



# DMINewssette

To Jesus through Mary

DMI

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April - June 2012

## 18th DMI Biennial Convention - Best Attended Yet!



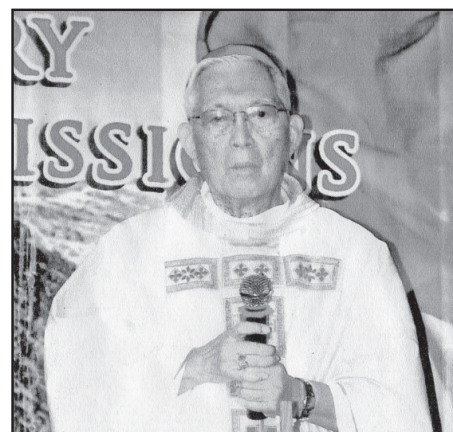
*The enthronement of the Blessed Virgin Mary on the stage ushered in the biennial convention.*

The sea of blue that we usually see during assemblies and conferences of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International virtually turned into an ocean when more than 1,600 delegates turned up at the Tagaytay International Convention Center last May 12, 2012. It was the largest assemblage ever in the history of the DMI.

The overwhelming support of DMIs all over the country became evident when, as early as mid-March, over a thousand have already registered for the event and more continued to be received by the Convention Registration Committee.

Despite the inconveniences created by such a huge crowd, with delegates literally rubbing elbows with one another and filling every available space – the main hall, the anteroom, the balcony and elsewhere – the DMI sisters bore them all with patience, temperance and humility. So Mary-like!

Handling the huge attendance posed a problem for Region V, the host region, with Sis. Mila Villanueva, Vice-Int'l Regent for Luzon and Region V RR, at the helm. Employing some creativity, such as numbered seats corresponding to the dates the delegates registered (first-come-



*His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, convention keynote speaker*

first- served basis) and color-coded buffet tables, and storming the heavens with prayers for good

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*From the International Regent*

## MESSAGE



My dear Sisters in Christ through Mary:

The 18<sup>th</sup> DMI Biennial Convention last May 12-13, 2012 in Tagaytay City was a resounding success, if we were to base it on the number of delegates who attended. One thousand six hundred fifty of us filled the Tagaytay International Convention Center, a number much, much bigger than what the convention hall can accommodate. We know that comfort was sacrificed, yet the DMI sisters took in stride all the discomforts they experienced particularly in the jam-packed hall. We admire the show of unity, consideration, and most of all, patience that the delegates showed. Over the years, the DMIs have become forbearing and matured.

Yes, in my sojourn in the different regions, I witnessed the same prevailing attitudes of acceptance, submission and appreciation of whatever blessing God sends. And whatever glorifies God is the best for us DMIs.

May I take the opportunity to congratulate the members of the organizing committee from Region V chaired by Sis. Mila Villanueva, our convention host. All details to make this convention near perfect were attended to by the different working committees – a vicinity map to make it easy for delegates to find their places, a dining lay-out, color coded yet, for accessibility and to prevent chaos during mealtimes, hotel arrangements for some, giving up their own accommodations for delegates who did not have a place to stay, and the Unilab Mobile Clinic & Laboratory with doctors and nurses on standby for emergencies and consultation and medical personnel providing on-the-spot sugar and cholesterol screening. Who would think of all these if they did not consider giving a convention worth your time? For these, they deserve a BIG sisterly hug.

The next Biennial Convention, our 19<sup>th</sup>, will be in Bohol in May, 2014. *Hasta la vista, mis hermanas!*

**SIS. LYDIA L. RAMIREZ**  
International Regent



18th DMI Biennial Convention - Best Attended ...cont'd. from Page 1

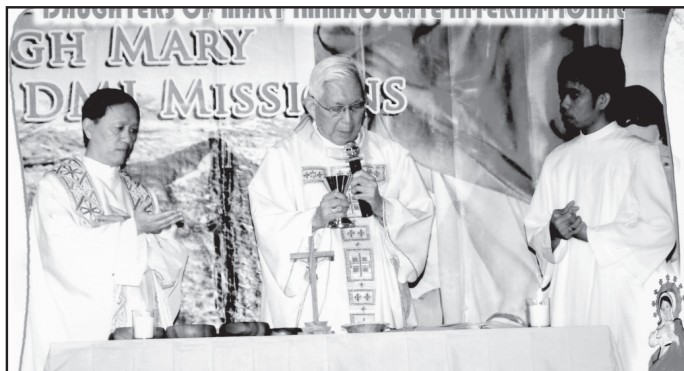
weather (it starts to rain in Tagaytay at that time of the year), the convention came and went without any major hitch.

The opening ceremonies started promptly at 9:00 a.m. with a touching ceremony for the Enthronement of the Blessed Mother participated in by the International Officers and Board, the Mission chairpersons and the host committee. It was followed by the parade of colors and presentation of circles by dioceses from Regions I to XIV.

His Eminence Gaudencio B. Cardinal Rosales, Archbishop Emeritus of Manila, was the convention keynote speaker and main celebrant during the Eucharistic celebration on the first day of the convention. Co-celebrating with him was DMI Vice-International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz.

Taking off from the convention theme "Strengthening of Faith in Jesus through Mary in the DMI Missions", Cardinal Rosales congratulated the Daughters of Mary Immaculate for being the first group to seriously take Pope Benedict XVI's challenge in the celebration of the Year of Faith which he declared to start on Oct. 11, 2012, the Golden Jubilee of the Opening of the Second Vatican Council and end on Nov. 24, 2013, the solemnity of Christ the King, with the theme "The New Evangelization for the Transmission of Christian Faith".

He urged the convention delegates to understand their faith and to be witnesses to it. He said that it is from the Church that our educational system emanated through its monastic schools which later shaped our social, economic, cultural and



*Eucharistic celebration by Cardinal Rosales and Fr. Jerome Cruz*



*The parade of colors*

political systems.

"There can be no faith without Jesus and no Jesus without Mary," the Cardinal stressed. "Mary is the original Nazarene as she had been chosen to carry in her womb the Son of God." Faith grows when it is lived. The Cardinal then cited the missions of the DMI as manifestations of living the faith by intensifying the witness of charity. St. Paul has reminded us: "So faith, hope and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love." (1 Cor. 13:13)

Convention Chairperson Sis. Mila V. officially welcomed the delegates and thanked them for their overwhelming support by their presence. She pleaded for their understanding and patience for the inconveniences they may be experiencing in such a crowded venue, but expressed her hope that the program lined up during the entire convention will more than compensate for them.

The Annual Business Meeting followed.



*The jam-packed convention hall*





*Usherettes from Risen Christ Circle welcome Cardinal Rosales.*



*Convention Chairperson Sis. Mila Villanueva welcomes the delegates.*

International Regent Sis. Lyding Ramirez delivered a very short annual report and referred her audience to the broadsheet-type printed (in full color yet!) report provided in their convention kits. The things she did during her term, to name a few: attended all the regional assemblies held in all the 14 DMI regions and the area conferences in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao (practically going island-hopping every month), and her call for a DMI circle in every parish resulting in the formation of 24 new



*IR Sis. Lyding Ramirez renders her Annual Report during the Business Meeting.*

circles (including a second circle in California and one in Macau) and 22 SMI circlettes in 2011.

International Treasurer Sis. Ofelia Lucas then rendered her report on the organization's financial operation and condition.

Lunch was served under a giant tent outside the Convention Hall. (The weather cooperated beautifully and nobody got wet going to the luncheon venue. Thanks to Mama Mary's intercession!)

