



# DMI NEWSETTE

vol. XXXIII no. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

January - March 2016

## 20TH DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION

### *Opens April 23 in Davao City*

Davao City spreads its welcoming arms to delegates to the 20th DMII Biennial Convention to be held at the SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang Premier on J. P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada, Davao City. As of this writing (March 3, 2016), close to 1,100 DMI sisters from all over the country have registered as convention delegates.

The convention hosts, the DMI sisters of Region XIII led by Regional Representative Sis. Laura Cespon, are in the thick of preparations for this most important event in the DMI calendar. The theme of the convention is "The Holy Eucharist: Life of the Family United with Mama Mary".



*Biennial Convention Chairperson Sis. Laura Cespon (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) gives an update on convention preparations during the First Quarter Meeting of the International Board last March 5, 2016.*

Most Rev. Nereo Odchimar, past CBCP president, is the convention keynote speaker. D.D., bishop of the Diocese of Tandag (Surigao del Sur) and

*turn to page 4*



*San Pedro Cathedral, the biggest church in Davao*

## WELCOME TO DAVAO CITY!

Davao City is the largest city in the country in terms of land area and has been declared as one of the safest places in the Philippines. Located at the foot of Mount Apo, the country's highest peak, its 2,444 square kilometers have become the main trade, commerce and industry hub in Mindanao and the regional center of Davao Region.

*turn to page 4*

# CALENDAR of Events

April 23-24	- 20th DMI Biennial Convention - <i>Davao City</i>	October 1	- Region XI Assembly - <i>Venue to be announced later</i>
May 14	- Region VII Assembly - <i>Lucena City</i>	October	- SMI Mindanao Area Conference - <i>Cagayan de Oro City</i>
May 28-29	- SMI Visayas Area Conference - <i>Toledo City, Cebu</i>	October 8	- Region IX Assembly - <i>Capiz</i>
June 4-5	- SMI Luzon Area Conference - <i>Tagaytay City</i>	Oct. 15	- Region XIII Assembly - <i>Polomolok, South Cotabato</i>
July 23	- Region VI Assembly - <i>Laguna</i>	Nov. 12	- Region XII Assembly - <i>San Francisco, Agusan del Sur</i>
August 27	- Region IV Assembly - <i>Bulacan</i>	Nov. 19	- Region XIV Assembly - <i>Dipolog City</i>
Sept. 5	- Region V Assembly - <i>Venue to be announced later</i>	Nov. 26	- Region X Assembly - <i>Cebu</i>
Sept. 10	- Region II Assembly- <i>Cabanatuan City</i>		
Sept. 24	- Region I Assembly - <i>Vigan City, Ilocos Sur</i>		

## Quarterly Meetings of the International Officers & Board

March 5, 2016	- 1st Quarter Meeting - <i>Cherry Blossoms Hotel, Manila</i>
April 22	- 2nd Quarter Meeting - <i>Davao City</i>
July 3	- 3rd Quarter Meeting - <i>Tandag City, Surigao del Sur</i>
December 3	- 4th Quarter Meeting and Christmas Get-together - <i>Manila</i>
December 4	- Induction of International Officers & Board for 2017-18



*Daughters of Mary Immaculate International*

Block 3, Lot 5, Kathleen Place, Fernando St., Pasay City

Tel. No. 833-1203

Website: [www.dmiinternational.org](http://www.dmiinternational.org)

### **Executive Officers**

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

Rev. Fr. Jerome Ma. J. Cruz  
**International Chaplain**

### **DMI Newsette Editorial Board**

Sis. Salvacion T. Estrada - Editor

### **Contributors**

Sis. Angela L. Baes	Sis. Mary Annie G. Jabines
Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid	Sis. Edna May O. Landicho
Sis. Gloria Caminero	Sis. Magdalena Larrazabal
Sis. Laura V. Cespon	Sis. Ma. Adeline A. Lee
Sis. Julieta V. Cruz	Sis. Catalina Rebecca A. Pineda
Sis. Agueda Fely G. Gallardo	Sis. Virginia Terrado
Sis. Leticia A. Gano	Sis. Teresita L. Viola

## MESSAGE



At the outset, allow me to extend my heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to all my DMI sisters headed by their respective Regional Representatives as well as the Officers and Committee Chairpersons for a very fruitful, productive and meaningful 2015. By the grace of God and the guidance of Mama Mary, our powerful intercessor and model, we were able to accomplish our targets as planned. Issues and concerns identified during the strategic planning session were addressed and have been implemented while others are in process. Reports on these accomplishments will be discussed during the general assembly plenary session of the upcoming 20th Biennial Convention to be held on April 23-24, 2016 at the SMX Convention Center in Lanang, Davao City.

