoon "Pablo" in northeastern Mindanao last year.



*The entrance of colors during the opening ceremonies.*



*Msgr. Pedro Quitorio III and Fr. Jerome Cruz during the Concelebrated Mass.*

In bidding an emotional farewell as International Regent, Sis. Lyding urged the DMI members to rally behind the new IR and for Sis. Mila Villanueva to continue pursuing the organization's growth and nurturing its circles and members all over the country.

After the Financial Report done by past International Treasurer Sis. Ofelia Lucas, International Advocate Sis. Miriam Angot presented to the members for ratification the resolutions approved by the International Board to amend certain provisions of the DMI Rules and Regulations. They are as follows:

1. Amendment to Art. IV, Sec. 1 of the DMI Rules & Regulations to read:

"The Association shall hold its National Officers' Meeting every other year in-between Biennial Conventions at the principal office of the Association or in any place as the



International Board may determine. **However, the Biennial Convention shall constitute as the National Officers' Meeting for the year."**

2. Amendment of Art. XII, Sec. 7 on Committees on Mission setting a term of office for mission chairpersons to read:

**"The chairperson shall have a term of two (2) years and may be extended to another two (2) years at the option of the International Regent or a maximum term of four (4) years.**

3. Amendment of Art. XVIII regarding the issuance of credential cards for Association members to read:

**"A member in good standing shall be issued a DMII Identification Card duly signed by the International Chaplain and International Regent upon investiture and payment of annual dues renewable every five (5) years if she remains a member in good standing and eligible thereof under Art. I, Sec. 2 of the Rules and Regulations as amended."**

4. Amendment of Art. I, Sec. 2 (Status of Membership) of the Appendix of the DMI Rules and Regulations to read:

(c) A member shall be considered in good standing when she faithfully and timely pays all DMII dues and assessments and her eligibility status remains in accordance with Art. I, Sec.1, Par. (a) thereof.

5. Amendment of the DMI Handbook of Information on Sharing of Conference Net Income as follows:

**"The net income realized from area conferences and national conventions shall be shared as follows:**



*Past IRs Sisters Lyding and Sonia Mayo who graced the occasion.*

Host Diocese/s	- 50%
<b>Regional Board</b>	- 20%
<b>National Office</b>	- 20%
<b>Mission Fund</b>	- 10%

**To safe-keep/safeguard funds of the Association sourced through fund-raising activities, share of assembly/conference net income, dues and assessments, officers of circles, vicariates and dioceses may open bank accounts in trust for their respective circles/vicariates/dioceses.**

The meeting delegates also approved the Board Resolution to sell the present DMI National Office (Mary's House) at Kathleen Place, Fernando St., Pasay City at present market value to provide funds for the relocation to a safer and more accessible area within Metro Manila.

The National Officers' Meeting officially ended at 3:30 p.m. with a closing prayer led by Region IV Representative Sis. Violy Luna. The day's master of ceremonies, International Chair for Youth Welfare Sis. Ruby Macario kept the day's program flowing smoothly.



*Working Committee members take time out to pose with Sis. Lyding.*



*The meeting delegates in session.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS - 1

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### **19th Biennial Convention, April 25-26, 2014 - A Preview**

The 19th DMI Biennial Convention scheduled on April 25-26, 2014 in Bohol promises to be another "blockbuster". Gauging from the almost-unanimous approval by delegates to the 18th Biennial Convention in May, 2012 when the delegates from the Diocese of Tagbilaran offered to host it, hopes are high that attendance to the 2014 Convention will also be record-breaking. (The 18th Biennial Convention in Tagaytay holds the record as the best-attended to date.)

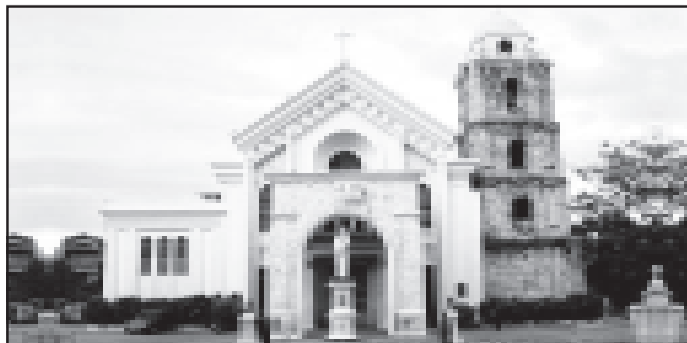
The Diocese of Tagbilaran headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Asuncion Naraga has this early drawn up a very interesting program of activities for the convention with the theme "Proclaim Jesus' Words . . . Emulate Mary's Virtues . . . Make DMI a Way of Life". The convention will have two venues – the Bohol Wisdom School Gymnasium in Tagbilaran City and the South Palms Resort in Panglao Island.

Bohol being now a major tourist destination, several tour packages have been made available for visitors to choose from such as the Countryside Tour (Chocolate Hills, Loboc River Cruise with lunch, Tarsier Conservation Area, Bilar Butterfly Farm and Man-made Forest, Baclayon Church & Museum and Blood Compact Shrine) the Visita Iglesia (Loon Church and Inang-angan, Maribojoc Church & Museum, Loboc Church & Museum, Loboc River Resort for lunch, Loay Church, Baclayon Church, Dauis Church and St. Joseph Cathedral), Dolphin and Whale Watching, Danao Adventure Tour and D.A.T.E. Park Tour.

Delegates are enjoined to register early to be able to get the best hotel accommodation accessible to the venue.

Convention Chair Sis. Gloria Caminero and her working committees have gone all out to ensure a most successful, fulfilling and fun-filled convention.

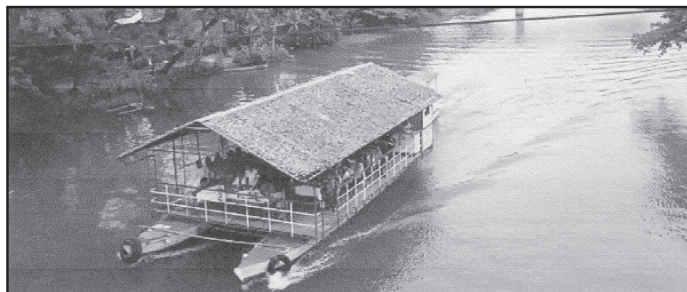
More details about the convention will be provided as soon as they become available.