The afternoon session

started with a talk by Mr. Bernard F. Canaberal, a long-time media practitioner who for many years has been hosting the Family Rosary Crusade (now being aired every Sunday, 7-8 a.m. on Studio 23 and TV Maria) and the program "Pamilya Mo, Pamilya Ko" over Radio Veritas from Monday to Friday, written thousands of plays for both radio and television, done social documentaries and music videos for religious organizations, private corporations and government institutions and written, produced, and performed in countless plays staged by major theater groups. He was introduced by International Chairperson for Morality in Media Sis. Sonia Manlapig.

Speaking on the topic "Mary, Media and the Rosary", Mr. Canaberal started his presentation by paying tribute to the Blessed Virgin Mary and her role in Man's Redemption. He also cited the many instances in the salvation history of the world when her powerful intercession changed the turn of events through her apparitions in many parts of the world – to St. Dominic of Guzman up on a mountain where she gifted him with a rosary, her appearance to St.

Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France, to the three children – Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta – in Fatima, Portugal and many more in recent times, always imparting the urgent message for people to pray the rosary everyday.

He also mentioned the Luminous Mysteries that Pope John Paul II added to the three Mysteries of the Rosary (Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious) that recall the public ministry of Jesus.

"The rosary is our hotline to God," Mr. Canaberal stated. As a meditative prayer, it invokes silence which is the language of God.

As for media, he quoted a statement by Fr. James Reuter, S.J.: "Media is the wildest experiment ever unleashed on modern man with no foreknowledge of what it would do to him." Indeed, the family is the most threatened of all species today. He said that the influence of media has been most pervasive. Media have challenged the value system established by old traditional institutions – the home, the church, the school. While these institutions

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*18th DMI Biennial Convention - Best Attended...cont'd. from Page 5*

nurture the **give, care, share** and **love** values, media have now replaced them with **get, take, have** and **possess** mentality. Having become substitute parents in the house, they have even robbed real parents of their children's heart and soul. Children run to media for answers to their questions, for solutions to their problems.

According to Mr. Canaberal, media is just a construct – REEL and not REAL. And the power to control media is in our hands if only there is love

in our hearts. Our task in the Information Age is to be at the service of TRUTH.

In spite of the unholy hour (right after lunch), Mr. Canaberal's audience sat in rapt attention for close to two hours, laughing heartily as he laced his talk with humorous anecdotes complete with sound effects and the thunder of his voice.

The reports of the International Chairpersons for the DMI Missions closed the session for Day 1:

Sis. Helen de Leon for Pro-life summarized the projects and activities emanating from the National level that are being undertaken by circles in their parishes aimed at promoting, preserving and protecting life at all stages. She cited the two big challenges that confront us today – the Reproductive Health Bill and the ill effects of climate change. She urged the delegates to continue the ongoing nationwide campaigns in support of the stand of the Catholic Church against the RH Bill and the protection of the

environment.

Sis. Sonia Manlapig for Morality in Media reported the continuing liaison with government agencies such as the MTRCB and OMB and networking with NGOs and other groups to be able to accomplish this DMI mission as well as the grassroots activities of the circles in their respective parishes as they exercise vigilance in monitoring various forms of media in their communities and conducting values education for the youth and other sectors utilizing the media.



*Lunch under a giant tent outside the convention hall*



*A plaque of appreciation is presented to Mr. Bernard Canaberal, guest speaker on Day 1, by Sis. Mila and Sis. Lyding.*



*Sis. Lyding Ramirez with the Past International Regents and her "Dream Team"*





Sis. Milde Tong for Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims gave an update report on what the circles have accomplished for the 10-year Educational Program for families and victims of prisoners launched in 2011. It is a comprehensive program of granting scholarships to children aimed at providing and empowering them to think, choose and decide for the rest of their lives and live a dignified life as responsible family members and as contributing citizens of our country.

Sis. Linda Castillo for Upliftment of Women Workers cited the laws that have been enacted to protect the rights of women and batted for women empowerment, making special mention of women OFWs who comprise 60% of Filipinos working overseas.

Sis. Ruby Macario for Youth Welfare reported the increase in Squirettes of Mary circlettes since the launch of a campaign for more SMI members. Twenty-two new circlettes were organized during 2011 and more are in the process of being formed in different parts of the country. She also showcased some former



*The Election Committee supervises the election of the 2013-14 International Officers.*



*The incoming Regional Representatives who will compose the 2013-14 DMI Board of Trustees*



*The newly-elected International Officers: From left: Sisters Miriam Angot, Cecille Apura, Evelyn Aquino, Mila Villanueva, Lita Canonizado, Cora Afuang and Amy Castaneda*

Squirettes who are now successful in their careers, their SMI background having provided them with inspiration and guidance as they pursue their chosen fields. Sis. Ruby's battlecry

for the SMI: **Start, Maintain, Increase!**

The session for Day 1 having ended, the delegates retired to their quarters to prepare for

Dinner and Fellowship Night. (Please see separate story on page 9.)

Day 2 (Sunday, May 13) started with the election of the DMI International Officers to serve in 2013-14. An Election Committee chaired by Past International Regent (IR) Sis. Myrna Zapanta had for members Past IRs Sisters Perla Arguelles, Sonia Mayo, Beling Panganiban and Jean Velarde.

Candidates for the different positions were unanimously elected by the regional representatives comprising the new DMI International Board. A follow-up secret balloting affirmed the election of the following:

- International Regent
  - Sis. Mila A. Villanueva (Region V)
- Vice-IR for Luzon
  - Sis. Lita Canonizado (Region VI)
- Vice-IR for Visayas
  - Sis. Evelyn Aquino (Region X)
- Vice-IR for Mindanao
  - Sis. Cecille Apura (Region XIII)
- International Secretary
  - Sis. Cora Afuang (Region V)
- International Treasurer

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**18th DMI Biennial Convention - Best Attended...cont'd. from Page 7**

- Sis. Amelia Castaneda (Region III)  
International Advocate
- Sis. Miriam Angot (Region XIV)

(Please see page 2 for a complete list of the International Officers and Board for 2013-14.)

VIR – Visayas Sis. Carmen de la Torre then took over the rostrum to discuss the venue of the next DMI Biennial Convention, its 19<sup>th</sup>, with Visayas as convention host. The Diocese of Tagbilaran offered to host the convention in Bohol which the delegates overwhelmingly approved.

Ms. Lorna Melegrito, executive director of Pro-Life Philippines Foundation was the morning's main speaker. Her topic was "Pro-Life: A Testimony of Faith".

Ms. Melegrito, who was introduced by International Chairperson for Pro-life Sis. Helen de Leon, was a member of the academe for 28 years as classroom teacher and guidance counselor before joining Pro-Life Philippines in 2010. She holds a masters degree in psychology from the Philippine Women's University where she also obtained a bachelor's degree, also in psychology. She holds a Teacher's

Certificate in Special Education from De la Salle University and completed a Pro-life Basic Training Course by Dr. Brian Clowes of Human Life International. At present, Ms. Melegrito is actively involved in various socio-religious organizations among which are the Couples for Christ and Teodora (Foundation for Women Empowerment).

Ms. Melegrito's life as she related it, has been an example of one living out her faith – from the hard life her family had in

Cagayan, walking to school in broken slippers and studying by a kerosene lamp at night. Her mother's unceasing faith gave her children the patience and courage to go on. Taking advantage of every opportunity that opened up for her made life gradually better. Her dictum: Don't lose hope, keep your faith, care for and share with others.