The first quarter of the year 2016 has been focused on the preparation for this big event where the new set of officers of the International Board for 2017-2018 will be elected. A campaign for pre-registration was adopted to ensure the smooth flow and conduct of the convention. The theme "The Holy Eucharist: Life of Every Family United with Mama Mary" is aligned with the CBCP's declaration of the year 2016 as the "Year of the Eucharist and the Family". We also take notice that His Holiness Pope Francis declared this year as the "Jubilee Year of Mercy". Thus, all our DMI missions shall revolve around these declarations joined together and we now call "The Eucharist and the Family in the Jubilee Year of Mercy."

During our 4th Quarter, 2015 Board Meeting, the schedule of activities for 2016 was drawn up. Please see on page 2 the DMI Calendar of Events showing the schedules of regional assemblies, meetings and conferences. Missions, themes and circle activities were also designated for the following months:

January- Planning sessions, regional leadership training, formation, expansion of membership, and collection of annual dues and other fees; campaign for attendance to the Biennial Convention. Mission – Pro-life

February – Medial missions; February 11 – Day of the Sick/Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes; continue campaign for convention attendance. Mission – Pro-life

March – Women's Month celebration; women empowerment trainings; Lenten recollections; observance of Holy Week; deadline for remittance of annual dues; deadline for pre-registration for the Biennial convention – March 31. Mission: Upliftment of Women Workers

April – Mission: Upliftment of Women Workers

May – Flores de Mayo; Marian pilgrimage. Mission: Squirettes of Mary

June – The Eucharist and the Family; Mass wedding

July-August – Local pilgrimage; Mission: Morality in Media

September-October – Catechetical Month; Mama Mary's birthday; election of circle officers. Mission: Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims

November-December – Souls in purgatory; exemplification of new members; installation of circle officers; Adopt a Family for Christmas; gift-giving; *Misa de Gallo*

My dear sisters, our activities for the year have been so planned to ensure smooth operation at all levels of the DMII organization vis-a-vis our missions. With the zeal and fervor of our devotion and faith in Jesus and with the loving grace of Mama Mary, I know we can all sustain and accomplish our goals. Thank you for your full support and cooperation and may God bless us all.

SIS. REBECCA CONGE-PACANAN

International Regent

Work on convention planning and preparations started more than a year ago for the DMI sisters of Region XIII headed by Sis. Laura as convention chair. As the D-Day approaches, she and her team have been coordinating with various Davao City organizations, offices and institutions to provide the delegates with as much comfort and enjoyment they can possibly give. They have gone to such length as to invite a sister from the Diocese of Cubao to orient them on the procedural requirements of the Enthronement Ceremony. Sister Biennah Villanueva came to Davao City on February 23 for the requested assistance.

Sis. Laura's team is composed of the following:

**Program/Plenary Session Program Committee** – Sisters Lourdes Almario, Rosit Tompong, Gloria Labor, Erlinda Loria and the Ascension of the Lord Circle

**Finance Committee** -Sisters Arlene Bantilan, Teresita Diaz, Lourdes Almario, Nemias Tagle and Annie Catotal

**Conference Liturgical Service/Accommodation Committee** – Sisters Mila Bravo, Lorna Pandapatan, Felomina Malones and the St. Joseph the Worker Circle

**Registration and Reception Committee** – Sisters Florita Santos and Gloria Palgan and the Holy Family and Most Sacred Heart Circles

**Invitation Committee** – Sisters Encarnacion Abarquez, Marciana Hofilena, Judith Nabatar

and Digna Ogahayon

**Transportation Committee** – Sisters Luz Binoya, Beth Depaling, Sonia Perez and the St. Paul the Apostle Circle

**Ways & Means Committee** – Sisters Belinda Fernandez, Loreto Ligue and the Sto. Rosario Circle

**Secretariat Committee** – Sisters Gregoria Espina, Amanda Sabaldan and Erlinda Mejorada

**Awards, Prizes, Kits and Tokens Committee** – Sisters Emma Palanca and Rodelina Trinidad and the St. Francis of Assisi Circle

**Medical Service Committee** – Sisters Pacita Veloso, Susan Pepito, Lory Nuique, Zenaida Porras, and Catalina Gonzales

**Souvenir Program Committee** – Sisters Evelina Ramos, Lucia Venus, Reynalda Galenzoga and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle

**Food Committee** – Sisters Luz Binoya, Alice Lagman and St. Paul the Apostle Circle

**Tour Committee** – Sis. Visitacion Flores and Our Lady of Fatima Circle

The Executive Committee which oversees the Convention preparations is composed of International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, Vice-IR for Mindanao Sis. Annie Ty, Int'l Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, Sisters Laura Cespon, Nemias Tagle, Lucina Binoya and Annie Catotal and Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga.



