

# DMI Newsette

VOL. XXX1, No. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

January - March 2014

## Bohol Awaits Convention Delegates

IT'S ALL SET! The 19<sup>th</sup> DMI Biennial Convention is set to unfold on April 25-26, 2014 in Tagbilaran City.

During the First Quarter Meeting of the International Board last Feb. 15, 2014, Convention Chairperson Sis. Gloria Caminero of the Diocese of Tagbilaran briefed the International Officers and Board regarding the preparations her committee has thus far done for the two-day convention program.

Both Sis. Gloria and International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva who visited Bohol in December dispelled fears about the safety of the place after the Magnitude 7.2 earthquake that struck Bohol last October. Bohol has almost completely bounced back,

no more aftershocks are felt and the tourists have started coming back as early as November last year. The tour operators are back in business with promos and offers to lure more tourists to come.

Sis. Gloria also gave an update on the program for the 2-day convention.

Day 1 (April 25, Friday) opens at 9:00 a.m. with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother and the traditional opening ceremonies, The talks of the invited speakers will be about the convention theme "Proclaim Jesus' Words . . . Emulate Mama

*Turn to Page 2*



*Convention Chairperson Sis. Gloria Caminero (at left) renders her update report during the International Board meeting.*



*Patio and poolside of the South Palms Resort in Panglao Island, Bohol*



***Bohol Awaits Convention Delegates...Cont'd. from Page 1***

Mary's Virtues . . . Make DMI A Way of Life". Topics for Day 1 will focus on "Mama Mary's Virtues" and "What and How to Implement the DMI Missions". A concelebrated Mass is scheduled before lunch. In the afternoon, the Mission Chairpersons will render their report.

Capping the day's activities is the Fellowship Night featuring the Star Circle Awards and the regional presentations. A live band will provide music for ballroom dancing. The attire is smart casual.

The venue for Day 1 is the Bohol Wisdom School Gymnasium.

Day 2, April 26, Saturday will start with a Holy Mass

at the St. Joseph Cathedral with Bishop Leonardo Medroso, D.D., JCD of the Diocese of Tagbilaran as main celebrant. Co-celebrating with him are DMI Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and the spiritual advisers of DMI circles in the Diocese of Tagbilaran. Shuttle buses will then bring the delegates to South Palms Resort in Panglao Island. The resort is known to have the longest stretch of beach with fine white sand and boasts of world-class resort facilities. (Please see accompanying photos.)

Before lunch, convention delegates will listen to a talk on "A DMI's Way of Life". The business meeting will take place in the afternoon that will see the election

and presentation of a new International Board headed by the International Regent to serve in 2015-16. A bidding for the venue of the next biennial convention, DMI's 20<sup>th</sup>, will also be held. The convention formally ends at 2:30 p.m. A live band will entertain the delegates before their return to Tagbilaran City. Shuttle buses will again be available to bring the delegates back to Tagbilaran. The last bus trip is at 6:00 p.m.

To encourage more DMI sisters to attend the convention, Sis. Gloria announced that the discounted Early Bird convention fee has been reduced further to P2,800

(from P3,200) and extended to Feb. 28 (from Feb. 15).

As Our International Regent had written in her message this issue (on page 3):

"As DMI sisters who have pledged to practice the virtues of humility, friendship, unity, charity and sanctity, now is the time to hold hands and together say we are ONE; we will support each other especially in times of need.

Let us all help to make this convention a successful one. Our task is simple. Just be there! Pray, learn and enjoy!"

This we must do for the love of Mama Mary and for the glory of God.



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*From the International Regent*

## MESSAGE



Greetings, my dear Sisters!

The Biennial Convention is one of the most significant activities in the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International calendar as this is when the next international regent is elected. It is likewise significant as it provides an opportunity for the sister-delegates to learn how to reach out to more people through our work in our missions, to renew our faith and spirituality during liturgical services and the learning sessions with distinguished speakers, to bond with sisters we have not seen for some time, to meet new friends, at times even long-lost relatives, and enjoy the fellowships that cap the day.

I assure our sister-delegates that this convention will be all worth their while, the result of two years of hard work and preparations by our convention hosts, our sisters in Bohol. Instead of being discouraged, the Magnitude 7.2 earthquake in October strengthened their resolve even more to make the convention an event to remember.

I visited Bohol last December and the place, particularly Tagbilaran City and Panglao Island looked unscathed. The ancient churches are still intact, only their facades were damaged by the temblor. Favorite tourist spots such as the Chocolate Hills, the Loboc River, the home of the tarsiers and the beautiful beaches are abuzz with tourists.

As DMI sisters who have pledged to practice the virtues of humility, friendship, unity, charity and sanctity, now is the time to hold hands and together say we are ONE; we will support each other especially in times of need.

Let us all help to make this convention a successful one. Our task is simple. Just be there! Pray, learn and enjoy!

Yours in Christ thru Mary,

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



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## *Editorial*

# *In Solidarity with Our Sister-Victims of 'Yolanda'*

**Y**olanda', the supertyphoon that visited our country on November 8, 2013 left us reeling and overwhelmed by the devastation it created in Eastern and Central Visayas. Recovery from the tragedy and its aftermath – the losses

***The devastation wrought by 'Yolanda' is so extensive that rehabilitation and rebuilding will take a long, long time.***

***We appeal to all our sisters to continue extending support to 'Yolanda' victims. And pray harder still for our Blessed Mother Mary's intercession that we be spared from further calamities.***

in lives, property and infrastructure – will take a long time. From mainly relief distribution, the rehabilitation phase has also begun alongside it.

