

# DMI Newsette

*To Jesus through Mary*

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## *Hello and Good-Bye, Pope Francis!*

*By Sis. Sally T. Estrada, DMI Newsette Editor*

The much-awaited Apostolic and State Visit of Pope Francis to the Philippines on January 15 to 19, 2015 had come and gone. And yet the Pope Francis effect is still upon us and will linger on for a long, long time. And this despite the terrible tragedy that happened in Mindanao close in the heels of his visit.

We call it the Pope Francis Fever. The Filipinos' overwhelming response to his presence was of a kind that the world had not yet seen.

Pope Francis came on a sunny, albeit windy afternoon (the wind blew his skull cap as he emerged from the plane, some observed as a sign of warm welcome) on his arrival from Sri Lanka on January 15.

Throngs of people, so many of them, greeted him wherever and whenever he passed – on his way to the Apostolic Nunciature, his official residence during the visit, to Malacanang for his courtesy call on President Aquino as Vatican head of state, then on to the Manila Cathedral for a

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## **DMII Gears Up For 2015**

2015-2016 International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan convened the First Quarter Meeting of the DMII International Officers and Board on January 25, 2015 at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel in Manila.

Preceding the meeting was a whole-day Team-Building and Strategic Planning Workshop (on January 24) facilitated by Sis. Rebbie. Present during the workshop were the officers and regional representatives composing the DMI Board, the chairpersons of the DMI missions, the *DMI Newsette* editor, the Council of Advisers composed of past International Regents and the SMI area coordinators.

Group dynamics exercises became the avenues during which the workshop participants got to know each other better and, as the day progressed, transformed them to an effective working team.

The participants went through SWOT Analysis, identifying the organization's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats which became the basis for the formulation of strategies to address present-day realities. The issues and concerns of the DMII were then spelled out in an Action Plan for 2015. Board Resolutions covering some policies needing immediate action and

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*IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan facilitates the Team-Building and Strategic Planning Workshop on Jan. 24.*

# 2015 DMII CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**April 11, 2015**

Region VII Assembly – Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

**April 17-19, 2015**

Mindanao Area Conference – Tagum City

**April 25, 2015**

Region V Assembly, UP Asian Center, Quezon City

**May 9, 2015**

2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Meeting of the DMII International Board

**May 10 2015**

National Officers' Meeting – Heritage Hotel, Pasay City

**May 16-18, 2015**

15<sup>th</sup> SMI Biennial Convention – Davao City

**May 30, 2015**

Region I Assembly, Cordon, Isabela

**June 30, 2015**

Region VI Assembly

**July 18-19, 2015**

Visayas Area Conference – Iloilo City

**July 25 2015**

Region II Assembly – Dagupan City

**August 8, 2015**

Region VIII Assembly – Naga City

**August 29, 2015**

Region IV Assembly (Venue to be announced later)

**Sept. 12-13, 2015**

Region XI Assembly – Tacloban City

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Meeting of the DMII International Board

**October 17, 2015**

Region XIII Assembly – Mati, Davao Oriental

**Oct. 24-25, 2015**

Luzon Area Conference – Urdaneta City

**Nov. 14-15, 2015**

Region IX Assembly – Bacolod City

**Nov. 21, 2015**

Region III Assembly – Tarlac

**Nov. 22, 2015**

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting of the DMII International Board



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Sis. Corazon T. Afuang - Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon  
Sis. Pureza M. Guzman - Vice-Int'l Regent - Visayas  
Sis. Annie O. Ty - Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao  
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Sis. Elvira S. Arambulo - International Treasurer  
Sis. Yolanda U. Dagandan - International Advocate

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**International Chaplain**

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Sis. Leticia A. Gano	Sis. Teresita L. Viola
Sis. Mylene Segundera-Bass	

*From the International Regent*

## MESSAGE



My dear DMI Sisters,

How time swiftly passes! The first quarter of my term as DMI International Regent for 2015-2016 is now history. However, with the short span of time that the International Officers and Board have joined efforts together, we were able to accomplish something worth reminiscing. The month of January was the time for getting to know each other better, after our first meeting during the Installation of Officers last November 30, 2014. The International Regent who handled the team-building activities stressed the need for building trust among themselves. This will encourage them to open up, understand each other, considering their strengths and weaknesses, thereby building up on each one's CAPACITY TO BE and CAPACITY TO DO. It is interesting to note that indeed our sisters have chosen the cream of the crop for our International Officers and Board, dubbing the group as the "Power Team".

The team-building activity held on January 24, 2015 at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel in Manila was followed by the Strategic Planning Workshop. After the SWOT Analysis, our enthusiastic and committed sisters identified the DMII's Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. The realities besetting the DMII were exhaustively deliberated upon and strategies were identified to address the different issues and concerns spelled out in an Action Plan for 2015. Some policies needing immediate action and implementation were articulated in Resolutions approved by the Board for ratification during the National Officers' Meeting. Much has to be done, of course with your full support and cooperation. Always bear in mind this passage: "Together we can make things happen."

The following day, January 25, was the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting held at the same venue. One of the reports requested from the Regional Representatives was the Updated List of Members in Good Standing as of December, 2014. What we have in the National Office is just the number of members per circle. Thus, there is a need for all the members to fill up the Membership Data Sheet for record purposes, to form part of DMII's data base. The Updated List will be in preparation for one of the identified programs: to grant welfare benefits to Members in Good Standing.

Another output during the meeting was the completion of the TIME LINE for 2015, where schedules for the National Officers' Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Board Meetings, Area Conferences and Regional Assemblies were plotted. We were also able to come up with the following themes: (1) For the National Officers' Meeting to be held on May 10, 2015: "DMI Missions: Reaching Out to the Poor with Mercy and Compassion". This theme shall be adopted in the regional assemblies. (2) For Area Conferences: "DMII: Evangelizing with Mercy and Compassion in the Year of the Poor". The theme had been crafted considering that this year is the Year of the Poor and responding to the call of His Holiness Pope Francis for Mercy and Compassion. This had been circularized to all concerned via e-mail through DMII Memorandum Circular No. 001-2015 dated February 2, 2015 and MC No. 002-2015 dated Feb. 5, 2015.