She also mentioned that man cannot be trusted to use God's wisdom properly. Going against His will, many have become anti-life; e.g.

abortion of female babies in China, availability of better agriculture to produce more food and yet many die of malnutrition and hunger.

"We need God's wisdom and grace," Ms. Melegrito said. "God has done His part. Let us do ours." And her parting words: Faith and prayer are the vitamins of the soul.

A Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Jerome preceded the official close of the Convention at 12:00 noon. Drawing his homily from the convention theme, he urged the DMIs present to live a life of faith. "God's love is ultimate and if you believe in God, believe in love, for God is love. If you know deep within you that God loves you, then you will know how to love. To remain in love, we must follow God's commandments."

The closing ceremonies and final blessing by Fr. Jerome officially closed the 18<sup>th</sup> DMI Biennial Convention. Lunch was provided at the venue. While some of the delegates prepared to go home, others opted to stay a little longer to take in the scenic views of Tagaytay and shop at its numerous stalls and shops for souvenirs to take home.



*The convention delegates enjoy an ice-breaker exercise.*



*Ms. Lorna Melegrito, Day 2 speaker, receives her plaque of appreciation from Sisters Mila and Lyding. At left is Sis. Rose Enriquez, program emcee.*

## *A Magical Night of Music and Dance*

Preparations for the fellowship nights during DMI biennial conventions can take painstakingly long and arduous. The regions vying for Best Presentation prepare their production numbers in secret to finally surprise the audience comes the BIG Night.

And surprise the audience they did as the Broadway-themed presentations by each contending region unfolded one after the other on the night of May 12. Well-loved songs from well-remembered Broadway musicals wafted in the air as colorfully-costumed dancers appeared onstage, swinging, sashaying, swaying, skipping, hopping.

The curtain opened with a surprise number from the International Officers and

Board from the Broadway musical "Cabaret". The evening's Board of Judges - Past IR Sis. Sonia Mayo, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Councilor Joy Para representing Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham Tolentino and Mr. George Angeles, CEO of El Cielito Hotels - then got busy keeping scores on their scorecards based on the following set of criteria: originality - 15%, execution - 20%, skill - 15%, coordination - 50%.

The last to perform was the host region, Region V, a non-contender, presenting an excerpt from "My Fair Lady" as the final scores from the Board of Judges were being tallied.

Adjudged winners were the following:



*A surprise number from the International Officers and Board - "Cabaret"*



*The contest board of Judges: Mr. George Angeles, Sis. Sonia Mayo, Fr. Jerome Cruz and Councilor Joy Para.*



*Region V, the host region - "My Fair Lady"*



*First Prize, Region XIV - "Mamma Mia!"*



*Second Prize - Region IX - "Chorus Line"*



*A Magical Night of Music and Dance...cont'd. from Page 9*

First Prize - Region XIV represented by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga ("Mamma Mia!")

Second Prize - Region IX represented by the Diocese of Kalibo ("Chorus Line")

Third Prize - Region VII represented by the Diocese of San Jose - Occ. Mindoro ("One Way")

Day 1 ended with ballroom dancing till the wee hours. The accompanying photos speak of the color and pageantry of the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention Fellowship Night.



*Third Prize - Region VII - "One Way"*



*Region I - "Knock Three Times"*



*Region III - "Moulin Rouge"*



*Region IV - "Grease"*



*Region VI - "Chicago"*



*Region X - "Nowadays"*



*Region XII - "New York! New York!"*



## 2012 Star Circle Awardees

**Seventeen DMI circles were recipients of the Star Circle Awards given out to outstanding circles every biennial convention based on a set of criteria that the circle awardees have been able to meet. Six circles received the Gold Star Circle Award and eleven circles, the Silver Star Circle Award. The awards were given during the Fellowship Night of the 18<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Tagaytay City last May 12, 2012.**

### **GOLD STAR CIRCLE AWARDEES**

St. Nicholas of Tolentine Circle  
Diocese of Cabanatuan  
Region II

Risen Christ Circle  
Diocese of Paranaque  
Region V

Our Lady of the Lilies Circle  
Diocese of Paranaque  
Region V

National Shrine of Our Lady of  
Lourdes Circle - Diocese of  
Cubao - Region V

St. Joseph Circle  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

St. Charles Circle  
San Diego, California, USA

### **SILVER STAR CIRCLE AWARDEES**

Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle  
Diocese of Malolos  
Region IV

St. Paul of the Cross Circle  
Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

Our Lady of the Abandoned Circle  
Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

Immaculate Conception of  
Karangalan Circle  
Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

Cause of our Joy Circle  
Archdiocese of Manila  
Region V

Mary Mother of the Church Circle  
Diocese of Paranaque  
Region V

Sagrado Corazon Circle  
Diocese of Cubao  
Region V

St. Paul the Hermit Circle  
Diocese of San Pablo  
Region VI

San Sebastian Circle  
Diocese of San Jose (Occ.  
Mindoro) Region VII

San Isidro Labrador Circle  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

Our Lady of Purification Circle  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

## **CORRECTION**

**9** n the write-up titled "Ozamis  
Archdiocesan Conference Held", page  
17, January-March, 2012 issue of the  
**DMI Newsette**, the caption for the photo  
at right should read: **Rev. Fr. Rogelio**

**Taguran** (instead of Mr. Dennis Leopoldo)  
**is congratulated by Region XIV  
Representative Sis. Miriam Angot  
after receiving his award of  
appreciation.**

## *Infant Jesus Circle of Lipa Hosts Region VII Assembly*

Once again, the members of the Infant Jesus Circle of San Sebastian Parish of Lipa City headed by Regent Sis. Nelly Gutierrez displayed solid cooperation and commitment enabling the smooth flow of the Regional Assembly of Region VII that the circle hosted last March 3, 2012 at Canossa Academy.

The convention theme was "*DMI, Karamay ng Simbahan sa Paglalakbay Tungo sa Kaganapan ng Buhay sa Sambayanan*" with the keynote address of Rev. Msgr. Rafael "Boy" Oriondo, parish priest and DMI spiritual director, providing inspiration and challenging the 315 delegates to be more involved and to serve their parish communities with renewed commitment. He also presided over the Eucharistic celebration during the assembly.

International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez led the DMI international officers present. They were Past International Regents Sisters Sonia Mayo and

Myrna Zapanta, Region VII Regional Representative Sis. Nimfa Yyance and International Chairpersons Sis. Linda Castillo for Upliftment of Women Workers and Sis. Ruby Macario for Youth Welfare.

The talks of the guest speakers revolved around the assembly theme, particularly on the DMI's missions. IR Sis. Lydia Ramirez who delivered an inspirational message, Fr. Joseph Mendoza, Fr. Dale Anthony Barretto Ko, Sis. Divinia Dimayuga and Sis. Ruby Macario held the attention and interest of their audience during the entire session. Intermission numbers during lunch consisting of native folk dances and lively jokes were provided by members of the Infant Jesus Circle.

At the end of the assembly, the delegates headed home contemplating on the challenges posed by the speakers and the fond memories of friendships made and renewed with their DMI sisters.