Outpouring of sympathy, encouragement and generous assistance both in cash and in kind from fellow Filipinos and from all over the world continue to be received by our hapless countrymen. We, as a nation, rose as one in reaching out to the victims. Even those who have less in life reach out to those who have nothing. The resilience, courage and deep spirituality, so deeply ingrained in the Filipino spirit, shone through for all the world to see and admire.

The DMII had been one of the first to respond through our circles in parishes all over the country.

Looking within our organization, we came to know about our sisters in Eastern and



Central Visayas who are victims themselves. While they continue to serve by extending assistance to those in need in their respective parishes, they, too, need to be helped.

In the first Quarterly Meeting of the DMI International Board last February 15, 2014, it was agreed that DMI members all over the country will be requested to donate P100 each. The proceeds will then be given to sister-victims for the rehabilitation of their houses and other needs. This is on top of the houses that each DMI region not affected by 'Yolanda' will donate

through the CBCP-NASSA housing project of the Catholic Church. An amount has already been taken from the DMI Mission Fund for sisters in Tacloban which suffered the most damage.

The devastation wrought by 'Yolanda' is so extensive that rehabilitation and rebuilding will take a long, long time.

We appeal to all our sisters to continue extending support to 'Yolanda' victims. And pray harder still for our Blessed Mother Mary's intercession that we be spared from further calamities.



## Region VI Assembly Held Feb. 9, 2014

The DMIs of Region VI (Diocese of San Pablo) held their regional assembly last February 9, 2014 at the Cultural Center, Provincial Capitol Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

With the theme "DMII: Heralds of Hope", DMI Region VI Spiritual Director Rev. Fr. Eugene Fadul, as keynote speaker, focused on how Mama Mary heralded hope through her faith in her Son Jesus which were manifested in various points of Jesus' life on earth – at the Annunciation when she received Him in her womb heralding man's hope for redemption, when she visited her cousin Elizabeth that gave hope for childless women, and the hope for His Resurrection that strengthened her during His crucifixion. This is the kind of faith that the DMIs, as followers of

Mary, must show to the community they serve through their missions. Faith sometimes may well be the only source of hope available to our unfortunate brothers and sisters.

The Most Rev. Bishop Buenaventura Famadico of the Diocese of San Pablo, who presided in the Eucharistic celebration expounded on the same virtues of faith and hope in his homily.

Gracing the occasion were guests from the International Board. International Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Sis. Milde Tong encouraged the sisters to be carriers of hope by being active participants in rebuilding the lives of both the prisoners' and victims' families. International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva campaigned

for better participation in the forthcoming 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention to be held in Bohol. The presence of DMI sisters in the convention is one way of showing solidarity with the victims of both the Bohol earthquake and Super typhoon 'Yolanda' in Eastern Visayas.

Vice-International Regent for Luzon and Region VI Representative Sis. Lita Canonizado made the same appeal, in addition to her bid for a more focused values formation program which she said is the way to social transformation that our society needs now more than ever. She reminded her audience to participate in the series of values formation being conducted in the Region. The first was held on Jan. 25 in Calamba City and for those who missed it, another is scheduled on Feb. 16 in San Pablo City.

The last of the series will be held in Lumban, Laguna on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Sis. Lorie Santos, vicarial regent of the assembly's host, the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua, formally closed the assembly by thanking the 200+ delegates coming from all the 15 circles in Region VI and the speakers and guests for their attendance and congratulated the new DMI members who will be exemplified right after the assembly.

The Region's Exemplification Team then proceeded to perform the Long Conferral ceremony for 40 new DMI sisters which Diocesan Regent Sis. Elvie Arambulo officially opened after the Assembly.

*(Our special thanks to Sis. Trina Juanillo of Our Lady of Salvation Circle for writing part of the report on the regional assembly of Region VI. - Ed.)*



*The officers of Region VI with Bishop Buenaventura Famadico of the Diocese of San Pablo and members of the DMI International Board. From left: Sis. Milde Tong, Sis. Lita Canonizado, and International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva.*



*The Exemplification Team of the Diocese of San Pablo led by Sis. Lita Canonizado performs the Long Conferral ceremony for 40 new DMI members after the regional assembly.*



*At the presidential table during the assembly opening. From left: Keynote speaker Fr. Ronald Quijano, DR-San Carlos Sis. Betty Tam, DR-Bacolod Sis. Celia Ferrer, Sis. Ruby Macario, Sis. Juliet Cruz, IR Sis. Mila Villanueva, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Past IR Sis. Perla Arguelles, Past IR Sis. Jean Velarde, Region IX RR Sis. Pureza Guzman, Alternate RR Sis. Yolanda Galvez, and DR-Jaro Sis. Emma Victoria.*

## "Keep Faith Alive" Region IX Assembly Call

*By Sis. Rosario M. Villalon, Regent, St. Joseph Husband of Mary Circle, Diocese of Jaro*

**K**eeP Faith Alive: Carry On DMII Missions with Vigor and Zeal" was the theme of the Region IX Assembly held at the Kalantiao Hall of Sarabia Manor Hotel & Convention Center in Iloilo City on Oct. 5, 2013. Sixteen circles of the Diocese of Jaro led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Emma Victoria hosted the assembly with Region IX Representative Sis. Pureza Guzman as overall chairperson. The 355 delegates came from the Archdiocese of Jaro, and the Dioceses of Bacolod, Capiz, Aklan, and San Carlos. Guests from the International Board graced the event.