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### *Message from the International Regent . . ." ...Cont'd. From Page 3*

The composition of the different committees was also finalized, taking into consideration the educational background, work experiences, special talents and skills and preferences of members of the International Board.

MC No. 003-2015 was issued on February 26, 2015 with the following attachments: 1) Membership Data Sheet, 2) DMII Organizational Chart, 3) Directory of International Officers & Board, 4) Directory of Diocesan, Vicarial and Circle Regents together with the Status of Payments from 2010 to 2015 per circle, per region. For the month of March, drum-up campaign and follow-up for the attendance to the National Officers' Meeting is on-going. Preparations for the event is being properly coordinated.

Indeed, everybody enjoyed working as a group for the first time during the term with Mama Mary as the reason for our being, the inspiration for our advocacy, our model and our guide. With our "collective woman-power", we shall remain to be the "salt of the earth" and "light of the world". The month of March is Women's Month . . . To the empowered women of DMII, "HAPPY WOMEN'S MONTH"!

SIS. REBECCA CONGE-PACANAN  
International Regent

### *DMII Gears Up For 2015 ...Cont'd. From Page 1*

implementation were then drafted and approved by the Board for members' ratification during the forthcoming National Officers' Meeting.

Much more were accomplished during the two-day activity. A timetable had been set for major DMII events during the year such as area conferences and regional assemblies as well as the Quarterly Meetings of the DMII Board. (Please see page 2 for the DMII 2015 Calendar of Activities). Common themes have also been adopted for regional assemblies ("DMI Missions: Reaching Out with Mercy and Compassion in the Year of the Poor") and area conferences ("DMII: Evangelizing with Mercy and Compassion in the Year of the Poor").

Members were named to the DMII Standing Committees. They are as follows:

**Executive & Finance** – Fr. Jerome Cruz, Sis. Rebbie Pacanan and Sis. Alma Cagampang

**Awards** – Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, chairperson and Sisters Cora Afuang, Pureza Guzman and Annie Ty

**Audit** – Sis. Leni Larrazabal, chairperson and Sisters Angie Baes, Adeline Lee and Mary Annie Jabines



*Board Advisers: Past IRs Sisters Jean Velarde, Lyding Ramirez and Mila Villanueva*



*SMI Area Coordinators: Sisters Ruby Macario for Luzon, Baby Acevedo for Visayas and Lelis Pimentel for Mindanao*

**Laws & Regulations** – Sis. Fely Gallardo, chairperson and Sisters Laura Cespon, Cora Afuang, Yoly Dagandan, Sally Estrada and Carmen Baquilid

**Ways & Means** –

Sis. Cora Afuang, chairperson and Sisters Annie Ty, Elvie Arambulo, Gloria Caminero, Virgie Terrado, Juliet Cruz and Lelis Pimentel

**Ceremonials** – Sis. Adeline Lee, chairperson and Sisters Letty Gano,

Fely Gallardo, Terry Viola, Cora Afuang, Carmen Baquilid, Ruby Macario and Edna May Landicho

The DMII Missions being the raison d'être of the organization,

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## *Hello and Good-Bye, Pope Francis! . . . Cont'd. From Page 1*

special Mass for the religious community and his meeting with families at the SM Mall of Asia Arena on January 16. A brief visit with streetchildren of the Tulay ng Kabataan Foundation, not part of his schedule, was squeezed in on his way to the Manila Cathedral.

The main purpose of his apostolic visit, to console and bless the victims of Supertyphoon 'Yolanda', was scheduled on January 17. The rains, nay, the storm (TS 'Amang') that greeted him in Tacloban seemed to be a test of the Pope's resolve to come, and the people's will to attend the Papal Mass at the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport. And come they did, in so many thousands! Wind- and rain-battered, more people lined the streets to Palo for the Pope's lunch with 'Yolanda' and earthquake victims at the Palo Cathedral, the blessing of the new Pope Francis Center for the Poor and a mass grave nearby.

The rains followed him to

Manila. January 18 was also rain-drenched. The students and those who were at the Encounter with the Youth and meeting with leaders of other faiths in UST and the final Mass at the Quirino Grandstand later in the afternoon wore raincoats. The Pope, in solidarity with them, went around to bless them in his open-sided popemobile, wearing the same yellow raincoat that many in the mammoth crowd wore. The six million or so people at the Luneta that afternoon had been reported as the largest assembly in the history of the Catholic Church.

"We love you, Lolo Kiko!" the crowd would shout in unison, and swoon upon seeing the smile that lights up his eyes. Some would even recall that they were mesmerized, way beyond being starstruck, when he came up close. Photos of babies being kissed and the sick and disabled that he blessed along the way will be kept and treasured. And later to form part of the Pope



Francis memorabilia (some say part of his relics once canonized as a saint).

January 19, the date of his departure, was bright and sunny with no trace of the rains the previous day. Again, some said it was providential, God seemingly letting Pope Francis experience what a storm is like. (He had not experienced a storm before.) Good-bye, Pope Francis!

The newspapers, TV networks and broadcast and social media have amply recorded the events of Pope Francis' visit. Each of us will cherish the memories and impressions of personal encounters with him, no matter how fleeting and distant they are. MERCY and COMPASSION, the

main message of his apostolic visit has become the theme of our celebration of the Year of the Poor. The DMI has likewise adopted Mercy and Compassion as central theme of our area conferences and regional assemblies this year.