*Members of Infant Jesus Circle, Region VII Assembly host with Fr. Dale Anthony Barretto Ko and Fr. Joseph Mendoza and Sisters Lydia Ramirez and Ruby Macario.*

*From Baguio City*



*(Left) Ms. Adoralyn Marigza, Civil Service Commission - CAR Gender & Development (GAD) Focal Person and Sr. Policy/Personnel Specialist, discusses the apparent "differences" between males and females after the "Pitik Palak" exercise. (Right) The DMI sisters at work on their group exercises during the Gender Sensitivity Seminar.*

## Our Lady of Atonement Circle Members and their Spouses Attend Gender-Sensitivity Seminar

*By Sis. Romelda Frances M. Escano, Recording Secretary, Our Lady of Atonement Circle*

We are born either male or female – and nothing, not even the most modern medical procedure, can change that. While birth determines sex, gender refers to a set of expected behaviors, attitudes and roles usually assigned to either male or female by a particular culture or society. Gender, unlike sex, does not refer to physical attributes but to qualities or traits which, except in very minor areas, do not depend on whether one is male or female. Both males and females, therefore, share valuable attributes which contribute to development. Females and males should complement each other, especially since both have a stake in the country's progress. This was the basis of the Gender Sensitivity Seminar facilitated by the Civil Service Commission for members of the Our Lady of Atonement Circle of Baguio City held recently at the

Sangkabalayan Hall of the Baguio Cathedral.

The first-level Gender Sensitivity Seminar, a project of the Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee, was attended by Circle members and their spouses. The seminar was anchored on four basic premises: Gender is an issue which (1) does not intend to spur a war between the sexes, hence (2) it is not anti-male; further (3) both men and women are victims of violence, although statistics show that women are victims (of physical violence in particular) more than men, and finally, (4) both men and women have a stake in the struggle for gender equality.

The morning session of the seminar was enlivened by activities centered on games and self-expression, activities intended to differentiate between

sex and gender as well as to explore and articulate gender issues. The afternoon session featured activities which aimed to make all participants hear women's voices and feel women's pain which as a consequence will result in a desirable future that one's commitment would ensure.

The seminar-workshop also addressed issues of gender bias – from the most mundane such as assigning colors to sexes (e.g., pink for females) to more life-affecting ones such as those concerning careers (e.g., engineering and medical courses and vocational trades involving machines and machine repair being strictly for men).

The deeply personal and cathartic RITWAL at seminar's end helped the participants achieve healing and renewed awareness of themselves. It was

indeed an apt end to a day which helped all and sundry realize that oppression is not only manifested in physical forms, but may also be inflicted psychologically by hurtful words, taking each other for granted, or even by ingrained habits and cultural mores resulting in a diminished self-worth or sense of personhood.

On the whole, the activity opened not only the DMI sisters' mind but also left gems of wisdom. It is hoped that these gems will help them (and their spouses) foster better relationships and properly sensitize them as to how to view men and women in society – not as rivals or participants engaged in a master-servant, superior-subordinate relationship, but as partners walking side by side towards a brighter future for the Filipino family and the Filipino nation.



*From Casiguran, Aurora*

## New Circle Organized in Casiguran, Aurora

*By Sis. Mila A. Diasanta, Vicarial Regent-Aurora, Prelature of Infanta*

It was in October, 2011 when Sis. Nida Curitana, president of the K of C Ladies Circle of St. Anthony of Padua Council 10825 requested for the organization of a DMI Circle in their parish. Sis. Mila A. Diasanta of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle (OLMCC) of San Luis Obispo Parish in Baler talked with the pastor of Casiguran concerning the request.

A month later, with permission from Diocesan Regent Sis. Aida Beltran of the Diocese of Cabanatuan, then OLMCC Regent Sis. Nora Tinio, together

with some circle officers proceeded to Casiguran, Aurora and conducted an orientation for prospective DMI members after which the participants moved for the formation of Nuestra Senora de la Ermita Circle, the fourth circle in the Prelature of Infanta.

The new circle's charter members were then exemplified by the newly-formed Exemplification Team of OLMCC. The charter officers were then elected and later installed into office with Sis. Mila Diasanta as installing officer assisted by Circle Regent Sis.

Portia Alcalde and Past Regent Sis. Nora Tinio. The charter officers of Nuestra Senora de la Ermita Circle are the following: Sis. Renita Guzman – regent, Sis. Yolanda Laguna – vice-regent, Sis. Marilou Valencia – past regent, Sis. Soldevilla Molina – financial secretary, Sis. Odette Calugtong – recording secretary, Sis. Teodora Gayeta – treasurer, Sis. Nida Curitana – senior trustee, Sis. Genie Guerrero – junior trustee, Sis. Marivic Portera – new trustee, Sis. Julieta Alcantara – chancellor Sisters Lorna Valencia and Mary Jane Malate – custodians,

Sis. Florife Agustin – scribe, Sis. Lourdes Uy – banner bearer, Sis. Liza Valino – guide I, Sis. Jocelyn Cordial – guide II, Sis. Jenalyn Buatag – guard I, Sis. Nerie Roxas – guard II, and Sis. Milagros Cabasag – organist.

The following day, Fr. Eusebio Molde, parish priest and circle spiritual director, celebrated Mass to welcome the DMI as a mandated organization of the parish. Present to extend support were members of the Knights of Columbus led by District Deputy Bro. Adelmo Alcantara and Grand Knight Bro. Rommel Malate.



*The charter members of Nuestra Senora de la Ermita Circle during the exemplification ceremonies*

*From Baler, Aurora*

## OLMCC Forms Exemplification Team

*By Sis. Mila A. Diasanta*

The Prelature of Infanta covers two provinces – part of Quezon Province and Aurora Province. The nearness to God's faith sets no boundaries to the parishes in Aurora, with the Knights of Columbus and the DMI here working hand-in-hand with their counterparts in the Diocese of Cabanatuan. As we expand the DMI organization in Aurora, we rely heavily on the assistance of the Exemplification Team of the Diocese of Cabanatuan.

Some parishes in the Prelature located in the northern part of Aurora known as DIBICADI have submitted petitions to organize DMI circles which are relatively far from Cabanatuan, hence, the need for a local exemplification team to conduct long conferrals for these new circles. The regents of the two dioceses – Sisters Aida Beltran of Infanta and Rita Caballero of Cabanatuan – then agreed to form a team in Aurora. The task was given to the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle being the oldest circle in Aurora which the circle officers readily accepted. They immediately organized the team.

The members of the OLMCC Exemplification Team and their respective roles are as follows: Regent – Sis. Mila Diasanta, vice-regent – Sis. Nora Tinio,

chancellor – Sis. Marissa Paraiso, custodian – Sis. Liberty Querijero, monitor – Sis. Elizabeth Piccio, guide I – Sis. Sylvia de los Santos, guide II – Sis. Thelma Pimentel and organist – Sis. Menchie Ortomo.

Thus far, the team has exemplified 15 new members of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Circle of San Luis Rey, of San Luis, Aurora on May 27, 2012 and the 19 charter members of the Nuestra Senora de la Ermita Circle of Casiguran on June 2, 2012.



*Part of the OLMCC Exemplification Team during the exemplification of charter members of the Nuestra Senora de la Ermita Circle*

## PHOTO NEWS

*From Guimba, Nueva Ecija*



### *Sta. Cecilia Circle's Binyagang Bayan*

The Sta. Cecilia Circle of Guimba, Nueva Ecija sponsored last March 14, 2012 the baptism of 30 indigent children at the St. John the Evangelist Parish Church. Photo shows the DMI sisters witnessing the baptism of a sponsored child.

*From Orion, Bataan*

## Update Report from St. Michael The Archangel Circle

**7**he St. Michael the Archangel Circle of Orion, Bataan makes a strong presence in the parish community through the DMI missions. Sis. Ginn Mateo reports:

**PRO-LIFE:** The Circle sponsors seminars on teen sexuality, love relationships and chastity among high school students in the parish. The Pro-life Committee also conducts Pre-Cana seminars to engaged couples about to be married.

**ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES AND THEIR VICTIMS:** Circle members make regular visits to the municipal jail to minister to the spiritual and material needs of prisoners. It is through them that they are able to access their families through interviews. The sisters are then able to know and address the families' immediate needs.

**MORALITY IN MEDIA:** This committee regularly monitors video shops



*DMI sisters visit the municipal jail and minister to prisoners' spiritual and material needs.*

and newspaper stands and encourages their proprietors to stop selling pornographic materials to safeguard the moral welfare of the youth in the community.

**WORKERS:** Livelihood seminars such as Peanut Butter-Making and Rag-Making are conducted for indigent mothers to enable them to earn extra income for the family.

**UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN**

## Squirettes of Mary Circlette Organized

**7**he continuing nationwide campaign for the formation of Squirettes

of Mary circlettes bore fruit in Orion, Bataan through the efforts of St. Michael the

Archangel Circle Regent Sis. Anette Quezon.

Diocese of Balanga and Sis. Cora Villanueva, SMI Board member.



*The initial members of SMI St. Michael the Archangel Circlette with DMIs during their investiture.*

Composing the initial batch of SMI St. Michael the Archangel Circlette are 19 Grades 5 and 6 pupils of Orion Elementary School who were invested last May 15, 2012. Present during the investiture ceremony were Sis. Ellen Magpantay, diocesan regent of the

The Squirettes assist in the DMI Circle's activities in carrying out the DMI missions. Their first outreach program was last June 2, 2012 when they distributed school supplies to indigent school children in the parish.



## Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle Conducts Info Drive vs. RH Bill

*By Sis. Mely de la Pena, Chairperson, Morality in Media Committee*

In support of the DMI's campaign against the Reproductive Health Bill, the Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle held a symposium recently at the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Multi-Purpose Hall in Lias, Marilao, Bulacan. The activity is a joint project of the Circle's Pro-Life Committee headed by Sis. Luz Yuan and Morality in Media Committee headed by Sis. Mely de la Pena.

The symposium resource person was Sis. Tessie Bondoc, Pro-Life chair of the Diocese of Malolos.

Sis. Tessie discussed lengthily the provisions of the RH Bill from a layman's point of view based on the pro-life teachings of the Catholic Church. She discussed the ill effects of artificial family planning and use of contraceptives which can be life-threatening for women. The Bill likewise treats contraceptives as essential medicines for which a huge amount of money will be appropriated once passed into law.

"Fertility and pregnancy are not illnesses or diseases requiring essential

medicines," Sis. Tessie pointed out. The purpose of medicines is to heal, to save life and not to destroy it, she added. She also told her audience about the danger of providing mandatory sex education to very young children in schools that may promote sex promiscuity, they being too young to understand the responsibilities of marital life, pro-creation and sexual acts.

Sis. Tessie also mentioned the different natural methods of family planning such as the ovulation or Billings method, basal body temperature and the symptom-thermal method which are acceptable to the Church.

She urged those present to continue supporting the Pro-life stand of the Catholic Church, suggesting the following actions: campaign for the non-approval



*Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle sisters with some Squirrelettes of Mary pose beside their "No to RH Bill" tarpaulin streamer.*

of the RH Bill, educate their families, neighbors and members of organizations where they belong, practice and promote natural family planning methods, not to use contraceptives, respect the human body, protect the unborn and to PRAY.

In ending, Sis. Tessie said that population control is not the solution to poverty in our country. It is the eradication of graft and corruption in government that will propel the country to economic development and growth.

*From San Jose City, Nueva Ecija*

### **Operation "Bright Smile" of San Jose Circle**



Three hundred day care center pupils from seven barangays of San Jose City were recipients of toothbrushes and toothpaste donated by the sisters of San Jose Circle during their Operation "Bright Smile" last February in celebration of Oral Health Month. The city's Rural Health Unit and DSWD personnel assisted the DMI in this project. Spearheading the activity were the officers of the circle, Sisters Helen Hipolito, Fely Cariaga, Babeth Amurao, Nora Interino, Rebecca Salvador and Emma Pobre.

*From Meycauayan, Bulacan*

## Sto. Nino De Meycauayan Circle Forms SMI Circlette

*By Sis. Catherine H. Francisco, Circle Regent*

With God's grace and with the guidance of Blessed Mother Mary, our patroness and model, the Sto. Nino de Meycauayan Circle had been able to form its youth arm, the SMI Sto. Nino de Meycauayan Circlette. We consider this quite an accomplishment for a circle only in its second year of existence. But thanks to our DMI sisters' diligence, dedication to a commitment and concerted efforts, our dream became a reality sooner than we had planned for and expected.

As early as December, 2011, we conducted a series of orientation sessions for the circlette's initial members, starting with nine girls for the first batch. We kept on searching for possible recruits, getting several kinks out of the way, and on March 3, 2012, we were able to hold

our SMI Investiture Ceremony with 20 SMI charter members. Extending their support were Past International Secretary and Region IV RR Sis. Tesy Villarino and Vicarial Regents Sisters Mila Reyes of the Virariate of St. Martin of Tours & St. Francis of Assisi and Lyn Millora of the Vicariate of Sto. Nino. Diocesan SMI Chair Sis. Belle Ortiz and her Investiture Team conducted the ceremony. The pastor of our parish, Msgr. Manny Villaroman gave the new Squirettes an inspiring spiritual message.



*The newly-invested Squirettes of Sto. Nino de Meycauayan Circlette with the Diocesan Investiture Team and DMI guests*

This accomplishment has inspired our circle to undertake new and challenging endeavors, setbacks and difficulties we might encounter along the way notwithstanding. We thank our mentors, Sisters Tesy Villarino, Mila Reyes and Lyn Millora for their encouragement and support.

*From Bocaue, Bulacan*

## Queen of Flowers Circle Visits Orphanages

*By Sis. Amelia Gonzales, Scribe, Queen of Flowers Circle*

Last May 23, 2012, some officers and members of the Queen of Flowers Circle headed by the chairperson of its Welfare Committee Sis. Titas Sanchez, visited orphanages in Bonga Menor, Bustos, Bulacan.

The first orphanage visited was the Nazareth Home for Street Children under the supervision of the Sisters of the Divine Shepherd and some social workers. The orphanage takes care of 40 girls and five boys aged from 4 years to 18 years old. The

children are sent to school – 3 are in college, 12 in high school and 30 in elementary. Some of the wards in the home are children abused by their relatives. A child may be admitted to the orphanage by presenting a Municipal DSWD certification and

barangay clearance .

The *Bahay at Yaman* of St. Martin de Porres came next. Under the supervision of Fr. Boyet Concepcion, the house has a population of 86 boys and 21 girls aged 6 to 22 years. Products are sold at the orphanage to help finance

*From Malolos City*

## ***DMII and the Commission on Social Communication***

*By Sis. Feliciana Aldaba, Past Regent, Immaculate Conception Circle*

The Commission on Social Communication of the Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception Parish gave a seminar-workshop on Photography and Graphic Arts Design on May 19, 2012 at the St. Magdalene Hall of the Cathedral. The chairperson of the Morality in Media Committee of the Immaculate Conception Circle was one of the speakers during the seminar-workshop, photography and graphic arts being media forms. Among the topics discussed were the DMI's Morality in Media thrust as well as Church and Social Communication.

The PowerPoint presentation traced the history of the Circle, its mission, media forms and their advantages and disadvantages, and the internet rules and strategies to pursue the thrust.