*WELCOME TO DAVAO... Cont'd from page 1*

Coming to Davao is a real breather. Its countryside is a wide expanse of greenery that refreshes tired eyes, body and spirit. It is home to exotic flora and fauna – our national bird, the Philippine monkey-eating eagle, the rarest, most beautiful and most expensive of all orchids, the waling-waling and the exotic durian fruit. (Davao is also called the Durian

Capital of the Philippines.)

Among Davao City's famous churches are the San Pedro Cathedral, the biggest in Davao, and the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague Shrine. The shrine, just 15 minutes from the city center, is an ideal place for meditation and prayer being on top of Matina Hill. A crucifix from the

Holy Land is one of its attractions. It is made of Roman olive tree from Bethala, a district of Bethlehem.

Among Davao City's tourist attractions are the following:

**Eden Nature Park.** Located in Toril, the park is a great place to experience Mother Nature with its



beautifully-landscaped gardens and greenhouses, stands of forest trees and trails for hiking and horseback-riding, etc. The place also offers a command view of the city.

**Philippine Eagle Center** in Malagos where some monkey-eating eagles, the largest eagle in the world that is threatened with extinction, are cared for and bred. Remember Kabayan, Pag-asa, etc.?

**Crocodile Park** in Ma-a, home not only to crocodiles (the most famous resident is 'Pangil', the biggest at 19 feet) but other exotic animals as well. The complex includes a cultural village, Tribu K'Mindanao, and a butterfly farm. On week-ends, a cultural show and fire show are held.

**People's Park**, a 'forest in the city' on Palma Gil Street. A big Eagle

at the park's center has become a familiar landmark. A public park, it offers nature's beauty and relaxing ambiance amid the hustle and bustle of the city's business district.

**D'Bone Collector Museum** in San Pedro, Bucana Bgy. 76-A is privately-owned by David Blatchley. The museum is an eclectic collection of animal bones – raptors and whales, all sorts of mammals and snakes, and even bugs! The museum's owner guides visitors through the three floors of the museum, showing how land and sea animals look beneath skin and flesh. Visitors to the museum find the experience very educational and interesting.

**Mount Apo**, rising 2,954 meters (9,692 feet) above sea level, is the highest mountain in the Philippines.

It is located between Davao City and Davao del Sur and Cotabato Provinces. It was at its slopes that the beautiful waling-waling was first found and has now been propagated in the city fetching a high price for orchid collectors.

**Island Garden of Samal** just nearby is worth a visit when one has the time. It is where the very famous Pearl Farm and Plantation is located.

Among Davao City's famous shopping centers are the Gaisano Mall where 'The Peak' which offers a panoramic view of Davao City is located and the SM Lanang Premier where we will hold our convention.

All these await delegates to the 20th DMI Biennial Convention. SEE YOU IN DAVAO!



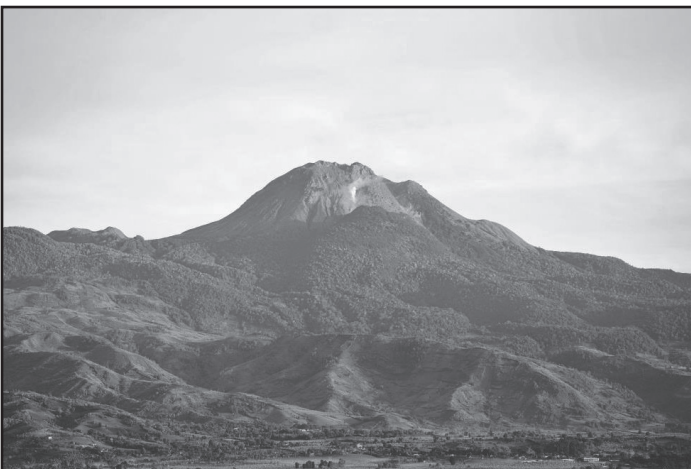
*The interior of the Holy Infant Jesus of Prague Shrine*



*Philippine Eagle Center in Malagos*



*Eden Nature Park*



*Mt. Apo, the Philippines' highest peak*



*At People's Park, a giant eagle at its center has become a famous landmark.*

# REGION IX ASSEMBLY HELD NOV. 14, 2015

The Diocese of Bacolod hosted the Region IX Assembly on November 14, 2015 at the Bacolod Business Inn with the theme "DMII: Evangelizing with Mercy and Compassion in the Year of the Poor". Some 190 delegates coming from Capiz, Iloilo, Aklan, San Carlos City and Romblon attended the assembly. Diocesan Regent Sis. Rosalinda Jauod of the host diocese welcomed the delegates.