Accompanying this write-up are quotes from Pope Francis, just seven of several quotable quotes from his messages and an account of a DMI sister's close encounter with the Pope during his lunch with the 'Yolanda' and earthquake victims at the Palo Cathedral. Sis. Leni Larrazabal, our regional representative for Region XI, was one of the lucky individuals hand-picked to serve the Pope during the lunch. Read on.

**15TH SMI NATIONAL BIENNIAL CONVENTION**  
**D'Leonor Inland Resort & Adventure Park**  
**Purok 5, Bgy. Communal Cabantian, Davao**  
**May 16 – 18, 2015**

**Theme: "Receiving Mary's Grace, Shining in God's**  
**Mercy and Compassion (in the Year of the Poor)"**  
**SQUIRETTES, SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!!**

# Pope Francis – Up Close And Personal

*By Sis. Leni Larrazabal, DMI Region XI Representative*

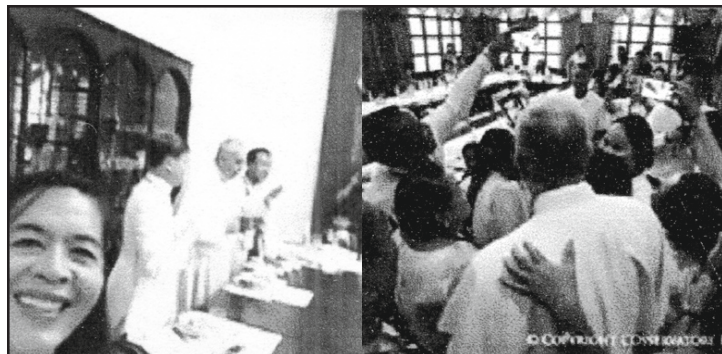
**O**n the morning of the first day of 2015, I received a call from Fr. Wilson Chu, the right hand man of Bishop John Du, to inform that I was being considered to serve during the lunch of Pope Francis with the handpicked 25 victims of Supertyphoon 'Yolanda' and five of the Bohol earthquake - 30 in all.

***It was with mixed emotions of joy and anxiety that I received the news. Just like when I was infanticipating as a young mother years back.***

At first, it was only my husband Jun, my daughter Jennifer and two sons Inigo and Kito who knew about it. A little later, I had to tell my sisters, too, to share with them my anxiety and to ask them to help me pray that the prospect may soon become reality.

The day my good friend, Teling Serafica Pangilinan, and I were told we have been chosen as servers from Ormoc, we met our co-servers from Tacloban, Carry Jaucian and Mercy Correa, Val and Tessie Obando from Palo, and Rhenz David and Maureen Estrellon from Malacanang PSG. We were told that after the Mass at the airport, we will be serving the Pope, Cardinal Tagle, Bishop Du and the 30 chosen victims. We met Edward Chua who told us about the menu for the lunch. We also agreed about the attire that we will wear for the occasion - beige kimona top and black pants. After a short course on dishing in and dishing out of the plated food and the courteous way of serving, we were done with our mission for the day.

Early morning of D-Day (January 17), our group of 48 (including delegates) left Ormoc in a convoy of four vans and a Land Cruiser, arriving at the gate of the Archbishop's Palace at 5:00 a.m., in raincoats as it was raining very hard. The



*At foreground is the author with Cardinal Tagle, Pope Francis and Bishop Du shown standing at the head table.*



*Pope Francis with his lunch guests*

police wouldn't let us in despite the fact that we told them that Teling and I are going to serve during the Pope's lunch. We were told to line up just the same and undergo scanning. I pitied the people around wanting to go inside, particularly the senior citizens who composed 50% of the Ormoc contingent. We requested for leniency for the seniors and they countered that the age limit of those given ID cards is only up to 50 years old. We called up

Fr. Wilson for help and it was through his efforts and convincing that we were let in. However, we learned later that it took more than an hour of waiting under the rain before the Ormoc delegation was finally allowed to enter.

As both Teling and I were dripping wet, we immediately changed into our official attire. Done with the first chore of setting the table and putting the flowers, we went down to the first floor of the newly

renovated Palace and with the 30 victims watched the TV coverage of the Pope's Mass at the airport over snacks of pastries and assorted drinks. We went back to the dining room after the Mass and took our position at the entrance to greet the Pope when he arrives. Teling was the first in line and stood starstruck as she watched the Pope's face. I was next.

***I held both of his hands and kissed his ring as a sign of respect. Having passed all the greeters, Pope Francis then went over to the victims, embracing and kissing each one. They in return kissed the Pope's hand.***

Joining Cardinal Tagle and Bishop Du at the head table, he said the opening prayers.

Pope Francis listened intently to each story as translated by the Cardinal. As the victims related their stories, we served the lunch – *malunggay* soup, green

vegetable salad and lechon pork, followed by the pasta and steamed *lapu-lapu*, then the wagyu steak and chicken cooked in *tanglad*. The Pope, however, only finished his soup maybe because he was seriously and intently listening to the victims' stories and was so affected by them. Cardinal Tagle and Bishop Du also had soup and skipped the other parts of the meal.

While serving, I, too, was so touched by the victims' poignant stories about losing loved ones and all of one's possessions and the pain and adjustments after losing one's arms or legs. I was particularly affected by the woman in a wheelchair who lost eleven members of her family and both her legs. And the young woman from Bohol who was hit by a post when the wall went crashing down during the earthquake. A big crack in her head and her neck being pushed down her shoulders leaving her jaw hanging on her upper chest would have caused her death. But it was a miracle, she said, that she is now reconstructed and alive.

***Being in one room with the Pope was an overwhelming and moving experience. I felt so blessed by his presence, and at the same time so touched by the grim stories I heard. What will forever remain with me is Pope Francis' 'unli' smile, his simple hand wave and his messages on issues like corruption, sanctity of the family, mercy and compassion for all, especially the poor, and his invitation for us to pray for ourselves and for him and his profuse saying of 'thank you'.***

Days after the event, personal friends and friends from Facebook started congratulating me, more so when an article was published in a national newspaper about us serving lunch to the Pope in Palo. I felt like an instant celebrity!