The role of social communication in the Church was briefly discussed focusing on the theme of Pope John Paul II's pontifical message on World Communications Day in 1997, "Communicating Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life". It provides an opportunity for the church to meditate and act on the specific contributions

which the communications media can offer in making known the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ.

The Cathedral of Malolos is of one mind with the Universal Church in recognizing the importance of mass media for the mission of evangelization. Proofs of this are its support of Radio Veritas programs, the effort of publishing the newsletter *Immaculada* superseded by *Basileia* with some DMIs as contributors, the

establishment of the Commission on Social Communication and now its website [www.maloloscathedral.org](http://www.maloloscathedral.org).



its operation. We happily bought spicy dilis, nuts, tamarind and cassava cookies to bring home as *pasalubong*.

We had not been able to see the children in both orphanages as they were out for their summer swimming.

The third and last orphanage we visited was San Juan de Dios Hospice for girls supervised by the Brothers of Mercy. The

Hospice takes care of 30 girls, the youngest is 21 years old. While the mission of the first two orphanages is to provide temporary shelter for children, the mission of this hospice is to provide long-term shelter for psychiatric patients and emotionally disturbed girls.

The Queen of Flowers Circle donated cash, sacks of rice, canned goods, packs of noodles, cookies, crackers, bath soaps and laundry detergents, toiletries



***The Queen of Flowers Circle sisters turn over their donation to Bahay at Yaman of St. Martin de Porres.***

and clothes to the orphanages they visited.

The day's activity ended with a birthday treat at Hap Chan

Restaurant to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of former DMI International Board Member Sis. Piling San Juan, a pioneer member of the circle.



*From Quezon City*

## ***Diocese of Cubao DMI's and SMI's Hold Advent Recollection***

*By Sis. Evelyn Gotladera, past regent, Vicariate of the Holy Family*

Last November 30, 2011, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate and the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate of the Diocese of Cubao had their first joint Advent Recollection at the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Holy Family Parish Center in Quezon City. Recollection speaker was Fr. Larry Faraon, OP.

Fr. Larry started his talk by comparing Filipino women to their counterparts in New Zealand and Venezuela. He said that women in these two countries differ from Filipino women in that many of them are empty and cold just like their countries' climate. Many women are physically beautiful but lack humility and patience that love and marriage do not last. Filipino women, on the other hand, have a joyful heart because they are filled with God's gift of joy.

Michael Jackson once said that he dedicates his song "Heal the World" to Filipinos because they are very spiritual and can help a great deal in healing the wounds (both spiritual and moral) of peoples all over the world. Fr. Larry expressed regret that developed countries such as Japan, Singapore and South Korea have the saddest citizens in Asia while the Filipinos, citizens of a third world country are among the happiest in the world. This he attributes to the fact that the Philippines is the only Catholic country in the Far East and it is from their faith that Filipinos draw encouragement and spiritual strength. "Filipino women may not be so pretty, but when they smile, they become captivatingly beautiful.

"The Philippines is a conglomeration of different kinds of people," Fr. Larry stated. And God gifts them with different talents and charisms to succeed in life regardless of the odds. Some may not be as fortunate as the others, yet every man or woman



***Fr. Larry Faraon, OP, recollection speaker during the Diocese of Cubao's Advent Recollection.***

is a son or daughter of God, no matter his or her station in life.

One good character trait that Fr. Larry suggests is the ability to shut one's mouth and to listen. Because it is only through silence that we can understand God's message that will lead us to His Kingdom.

He also touched on the Reproductive Health Bill which he said might pave the way for the passage of immoral laws such as assisted suicide or euthanasia. "Pregnancy brings forth life that is a source of joy in marriage," he continued. And if life is taken away, then joy is also taken away.

Filipinos are blessed with the gifts of piety, faith and hope. Fr. Larry urged his audience to always look up to God and have faith in Him Who is the Lord and Giver of life, good health and everything that one needs. In closing he said that Advent is the time of waiting with joyful expectation of the Lord's coming.

## NEWS UPDATES FROM INFANT JESUS CIRCLE

*By Sis. Nelly Gutierrez, Circle Regent*

### *IJC Ties Up with Visayan Forum*

It all started when Msgr. Rafael "Boy" Oriondo became the pastor of San Sebastian Parish in 2010. To familiarize himself with the missions and activities of the different mandated organizations in the parish, he requested the heads of all Cathedral organizations to submit a report of their activities. He became particularly interested in the missions of the DMI, especially the assistance the organization extends to women workers so that he decided to link the circle to the Visayan

Forum as their objectives of helping migrant workers are closely related.

After several meetings with Msgr. Boy and thorough study of the module provided by Mr. Polly Maranan, an officer of the Forum, the Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee decided to adopt the module as a committee activity. To lend support to the Circle's activity are the local government and the different schools of Lipa City and the San Sebastian Alay Kapwa Office represented by Ms. Gina Magundayao.



*The Infant Jesus Circle sisters with Msgr. Boy Oriondo during the MOA signing on April 15, 2012*

To jumpstart the activity, a formal Memorandum of Agreement was signed between the IJC and the Visayan Forum last April 15, 2012 witnessed by Ms. Magundayao and circle members.

The DMI's formal training for this project started in June, 2012 at the San Sebastian Hall under the supervision of Sis. Nelly

Gutierrez. Mr. Maranan and staff from the national office of the Visayan Forum handle the training. When the project becomes operational, Msgr. Boy has promised to provide a unit within the Cathedral compound where the circle can entertain clients and be able to assist women migrant workers.

### *Day of the Unborn Observed*



*DMI sisters before the Memorial for the Unborn with Fr. Eugene Penalosa*

The Infant Jesus Circle joined the observance of the World Day of the Unborn last March 25, 2012. The activity was held in front of the Memorial for the Unborn located at the Plaza Independencia and the cathedral patio. The marker was unveiled by Fr. Eugene Penalosa and blessed by Msgr. Boy Oriondo. Archbishop Ramon Arguelles delivered a talk that emphasized the value of life. A Holy

Mass followed the unveiling ceremony.

On hand to witness the event were members of other cathedral organizations who carried placards upholding the value of life.

IJC's Pro-life Committee members Sisters Herminia Bautista, Imelda Dimayuga and Rose Dimayuga coordinated this pro-life activity.



*From the Diocese of Tagum*

## Diocesan Assembly Cum Lenten Recollection Held



*The officers of the DMI Diocese of Tagum with members of the clergy who were assembly guests. Front row, seated from left: Fr. Jojo Basilad, Sis. Melven Manligoy, VIR-Mindanao Sis. Cecille Apura, DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Ricky Siblos, Bishop Patricio Alo, Diocesan Regent Sis. Babie David, Past DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Ed Bano and Fr. Lito Salisad.*

The San Isidro Labrador – Banaybanay Circle hosted the assembly of the Diocese of Tagum last February 17-18, 2012. A Lenten Recollection was held after the assembly in preparation for the coming Season of Lent. DMI officers and members from all over Davao Oriental attended the event.

The assembly started with a concelebrated Mass by Bishop Patricio Alo of the Diocese of Tagum as main celebrant and DMI Past Spiritual Director Fr. Ed Bano and Pastor of Virgen de Guia Parish Fr. Jojo Basilad as co-celebrants.