Msgr. Louie Galbines, STHD, vicar-general of the Diocese of Bacolod and rector of the Bacolod Sacred Heart Seminary, was the assembly keynote speaker. He was introduced by Vice-Regent Sis. Virgie Estante of St. Jude Thaddeus Circle. Msgr. Galbines started his talk with the passage "You are your brother's keeper." According to him, it is founded on Jesus' new commandment "Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples if you love one another." Today people consider this to be more of a duty but duty generally neglected because of one's selfishness, that the poor are a burden.

He further said that poverty operates as a cycle with its effects increasing the likelihood that it will be transferred between generations. Structural poverty is the product of the way the economy is structured giving way to inequality in income and opportunities. Resistance to change has become a mindset of the poor, especially among farmers.

This structural poverty requires evangelization with mercy and compassion, the practice of kindness and generosity and various interventions to help alleviate the sufferings of people. "Poverty is the greatest scandal in the world," Msgr. Louie said, "because poverty occurs in a world of plenty in a global economy capable of satisfying all the demands of its richest consumers but seemingly and scandalously unable to meet the needs of a vast number of people mired in poverty whose needs ought to be at the heart of



*The presidential table at the Region IX Assembly. From left: SMI Luzon Corodinator Sis. Ruby Macario, Past IR Sis. Perla Arguelles, Msgr. Louie Galbines, keynote speaker, VIR-Visayas Sis. Pureza Guzman and Morality in Media Chairperson Sis. Edna May Landicho.*

public policy. Poverty must be the starting point for all discussions about trade, money, debts, etc.

Geographical poverty (poverty levels varying greatly by region with majority of the poor being in the rural areas such as farmers and fishermen) needs urgent attention. Lack of educational opportunity, also cited as a reason for poverty, needs to be addressed not only by government but also by parishes and educational institutions.

Msgr. Louie's final statement: "Human dignity can't be taken away. Catholic teaching states that each one, including the poor, has value, is worthy of great respect, and must be free from slavery, manipulation and exploitation. In many cases, poverty results from a violation of dignity. Let us restore dignity by helping the poor, treating them as human beings and providing them the opportunity to work for themselves and their family."

The afternoon session started with VIR-Visayas and Region IX RR Sis. Pureza Guzman updating the assembly participants on goings-on in the National Organization, particularly the resolutions approved and ratified by the members during the National Officers'



Meeting last May 10, 2015. She also announced that the International Board is accepting from members proposals for amendments to the DMI Constitution and By-laws which it is currently reviewing.

International Chairperson for Morality in Media Sis. Edna May Landicho presented her projects for 2015-16 targeting netizens composed mostly of young people: creation of a website and social media accounts promoting traditional sports and games, creative expression workshops in theatre, dance, voice, visual arts, etc. and effective use of good media.

For Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, it was reported that 45-50% of DMI circles have adopted children of prisoners as scholars under the Mission's 10-Year Scholarship Program. Various projects providing spiritual, moral, financial and educational assistance to prisoners' families were also suggested.

SMI Luzon Coordinator Sis. Ruby Macario, pinch-hitting for Upliftment of Women Workers Chair Sis. Juliet Cruz and Pro-Life Chair Sis. Carmen Baquilid who were not able to attend the assembly, discussed the programs being promoted for these missions.

For Upliftment, financing for livelihood projects through cooperatives and micro-financing, counseling

services in parishes and self-empowerment. For Pro-life, family planning and responsible parenthood, counseling and support for unwed mothers, respect and love for self through health and wellness, proper nutrition and health education, respect and care for the elderly, care for the environment and prayer and vigilance.

Also pinch-hitting for Youth Welfare Chair Sis. Cathy Pineda, Sis. Ruby urged the DMI circles to pursue the current SMI membership campaign of 'an SMI circlette for every DMI circle' citing schools and DMI sisters' neighbors and relatives as a good source of prospective Squirettes members. She encouraged SMI members to attend the SMI Visayas Area Conference in the latter part of 2016 and the SMI Biennial Convention in May, 2017.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Msgr. Louie closed the afternoon session of the assembly. The SMI choir of the Miraculous Medal Parish Circlette provided the liturgical music during the mass.

Motif for the Fellowship Night was Retro '80s with performers in the group dance presentations garbed in retro '80s outfits outdoing each other to win the prize for the best presentation. A live band dishing out 1980s music kept the delegates on the dance floor for a great part of the night.