So many people stood for hours, many in the rain, just to get a glimpse of Pope Francis. And there I was, just one foot away from him for half an hour! The feeling of being so near him was indescribable, way beyond words, a feeling of extreme joy and gratitude. Why was I so lucky?

In hindsight, I am reminded of the lyrics of a song: " . . . In my childhood, I must have done something good. . . " Or maybe this blessing came my way because of the bright young students, whom our group, the Sanctus Vincenzus Scholarship Foundation are helping get a college education, or maybe because of my devotion to the Blessed Mother as an active member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate. Really, I don't know. It was definitely an answered prayer. Now, is there something I can do in gratitude for this unforgettable and precious experience? As a DMI member, maybe an even deeper commitment to serve in the organization's missions . . . with mercy and compassion during the Year of the Poor and beyond.



# 7 Best Quotes from Pope Francis

## 1. ON CORRUPTION

"As many voices in your nation have pointed out, it is now, more than ever, necessary that political leaders be outstanding for honesty, integrity and commitment to the common good. In this way they will help preserve the rich human and natural resources with which God has blessed this country."

## 2. SAY 'NO' TO SOCIAL INEQUALITY

"The Church in the Philippines is called to acknowledge and combat the causes of the deeply rooted inequality and injustice which mar the face of Filipino society, plainly contradicting the teaching of Christ."

## 3. TO FAMILIES: DREAM ALWAYS

"When a family loses its ability to dream, children don't grow, love doesn't grow and life loses strength, eventually it shuts off."

## 4. BEWARE OF 'IDEOLOGICAL COLONIZATION'

"Our countries at a certain point in history reached the point where they said 'no' to political colonization. Now, families have also to be clear, prepared and strong to say 'no' to attempts of ideological colonization of the family."

## 5. HOMAGE TO PAUL VI

"He saw the threat of the family being destroyed by not being open to life and children. Paul VI was brave. He was a good pastor. He alerted his sheep, telling them that the wolves were approaching."

## 6. TO THE SURVIVORS OF TYPHOON 'YOLANDA'

"Many of you have asked the Lord, looking at Him: 'Why, Lord?' And the Lord answered to each one of you, to your heart. Christ responds with His heart. It's the only thing I can

tell you. Let us look at Christ. He is the Lord and He understands us because He underwent the trials that we go through."

## 7. THE QUESTION 'WITH NO ANSWER'

"Why does God allow this to happen? Children are not to blame. Why are we helped by only a few people?"

"She, Glyzelle, is the only one who has posed a question for which there is no answer. She wasn't even able to express it in words, but rather in tears. I write each one of you to ask yourselves: 'Have I learned how to weep? How to cry? Have I learned how to weep for someone who has a drug problem? Have I learned to weep for someone who has suffered abuse? Unfortunately, many of those who cry do so because, naturalistically, they want more.'"

## DMII Gears Up For 2015 ...Cont'd. From Page 4

committees for the missions were also formed to assist the International Mission Chairpersons in promoting, implementing, coordinating and monitoring the projects and activities emanating from National and cascaded down to the circle level. The committees on Mission are as follows:

**Pro-Life** – Sis. Camen Baquilid, chairperson and Sisters Virgie Terrado, Fely Gallardo, Cora Afuang, Terry Viola, Gloria Caminero and Laura Cespon

**Morality in Media** – Sis. Edna May Landicho, chairperson and Sisters Alma Cagampang, Cora Afuang, Pureza Guzman and Angie Baes

**Upliftment of Women Workers** – Sis. Juliet Cruz, chairperson and Sisters Letty Gano, Elvie Arambulo, Leni Larrazabal and Annie Ty

**Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims** – Sis. Mary Annie Jabines, chairperson and Sisters Alma Cagampang, Adeline Lee, Gloria Caminero, Annie Ty and Yoly Dagandan

**Youth Welfare** – Sis. Cathy Pineda, chairperson and Sisters Adeline Lee, Leni Larrazabal, Laura Cespon, Angie Baes, Ruby Macario, Baby Acevedo and Lelis Pimentel

At the time of writing, preparations are in full swing for the National Officers' Meeting, this year's major DMII activity requiring the attendance of regional officers and all regents – diocesan, vicarial and circle – scheduled on May 10, 2015 at the Heritage Hotel in Pasay City.

# Meet Your New International Officers And Board



**REV. FR. JEROME MA. J. CRUZ**

DMI International Chaplain  
Pastor, San Ildefonso  
Parish  
Navotas City  
Diocesan Superintendent  
of Catholic  
Schools, Diocese of  
Kalookan  
Judicial Vicar, Diocese of  
Kalookan



**SIS. ANNIE O. TY**

Vice-International Regent  
for Mindanao & Region  
XII Representative  
Immaculate Conception  
Circle  
San Nicolas de Tolentino  
Parish  
Tandag City, Surigao del  
Sur  
Diocese of Tandag  
Chairperson, Phil. Red  
Cross, Surigao del Sur  
Chapter  
Businesswoman



**SIS. REBECCA C. PACANAN**

International Regent  
Tower of Ivory Circle  
(Home Circle)  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Parish  
Tacloban City  
Diocese of Palo (Leyte)  
Lawyer/Attorney-at-law  
National Vice-President,  
Women in Nation- Building,  
and Executive Director,  
Regional  
Federation of Women  
Legislators  
General Agent, R.  
Pacanan Insurance  
Agency



**SIS. ALMA L. CAGAMPANG**

International Secretary &  
Region III Representative  
St. Francis of Assissi Circle  
St. Francis of Assissi  
Parish, Limay, Bataan  
Diocese of Balanga  
Educator, Principal of The