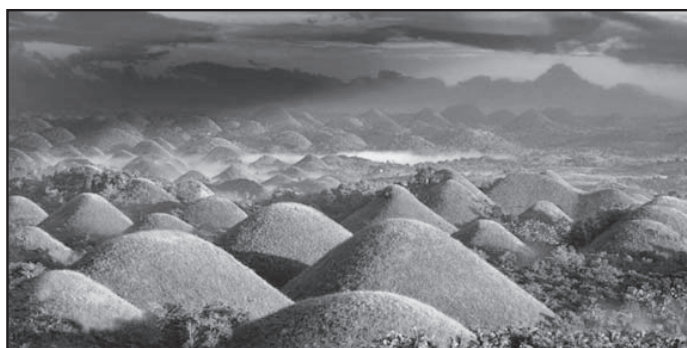
*The St. Joseph Cathedral, Tagbilaran City*



*Historic Baclayon Church*



*Loboc River Cruise*



*The Chocolate Hills in Carmen, Bohol*



## UPCOMING EVENTS - 2



*Welcome to Naga City*



*Our Lady of Penafrancia,  
patroness of Bicol*



*The Minor Basilica of Our Lady of  
Penafrancia*

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## Luzon Area Conference Slated Oct. 18-20, 2013 in Naga City

Sis. Lita Canonizado, Vice-International Regent for Luzon, announced the holding of the Luzon Area Conference on Oct. 18-20, 2013 at the Villa Caceres Hotel in Naga City, Camarines Sur. The conference theme is "The Role of Women in Nation-Building, through the Family with Mary as Model".

Congresswoman Leni Robredo has been invited as keynote speaker of the conference.

The deadline of the on-going registration of delegates is on Sept. 15, 2013. Registration fee is P2,800 per participant with graduated discounts if paid within earlier deadlines set. The

registration fee covers 2 breakfasts, 1 lunch, 2 dinners and 3 snacks and the conference kit. Cost of transportation and hotel accommodation are to be shouldered by the conference delegates.

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Class A uniforms are required for all the sessions with Filipiniana as the motif for the Fellowship Night on October 19.

The Conference Committee composed of DMI sisters from Region VI (Laguna) headed by Sis. Lita, concurrently Region VI RR, has provided a list of hotels near the venue, means and cost of transportation available and Bicol tour packages at the option of the delegates. (Please see Memorandum Circular dated May 10, 2013 on the Luzon Area Conference.)

# Archdiocese of Cebu Hosts Region X Assembly

The Cebu Grand Hotel in Cebu City was this year's venue of the Regional Assembly of Region X. Early on the morning of June 8, 2013, delegates from the Dioceses of Tagbilaran and Dumaguete were welcomed by the hosts, the DMI sisters of the Archdiocese of Cebu.

The coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary by DMI Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva and Vice-International Regent – Visayas Sis. Evelyn Aquino signaled the formal opening of the assembly. The opening prayer was accompanied by an interpretative dance by Mary Rose Villacastin-Majuyo. Assembly delegates were then presented by their respective diocesan regents – Sis. Sonia Sibala of the Diocese of Dumaguete, Sis. Asuncion Naraga of the Diocese of Tagbilaran and Sis. Delia Villacastin of the Archdiocese of Cebu. Monsignor Cayetano Gelbolingo, DMI Diocesan spiritual director, welcomed the delegates on behalf of Cebu Archbishop Jose Palma.

Sis. Mila Villanueva in her inspirational message called on the DMI sisters for real conversion and change in the Year of Faith and to serve always with humility. She also reported on the amendments of the DMI Rules & Regulations ratified during the National Officers' Meeting in May.

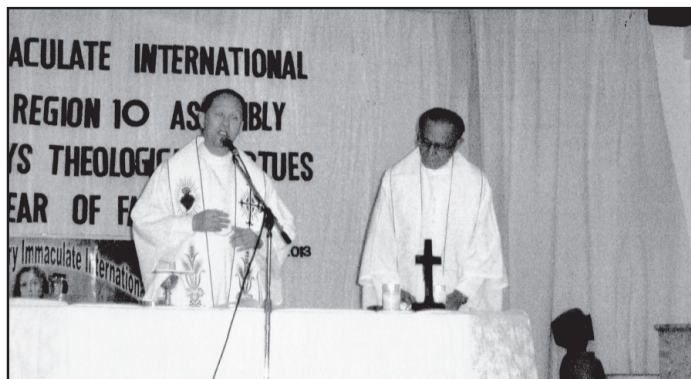
The first plenary speaker was Msgr. Dennis Villarojo, Team Minister, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish and secretary-general of the Theological Commission of the



*The coronation of the Blessed Mother during the opening ceremonies.*

International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Cebu in 2016. His topic was on the assembly theme: "Practicing Mary's Theological Virtues in the Year of Faith". He said that of the theological virtues of faith, hope and love, love is the greatest virtue, it endures forever, even in heaven. These virtues had been realized in Mary.

There were five main points in Monsignor Villarojo's talk. Point No. 1 is on the prophecy in Genesis regarding the serpent and the woman who would crush its head, a battle between good and evil. Mary is the instrument of our salvation and redemption. She is the redemptrix. We must cooperate in the work of redemption by means of the theological virtues which are gifts that we must deserve. We must take the side of Jesus and Mary, and choose to do good.



*Fr. Jerome Cruz and Msgr. Cayetano Gelbolingo, Mass co-celebrants.*



*An interpretative dance by Mary Rose Villacastin-Majuyo accompanied the opening prayer.*





*The assembly speakers, from left: IR Sis. Mila Villanueva, Msgr. Dennis Villarojo, Dr. Rene Bullecer, Msgr. Agustin Ancajas and Sis. Vincent Borromeo, RGS.*



*VIR-Visayas Sis. Evelyn Aquino (at right, standing) and her Assembly Working Committee.*



*An ice-breaker exercise being enjoyed by assembly participants.*

Point No. 2: If the choice is the side of good, there must be persistent pursuit of goodwill. God gives the gift of faith exercised clearly by Mary in the Annunciation (fiat). Thus Mary is the first disciple. We must make ourselves available for God's purposes. Point No. 3 was about the charity of Mary exemplified at the wedding feast at Cana, a manifestation of her love and concern, which was a signal to her Son: "Your time has come."