*A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Msgr Louie closed the assembly session.*



*A plaque of appreciation is handed by Sis. Pureza Guzman to Msgr Louie assisted by Diocesan Regent Sis. Rosalinda Jauod.*



*The DMI sisters of the Diocese of Bacolod, assembly hosts.*



# DIOCESE OF TARLAC HOSTS REGION III ASSEMBLY

The Regional Assembly of Region III was hosted by the Diocese of Tarlac last November 21, 2015 at the Bella Plaza, San Sebastian, Tarlac City with the theme : "DMI Missions: Reaching Out to the Poor with Mercy and Compassion."

A total of 442 delegates attended the assembly coming from the Dioceses of Balanga (12 circles), Iba (11 circles), Pampanga (1 circle) and Tarlac (9 circles).

Gracing the assembly were members of the International Board headed by International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz. With him were Vice-I R for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang, International Secretary and Region III RR Sis. Alma Cagampang, International Mission Chairpersons Sis. Mary Annie Jabines of Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Cathy Pineda of Youth Welfare and Sis. Ruby Macario, SMI Luzon Coordinator.

The day's program started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Most Rev. Florentino Cinense, bishop of the Diocese of Tarlac. The keynote speaker was Fr. Jerome who was introduced by past Region III RR Sis. Amy Castaneda.

In his message, Fr. Jerome reminded the DMI sisters to uphold the DMI vision, consider each DMI circle as a basic ecclesial community (BEC) and take by heart the Blessed Mother as their model and guide in thought, words and action. The



*The presidential table at the Region III Assembly.*



*The assembly delegates in session.*

mission chairpersons presented their concerns, discussed their projects and activities and urged circles to benchmark from other circles to be able to pursue worthwhile activities.

To add glitter to the occasion, the host diocese presented special awards for circle delegations who arrived

earliest at the venue (early bird) and with the biggest delegation. Lucky winners brought home special prizes raffled off at the end of the day's program.

The assembly delegates thanked their hosts, the officers and members of the Diocese of Tarlac for a successful and very rewarding regional assembly.



# THE 51<sup>st</sup> INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN RETROSPECT

*By Sis. Jean T. Velarde,  
Past International Regent (2009-2010)*

**The most significant event of the Catholic Church this year is the 51<sup>st</sup> International Eucharistic Congress (IEC) held in Cebu City last January 24 to 31, 2016. The IEC is a spiritual festival centered on the Holy Mass started at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.**

**The 51<sup>st</sup> IEC is the second congress to be held in the country. The first was in 1937 when the 33<sup>rd</sup> IEC took place in Manila, Philippines, the bastion of the Catholic Church in Asia, with 600,000 Catholics from all over the world taking part in one religious procession and tens of thousands**

**attending the Pontifical Masses held at the Luneta. It was the very first congress to be held in Asia.**

**Representing Pope Francis at the 51<sup>st</sup> Congress (he came ahead of the Congress in January, 2015 primarily to console and bless the victims of Supertyphoon Haiyan) was a Salesian, Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, archbishop of Rangoon, Burma (Myanmar).**

**Sharing with her DMI sisters her personal experience at the 51<sup>st</sup> IEC is Past International Regent Sis. Jean Tejada-Velarde (IR 2009-2010). Read on. - Ed.**

"Christ in Us . . . Our Hope of Glory!" It was a catching statement on the poster which I first saw at the Pink Sisters Chapel in Polo, New Washington, Aklan during mass. It was the first time I saw that poster announcing the International Eucharistic Congress which was to be held in Cebu City on January 24-31, 2016. Then and there, I decided to attend that event having had that rare chance to be at the International Charismatic Congress at the PICC in Manila wherein I had a very awe-inspiring time praying, meditating and listening to eye-opening, spirit-filled talks of church leaders and be among peoples professing one love, one faith and one hope in God!! I prayed hard to be there for Christ. I need to be there!

On short notice, my daughter and her husband had to fly to New York on January 18 leaving with us their four young children and their

business as well. My balikbayan brothers and sisters and cousins called for a January 24 family reunion coinciding with the 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of my sister in Manila. I was in a quandary, yet I was determined to go. Yes, to be there for Christ. I prayed hard and offered this trip as a sacrifice to be there and stand up for Christ! Cebu became a mountain of sacrifice for me to climb up for Christ!