Peninsula School, Limay  
Bataan  
Chairperson, Minalin Men  
& Women of Sta. Monica  
Parish, Minalin, Pampanga



**SIS. CORAZON T. AFUANG**

Vice-International Regent  
for Luzon & Region V  
Representative  
St. Paul of the Cross Circle  
Marikina City, Metro Manila  
Diocese of Antipolo  
Retired corporate executive  
Entrepreneur



**SIS. ELVIRA S. ARAMBULO**

International Treasurer &  
Region VI Representative  
St. John the Baptist Circle  
St. John the Baptist Parish  
Calamba City, Laguna  
Diocese of San Pablo  
Director & Treasurer,  
Phillipine Red  
Cross, Laguna Chapter  
Chairperson, Calamba  
Parish



**SIS. PUREZA M. GUZMAN**

Vice-International Regent  
for Visayas & Region IX  
Representative  
St. Thomas of Villanova  
Circle  
Miagao, Iloilo  
Archdiocese of Jaro  
Provincial Gov't Division  
Chief, PPO



**SIS. YOLANDA U. DAGANDAN**

International Advocate  
Tower of Ivory Circle  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Parish, Tacloban City  
Diocese of Palo  
Presiding Judge, Regional  
Trial Court, Branch 15  
Burauen, Leyte  
Concurrently Assisting  
Judge, RTC Branch 7  
Tacloban City

Development Coop and  
New Calamba  
Catholic Community  
Foundation



**SIS. LETICIA O. GANO**

Region I Representative  
Mater Immaculata Circle  
Our Lady of the Pillar  
Parish  
Cauayan City, Isabela  
Diocese of Ilagan  
Associate Professor,  
Isabela  
State University –  
Cauayan Campus



**SIS. VIRGINIA  
TERRADO**

Region II Representative  
Miraculous Medal Circle  
St. John the Evangelist  
Parish  
Dagupan City  
Dean, College of Nursing  
University of Luzon,  
Dagupan City



**SIS. AGUEDA FELY G.  
GALLARDO**

Region IV Representative  
Holy Mary Circle  
La Purisima Concepcion  
Parish  
Sta. Maria, Bulacan  
Diocese of Malolos  
VP for Human Resources/  
Administration, EMHCO  
Group of Companies



**SIS. MA. ADELINE A.  
LEE**

Region VII Representative  
Our Lady of the Most  
Holy Rosary Circle, Lopez,  
Quezon  
Diocese of Gumaca  
Retired High School  
Principal  
Council & Dean of Home  
Economics of the  
Philippines



**SIS. TERESITA L.  
VIOLA**

Region VIII  
Representative  
Our Lady Of Penafrancia  
Circle  
Naga City  
Archdiocese of Caceres  
Concert Pianist



**SIS. GLORIA C.  
CAMINERO**

Region X Representative  
Rosa Mystica Circle  
Tagbilaran City  
Diocese of Tagbilaran  
(Bohol)  
Local Tour Operator



**SIS. MAGDALENA S.  
LARRAZABAL**

Region XI Representative  
Sts. Peter & Paul Circle  
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish  
Ormoc City  
Diocese of Palo (Leyte)  
Businesswoman



**SIS. LAURA V.  
CESPON**

Region XIII  
Representative  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Circle  
St. Francis of Assisi Parish  
Davao City  
Archdiocese of Davao  
Vice-President for  
Academics & Dean of  
College, Mindanao  
International College  
(Kokusai Daigaku)  
SMI Lady Counselor of  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel  
Circlette





**SIS. ANGELA L. BAES**

Region XIV  
Representative  
Our Lady of Purification  
Circle  
Sta. Maria Parish,  
Zamboanga City  
Archdiocese of  
Zamboanga  
Treasurer, Ateneo de  
Zamboanga University  
Member of the Board of  
Trustees – Rotary Anns  
Club and KCCDFI, a  
micro-finance  
organization providing  
livelihood for women



**SIS. CARMEN P. BAQUILID**

International Chairperson  
for Pro-Life  
Tower of Ivory Circle  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Parish  
Tacloban City  
Diocese of Palo  
Retired from City  
Government of Tacloban,  
seminar lecturer  
President, WOW! Beauty  
and Brains Association



**SIS. EDNA MAY O. LANDICHO**

International Chairperson  
for Morality in Media  
Mater Dei Circle  
Ascension of Our Lord  
Parish  
Novaliches, Quezon City  
Diocese of Novaliches  
Book Author, Playwright &  
Director  
Retired Professor, Speech  
Communication and  
Theatre Arts, UP  
Conducts Acting and  
Tagalog workshops for  
ABS-CBN artists



**SIS MARY ANNIE G. JABINES**

International Chairperson  
for Assistance to  
Prisoners' Families & their  
Victims  
St. Vincent de Ferrer Circle  
Sta. Cruz Parish  
Maribojoc, Bohol  
Diocese of Tagbilaran  
Municipal Officer for  
Tourism,  
Heritage, Arts & Culture of  
Maribojoc

## MISSION CHAIRPERSONS



**SIS. JULIETA V. CRUZ**

International Chairperson  
for Upliftment of Women  
Workers  
Risen Christ Circle  
Holy Eucharist Parish,  
Paranaque City  
Diocese of Paranaque  
President, Cruzville Realty  
Holdings & Development  
Corp.  
President, JVC Foundation  
Vicarial Regent, Vicariate  
of San Martin de Porres



**SIS. CATALINA REBECCA A. PINEDA**

International Chairperson  
for Youth Welfare  
(Squirettes of Mary  
Immaculate)  
San Jose de Navotas  
Circle  
San Jose de Navotas  
Parish, Navotas City  
Diocese of Kalookan  
Human Resource  
Practitioner, Nestle Phils.,  
Inc., Ice Cream & Fresh  
Dairy Business