Point No. 4 was about Hope – Mary standing at the foot of the Cross and being entrusted to the disciple John. There is need for strength in the face of adversity as Mary showed at the foot of the Cross. Pain and loss are a purification and a preparation to receive greater gifts.

Monsignor Villarojo's last point centered on Mary, the woman in Revelation – cited in Nazareth, Cana and Calvary – the Woman clothed with the Sun.

The second plenary talk was held after lunch with Dr. Rene Bullecer, a member of the Pontifical Council on

Health Care in Rome, making a video presentation on "Silent Attack Against the Family Explained". Dr. Bullecer gave the following interesting statistics: Of the 7.2 billion people in the world, 1.2 billion are Roman Catholics. The population in the Philippines is 77.8% Catholic but only 22% are Mass goers. At present, there are 43,000 Protestant denominations throughout the world; there are 2,000 in the Philippines. He also cited the basic differences in beliefs between Catholics and Protestants and the challenges and threats that confront the Catholic Church today. These are: low percentage of churchgoers, worsening crisis in priesthood and religious life, so many WP (*walang pakialam*) church leaders, dangerous number of anti-Catholic political leaders, and global anti-life/church agenda.

Dr. Bullecer called on his audience to continue opposing anti-life laws and to show opposition by wearing red ribbons. Aside from the RH Law, Catholics must say "NO" to the following anti-life laws now being enforced in other countries: laws on Divorce, Abortion, Gay

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From Batangas City

## SMI Members Participate in Parish "Live Stations of the Cross sa Kalunsuran"

The Squirettes of Mary Immaculate Mater Purissima Circlette of Batangas City participated in the re-enactment of the Live Stations of the Cross along the major streets of the city on March 27, 2013, Holy Wednesday, in cooperation with the Parish of the Immaculate Conception. Fifteen stations were placed in strategic places along the city streets. This Lenten activity of the parish was organized by the Parish Youth Ministry of which the SMIs are active members.

Krista Elaine Abel, SMI president, performed as Magdalene, friend of Jesus, and was the first who saw the Risen Christ. Darcy Dimaunahan, SMI treasurer acted as Martha.

The rest of the Squirettes who joined the cast of the Live Stations of the Cross were Dane Marie Lacap, Janela Ramos, Marie Catangay, Nikka Ilagan. Nicole delos Reyes, and Rizza Ferry. They were the "Taong Bayan" and the "Mananangis" or the c rying ladies. Prior to their performance, the Squirettes attended the LSC workshop led by famous performers



*The Live Stations of the Cross being reenacted along the city streets of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Batangas City.*

of Batangas City.

### *Archdiocese of Cebu Hosts Region X Assembly...Cont'd from Page 9*

Marriages and Assisted Suicide. He ended his presentation by quoting Pope Francis: "Ask Jesus what He wants from you and be brave."

Msgr. Agustin Ancajas, diocesan media coordinator of the Archdiocese of Cebu, spoke on Morality in Media and the power of media over people's lives through its functions – instrumental surveillance, interpretation and linkage, its social and entertainment values and its beneficial and adverse effects on the family and society. Because of this power of media, he said that the Church must take a proactive stance on media as a communication tool by promoting good media through lectures and conferences, retreats and recollections and the promotion of Catholic imagination. Proper media utilization may be promoted through media literacy, communication formation and media spirituality leading to a Church culture of wisdom, remembrance and joy.

Sister Vincent Borromeo, RGS who is a living witness of the religious in living a simple lifestyle, spoke on Upliftment of Women Workers. She is an active worker in the BECs of Carbon, Cebu and founded Alay-Kapwa, a livelihood project among the women of Carbon. She reported that the community of 450 mothers turns out 20 products but their problem is marketing. Spiritual assistance is also provided through meditation and Bible-sharing. Sis. Vincent ended her talk with the plea: "Those who have more in life must share."

Rev. Fr. Expedito Torrevillas, parochial vicar and SMI spiritual adviser of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Circlette, spoke on the DMI mission on Youth Welfare. He issued a call to holiness and exhorted his audience, including a number of Squirettes, to know and understand the beauty of the Catholic faith and the Eucharist. In ending, he posed a challenge to attract the young to the Eucharistic celebration. "Be like Mary, keep silent" in order to be in perfect

communion in praising God.

A Eucharistic celebration, an Anticipated Mass concelebrated by Fr. Jerome and Msgr. Gelbolingo brought the day's session to a close. Liturgical music was provided by the St. Vincent Ferrer Circlette of Urgello, Cebu headed by Sis. Rose Pangatungan.

Program host of the plenary session was Sis. Haidee Emmie Palapar of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Circle.

The dinner and fellowship that followed featured a cultural dance, "Dayang Dayang" by Sis. Marilen Giduquio of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle and a mini-concert by the Squirettes of San Vicente Ferrer Circlette. The participants then danced Gangnam style.

Sis. Evelyn Aquino officially closed the assembly after handing out certificates of recognition to deserving circles in Region X.



## 14TH SMI BIENNIAL CONVENTION

# SUMMER... MORE FUN IN THE CITY

By Ruby Macario

### DAY ONE



Page one of the 16-page script of the organizing committee had it that the mini-parade around the **Ciudad Christia 9Waves Resort at San Mateo, Rizal (Diocese of Antipolo)** would start at 1:30 p.m. on May 24, 2013 after **DMI Secretary Sis. Josie Halog**, assisted by the Diocese of Manila, had completed the registration of all delegates. As the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate were assembled at the lobby, it literally “rained on their parade.” This did not dampen their spirit and, on cue, the drum and lyre corps started playing and everyone paraded - inside, filling the convention hall with all of 250 delegates – from as far north as Isabela and as far south as Surigao and Ozamis. Faithful daughters and squirettes of Mama Mary called it a blessing from **Above**, a living testament to the **14th SMI Biennial Convention theme: *Riding the Wave of Faith in God Through Mary (in the Year of Faith)***.

**SMI National Treasurer Justine Calderon** and **Chancellor Caroline Soliven** were assigned as emcees. But Caroline was taken in as a Math teacher at Lourdes School Mandaluyong and had to undergo a 2-day orientation. This did not pose any problem because, again and as if on cue, **SMI National Secretary Jam Lopez** was quick to take on the emceeing job and co-SMI **Angelee Perada** filled in the logistical task of the absent Caroline. (God is indeed good as Caroline later arrived in time for the fellowship night.)