Our plane smoothly touched down in Cebu City at 1:00 p.m. on Jan. 24 to be on time for the Opening Mass at the vast Plaza Independencia which was open to all the faithful, delegates and non-delegates alike. The liturgy was an intermingling of various dialects and languages of the 13,000 participants coming from 63 countries. We prayed as one in FAITH despite differences in color, race and culture. Coming from different corners of the earth, we gathered here, the very birthplace of Christianity



*The International Eucharistic Congress logo.*

in Asia, to profess our faith, to be witnesses to the loving "renewal of Jesus", offering of Himself on the Cross for the life of the world which is left for us today a living memorial in the Most Holy Eucharist. Here and again now, the same proclamation is made known to us: the future of the world is somehow connected with Jesus, being manifested in each one of us through our reception of Him in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

*turn to page 10*



*Sis. Jean stands before the entrance to the International Eucharistic Congress complex at Plaza Independencia.*



*A lighted cross at the center of the IEC complex dominates the skyline at night.*

The day-to-day activities at the Congress focused on inspiring morning readings and prayers, catechetical sessions on the Eucharist as the Source and Goal of the Church's Mission, faith testimonies which deepened my faith and increased my love for God. Regularly capped by a Holy Mass, I experienced and felt God's loving desire to feed His people.

I was contentedly fed with spiritual food that through the Holy Eucharist, Christ's work of redemption, His power to save us is realized when He said "I am the Bread of Life", the true manna, the perfect sign of God's love for His people.. Bishop Robert Barron's three-point summary of the Holy Eucharist had become clearer and more definite to me: that the Holy Eucharist is a sacred meal offered for us as God's self-giving and life-giving way to feed His people. Truly, the celebration of the Eucharist is a sacrifice knowing that Jesus is the "Lamb of God" and had come to be sacrificed as flesh for the forgiveness of sins and blood a drink for the remission of sins . . . our sins and those

of the whole world. Thirdly, the Holy Eucharist is the real presence of Jesus, through the power of His word that "on the night He was betrayed, took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said "This is my body which is for you . . . do this in remembrance of Me". In the same manner also, He took the cup saying "This is my blood, the cup of the new and everlasting covenant. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of Me. For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

Thus how can I not adore and love Jesus, ever present in the Holy Eucharist? How can I be inattentive in the sacrifice and Holy Presence of my Lord and Savior in the Holy Eucharist? I am but a speck in this universe but my loving and merciful God comes to me to feed me, to transform me, to free me from my sins so I may be united with Him once more. Jesus died on the cross and as we gaze upon Him, how can we be inattentive and careless about His sufferings? This brings me clearly to a

"deeper understanding and a stronger commitment to the Eucharistic mystery".

Truly, the Eucharist is the source and goal of the Church's mission in dialogue with peoples and cultures., with the religious and religious traditions, with the poor, with the youth. As I believe, I pray to live accordingly. Like Mary, the Mother of Jesus, our model in faith and generosity, may I be able to cope up with the challenges of our Church's mission to share our resources of time, talent and treasure in the service of His people, trusting in the Divine Providence that in all things God may be glorified!

Of course, the host City of Cebu, through careful planning and cooperation of their organizers, church and government officials and 5,000 volunteers, did a very commendable job of seeing to it that all aspects of concern for delegates' comfort and welfare were thus addressed, making our stay in Cebu City a significant and memorable IEC experience.

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CIRCLE GEARS UP FOR 2016

The St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Pacdal, Baguio City is all set to implement projects and activities for the DMI missions for 2016. To spearhead the activities are the newly-elected officers of the circle who were presented to the congregation by Fr. Victor Munar, pastor of St. Joseph Parish and DMI chaplain, at a Sunday Mass in January, 2016. They were later officially installed into office during the installation ceremony presided by Vicarial Regent Sis. Brigida Cecilia Abratique.



---

## ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CIRCLE'S ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO MONASTERIO DE TARLAC

This year's pilgrimage of DMI sisters of St. Joseph the Worker Circle to Monasterio de Tarlac took place on January 30, 2016. Unlike in the previous years when they held their pilgrimage in September to celebrate the Triumph of the Cross, their trip this year was made on the anniversary of the enshrinement of the relic of the True Cross.

The trip down from Baguio was a great time for bonding among the pilgrims composed of DMI sisters and K of C brothers. The camaraderie on board the tourist coach seemed to have shortened the trip. In no time at all, the Monastery on top of Mt. Resurrection in San Jose, Tarlac came within sight. Fr. Archie officiated at the Mass concelebrated by several Servants of Risen Christ (SRC) priests. The Eucharistic celebration was a very solemn one followed by the touching of the relic of the Holy Cross beneath the chapel's altar. The experience was a very moving one for the pilgrims. They stayed for a while to appreciate and capture on camera the scenic beauty of the place that offers a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

The trip was well worth it for the pilgrims enriching their spirituality as well as strengthening the bonds of friendship within the St. Joseph the Worker Circle.