The assembly started with the Bible

enthronement and floral offering to the image of the Blessed Mother. The messages of the speakers focused on the theme. Sis. Pureza welcomed the delegates and challenged them to keep faith alive because faith without action is dead. International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, in her inspirational message, said that humility encompasses all of the virtues that a person must have and the rest will follow. She further said that "our faith will let the DMII known because our five missions differ from those of other church organizations".

Rev. Fr. Ronald Quijano, SthD, as keynote speaker, underscored the

different facets of faith that the DMI must keep burning: integrated faith (deals with the mind, heart, hands and whole person), affective faith (about the heart, genuine feeling, relationship, attitude and behavior of people) and practical faith (putting faith into action). He added that the DMI must recruit more members to spread the faith. In ending, Fr. Quijano posed a thought-provoking challenge to the delegates: What are the challenges and insights that enrich the DMI's faith and how to introduce a family framework that serves as a living thread that will unite different ministries. Fr. Quijano, the chaplain of the University of La Salle Bacolod and

chairman of the Bacolod Diocesan Commission on Family Life, was introduced by Sis. Emma Victoria.

In the afternoon, DMI Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz in his inspirational message said that every DMI has a heart of the daughter of Mary that makes her an authentic disciple of God.

The international chairpersons of the DMI missions gave updates on their accomplishments. Sis. Juliet Cruz of Upliftment of Women Workers shared tips on how the DMI can empower underprivileged women workers in society through livelihood

skills programs and micro-financing of small businesses provided by cooperatives as well as providing counseling services for abandoned, battered and ostracized women and teenage mothers. She also suggested integration of spiritual component into the committee's activities. Sis. Ruby Macario of Youth Welfare punctuated her report and updates on Squirettes of Mary activities with action songs and poems. Sis. Pureza gave an update on goings-on in the National office and the Region.

A Eucharistic celebration by Most Rev. Gerardo Alminaza, D.D., auxillary

bishop of the Archdiocese of Jaro closed the afternoon session with Fr. Jerome as co-celebrant. The Bishop reflected on the theme which is also the message of the Gospel: To maintain, to preserve, to protect the faith. "Ask the Lord to increase your faith in order to serve and love one another, especially the "lost". Lead in the fight against "social cancer", he admonished.

The fellowship night had a colorful "barrio fiesta" motif with the delegates coming in their Filipiniana attire, a picture of elegance and grace. Fellowship Night Chairperson Sis. Yoly

Galvez and the circles of the host diocese prepared a wholesome and entertaining program for the evening. A parade of Filipiniana gowns modeled by DMIs of the Archdiocese of Jaro was a well-applauded number. Choral and dance numbers were also presented by circles representing their dioceses. Special awards were later given – to the Diocese of Bacolod for their dance presentation and the Dioceses of San Carlos and Aklan for their choral renditions.

The search for *Mutya ng DMI* Region IX was another feature of the

night's program. Four candidates vied for the title. Sis. Edith Besana Robillo of the Diocese of Bacolod was proclaimed winner and was presented a bouquet of flowers by IR Sis. Mila Villanueva. Sisters Arlene Pecha and Viol Caram also of the Diocese of Bacolod, placed second and fourth, respectively and Sis. Terry Erasmo Abdon placed third.

It was another successful assembly that DMI sisters of Region IX will fondly remember as they eagerly await the next one.



*Sis. Pureza Guzman welcomes the assembly delegates.*



*IR Sis. Mila Villanueva addresses the assembly.*



*The Eucharistic celebration by Bishop Gerardo Alminaza and Fr. Jerome.*



*The DMI sisters of St. Thomas of Villanova Circle, Miagao, Iloilo present a dance number.*



*Mutya ng DMI Region IX, Sis. Edith Robillo and her court*



# Archdiocese of Ozamis Hosts Region XIV Assembly

The Archdiocese of Ozamis hosted the 2nd Regional Assembly of Region XIV held on Nov. 23-24, 2013 at the RBC Hall of Naomi's Botanical Garden in Ozamis City. The theme of the assembly was "Professing the Faith by Serving the Poor for Jesus through Mary Immaculate".

A total of 347 delegates coming from the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan, the Dioceses of Iligan and Dipolog and the Archdiocese of Ozamis attended the assembly. The Squirettes of Mary was also represented by 48 SMIs from the Archdiocese of Ozamis.

The assembly formally opened with the traditional opening ceremonies. The

enthronement and floral offering to the Blessed Mother was made solemn by the Marian songs sung by the DMI Choir with Squirettes of Mary members garbed in white and holding lighted candles providing the animation. Prayers were recited along the way until the procession reached the stage and the image of Mama Mary was placed on the altar.