As planned, **Mama Mary** was to lead us all to the meaningful event

of the Squirettes through the enthronement and consecration of her image and floral offering that followed. It was a touching event as DMIs, led by host **Region 5 Representative and International Secretary Sis. Cora Afuang** and **SMI Mindanao Coordinator Sis. Lelis Pimentel**, lined up the aisle with candles, signifying the DMIs’ guiding light to the Squirettes. SMI officers, accompanied by **DMI International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva** on one side and **SMI National Chairperson Sis. Ruby Macario** on the other side, carried Mama Mary to her altar, followed by lady counselors in SMI uniforms who offered her flowers.

The flag of the Republic, together with the DMI and the SMI banners, were paraded by SMIs from the Diocese of Cubao. The opening rites were capped by the presentation of the 42 participating circlettes from Regions 1 to 14, led by marshals from the Diocese of Paranaque.

**SMI National President Bebet Manulat**, who came all the way from Aklan, officially opened the program with her welcome address. After her welcome remarks, Bebet introduced **Sis. Mila Villanueva**, calling her a woman of grace, beauty and brains, the new International Regent of the DMI who has been National Chairperson for the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate for many years and was instrumental in planning and organizing our biennial conventions in Ormoc and Baguio and was with the SMIs in spirit in Boracay, not to mention her role in implementing several changes



that made the Squirettes' activities more attuned to the times and less classroom-style. Sis. Mila brought the house down with her contest on acronyms. SMIs ran to grab the mike for their answers (i.e. LOL – laugh out loud; league of legends; BVM – Blessed Virgin Mary) and for the win – bag-load of imported chocolates!

Lest everyone forgot, **Sec. Jam Lopez** read the house rules (like the wearing of their neon-green ballers and SMI IDs at all times for security) and announced the convention alert song, entitled Rise Up, which when played should serve as cue for all Squirettes to assemble at the convention hall or the next activity venue, as announced.

Squirettes from the convention host, the Diocese of Antipolo under the leadership of **Diocesan Regent Sis. Rita Lucena**, presented a special dance number to the tune of *Tayo Na Sa Antipolo*.

The first speaker, **Bro. Michael Angelo Lobrin**, bestselling author and a sought after inspirational speaker in Television, Radio and Conferences in the country and abroad, came a bit late but it was worth the wait for all as he asked everyone, in his light and comic style, not to lose focus on what is important in life – faith.

For the fellowship and workshop activities, the SMIs were grouped according to the color of their hankies, contained in

their convention kits. The groups had one hour left to compose their group Yell and present a number after dinner. Despite the lack of time, SMIs and DMIs alike found time to savor their ice cream, courtesy of Nestle and **Sis. Cathy Pineda** of the Diocese of Kalookan. Incidentally, **Sisters Sylvia San Pedro, Biennah Villanueva** and she were instrumental to the food and table set-up and the printing and putting up of the tarpaulins, designed by SMI friend **Carlo Santos**.

Remarkable Red was the color of the fellowship night. Prior to the buffet dinner, table occupants were called to the stage for their photo-ops, mimicking different dances indicated in their table sign holders (Macarena, Cha-Cha, Gangnam, etc). 10 groups presented their numbers and, in between, DMIs and SMIs line-danced to upbeat music. At the end of the night, DMIs and SMIs paraded in their red outfits. Crowned Best in Remarkable Red were **DMI Joan Semper** from Malolos and **SMI Gwen Cledera** from Antipolo. DMI officers acted as judges: **Sis. Mila Villanueva**, **Prolife Chairperson Sis. Helen de Leon, MD**, **Upliftment of Women Workers Chairperson Sis. Juliet Cruz**, **Assistance to Prisoners' Families & Their Victims Chairperson Sis. Milde Tong**, and **Ciudad Christhia Representative Mr. Carlos Fernandez** was guest judge. The night was capped by a final dance led by two dance instructors and photobooth sessions set up at the corner of the hall.

## DAY TWO



SMIs gathered at 7am by the pool for their morning prayers, song and dance for Jesus and Mary.

The first speaker for the day, **Dra. Gaines Marie Garcia Rosario**, a dentist by profession and head of LAYFORCE – the formation arm in the Archdiocese of Manila at the San Carlos Seminary, arrived early. In no time and at length (all of two hours), she started talking about perfect love, waves of life, and belief (her topic: Love & Commitment In the Year of Faith), and kept the delegates glued on their seats as they listened to her expound on “Sari-Saring Puso .. Alin ang Sa Iyo?”. Finally, she said that, in the silence of our hearts, the Lord speaks. Everyone gave her and her husband a warm applause as they showed the delegates in person a picture of true love.

**SMI National VP-Luzon Jovy Sumale** then announced that it was time to group for the team-building activities, composed of Collage Making, Apple Race, Pyramid of Unity, Kapit Bisig, Shoot the Plastic Rope and Build Your Own SMI Center. All the activities were judged according to best-time, except Collage Making and Build Your Own SMI Center, which were graded by the Board of Judges, composed of: **Sisters Mila Villanueva, Cora Afuang, Pureza Guzman (Region IX Representative), Pitz Torres and Rose Enriquez** (both from the Diocese of Novaliches).

After lunch, **Sis. Mila Villanueva** proposed the following resolution on the holding of meetings and conferences:



### Monthly Meetings

“The SMI Circlette shall hold its Monthly meetings on dates and place designated and agreed upon.”

### Area Conferences

“Area Conferences shall be held separately in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, in between the SMI Biennial Convention, in order to expose future leaders to the DMI’s beliefs, practices and spirituality and give opportunities to SMIs within their areas to be exposed to area conferences.”

### Biennial Conventions

“An SMI Biennial Convention shall be held every other year – in April or May during summer school break – to be attended by Squirettes from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, to tackle topics of youth concern and foster relationship among Squirettes nationwide.”

The body unanimously approved the resolution.

**SMI National VP-Visayas Jesanny Yap** travelled all the way from Iloilo to introduce her bestfriend and third speaker, **former SMI National President Jonah Eliza Prado**.

Like a true teacher, Jonah (or Eliza as she now likes to be called) tackled her topic: Be-YOU-tiful. She asked all to sing and hug and, like a pro, amused everyone as she sang a thank-you song herself, her way.