*The pilgrims pose in front of the gate of Monasterio de Tarlac.*



*The altar of the Monastery Chapel with the reliquary containing the relic of the True Cross.*



# NEWS UPDATE FROM ST. VINCENT FERRER CIRCLE

by Sis. Caroline Pinangat

**7**he DMI sisters of St. Vincent Ferrer Circle of Baguio City continues to give full support and be actively involved in the activities of their parish.

Last January for instance, they conducted a feeding program and distributed gifts to indigent families at Camp Allen , Baguio City as part of the parish celebration of the Feast of Sto. Nino on January 17. Venue was the Sto. Nino Chapel.

The new set of officers of St. Vincent Ferrer Circle was installed on January 14, 2016. Regent Sis.Zenaida Obidoza heads the circle this year. Installed with her were Sisters Dolores Natividad – vice-regent, Margarita Dumaguing – chancellor, Louela Mina – custodian, Caroline Dimaano – recording secretary, Marilyn Bautista – financial secretary, Marilu Bendal – treasurer, Erlinda Doctolero – scribe, Glorifina Pasuquin – monitor, Segundina Ventura, Nida Andaya and Namnama Lopez – trustees, Elvira Magmoyao – banner bearer, Rebecca Campos – flag bearer, Cynthia Cuartel and Carmelita Sarsalejo – guides, Ma. Margielyn Bautista – outer guide, Delia Salabao – inner guide and Erlinda Abalos and Fely Bohol – advisers.



*The DMI sisters of St. Vincent Ferrer Circle with Fr. Jeffrey Habado, parish priest.*



*The DMI sisters with their parish priest on their way to St. Nino Chapel for their outreach activity.*

*From the Diocese of Balanga*

## ‘PASKO RUN 2015’ BY ST. DOMINIC DE GUZMAN CIRCLE

By Sis. Thelma Manansala, Regent,  
Vicariate of St. Dominic de Guzman



*The DMI sisters of St. Dominic de Guzman Circle who spearheaded the ‘Pasko Run’.*

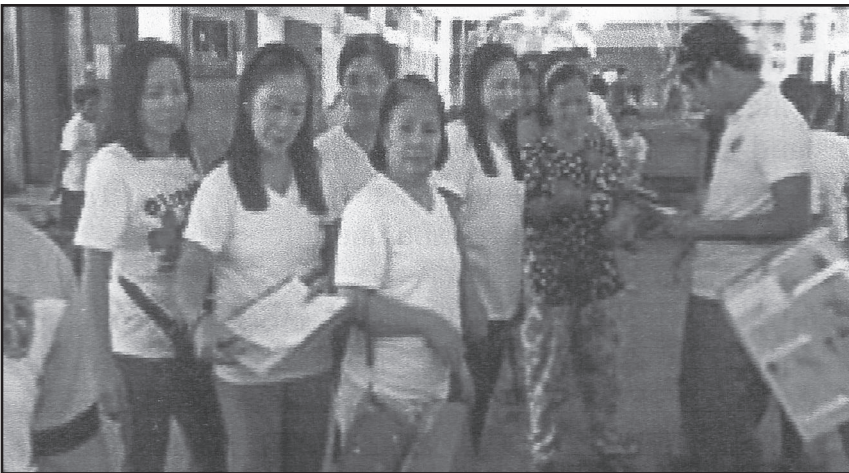
**7**he DMI sisters of St. Dominic de Guzman Circle of Abucay, Bataan headed by Regent Sis. Alma Rasdas sponsored a project called ‘Pasko Run 2015’ last December 19, 2015. The project had two important objectives: first, to awaken the busy working parents to set aside part of their precious time on health-promoting activities like walking



# CHRISTMAS OUTREACH PROJECT COMPLETED



*A short program at the Ultreya Hall of St. Dominc Parish preceded the gift distribution.*



*The DMI sisters of St. Dominic de Guzman Circle get ready for the gift-giving.*

The annual gift-giving project of St. Dominic de Guzman Circle last December, 2015 was a bit different from the past ones. Whereas before, the project was the sole undertaking of the circle, the Noche Buena packages distributed to some 300 indigent families became a shared responsibility by the circle and co-parishioners who participated in the 'Pasko Run'.

A short program preceded the gift-giving activity at the Ultreya Hall of St. Dominc Parish on December 29. Vicarial Regent Sis. Thelma Manansala and Circle Regent Sis. Alma Rasdas acknowledged the contributions of both the circle and the fun run participants to the success of the project.