Impressed by the ceremony, International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva gave this comment during her opening message: "It's my first time to see such kind of enthronement of the Divine Mercy and Our Lady. I had goose pimples observing the enthronement." This was followed by the Parade of Circles and the entrance of the International and



*Guests from the International Board, from left: Sisters Ruby Macario, Milde Tong, IR Mila Villanueva, Miriam Angot with Diocesan Regent Sis. Azucena Ruiz of the Archdiocese of Ozamis.*

Regional officers led by IR Sis. Mila Villanueva and Sis. Miriam Orquieza-Angot, Region XIV Representative. The Eucharistic celebration came next with Rev. Fr. Lane M. Serino, parochial vicar of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, as celebrant.

Sis. Miriam warmly welcomed the delegates and guests and thanked them for a good

attendance turn-out. She also expounded on the theme of the assembly.

Sis. Mila Villanueva keyed the assembly. She commended the DMI sisters who had to travel for many hours to attend the conference, indicating the kind of dedication that the Blessed Mother wants from her daughters. "Go and help me touch hearts. Go and talk to



*The image of the Blessed Mother is about to be enthroned with Sisters Sonia Narit and Beth Salmon leading the processional while Squirettes with lighted candles line the aisle.*



*International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva (3rd from left) receives a plaque of appreciation from Sis. Miriam Angot and Vicarial Regents Sisters Joy Maghanoy, Ida Talictic, Sonia Narit and Albina Namocatcat.*



*Left photo: Sis. Miriam Angot welcomes the delegates. Right photo: Fr. Sandy Cometa extolls Mama Mary's virtues.*



*The Guardian of Mary Circle's dance presentation won first prize in the contest for Best Presentation.*

them about what we are doing. Go and evangelize the young women. Teach them about pro-life. Teach them to uphold life at all times," she exhorted. On the assembly's theme, she said, "As we end the Year of Faith and usher in the Year of the Laity, we are challenged to shift our focus from faith to service. Go out of your way to help our sisters in need. Help our sisters in Tacloban City. Don't stop working in the vineyard of the Lord."

Sis. Ruby Macario, international chairperson for Youth Welfare, commended the DMIs of Region XIV for the hefty increase in the number of Squirettes of Mary in the region - from 9 circlettes in 2011 to 24 in 2013. She said that the campaign for more SMI members must continue "for they need us as we need them. Their future depends on us and our future depends on them." Her talk ended with her signature dance to the song "I Have a Dream" with the delegates happily joining in.

Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims

Sis. Milde Tong emphasized that while we have reached the age of generativity or the age of wisdom, we can still engage in more productive activities to help others, especially the neglected sectors of our society, the prisoners, the parolees and their families. Her call: "Go, touch more lives and do not stop."

An open forum followed moderated by Sis. Sonia Narit.

The dinner and fellowship night was a very festive event with Pista sa Nayon as motif. Shedding their blue uniform, the delegates in their colorful Filipiniana attire danced their way to the stage during the parade of delegates. The affair was fun-filled and full of surprises with a dance presentation by the host circle followed by a contest for best presentation among the circles and for best Filipiniana attire. The best dance presentation award went to Guardian of Mary Circle of St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Sindangan, Zamboanga del Norte headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Juanita Gose and Circle Regent Sis. Azucena Sia.

The repertoire of cultural songs and dances by Sinanduloy, the famous and multi-awarded dance troupe of Tangub City, Misamis Occidental added more color to the occasion. Responding to the lively emceeing and dancing by the evening's host, Sis. Marilou Responso, the delegates line- and ballroom-danced far into the night.

On the morning of Day 2, the assembly opened with a Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Sandy Cometa at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral. He then talked on Mariology, stressing Mama Mary's virtues of obedience and humility. Quoting the Blessed John Paul II, he said, "Profound humility like that of Mary is the secret of sanctity."

Closing the assembly were the awarding of plaques of appreciation to the assembly speakers and the closing remarks by Diocesan Regent Sis. Azucena Ruiz who thanked the delegates and the hard-working host committee for a most successful Region XIV Assembly.

*(Special thanks to Sisters Azucena Ruiz, Concepcion Fortich and Rosafe Quinon for their contribution to this report. - Ed.)*



# Region XI Assembly Held In Tacloban City

The assembly of Region XI was held last Oct. 25, 2013 at the Balyuan Convention Center in Tacloban City. The assembly theme was "Journeying Towards a Renewed Faith with the Blessed Virgin Mary".

The assembly opened with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Msgr. Alex Opiniano, pastor of Sto. Nino Parish, Tacloban City. The entrance of the image of the Blessed Mother carried by Region XI Representative Sis. Perla Malazarte and Sis. Estela de Veyra, regent of the host circle, the Sto. Nino de Tacloban Circle, and assembly chairperson. The processional was led by International Chairpersons for Pro-Life Sis. Helen de Leon and for Youth Welfare Sis. Ruby Macario, Region XI Alternate RR Sis. Leni Larrazabal, Diocesan Regent (DR) Sis. Rebbie Pacanan of the Archdiocese of Palo, DR Sis. Trinidad Escobar of the Diocese of Calbayog, Vicarial Regent (VR) Sis. Bernadette Surbano of the Vicariate of Western Leyte and VR Sis. Ester Perez of St. Peter and St. Isidore Circles of Calbayog City.