Election of SMI officers for the ensuing year 2013-2015 followed. The election committee was led by DMIs with **Sisters Beth Bongon** and **Jessica Santos** of the Diocese of Cubao as chairman and co-chairman, respectively. The following were voted by members of the electorate (one representative per circlette):



**President: Maria Caroline Soliven** (Immaculate Conception of Karangalan Circlette, Antipolo)

**VP Luzon: Justine Calderon** (Immaculate Conception of Karangalan Circlette, Antipolo)

**VP Visayas: Jesanny Yap** (Our Lady of Lourdes Circlette, Kalibo)

**VP Mindanao: Liezle Pauline Espiritusanto** (Our Lady of Purification Circlette, Zamboanga)

**Secretary: Krysta Abel** (Mater Purissima Circlette, Lipa)

**Treasurer: Melody Lanuza** (Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circlette, Malolos)

**Chancellor: Abbie Gail Villanueva** (Medalya Milagrosa Circlette, Cubao)

They were inducted by **Sis. Ruby Macario** and later received their blessings during the Holy Mass presided by **Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz**, DMI International Chaplain.

It was “anything goes” after dinner, with **Bebet Manulat** accompanying singers on her guitar and videoke singing till late into the night. SMIs and some adventurous DMIs queued for the facepainting till 10pm. Most trooped to the 9Waves pool to swim.





## DAY THREE



After the morning prayers by the pool, **Sis. Ruby Macario** formally closed the convention in the morning of May 26 and, as a form of farewell, danced to her inspirational song, *I Have a Dream*, together with the SMI officers on stage and the rest of the delegates in the hall.

Announcement and awarding of winners followed. The awarding criteria were: presentation during the dinner night, best time in the Activities/Workshop; and attendance during all activities – from days 1 to 3. Incomplete attendance meant point deduction in the Best in Attendance tally sheet. Each group was given a ribbon and all participants received gifts of baller and a



### Postscript:

*Thanks most of all to the members of the organizing committee:*

#### Host Region

*Diocese of Antipolo*

#### Budget, Finance

*(Region 5 Rep. Cora Afuang)*

#### Theme & Program

*Sis. Rita Lucena, Sis. Ruby Macario*

#### Logistics & Physical

*Sq. Bebet Manulat, Sq. Jesanny Yap*

#### Arrangements

*Diocese of Kalookan*  
*(Sis. Sylvia San Pedro/Cathy Pineda)*

#### Registration & First Aid

*Sis. Josie Halog, Diocese of Manila (Sq. Jam Lopez)*

#### Marshalling & Security

*Diocese of Paranaque (Sq. Jovy Sumale)*

#### Ceremonials, Food & Awards

*Diocese of Cubao (Sis. Beth Bongon, Biannah Villanueva, Tess Macaraeg, Sosing Racho, Jessica Santos)*

#### Worship

*Diocese of Antipolo (Sis. Rita Lucena, Sq. Justine Calderon, Sq. Caroline Soliven)*

Miraculous Medal, courtesy of **Sis. Sosing Racho** and packed by **Sis. Tess Macaraeg**, both from the Diocese of Cubao. Members of the best group – the **White Team** – also each received these items plus a special prize.

As a final tribute to her and in what was considered as the most dramatic part of the convention program – on the last page of the 16-page script, **Mama Mary** was brought down from her altar by outgoing **SMI President Bebet Manulat**, who handed the image to incoming **SMI President Caroline Soliven**, who then led the recessional with the other SMI officers to the end of the hall. Tears of joy welled up. **Mama Mary** was to join her daughters and squirettes as they journeyed back home.

Delegates vowed to see each other again in their respective area conferences next year and during the 15th SMI Biennial Convention in Mindanao in 2015.

To the delegates, thank you for your participation. To those who lent support to our souvenir program, thank you for the help. To those who were unable to attend, thank you for being our prayer warriors! Our ardent prayer was that, this year and for always, our Biennial Convention and all our conferences and assemblies would be a success. In the silence of our hearts, the Lord spoke.



As a final tribute to her, **Mama Mary** was brought down from her altar by outgoing SMI President **Bebet Manulat**, who handed the image to incoming SMI President **Caroline Soliven**, who then led the recessional with the other SMI officers to the end of the hall. Tears of joy welled up. **Mama Mary** was to join her daughters and squirettes as they journeyed back home.



One final Rise Up for the young and old alike. See you again in the area conferences next year and in the next SMI Biennial Convention in 2015 in Mindanao.

## Updates from Mater Immaculata Circle

The Mater Immaculata Circle of the Our Lady of the Pillars Parish in Cauayan City hosted the diocesan assembly of the Diocese of Ilagan held recently. The assembly with the theme "Maria, Ina at Huwaran ng Matibay na Pananampalataya" was attended by delegates of the DMI circles from the Parishes of Sto. Nino de Praga of Cordon, Queen of Mercy of Angadanan, Our Lady of La Sallette of San Mateo, Our Lady of Atocha of Alicia and the host circle from the Our Lady of the Pillars of Cauayan City.

In his inspirational message, Fr. Elmer "Bong" Lozano, the very supportive pastor of Sto. Nino de Praga Parish, focused on the invaluable contribution of parishioners through their active participation and membership in parish and church organizations/associations as compared with KBLs meaning parishioners who go to church only to

attend **kasal**, **binyag**, **libing** and **SIMBABWE** (simba, bahay, uwe).

The other speakers were Mr. Villamor Visaya, news correspondent of GMA Network, who dwelt on the topic Morality in Media and Sis. Mila Paguila, medical practitioner and former DMI Region I RR who, as the speaker on Pro-Life, discussed the Ten Commandments of Ecology by St. Francis, the father of ecology.

Highlight of the evening fellowship was a Dance Showdown by four circles showcasing the costumes and dances of the countries they represented – Hawaiian by the Mater Immaculata Circle, Chinese by Our Lady of Atocha Circle, Indian by Sto. Nino de Praga Circle and Mexican by Our Lady of La Sallette Circle.