Recollection speaker was Fr. Carmelito Salisad who said that to serve God, one must serve Him with his whole heart and with focus. Vice-International Regent for Mindanao Sis. Cecille Apura updated the DMI sisters present regarding goings-on in the National Organization and reminded them about their role and responsibility to God and the Blessed Mother as their model and guide and to society and their parish communities which they carry out through the DMI missions. DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Ricky Siblos also graced the occasion.

*From Gingoog City*

## Recollection for Senior HS Students Conducted

*By Sis. Nilda Villegas, Vicarial Regent*

The officers of the Sta. Rita de Cascia Circle of Gingoog City conducted a recollection for graduating students of Bal-ason National High School last March 16, 2012. The team of facilitators was headed by Sis. Nilda Villegas, vicarial regent for Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Assumption and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circles. She was ably assisted by Diocesan Regent Sis. Flordelis Aguilor, Diocesan Treasurer Sis. Merlin Villamor and Sisters Adette Nambatac, Tata Baniga, Angel Curan and Estela Cainglet.

Ninety-seven graduating students of the school attended the recollection which focused on



*The graduating students of Bal-ason National High School.*

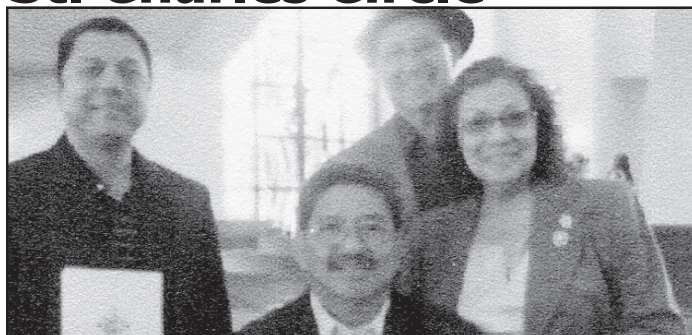


*The DMI recollection facilitators headed by Sis. Nilda Villegas with the faculty and staff of Bal-ason National High School.*



*From San Diego, California*

## News Briefs from St. Charles Circle



**(Left) PARISH WEEK-END BAZAAR.** The DMI sisters of St. Charles Circle put up a Funnel Cake Booth during the annual Weekend Bazaar of St. Charles Parish in San Diego, California last June 2-3, 2012. Income generated from the bazaar will benefit the parish projects of St. Charles Church. Photo shows the sisters preparing funnel cakes, from left: Sisters Lita Sebastian, Elsa Barnes, Aileen Barretto, Myra Lopez, Marlou Wessling and Regent Aida McColgan. **(Right) ORDINATION OF DEACON BOB BARRETTO.** Sis. Susan Marquez of St. Joseph Circle of Westmorland, California motored all the way to San Diego to witness the ordination of Deacon Bob Barretto at St. Charles Parish. She is shown in photo with husband Roger and son Joseph.



**"VISITA IGLESIA".** Some sisters of St. Charles Circle observed the Filipino tradition of visita iglesia during Holy Week visiting several local churches in San Diego. Shown in photo are Sisters Marlou Wessling, Ched Galang, Aida Mata, Aida McColgan, Belen Bautista, Auring Delarea and Nila Reyes.



**NURSING HOME MINISTRY.** The DMI sisters visit nursing and convalescent homes on a regular basis under the circle's Nursing Home Ministry. They are shown above while entertaining residents of Birch Patrick Convalescent Home with a dance number recently.

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*Recollection for Senior HS Students Conducted...cont'd. from Page 22*

Spiritual Maturity. The participants gave the recollection their undivided attention and wholehearted response which the DMI sisters found overwhelming.

The students' parents and the faculty and staff of Bal-ason National High School headed by its principal, Mrs. Arlinda Micu who requested for the said

recollection thanked the DMIs profusely for this very successful spiritual growth and development activity for their students who will soon be leaving the

school. The recollection was aimed at preparing them for their next level, their tertiary education.



## PHOTO NEWS ROUND-UP

*From Muntinlupa City*

### ***Our Lady of the Lilies Circle Sponsors Education of Eleven Prisoners***



Eleven prisoners in the New Bilibid Prisons were among thousands of students who graduated in March, 2012. Their education was sponsored by the Our Lady of the Lilies Circle of Mary Cause of Our Joy Parish in Soldiers' Hills, Muntinlupa City. The graduates successfully completed the elementary level under Ms. Fe Sandoval, DepEd head of Itaas Elementary School. Circle Regent Sis. Lumeng Celarde headed the DMI sisters who attended the graduation ceremonies.

### ***Morality in Media Symposium***

A one-day symposium on Morality in Media was sponsored by the Our Lady of the Lilies Circle for 3rd and 4th year students of Mary Cause Catholic School, South Crest and Soldiers' Hills High School. Guest speaker was Bro. Raymond Ganar. The circle was assisted in this project by the Squirettes of Mary. Photo above shows the members of the working committee for the event led by Past Regent Sis. Sally Nermal, Morality in Media Committee chair.



### ***Mary Mother Of The Church Circle Assists in The City's "Sagip Ilog" Project***



*From Las Pinas City*

The members of the Mary Mother of the Church Circle are actively involved in propagating the goals and objectives of Las Pinas City's "Sagip Ilog" Project. The Circle's Pro-life Committee decided to support the project, first by endorsing it to other Circle members and eventually to other people particularly those living near riverbanks. The committee will hold small group meetings with informal settlers to teach them proper waste disposal and segregation to eliminate pollution of rivers. Leaflets will likewise be distributed to serve as reminders to people regarding proper care for the environment. Photo shows some DMI sisters led by Regent Sis. Susan Biluan, Vice-Regent Olive Atienza and Sis. Lai Muyot during an on-site briefing on the "Sagip Ilog" Project in an area near C-5.

*From Dumaguete City*

### ***Diocesan Advent Recollection Held***

"Mary, Our Hope and Inspiration to Renew" was the theme of the Advent Recollection held by the Diocese of Dumaguete at the Plaza Maria Luisa Suites Inn last October 23, 2011. DMI sisters from three circles, the Queen of Virgins Circle of Tanjay, St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle of Dumaguete City and St. Augustine de Hippo Circle of Bacong attended the recollection.



*From Calapan City, Mindoro Oriental*



### ***Outreach to Families of Prisoners and their Victims***

The Holy Child Circle played host to 60 families of prisoners and victims during the Christmas Party the sisters organized last Dec. 22, 2011. Gifts were distributed to the families during the party.



### ***Holy Child Circle's Pro-Life Activity***

The Holy Child Circle participated recently in the Anti-RH Bill Rally of the Knights of Columbus at Sto. Nino Parish in Calapan City.

*From Consolacion, Cebu*

### ***San Narciso Circle Sponsors RH Bill Sympo***

The San Narciso Circle of Consolacion, Cebu sponsored a symposium on the RH Bill last October 20, 2011. Students from various schools attended the symposium. Photos show a capacity crowd listening to the symposium speaker.



*From Tacloban City*

### ***Tower of Ivory Circle Undertakes Livelihood, Feeding Programs***

As part of their immersion in basic ecclesial communities (BEC), the officers and members of the Tower of Ivory Circle have undertaken projects benefiting marginal communities in their parish.

Most recent of these activities includes a demo-seminar on massage conducted for the DMIs at the Our Lady of Lourdes Formation House in preparation for their livelihood skills training with marginalized women in the parish as target beneficiaries.

A supplemental feeding program was also conducted for indigent children, aged 3 years to 10 years, in Bgy. 96, Lumbang II. The feeding program was held at the barangay's chapel grounds.



Collaborating in the activity were the Squirrellets of Mary and the Zonta Club of Tacloban City.