Region XI Representative Sis. Perla Malazarte officially opened the assembly attended by 140 delegates from eleven of the 14 active DMI circles in the Region.

The keynote speech of International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva who was out of the country was delivered by Sis. Helen de Leon.

Presentations for the 5 Missions were made by invited speakers: Sis. Helen for Pro-Life, Fr. Amadeo Alvero, parochial vicar of Sto. Nino Parish for Morality in Media, Sis. Ruby Macario for Youth Welfare, and Sis. Rebbie Pacanan for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims. Sis. Rebbie also read the paper on Upliftment of Women Workers prepared by Councilor Cristina Romualdez who was not able to come.

A short open forum followed the presentations.

The afternoon session was devoted to workshops for the 5 Missions. The delegates were divided into workshop groups to tackle the programs and activities of each of the missions as well as issues and concerns regarding the mission.

The evening's fellowship carried a Hawaiian motif and the delegates came garbed in colorful floral prints with leis and flowers around their necks and on their hair. The evening was highlighted by the crowning of the "Most Popular DMI", Sis. Rose Orejola of the Tower of Ivory Circle by Sisters Perla and Helen. Awards were also handed for Early Bird won by the Loving Heart Circle for being first to register and by St. Joseph Circle for the first to arrive at the venue. Julio Cardinal Rosales Circle had the biggest delegation and Our Lady of Maasin Circle won first prize in the Hawaiian Dance Contest.



*Seated at the presidential table, from left to right: Sisters Estela de Veyra, Helen de Leon, Rebbie Pacanan, Perla Malazarte, Leni Larrazabal and Ruby Macario.*



*Sis. Perla welcomes the assembly delegates.*



*Sisters Ruby and Helen sway to Hawaiian music during Fellowship Night. In foreground is Sis. Perla.*



*Most Popular DMI, Sis. Rose Orejola is crowned by Sis. Perla and Sis. Helen. With them are the contest runners-up who won titles representing the DMI virtues.*



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## Dateline Tacloban: Pre- And Post-'Yolanda'

By Sis. Ruby Macario, International Chairperson for Youth Welfare



*The author, Sis. Ruby Macario with Sis. Angelina Flores of Our Lady of Maasin Circle, runner-up in the search for Most Popular DMI 2013.*

Last October 25 to 26, I was in Tacloban at the invitation of DMI Region XI. I met a lot of friends there coming from Samar, Leyte, Ormoc and Cebu. The assembly was held at the conference hall of the City Government of Tacloban, c/o Councilor Cristina Gonzales Romualdez. Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Helen de Leon, Sis. Josie Halog and I were billeted at the Leyte Park Hotel.

In the evening during the fellowship, I got to dance the "coracha", a popular Visayan courtship dance and crowned winners of the Ms. DMI contest. The theme was Hawaiian and ladies aged mostly 50s to 80s came in colorful costumes with various kinds of garlands, on their hair, around their neck and ankle. Some even used gold Christmas garlands instead of flowers. The

photographer kept taking pictures. ( I learned later that he and his son perished.) We had so much fun.

We were toured around by friends like Sis. Jess Villarante, vicarial regent, who fetched me from the airport with her car, and Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, Diocesan Regent, who advanced payment for our hotel and lunch at Stephanie Grille, famous for its eat-all-you-can and *lechon* Tacloban. Sis. Rebbie and her husband (both former councilors) even took us to Sto. Nino Church and San

***Lesson learned:  
We all should deny  
ourselves all forms  
of material  
attractions. When  
everything is gone,  
we all go back to  
basics.***

Juanico Bridge, and bought *pasalubong* of *suman* with chocolate in it, *danggit*, and *bao* with coconut stuff inside. Seeing how close to the coastline Tacloban is, I even asked if they were ever hit by floods. I was told that Tacloban was always spared; if at all, only ankle-deep. And people would always go on procession to thank Sto. Nino for this.

Until . . . two weeks later on November 8: disaster happened. Storm surge they call it, something nobody knew from Adam.

Fast-forward to Dec. 27, 2013. I was having merienda-cena with Sis. Jess at Don Henrico's in MOA. In-between her stories and mine, we discussed assistance to DMI member-victims. You see, DMI members from Region VI (Laguna) pooled resources and had cash on hand which they

want to give directly to DMI victims. We were discussing mechanics, in case the DMI Region VI members finally decided to channel their help to them instead of Gawad Kalinga or some housing projects. In my mind, I had a small amount on hand, coming from UST High School Batch '71 which the Red Cross has not picked up from me.

Sis. Jess would not stop telling her stories. She needed someone to talk to after her ordeal. This is her story:

There were announcements of a big

***Turn to Page 12***

*From Region IV*

## *New Circle Organized in Baliuag, Bulacan*



A new circle has just been organized in the Diocese of Malolos (Region IV). The Immaculada Concepcion Circle of the Immaculate Conception Quasi-Parish in Concepcion, Baliuag, Bulacan was conferred its charter certificate and its charter officers were installed last February 16, 2014. Special guests during the occasion were International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, Region IV RR Sis. Violy Luna, Diocesan Regent Sis. Fely Gallardo, Vicarial Regent Sis. Theresa Curia and Rev. Fr. Len Coronel.