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*Sis. Mila Paguila, past Region I RR who spoke on Pro-life before her audience.*



*Fr. Elmer "Bong" Lozano, pastor of Sto. Nino de Praga Parish was inspirational speaker.*



*Past Regents of Mater Immaculata Circle received Awards of Recognition for their invaluable contribution to the growth of the circle.*



*The circle members with Fr. John Arthur Bartolome distributed packed lunches and gift packages to jail inmates during the feast day of Our Lady of the Pillars.*



From Olongapo City

# The Immaculate Conception Circle and Its Music Ministry

By Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya, Circle Regent

The Immaculate Conception Circle of the Immaculate Conception Parish, Barretto, Olongapo City is the youngest circle in the Vicariate of San Jose. The circle has actively undertaken various activities for the DMI missions, among them its music ministry at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology in Olongapo City. Paving the way for the organization of a choir to provide liturgical music during Masses at the City Jail was the distribution of T-shirts to 35 choir volunteers. Then the group started holding regular practice of religious and liturgical songs every first and third Fridays of the month for the Anticipated Sunday Masses conducted the following Saturday at the jail compound.

Vice-Regent Sis. Nida de la Llana and Regent Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya initiated the activity with the support of Diocesan Regent Sis. Erlinda Crispin and Sis. Edith Quias, chair of the Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims (APFV) and other circle members. New liturgical and religious songs are taught to the male and female jail inmates during their practice sessions.

It is heartwarming to see how the circle has been



*The Olongapo City BJMP Choir during a practice session.*

able to make the inmates feel even for a brief moment that no iron bars separate them from the outside world. Together, the DMI sisters and the inmates sing liturgical songs during practice and more significantly during the Eucharistic celebration itself. The guitar and keyboard accompaniments also provided by inmates enliven the practice sessions and the Masses.

It is hoped that this activity will be long-term as the circle pursues the APFV mission.

*Updates from Mater Immaculata Circle...Cont'd from Page 11*

The host circle awarded all its past regents a Certificate of Recognition and Appreciation for their invaluable services to the organization. Sis. Socorro Recimo, the oldest participant, received a special award.

## OTHER CIRCLE ACTIVITIES

The members of Mater Immaculata Circle regularly visit

the city jail and sponsor Masses for the detainees. On the Feast of Our Lady of the Pillars, they distributed packed lunches and gifts of toiletries, used clothing and other articles to the detainees.

The circle also sponsored the dawn procession held on the Feast Day of Our Lady of the Pillars.



From the Diocese of Balanga (Bataan)

## "Lakbay-Buhay" To Promote the Culture of Life

The passage of the Reproductive Health Bill into law has produced a highly divisive Philippine society. As the only Catholic country in Asia, there is a continuing campaign by the Catholic Church to promote the culture of life which the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International fully supports through its Pro-Life mission.

On April 6, 2013, the DMI Diocese of Balanga together with the Knights of Columbus Bishop Celso Guevarra Assembly sponsored a Walk-for-Life dubbed as "Lakbay-Buhay". The activity aimed to project the pro-life program of promoting the culture of life. It also aimed to offer

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The DMI-KC delegation who joined the "Lakbay-Buhay".



The youth also participated in the walk-for-life.

## Diocese of Balanga Sponsors Annual Lenten Recollection

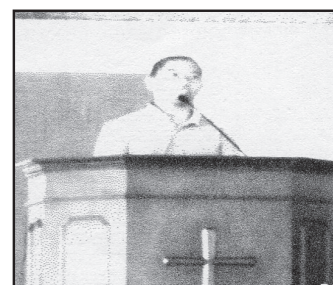
The Divine Mercy Shrine in Balanga City was the venue of the Annual Lenten Recollection sponsored by the Diocese of Balanga headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Ellen Magpantay last March 9, 2013. The recollection was also attended by brother-knights from the different Knights of Columbus councils in Bataan and officers and members of Soroptimist

International, Bataan Chapter. Over 300 participants attended the recollection.

The talk of Rev. Fr. Noel Nuguid, pastor of the Divine Mercy Shrine and recollection master, consisted of three topics. Topic No. 1, "Farther, Faster", dwelt on the enormous blessings reserved by God for all His creations (divine destiny). Divine destiny

is characterized by growth – upward for one's family and social life and deepening in faith as a follower of Christ. A self-assessment later made the participants realize their need for deeper faith.

The second topic was "Devotion to the Five Wounds of Jesus" and their meaning: (1) Jesus suffered a lot of great pain; (2) proof that the



Fr. Noel Nuguid, pastor of the Divine Mercy Shrine, recollection master.

One Who suffered and died is alive and is with

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*"Lakbay-Buhay" To Promote the Culture of Life...  
Cont'd from Page 13*

reconciliation and cooperation among the divided sectors of our society by our collective desire to uplift and improve the lives of the marginalized, "the least, the last and the lost" amongst us. The youth joined the DMIs and the KCs in this activity.

The "Lakbay-Buhay" is a 1.5-km. walk from Tapulao to Orani Church with Fr. Ronnie Loreto blessing the participants after praying the Holy Rosary. Aside from the walk-for-life, the event also included a ceremony for "Save the Unborn" at the patio of Sto. Rosario Church, one of the most visited in Bataan, where Fr. Santos de Tablan gave a spiritual talk. The day's activity ended with a Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Tablan. The Mass was also in celebration of the founding anniversary of the Knights of Columbus and offered for the Beatification of Fr. Michael McGivney.

*Diocese of Balanga Sponsors Annual Lenten  
Recollection...Cont'd from Page 13*

us; (3) an eternal trophy of Jesus' great love for mankind; (4) call of confidence – the one who intercedes for us is the one who suffered with us; and (5) an invitation to respond with love. He also said that the wounds of our lives are never obstacles to our victory.

Topic No. 3 was "Be Still or Maging Panatag". Fr. Nuguid said that God is a restorer according to



**PHOTO NEWS**

**Pilgrimage Tour 2013**



*Photo shows the past and present regents of the DMI circles in the Diocese of Balanga who joined the pilgrimage tour.*

The DMIs and KCs of the Diocese of Balanga went on a pilgrimage tour last May 19, 2013. The group, numbering 196, attended the Healing Mass of Fr. Fernando Suarez in Montemaria, Alfonso, Cavite and visited some churches and tourist spots in Tagaytay City including the Caleruega Church, Palace in the Sky and the Mahogany Market.

The pilgrimage was sponsored by the Sto. Rosario and San Juan Bautista Circles of the Diocese of Balanga headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Ellen Magpantay.