**SIS. SALVACION T. ESTRADA**

Editor  
Risen Christ Circle  
Holy Eucharist Parish  
Paranaque City  
Diocese of Paranaque  
Retired corporate  
executive (VP for Human

## DMI NEWSETTE

Resources & Corporate  
Communications)  
Diocesan Secretary, DMI  
Diocese of Paranaque

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## CIRCLE NEWS ROUND-UP

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*From the Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia*

### SMI Circlette Organized in Ilocos Sur

**A** Squirettes of Mary circlette has just been organized in Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur following the formation of the St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle in December, 2013. (Story in the April-June, 2014 issue of the *DMI Newsette*) The Medalla Milagrosa Circle of the Diocese of Cubao initiated the formation of the DMI circle and SMI circlette which has been named St. Catherine of Alexandria Circlette. Photo shows the members of the DMI circle and SMI circlette after the initiation rites.



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*From the Diocese of Nagan*

### Updates from Mater Immaculata Circle of Cauayan City



#### *Prison Outreach*

**T**he Mater Immaculata Circle of Our Lady of the Pillar Parish in Cauayan City, Isabela conducted a medical-dental mission at the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology facility of Cauayan City during the celebration of National Correctional Consciousness Week. Male and female inmates of the city jail were given free medicines after their check-up.



#### *Livelihood and Skills Training*

**T**he Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of Mater Immaculata Circle conducted recently a skills training workshop on flower arrangement and table skirting in collaboration with the Green Ladies and Isabela State University Extension Program.



## St. Raphael The Archangel Circle Adopts ALS Program

**T**he St. Raphael the Archangel Circle of Tarlac City had just adopted the Alternative Learning System (ALS) of the Dept. of Education as a mission project.

The ALS is a crash-course program of the Dep-Ed that provides the opportunity for out-of-school



*The DMI sisters with the ALS students, their mentor Reuben Duque and catechist Bro. August Mandal during their Christmas Party.*

youth and adults aged 17 years and above to earn a high school diploma to make them more eligible for employment or to enable them to pursue a college course.

An initial batch of 24 students mostly from indigent families in Bgy. San Rafael, Tarlac City started attending ALS classes in June, 2014 and took their final examinations on Dec. 7, 2014. The result and over-all evaluation of their performance and qualification for a high school diploma are due in February, 2015 to be followed by commencement exercises in March.

The circle donated school supplies as well as provided simple snacks during class sessions to motivate them to attend classes regularly. The DMI sisters expect that a majority, if not all of their sponsored students will be able to make it.

## “Alalay Sa Buntis” Project on its 3rd Year

“Alalay sa Buntis” has become a flagship project of the St. Raphael the Archangel Circle under its Pro-Life mission. Now on its third year, the activity was carried out last November 25, 2014 with 32 pregnant women participants. Resource speaker Dra. Sicangco, an OB-Gyne practitioner in San Rafael, Tarlac City explained in full the Do’s and Don’ts of pregnancy.

The participants expressed their appreciation to the DMIs for initiating the activity for their



*Resource speaker Dra. Sicangco with the DMI sisters and a pregnant participant of “Alalay sa Buntis”.*

benefit. Aside from gaining valuable insights on pregnancy and ideas on wellness, they were given gift packs containing supplies and items needed before and after childbirth.



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*From the Diocese of San Jose (N.E.)*

## San Jose Circle's Prison Outreach

The San Jose Circle of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija sponsored a Holy Mass at the BJMP facility in San Jose City on October 30, 2014 as a culminating activity of National Correctional Consciousness Month. Counseling was also provided by the DMI sisters for the visiting wives of the inmates for the purpose of inner healing. The counseling sessions helped to strengthen the mothers in facing the challenges that confront them and their children who are currently fatherless. The sisters brought snacks served after the Mass.



*A counseling session being conducted by DMI sisters with an inmate's wife*

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*From the Diocese of Antipolo*

## St. Paul of The Cross Circle's Mercy and Compassion Mission



*The residents of Kanlungan ni Maria with the sisters of St. Paul of the Cross Circle.*

The St. Paul of the Cross Circle of the Diocese of Antipolo conducted a mercy and compassion mission to the residents of *Kanlungan ni Maria* in Antipolo City. The DMI

sisters were led by the circle's chaplain, Fr. Eynard Balatbat and Regent Sis. Mercy Ong. Pro-life Chairperson Sis Lea Catura and the Pro-life Committee spearheaded the activity. The group brought joy, albeit only for a day, to the senior and abandoned residents of the place.

While the DMI brought some goodies and supplies to the *lolos* and *lolas*, the *Kanlungan ni Maria* residents in turn entertained their visitors with songs and poems as an expression of their gratitude. It was a truly heartwarming experience.

The visit to the house for the aged is just the start of the many activities lined up for the year by the chairpersons of the DMI missions under the indefatigable leadership of the circle's regent.

*From Region VIII (Bicol)*

## New DMI Circle Organized

**R**egion VIII Representative Sis. Terry Viola announced the organization of a new circle in the Diocese of Legaspi. Named Our Lady of the Gate Circle, it received its charter on November 12, 2014. Diocesan Treasurer Sis. Caring Sales initiated the organization of the circle in Legaspi City. Present during the members' exemplification and charter officers' installation were Diocesan Regent Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas, Past Region VIII RR Sis. Rita Samarista, Sis. Edith Manila and Sis. Berni Lita. Sis. Rhina Bercasio is the circle's charter regent.



## Diocese of Legaspi Celebrates 40th Anniversary

**I**n celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Diocese of Legaspi, a diocesan assembly was held in Legaspi City last December 14, 2014. Spearheading the assembly was Diocesan Regent Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas. During the occasion, a Loyalty Award and Outstanding Circle Award were given. Special guest during the assembly was Msgr. Cris Bernarte, parish priest of Bacacay, Albay (seated at center). To his right is Past Region VIII RR Sis. Rita Samarista.