*Dateline Tacloban: Pre- And Post-'Yolanda'...Cont'd. from Page 11*

typhoon coming, so everybody prepared. They stocked up food and most of the people in low-lying areas were asked to be evacuated to the big stadium. Everything happened so fast that, before she knew it, floods reaching as high as the second floor of their house hit them. Many died when the big stadium collapsed. Neighbors whose houses were entirely submerged in water even ran to their house for refuge. For three days, they subsisted on what food was available. When there was no more food, the younger ones ventured to town to pick up or buy what could be bought. Two

or three cans of sardines were shared by over ten people inside her house. Later, she transferred to a relative who owned a pension house that was spared by the typhoon.

When it was clear to her children in Manila (she lived alone in Tacloban) that the only option left for her was to be transported to Manila, they bought her a plane ticket. Even then, it was pandemonium at the airport and she could not get on a flight even with the ticket she held. With some friends, they traveled by land to Cebu where they took a plane to Manila. She lived temporarily with her sister in Cavite. It was clear to

her that her welcome could not be over-extended and she had to plan for her future.

All along, I kept quiet while she was telling her story, having been briefed in Villamor Airbase not to cry when the victims cry; not to add anything more to their stories but to just listen, listen, listen and make your presence felt.

Sis. Rebbie was in Manila when the typhoon struck and she was thankful that, although several relatives perished, her husband lived. She could not stay in Tacloban because her medicine for diabetes needs electricity which took a long time to be restored. They could

not fix their house because materials were not available, and if at all, were very expensive. She now stays with her children in an Eastwood Condominium.

Lesson learned: We all should deny ourselves all forms of material attractions. When everything is gone, we all go back to basics. Sis. Jess, for one, had only her handbag with her when she left Tacloban. This she was carrying when we met up. She left her car, her house, and everything behind in Tacloban.

(N.B. Sis. Jess is now back in Tacloban and the donation of UST High Batch 1971 was sent to her for Sto. Nino de Tacloban Circle.

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*From Marilao, Bulacan*

## ***Ina Ng Grasya Ng Diyos Circle Sponsors Symposium on Cyberbullying***

*By Sis. Mely R. de la Pena, Circle Regent*

hurt people.

**T**he Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle of Marilao, Bulacan held a symposium on Cyberbullying on April 6, 2013. Spearheaded by the Circle's Morality in Media Committee, the symposium was held at the Social Hall, Multi-Purpose Bldg. of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Meralco Village, Lias, Marilao, Bulacan.

Cyberbullying is defined in legal glossaries as actions that utilize information and communication technologies such as cellular phones, websites or other devices that can post and send messages that intend to

Invited speakers were Sis. Edith Cabrera, principal of St. Joseph Academy and Mr. Carlo Certeza, guidance counselor of Our Lady of Fatima University. Participants included youth from the parish, members of church organizations and other parishioners.

In response to requests for a repeat of the symposium, a second one dubbed "Cyberbullying, Part 2" was held on Nov. 9, 2013 at the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Auditorium of St. Michael Academy. The speakers were Mr. Benzon Aruta, guidance counselor and instructor of the



*A group photo taken during the symposium*

Philippine Normal University and Mr. Carlo Certeza. The auditorium was filled to capacity. Participants of the symposium were high school students of St. Michael Academy, Squirettes of Mary Immaculate and some

parishioners. The students had a grand time as they found the topic very interesting and relevant. The open forum that followed was punctuated by laughter as the students fielded questions to the resource speakers.

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## **Health Alert Project**

**T**he Pro-Life Committee of the Ina ng Grasya ng

Diyos Circle conducted its Operation Health Alert Project on April 13, 2013



at the Ground Floor of the Multi-Purpose Bldg. of Our Lady of Fatima Parish. The King of Kings Laboratory made available laboratory tests at a discounted package fee of only P250. The tests included EKG, FBS, total cholesterol, CBC, SGPT, SGOT, BUN, uric acid, urinalysis, etc. Other tests were also provided for a minimal

fee. Test results were released on April 20 during which free medical consultation was also provided. Dr. Aida Espiridion and Dr. Nitz Sarthou were on hand for free consultation. Eighty-six parishioners of Our Lady of Fatima Parish availed of the health services. Photo shows circle members with the volunteer doctors.



*From Cebu City*

## ***Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle Conducts Feeding Program***



**T**he Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle, Cebu City once again held a feeding program for 650 pupils of Don Bosco and Punta Princesa Elementary School during their First Communion last Dec. 12, 2013. They were served

cookies and fruit juice. The Circle's project was in partnership with the Knights of Columbus Council 4638 of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Vice-IR for Visayas and Region X RR Sis. Evelyn Aquino and Vicarial Regent Sis. Nenita Secretaria headed the DMIs in the activity.

## ***Medical Mission for the Elderly***



**A** medical mission for the elderly of Punta Princesa, Cebu City was conducted by the Archdiocesan Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle in coordination with the Senior Citizen

Association of Punta Princesa, Inc. Sis. Evelyn Aquino, a medical doctor, led the team of volunteer doctors who attended to the elderly patients during the mission.