# A School Called SMI: A Field Of Dreams Fulfilled Through Faith

By Sis. Ruby Macario  
Int'l Chairperson for Youth Welfare

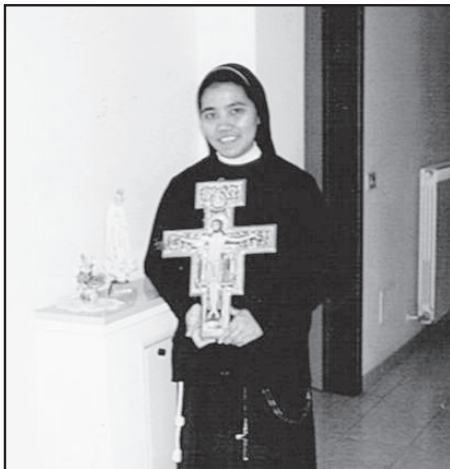
Today, we celebrate the many generations of young people, young Squirettes who were educated, not only in schools and colleges, but also in the school called Squirettes of Mary Immaculate and have

subsequently taken their place in society to serve the common good.

We have had many Squirettes who pursued many fields and here are just some of them:



**JONAH ELIZA PRADO** was National President of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate last year. She just graduated with a bachelor's degree in education and was taken in to teach at the Aklan Catholic College right after graduation. Jonah is well remembered for organizing and very ably managing the highly successful and memorable 13th SMI Biennial Convention in Boracay during her term.



**SIS. MARIA SOFIA REVENSCIO** was a Squirette in Aklan. Born on September 30, 1973, she is now a nun under the Daughters of Franciscan Order and works as head nurse of a Libyan hospital. Early on, she had wanted to be a nun but her mother, Sis. Helen, a DMI in Kalibo, had asked her to finish her studies first. Once she passed the Nursing Board Exams, her mother could do nothing but to accede to her daughter's ardent desire to be a nun. Now, she stays in Libya for three months, then goes to Rome and stays there for a month before she goes back to Libya.



**JANICE LUCENA.** More than 1,600 delegates at the 18th DMI Biennial Convention heard the angelic voice of a soloist during the opening ceremonies. Her name is Janice Lucena whose mother, Sis. Rita, is from the DMI Diocese of Antipolo and the DMI Region V treasurer. Janice served as president of the SMI Our Lady of the Abandoned Circlette in Marikina. Today, she teaches music and is very active in the Music Ministry of her parish church in Marikina.

(Editor's Note: Part of this write-up was excerpted from the Annual Report of Sis. Ruby Macario for the 5th DMI Mission, Youth Welfare, during the recently-concluded 18th DMI Biennial Convention in Tagaytay City in which she showcased some former Squirettes of Mary Immaculate who have since pursued their respective life careers, careers that have been strongly inspired and influenced by their being Squirettes earlier on.)



**MM CRUZ-BOGARIN.** Meet the person responsible for the new design of the Squirettes' uniform. MM was 13 years old when she joined the SMI. Her mom, Sis. Lulu Cruz, is a pioneer DMI member and is now treasurer of the Risen Christ Circle of Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City. Her three other sisters were also SMIs who are now very successful in their chosen careers. MM took up BS Clothing Technology in UP Diliman graduating cum laude. Her talent at clothes designing was

put to full use when the need to design a new Squirettes uniform arose. Inspired by the verse in Isaiah 55: "... so is my word that goes forth out of my mouth: it will not return to me idle, but it shall accomplish my will, the purpose for which it has been sent", she put up Isaiah Clothing & Accessories, with CCI-CCI as its household brand, that now has an outlet at The Ramp in Glorietta and soon in Robinson's Place - Ermita and Robinson's Place - Magnolia, San Juan.

### **JOURNEY...cont'd. from Page 28**

speaker during the assembly was Dr. Milabel Ho who talked on Teen Pregnancy. The afternoon session consisted of team-building exercises centered on the virtues of Mama Mary. The day's activity ended with a Living Rosary outside the gymnasium where we positioned participants in the form of a rosary and each holding a lighted candle as she prayed the Hail Mary.

During the convention, the SMI Archdiocesan officers were also formally installed by DMI Diocesan Regent Sis. Beth Salmon and Diocesan SMI Chairperson Sis. Lowell

Tantoco. They are:

President - Pia Angelli Puat (Our Lady of Peace Circlette)  
Vice-President - Rubie Ann Robles (Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circlette)  
Secretary - Ella Ballesteros (Our Lady of Grace Circlette)  
Treasurer - Marie Rose de los Santos (Nuestra Señora la Virgen de Zaragoza Circlette)  
Chancellor - Krista Ayara Cabaron (Our Lady of Peace Circlette)

I take the opportunity to thank my mentors, Sis. Beth Salmon and

Vicarial Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra for all the support, both spiritual and material.

What a beautiful life to live when we walk in the ways of the Lord! Truly He never leaves us for He sends the Holy Spirit through the intercession of our Blessed Mother to push us further as we journey in this life. May Mother Mary continue to be our inspiration in our vision and mission and that we may always carry our emblem with us and that is TO KNOW, TO LOVE AND TO SERVE.

### **PHOTO NEWS**



*Rizal, Nueva Ecija*

### **St. Joseph Circle's Outreach for School Children**

The officers and members of St. Joseph Circle, St. Joseph the Husband Parish in Rizal, Nueva Ecija distributed T-shirts to the pupils of Kasilagan Elementary School last Feb. 14, 2012.



# JOURNEY

By Amy S. Jumalon  
SMI National Vice-President for Mindanao

**A**s Squirettes of Mary, our emblem carries a symbol that stands for TO LOVE. February, the month of love, was most propitious for the Squirettes of Mary of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga for it was during this month that we were able to come out with plans and blessed enough to start actualizing those plans.

Previous to this, the SMIs of the Archdiocese were challenged to form our own SMI Initiating Team. We did not have second thoughts in accepting the challenge. By the end of January, a team had been organized composed of the following: Amy Jumalon – president, Ellora Kate Cabato – vice-president, Pia Angelli Paut – secretary, Krista Ayara Cabaron – treasurer, Ma. Lizelle Despato – marshal and

Ma. Elaine Santos – trustee.

Organizing the initiating team was not difficult, but actually preparing for and performing the tasks we set out to do were something else. The team practiced several times with the DMI Initiating Team and on several occasions witnessed investitures and installation ceremonies performed by them.

Then on February 12, 2012 came our “baptism” - our first time to invest and install a new SMI circlette. With the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, the investiture and installation ceremonies that our team conducted were successful. And we thank the Father for giving us the DMIs as instruments for us to grow



*The SMI Initiating Team of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga*

more beautiful and be molded and to practice the virtues of our Blessed Mama Mary in our daily lives.

A Chinese proverb states: “The journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step”. That single step we took began our journey of a thousand miles. Last February 25, 2012, the SMI circlettes in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga held a mini-convention at the St. Joseph School in Zamboanga City. Preparing for the event was quite difficult, testing our patience, openness,

comprehension and understanding. Balancing school, work and church activities was really a struggle for most of us. While we felt the stress physically, mentally and emotionally, something within us kept pushing and gave us enough fuel to keep going.

The day came and 150 SMI delegates, a good enough number, responded to our call. We started the day with a Holy Mass presided by Fr. Adrian Barcelo, pastor of St. Joseph Parish. Guest

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*The SMIs of the Archdiocese during their mini-convention.*



*Dr. Milabel Ho, guest speaker*

*The SMI diocesan officers who were formally installed during the mini-convention.*