Jeremiah. Assuring us of unconditional love, God's plan is always good and always best for us. We need to be still and calm in the midst of difficulties and trials that may come into our lives.

Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Alma Cagampang acted as moderator in the open forum after the talk. The recollection ended with a Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Nuguid.

*The DMI sisters with Fr. Nuguid*

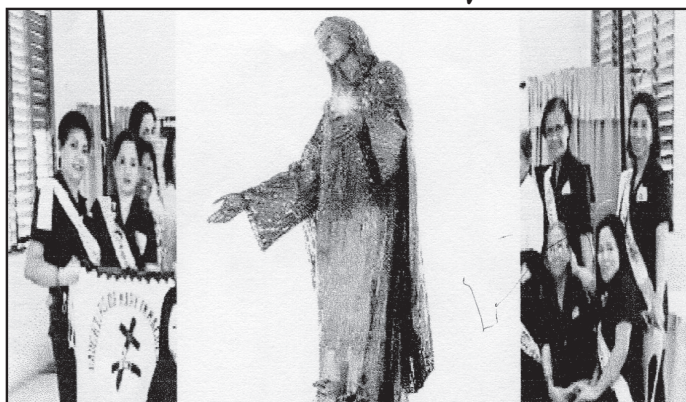


## New Circle Organized in Aurora Province

By Sis. Mila A. Diasanta, Vicarial Regent

*From the Prelature of Baler (Aurora)*

Another circle has just been organized in the Prelature of Baler. The new circle in the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in Dipaculao, Aurora was organized through the effort of the officers of the Mother of Perpetual Help Circle of San Luis, Aurora led by Past Regent Sis. Nancy Susada and Regent Sis. Julie Tolentino who met with Fr. Noel Valencia, parish priest, Sis. Ella Adzuara, Parish Celebration Committee convenor and Sis. Marilyn Pascua, wife of the KC Grand Knight. It is the fifth circle in the Prelature of Baler.



*The members of the newly-organized Our Lady of Peace Circle*

Twenty-six prospective members initially signed a petition to organize the circle. On February 9, 2013, 19 charter members were exemplified by the Prelature of Baler Exemplification Team. The rest were exemplified on March 10, followed by

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## Prelature of Baler Holds Monthly Vicarial Meetings

Sis. Mila Diasanta, vicarial regent of the Prelature of Baler reported the regular holding of monthly vicarial meetings of officers of the five circles existing in Aurora Province.

Among the significant DMI activities in the Prelature are the exemplification of 94 new members including the 31 charter members of Our Lady of Peace Circle of Dipaculao, participation in the Vicarial Assembly of Women in the Vicariate of Valley-Ding on March 9, 2013 to highlight the celebration of Women's Month and participation in the assembly of the Diocese of Cabanatuan. Sis. Neneng Flores from the Prelature won the title of Ms. Friendship in the search for Gng. DMII during the fellowship.

More circles are planned to be organized in the Prelature of Baler. The DMIs of Aurora hope that turning the prelature to a full-fledged diocese will not be long in coming.



*The DMI sisters of the Prelature of Baler during the celebration of the Vicariate Women's Day. Sis. Glorifil Uy, a member of the Mother of Perpetual Help Circle is the lead convenor of the Women's Desk.*

The first DMI circle in Aurora, the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle, was organized in April, 2009 during the term of Past Region II Representative Sis. Rita Caballero.

From Tarlac City

## San Sebastian Circle Gives Scholarship Grant

By Sis. Elizabeth Leano, Circle Regent

**B**eatha Marie Salvatierra is the first student to be granted a scholarship by the San Sebastian Circle of Tarlac City. She is an incoming Grade 8 student of Tarlac National High School. She will receive a monthly allowance from the circle until she graduates from high school and pursues a college education. The circle also paid her miscellaneous fees and school materials.



*Beatha Marie Salvatierra with the DMI sisters of San Sebastian Circle.*

The project is spearheaded by the Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims. The Circle is still in search for more children of prisoners to help support their education through scholarship grants.

### PHOTO NEWS



### Livelihood Seminar Conducted

A livelihood seminar was sponsored by the San Sebastian Circle on May 23, 2013 with the assistance of the City Nutritional Planning Office. The participants, women from the barangay and circle members, learned how to make *sapin-sapin* (layered glutinous rice with coconut), *empanada* (baked or fried stuffed pastry) and *hopia* (bean-filled pastry). The project, aimed at providing supplemental income to the families in the barangay, was initiated by the Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee.

### *New Circle Organized in Aurora Province...Cont'd from Page 15*

another group on April 13, 2013. The members, now numbering 31, chose to call their circle Our Lady of Peace Circle.

The charter officers of Our Lady of Peace Circle are: Sisters Marilyn Pascua – regent, Yolanda DA. Paulino – vice-regent, Juanita Balbuena – past regent, Angela Gines – treasurer, Violeta Espanol – financial secretary, Norma Tano – recording secretary, Eleanor Adzuara – scribe, Daisy Buen – custodian, Eden Padua – chancellor, Josie Collado – outer guard, Leticia Combis – 3-year trustee, Leonora Reyes – 2-year trustee, Marilou Castillo – 1-year trustee, Daisy Jallorina – inner guard, Elsa Cesar – Guide 1, Jocelyn Solanzo – Guide 2, Evangeline Mabalot – banner bearer, Phoebe Tabernero – monitor and Mercedita Alata – organist.



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## News in Photos

*From Las Pinas City*

### DMIs, Squirettes of Mary Mother of the Church Parish Join Holy Week Celebration

During this year's Holy Week, the DMI sisters of the Mary Mother of the Church Circle joined the parish '*Pabasa*' on Holy Tuesday. The Squirettes also played an active role particularly during the Easter '*salubong*' taking the part of angel who took the Virgin's veil and the group who sang and danced in the Easter tableau.



### Medical-Dental Mission Conducted

The Mary Mother of the Church Circle spearheaded a medical-dental mission at Fr. Donato Giannotti Foundation, Inc., BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City in cooperation with volunteer dentists from the Las Pinas Dental Society in February, 2012 in observance of Dental Awareness Month.