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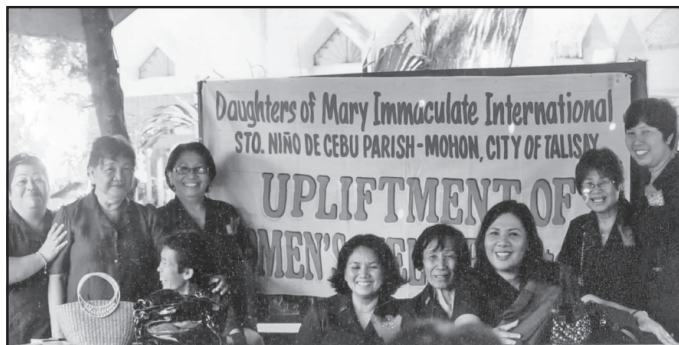
*From Talisay City, Cebu*

## PHOTO NEWS

### *Livelihood Seminar Held for Jobless Housewives*

The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of Sto. Nino de Mohon Circle of Talisay City, Cebu in coordination with the DSWD-LGU of Talisay City sponsored a livelihood seminar for 30 jobless housewives who were taught *siomai*- and *empanada*-making last Sept. 9, 2013. The seminar was conducted by Ms. Juliet Labora and

Roxan Labora, LGU, City of Talisay and TESDA assessor on commercial cooking national competency at the Sta. Monica Garden. Assisting in the seminar were DMI Sisters Anastacia Cabusas, Mercedes Largo, Leonena Morales, Emeliana Uy, Paulita Villavelez, VR Henie Rabaya, Sarah Balorio, Fanny Figueroa and Felipa Solana.



### *Pro-Life and Morality in Media Seminar Conducted*

Loranisa's Farm in Cotcoton, Dumanjug, Cebu was the venue of a Pro-Life and Morality in Media Seminar sponsored by the Sto. Nino de Mohon Circle on Sept. 22, 2013. Fr. Vic Amplayo, pastor of Sto. Nino de Mohon

Parish conducted the seminar attended by 15 farm workers and five young couples. Fr. Amplayo's talk centered on responsible parenthood.





*From Zamboanga City and Loon, Bohol*

## New DMI Circle Organized in Loon, Bohol

**H**eeding the call for a DMI circle in every parish, the DMI sisters of the St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle of Zamboanga City headed by Regent Sis. Perla Ruiz traveled to Bohol on July 18, 2013 to organize a circle in the Our Lady of Light Parish in Loon town. Loon is Sis. Perla's hometown. Vicarial Regent Sis. Grace Gonzales was with the group.

Their mission started with a courtesy call on Fr. Joel Ruyeras, parish priest, for the required permission to establish a DMI circle in the parish. Fr. Ruyeras expressed appreciation for the presence of the DMIs who traveled all the way from Zamboanga to organize the circle. This was followed by an orientation of prospective members leading to the exemplification of 20 charter members who responded to the call to pursue a life of deep spirituality and devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Sis. Asuncion Naraga, diocesan regent of the Diocese of Tagbilaran and other diocesan officers of Bohol



*The DMI sisters of St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle of Zamboanga City with Fr. Joel Ruyeras, pastor of Our Lady of Light Parish, Loon, Bohol.*

joined the Zamboanga DMIs in the Exemplification Team for the long conferral ceremony held at the Knights of Columbus Bldg. on July 20, 2013. Fr. Ruyeras in his inspirational message pledged to support the new DMI circle.



*The charter members of Our Lady of Light Circle and their newly-installed officers.*



*The parish church of Loon is historically known as the oldest church in Bohol.*

***“Catholics are frequently criticised because of the prominence and respect given to the Virgin Mary while simultaneously condemned for not giving enough prominence and respect to women.” -- Michael Coren, Why Catholics are Right***



*From Zamboanga City*

## ***A Home for 'Yolanda' Victims***

*By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Diocesan Secretary*

The Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan will donate a house for 'Yolanda' victims in eastern Visayas. This was discussed and agreed upon during the first quarter diocesan meeting held in Zamboanga City on Feb. 8, 2014. Region XIV Representative Sis. Miriam Orquieza-Angot attended the meeting.

The donation of DMI Zamboanga-Basilan is the first of four houses to be donated by Region XIV. A fund drive to raise P60,000 for the house until April 15 was launched immediately after the meeting in time for turn-over during the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention to be held in Bohol on April 25-26, 2014.

The Region's project of reaching out to DMI sisters in Eastern Visayas forms part of their commitment to profess the faith by serving the poor for Jesus through Mary Immaculate, the theme of the recently-concluded Region XIV Assembly.



*A brief pause by the Diocesan Officers of DMI Zamboanga-Basilan for this group photo. From left, seated: Sis. Pinky Saavedra, treasurer; Sis. Marilyn de Asis, secretary, Sis. Angie Baes, regent; Sis. Miriam Angot, Region XIV RR; and Sis. Beth Salmon, past DR. Standing: VR Sis. Chuchie Go, VR Sis. Sonia Garcia, Squirettes Chairperson Sis. Ma. Bella Tandoc, VR Sis. Grace Gonzales, VR Sis. Lowell Tantoco, Auditor Sis. Mila Navato and Past IR Sis. Beling Panganiban.*



*The members of St. Joseph Circle with Past International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez (3rd from right).*

## ***St. Joseph Spouse of Mary Circle Provides Cancer Detection Service***

To celebrate Women's Month in March, the St. Joseph Spouse of Mary Circle will provide free cancer detection to women parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Zamboanga City.