*From Westmorland, California*

## Report from St. Joseph Circle

"The St. Joseph Circle of Westmorland, California is alive and well." Vicarial Regent Sis. Josie Francisco of St. Charles Circle of San Diego reported. Sis. Josie visited Westmorland on February 15, 2015 during the Circle's exemplification of new members. Sis. Josie said that the sisters of St. Joseph Circle are all very friendly and loving, despite the fact that many of them are not English-speaking, including their present regent, Sis. Imelda Mariz. Language, however, had not been an issue as they were able to convey their warm welcome as well as their thoughts and feelings, thanks to Sis. Susan Marquez who served as interpreter.



*The DMI sisters of St. Joseph Circle. Flanking the newly-exemplified members of the circle (in white) are Sis. Susan Marquez (at left) and Regent Sis. Imelda Mariz (at right).*

*(From Sis. Beth Salmon, past DMII international treasurer, who was co-founder of St. Charles Circle.)*



*From the Diocese of Palo*

## Tower Of Ivory Circle Pursues DMI Missions

*By Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid, Int'l Chairperson for Pro-Life*



### *Pro-Life Month Celebrated*

The Tower of Ivory Circle of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Tacloban City celebrated February and March, 2015 as Pro-Life Months. The celebration was launched during a Holy Mass on February 1<sup>st</sup>. The circle's Pro-life program consisted of lectures on values education, responsible parenthood, proper nutrition, care for the environment, etc. A medical-dental mission was held on Feb. 7 to usher in the Parish fiesta celebration with 100 volunteers from the DOH, RTR Hospital, Philippine Red Cross and other government, religious and private groups. The circle will undertake environmental projects in March such as tree-planting, roadside beautification, gardening, clearing of waterways and others.



### *Circle Gets Media Support*

The Tower of Ivory Circle was given a 30-minute free time on PR TV 12 and Radio Station DYBR to present its programs and activities. International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan talked about the DMII organization, its vision and missions and International Chairperson for Pro-Life Sis. Carmen Baquilid introduced the current pro-life program of the circle. BEC Coordinator Sis. Teresita Gonzales presented the family groups of the Basic Ecclesial Community, the direct beneficiaries of the DMI missions. DYBR Station Manager Danny Requez has offered the circle 30-minute free air time as the need arises.

*From the Diocese of Tandag*

## Immaculate Conception Circle Celebrates Pro-Life Month

*By Sis. Sofia Patrimonio, Circle Scribe*



The Immaculate Conception Circle of Tandag City launched the month-long celebration of Pro-Life Month last Feb. 15, 2015 with a Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Msgr. Isidro Irizari, PCT, parish rector, at the St. Theresa College covered court. Members of the Knights of Columbus, Sacred Heart of Jesus Servants Community, the Family Life Apostolates and other parishioners attended the Mass. Pregnant women among the mass-goers were blessed afterwards symbolizing the Respect for Human Life advocacy of the DMI.



## NEWS UPDATES FROM OUR LADY OF DIVINE GRACE CIRCLE

### *Sharing of Graces at Christmastime*

The spirit of sharing is enshrined in the DMI missions. Sharing, however, takes on special significance during Christmas as God, our Father, shared with us His only Begotten Son as our Redeemer. Last Dec. 28, 2014, the sisters of Our Lady of Divine Grace Circle, St. Michael Parish, Nasipit, Agusan del Norte went on their annual outreach to bring gifts to the less privileged families in Sitio Tabon, Bgy. Aclan in Nasipit.

The gift packages and food served during the outreach were donated by the members of the Circle. The DMI sisters found great fulfillment during the whole activity, from packing the gifts, transporting the

gifts to the site in the service vehicles of Regent Sis. Susan Honculada, and Sisters Ched Atupan, Lulu Aguirre and Margie Ocampo, and distributing them to the beneficiaries including close to 200 children and their families. Squirettes of Mary members assisted in the gift distribution. Ms. Cresencia Bermudez of the local DSWD unit in Nasipit lent support to the Circle.

The group pursued the outreach project despite warnings from some barangay folks about the presence of members of the New People's Army in the remote sitio. To show their appreciation, songs were rendered by the children of Tabon while food was being served.



*The families of Sitio Tabon eagerly await the arrival of the DMI sisters.*



*Before the gift-giving, Sis. Ched Atupan explains to the beneficiaries the purpose of the DMI sisters' visit.*

### *SMI Circlette Conducts First Assembly for 2015*

*By Moonyeen Doyon, Secretary, SMI Our Lady of Divine Grace Circlette*

It was on the beautiful morning of February 1, 2015, Sunday, when the SMI Queen of Divine Grace Circlette held its first assembly for the year 2015 at the residence of DMI Circle Regent Sis. Susan Honculada.

The assembly was a gathering of 17 new SMI recruits and 12 Squirettes who were invested on Dec. 14, 2014 by Sis. Lelis Pimentel, SMI coordinator for Mindanao, and the

*Turn to Page 19*



*The members of the Our Lady of Divine Grace DMI Circle and SMI Circlette during the SMI circlette's first assembly for 2015.*

# “Yes to Life, No to Drugs” Symposium Held

*By Sis. Minda R. Cocon, Scribe, Our Lady of Divine Grace Circle*

The use of prohibited drugs has become rampant in Nasipit as more and more young people become drug dependents. To counter the problem, the Our Lady of Divine Grace Circle decided to sponsor a series of symposiums for high school students and out-of-school youth.

The first in the series was conducted on February 5, 2015 for the students of Nasipit National High School at the Nasipit Central Elementary School gymnasium.