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*From Muntinlupa City*

### Our Lady of The Lilies Circle Conducts Annual Operation 'Tuli'

The annual Operation 'Tuli' was conducted by the Our Lady of the Lilies Circle led by Regent Sis. Iluminada Celarde at the clinic of Mary Cause of our Joy Parish Church last April 7, 2013. Dr. Jeremias Balsa, Jr., son of DMI Sis. Nita Balsa, led the team of volunteer doctors who performed the procedure for some 110 boys, mostly from the mission areas of the parish. Photo shows Dr. Balsa conferring with the DMI sisters regarding the day's activity.



From Region VIII (Bicol)

## Region VIII Assembly Held in Virac

The Regional Assembly of Region VIII was held on May 19, 2013 in Virac Catanduanes.

It was a one-day affair attended by delegates from the five dioceses comprising Region VIII – the Archdiocese of Caceres and the Dioceses of Legaspi, Daet, Sorsogon, Virac and Libmanan.

Most Rev. Manolo Delos Santos, bishop of the Diocese of Virac, was the keynote speaker. Regional Representative Sis. Terry Viola was

not able to attend the assembly but sent a message that was read on her behalf by Diocesan Regent Sis. Princess Monsalve.

The assembly was ably hosted by the Immaculate Conception Circle of the Diocese of Virac headed by Regent Sis. Ermita Icamen.

*Most Rev. Manolo Delos Santos of the Diocese of Virac delivers the keynote address during the Region VIII Assembly.*



## Region VIII Officers' Meeting Convened

Region VIII Representative Sis. Terry Viola convened a meeting of the Regional officers and board on June 16, 2013 at the conference room of Crown Park Restaurant in Iriga City, Camarines Sur.



*The Region VIII Officers & Board during their regional meeting in Iriga City on June 16, 2013.*

All the dioceses in the region were represented at the meeting which opened with the enthronement of the Blessed Mother by Sis. Terry assisted by Vicarial Regent Sis. Helen Gaite of the Archdiocese of Caceres. Diocesan Regent (DR) Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas of the Diocese of Legaspi led the opening prayer, DR Sis. Marian Imperial of the Archdiocese of Caceres, the DMI Hymn and VR Sis. Princess Monsalve also of Caceres, the Philippine National Anthem.

After a getting-to-know-you exercise, Sis. Terry gave an update on matters discussed during the National Officers' Meeting in Manila in May regarding the DMI missions and the upcoming major DMI activities such as the DMI Biennial Convention in 2014 to be held in Tagbilaran City and the Luzon Area Conference to be held in Naga City in October, 2013. A recap of the just-concluded Region VIII Assembly was also made.





*The circle members with the beneficiary-families.*

*From Bobon, Northern Samar*

## Holy Name of Jesus Circle Reaches Out To Prisoners' Families

The Holy Name of Jesus Circle of Bobon, Northern Samar gave gifts to families of detainees at the Provincial Jail who are from the town of Bobon.

Twenty detainees' families were requested to attend the second Mass at the Holy Name of Jesus Parish Church on January 6, 2013 after which the gifts were given to them. The gift bags contained rice, noodles, canned sardines, coffee, sugar, toiletries such as soap, shampoo, toothpaste and other items.

The Circle's Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims spearheaded the activity. The gifts were taken from funds raised by the Circle during their Christmas caroling project in December.

***"Men do not fear a powerful hostile army as the powers of hell fear the name and protection of Mary."***

***--St. Bonaventure***

## Vatican sends first tweet under Pope Francis

The official Twitter account for Pope Francis has sent out its first tweet under the new papacy.

"Habemus papam franciscum," tweeted the pope's official account @Pontifex. The Latin phrase translates to "we have a new pope [Francis]."

The Twitter account for the Vatican was changed to reflect that a new pope had been chosen shortly after it was announced from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City.

After just a day and a half, the 115 cardinals eligible to vote elected the new pope. White smoke emerged from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel at about 2 p.m. ET, signifying that at least 77 cardinals agreed on a successor for Pope Benedict XVI.



Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Archbishop of Argentina, has been named the 266th pope. He will be called Pope Francis.

Soon after it was made known that a new pope was elected, the official Twitter page of the pope was changed from "Sede Vacante" -- an expression to signify the papacy is currently vacant -- to "Pontifex."

Benedict posted his last tweet at 11 a.m. ET on Feb. 28, as he prepared to leave the Vatican for Castel Gandolfo. Benedict's final message to the world's 1.2 billion Catholics said: "Thank you for your love and support. May you always experience the joy that comes from putting Christ at the centre of your lives."

The official Twitter account for the pope sent its first tweet on Dec. 12, 2012. Benedict posted a total of 39 tweets, which has been archived on the Vatican's website. The account has 1.6 million followers.

From Tandag City, Surigao del Sur

## Immaculate Conception Circle Sponsors Hair-Styling Seminar

By Sis. Aida V. Polinar, Circle Regent

The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of the Immaculate Conception Circle of Tandag City, Surigao del Sur sponsored a 3-day Hair Styling Seminar starting on March 7, 2013 to provide livelihood income for families of Bgy. San Jose. The seminar was held in observance of the Month of Women. The project was held jointly with the City Government represented by Sis. Roxanne Pimentel, wife of the City Mayor and Sis. Tessie Buniel of DSWD.

The seminar ended with a graduation ceremony on March 9. Inspirational messages were given by Sis. Roxanne and Circle Regent Sis. Aida Polinar. The participants expressed their appreciation for the income-generating training they just received and delightfully accepted souvenir items given by the circle that they would need to practice their newly-acquired skill.



*The DMI sisters with some of the seminar participants*



*Fr. Elvis Petros, recollection speaker, stresses a point as participants listen intently.*

## Lenten Recollection Held

A Lenten Recollection was held by the Immaculate Conception Circle at the MSM Conference Hall last March 2, 2013. Fr. Elvis Petros was the recollection speaker who shared with the circle members the meaning and value of life. He also stressed the importance of peace and harmony in the family and how parents may abuse their children.

The PowerPoint presentation by Fr. Elvis gave emphasis to his Lenten message, with the circle members fully appreciating the inputs they gained from the recollection. Diocesan Regent Sis. Tess Miranda thanked the speaker and presented a token on behalf of the DMI sisters.

*"All the sins of your life seem to be rising up against you. Don't give up hope! On the contrary, call your holy mother Mary, with the faith and abandonment of a child. She will bring peace to your soul."*

*--St. Josemaria Escriva*