The DMI Medical Team headed by Dr. Grace Uy, Dr. Edwina Cabato and Dr. Bernie Santiago, circle members, will provide the services. The team has for years performed pap smear examinations at the Mujer Center of the parish every last Sunday of the month.

The Mujer Center has been established to provide better health care for women and mothers who have no means to consult a doctor. Present during the activity were the circle members headed by Regent Sis. Rose Bulawin.

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## ***DMI On The Move . . .***

### ***Snapshots from All Over***

#### ***From Las Pinas City***



#### ***Mary Mother of the Church Circle Outreach***

Members of the Mary Mother of the Church DMI Circle and SMI Circlette of BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City visited the orphans and abandoned children being cared for at Mother Theresa Espinelli's House of Treasure in Tagaytay City last December to bring gifts and cheer them up. The children in the orphanage are aged 0 to 12 years.

#### ***ALS Teachers Honored***

Certificates of appreciation were given to the Dep-Ed teachers of the Alternative Learning System (ALS) last December, 2013 by the Mary Mother of the Church Circle, sponsor of the ALS Program for out-of-school youths of the parish. Shown from left are Sisters Cely Morales, Ging Ramos and Beng Sabido, ALS teachers, with Sis. Sol Eugenio, diocesan regent, Diocese of Paranaque.



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#### ***From Ormoc City***



#### ***Misa de Gallo 'Painit'***

DMIs of Sts. Peter & Paul Circle of Ormoc City sponsored "*Painit*", serving pospas to church goers during the 9-day Misa de Gallo last December, 2013. Members of the Youth for Christ of the parish assisted in the activity.

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## ***Gift-Giving to Families of Prisoners***

Over 237 families of prisoners received bags of joy from Sts. Peter & Paul Circle last Christmas. Region XI Representative Sis. Perla Malazarte in coordination with the warden of the Bureau of Jail Management & Penology of Ormoc City initiated the project.



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



## ***St. James Circle, Lupao, Nueva Ecija***

A cooking demonstration was sponsored by the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of St. James Circle recently. The circle coordinated the project with the Dept. of Agriculture. Circle Regent Sis. Marivic Mendoza and Committee Chairperson Sis. Yolanda Imbien coordinated the project with the DA.

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



## ***San Jose Circle, San Jose City***

A Holy Mass was sponsored by the San Jose Circle in celebration of Prison Awareness Week last October, 2013. Most Rev. Bishop Roberto Mallari of the Diocese of San Jose celebrated the Mass attended by inmates of the City Jail. Mayor Marivic Belena and other city officials were guests during the occasion. The DMI sisters conducted counseling and gave gifts to the prisoners. They also served snacks to all who attended. Later, the Circle was recipient of a plaque of appreciation from the Prison Vocation Committee of St. Joseph Cathedral for spearheading the successful activity. Circle Regent Sis. Rebecca Salvador and Vicarial Regent Sis. Helen Hipolito accepted the award.



## *SIS. CORITA PAZ HILARIO* (August 29, 1938-January 12, 2014)

**P**ast Vice-International Regent for Mindanao (2007-2008), Sis. Corita P. Hilario, passed away last January 12, 2014 after a lingering illness.

Sis. Coring, as her DMI sisters fondly called her, pioneered the organization of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate in Bukidnon 25 years ago, being eventually designated as its first District Deputy.

From the first DMI circle, the San Isidro de Labrador Circle of Musuan, Bukidnon organized in October, 1988 composed of 41 charter members, with support from the

Knights of Columbus, the DMIs of Bukidnon now number over 650 sisters belonging to 19 circles. Sis. Coring was the charter regent of the San Isidro de Labrador Circle.

With the help of other committed DMIs who had been infected by Sis. Coring's deep devotion to the Blessed Mother Mary and her indefatigable spirit, the DMIs of Bukidnon have built a niche in the social, civic and religious life of the people in communities where they serve in the 5 Missions.

Sis. Lelis Ching, charter regent of the Morning Star Circle of Malaybalay, in the message she delivered

at Sis. Coring's funeral on Jan. 17, 2014 summed it all up thus:

**" . . . Her task was tremendous, making sure that more and more circles would be organized in Bukidnon. Sis. Coring was a woman who was never afraid to lead the DMI organization. She never considered any problem insurmountable, especially if it is for the honor and glory of Mama Mary. There might be instances when problems would arise, but she never surrendered. Despite financial constraints and health concerns, Sis. Coring continued to**



**work, even if at times her labors were not well recognized."**

For sure, the DMIs of Bukidnon will keep the seed of love that Sis. Coring planted in their hearts forever growing and glowing for Mama Mary.

The whole DMII organization joins Sis. Coring's family in prayer for "her peaceful journey heavenward to be our ambassador to God when our time comes."

### *1st SMI LUZON AREA CONFERENCE*

*Lola Corazon's Leisure Farm*

*Bgy. Talang, Candaba, Pampanga*

*March 29-30, 2014*

*Theme: "Proclaiming God's Goodness through Mary Amidst Nature's Glory"*