PDEA Officers Atty. Jerico Ocenar and Ms. Almarie Gold Virtudazo were the resource speakers who

talked about the causes of drug addiction and its effects on the user and his society. The ill effects and legal consequences of drug abuse was discussed thoroughly. An

open forum followed during which the students fielded questions which the speakers answered to their satisfaction.

The symposium was spearheaded by Regent Sister Susan Honculada, Sis. Shirley Corvera and the Pro-life Mission Team.



*The symposium opened with the Circle members' doxology.*



*Atty Jerico Ocenar, PDEA officer, symposium resource speaker.*

It highlighted the fact that life is very precious, a great gift from God. Lives should not be destroyed and wasted through man's senseless acts. The symposium successfully imparted this message to its young audience.

*From the Diocese of Cubao*

## Our Lady of Lourdes Circle Receives Appreciation Award



The Our Lady of Lourdes Circle of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Quezon City received a Plaque of

Appreciation from the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital for its generous and unselfish support to the institution as a partner in the delivery of quality service. The award was given last February 12, 2015 on the occasion of the hospital's celebration of its 70<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary.

For years, the circle brought food and cheers to patients of the hospital's men's ward. In photo, Sisters Ruby Macario, Emma Liao and Josie Sioson (L-R) accept the plaque on behalf of the circle.





*Bishop Pedro Arrigo, Day 1 keynote speaker with Sisters Cora Afuang Lily Gatchalian, and Nitz Austria. With them are the members of the St. Bernadette Circle of Puerto Princesa.*

## Vicariate Of Palawan Holds First Provincial Assembly

*By Sis. Cora T. Afuang, VIR-Luzon and Region V Representative*

The Vicariate of Palawan held its first ever Provincial Assembly last January 10-11, 2015 at the ICP Convention Hall in Puerto Princesa City. The theme of the assembly was "Sharing Christ with the Poor through Mary". More than 100 delegates from ten circles from all over Palawan – Brooke's Point, Cuyo, El Nido, Narra Quezon, Taytay and Puerto Princesa – attended the event.

The Provincial Assembly was made very special with the presence of two bishops – Most Rev. Pedro Arrigo, D.D. who was keynote speaker on the first day, and Most Rev. Edgardo Juanich, D.D. who keynoted the second day.

I was fortunate to be invited to speak on the topic "Mama Mary's Virtues to be Emulated by Every DMI" and took the opportunity to meet the officers of the circles in

the province, Palawan being part of Region V. The successful event was the brainchild of Sisters Lily Gatchalian and Nitz Austria, the revered pillars of the DMII in Palawan.

(My sincere thanks to St. Peter Circle's Regent, Sis. Ning Reyes and Vice-Regent Sis. Cecilia Batungbacal and her husband, Bro. Ed who were my gracious hosts during my stay in Puerto Princesa.)

### *SMI Circlette Conducts First Assembly for 2015. . ...Cont'd. From Page 17*

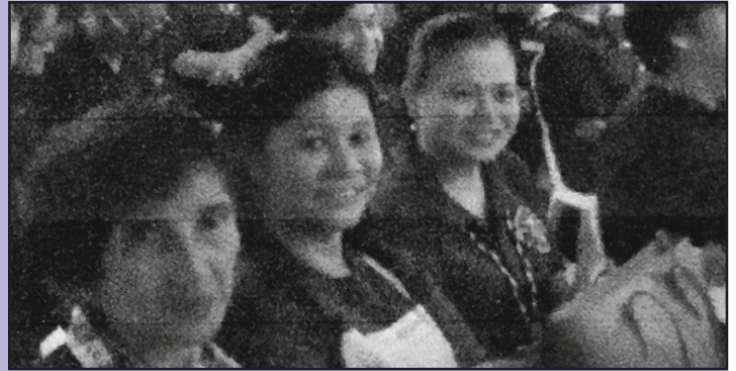
DMI-SMI team headed by Sis. Margie Ampo, SMI lady counselor and Eloisa Marie Honculada, SMI president.

After a short program, orientation of the recruits was conducted by Vice-Regent Sis. Lulu Aguirre.

Snacks and fellowship followed with the new SMIs receiving simple tokens, attendance certificates and early bird citations. There

were also group dance presentations. Lunch was later served.





*The workshop participants received a refresher on various aspects of the DMII organization and its vision and missions.*

*From the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan*

## **Diocesan Officers Hold Leadership Seminar-Workshop**

*By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Diocesan Secretary*

The Diocesan Officers of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan headed by newly installed Diocesan Regent Sis. Maria Pinky Saavedra held a Leadership Seminar-Workshop for two days, the first batch on January 24, 2015 for circles from the Central, Eastern and Western Vicariates and the second, for circles from Ipil and Siocon on January 31, 2015.

The seminar-workshop served as a refresher for the incoming officers regarding their respective duties and responsibilities and the DMI missions and thrusts. The topics discussed included the DMII organization chart, the roles of various committees in the circle, how to conduct effective DMI meetings, criteria for the Star Circle Awards, how to prepare the circle's quarterly and annual

reports and the objectives and programs of the 5 DMI missions. The diocesan mission chairpersons then facilitated separate workshops for the circle mission chairs – Pro-life, Morality in Media, Upliftment of Women Workers, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Youth Welfare. The output of the workshops came in the form of plans and

programs to be implemented during the year.

Present during the activity were Past International Regents Sisters Beling Panganiban and Lyding Ramirez, Past International Treasurer Sis. Beth Salmon and Region XIV Representative Sis. Angie Baes who expressed full support for the plans and programs of the Archdiocese for 2015.

## **New Circle Organized in Zamboanga City**



A new circle has just been organized in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. Named Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Circle of Bolong Parish, its formation was initiated by the Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Guian Circle. The charter members of the new circle were exemplified and its officers installed on January 10, 2015.