The gift distribution continued on New Year's eve (Dec. 31) to ensure that the beneficiaries would have food on their table for the media noche. Parishioners who participated in the Pasko Run were very happy to have been able to share their blessings with those in need in the community.



*Zumba-dancing in the rain.*

and running which are among the cheapest means of maintaining good health, and second, as a fund-raising activity the proceeds of which will be used to buy Noche Buena packages for less fortunate families in their parish.

The fun run was a huge success with close to 300 participants, ages ranging from 15 years to 50 years old, joining the run. A short program was held prior to the run consisting of lectures on the importance of walking and running for a healthy lifestyle. Participants were encouraged to walk instead of riding tricycles for short destinations. They were told that going back to walking or running will not only ensure good health but also help save Mother Earth from destruction with less carbon dioxide emission from fossil fuels that speed up global warming. The fun run ended with participants zumba-dancing in the rain.



*From the Diocese of Tarlac*

## **ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CIRCLE UNDERTAKES 'ALALAY SA BUNTIS' YEAR 4**

**7**he DMI sisters of St. Raphael the Archangel Circle of Tarlac have regularly undertaken the 'Alalay sa Buntis' Project as a pro-life activity. Now on its fourth year, the project was held last December 15, 2015 benefiting 35 pregnant, mostly indigent, women.

Dr. Precious Sicangco, an OB-Gyne practitioner, was invited once again as the resource speaker who so generously shared her time teaching and guiding the women on proper care during pregnancy and after childbirth.

For the 2015 activity, the circle tied up with the office of Lady Board Member Cristy Angeles

under her "Piso-Piso Para kay Bunso" Project. Each pregnant participant was allocated a kit containing articles for the use of a new-born baby to be awarded on the 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> month of pregnancy plus a piggy bank with P100 worth of coins as initial savings (the title of the project Piso-Piso Para kay Bunso was derived from this). The purpose is to teach and encourage mothers to save, eventually making it a habit to drop some amount each day to have a ready fund when needed.

A counterpart kit was also given by the DMIs to each of the participants containing supplies they will need at childbirth.



*Some DMI sisters pose before the tarpaulin announcing the "Alalay sa Buntis" Project.*



*Resource speaker Dr. Precious Sicangco lectures on proper care during pregnancy and after childbirth.*

### **PHOTO NEWS**

*From the Diocese of Pasaña*

## **MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CIRCLE'S CHRISTMAS OUTREACH ACTIVITIES**



The DMI sisters of Mary Mother of the Church Circle (MMCC) of BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City visited the Bahay-Pag-asa Youth Home on Dec. 8, 2015 to distribute gift packages containing footwear, clothes, toiletries and food to the boys residing in the Home. They are shown in photo performing a song-and-dance number as their thank-you gesture.

*turn to page 15*

# REGION VI CONVENES 1ST BOARD MEETING IN 2016

The Diocese of San Pablo comprising Region VI had its first Board Meeting last January 9, 2016 at the residence of Regional Representative and International Treasurer Sis. Elvie Arambulo in San Juan, Calamba City. The meeting was attended by the Region VI Executive Board, the diocesan, vicarial and circle regents, as well as the diocesan mission chairs.

Region VI is composed of four vicariates – the Vicariates of St. Polycarp, St. John the Baptist, St. Paul the First Hermit and San Antonio de Padua - and 17 circles.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Lorie Santos moderated the meeting during which projects

and activities for the 5 DMI Missions for 2016 as well as the forthcoming DMI activities were taken up. The 2016 Region VI Assembly will be hosted by the Vicariate of St.

Polycarp headed by Regent Sis. Fe Aquinde on July 23, 2016. The formation of a new circle in Infanta, Quezon initiated by the Diocese of San Pablo was also announced.



*The officers of Region VI headed by Region VI Representative and International Treasurer Sis. Elvie Arambulo (at right facing camera).*

## PHOTO NEWS

*Christmas Outreach...  
Cont'd from page 14*

On Dec. 19, 2015, the MMCC DMI and SMI Circlette members treated children attending catechism classes to free merienda at the Fr. Donato School. The children also received Christmas goodies such as toys, candies, fruits and clothes.





# ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CIRCLE CONDUCTS PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM

**7**he Pro-life Committee of St. John the Baptist Circle headed by Chairperson Sis. Evelyn Ramos is promoting zumba as a physical fitness activity for residents of Barangays IV and V, Aplaya and Bgy. VII. The zumba sessions are held at the covered court of Bgy. VII with Eric Cordero as zumba instructor.

Recently, the new set of officers of the Circle was installed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Lorie Santos

assisted by Vicarial Regent Sis. Fe Aquinde. Rev. Fr. Henry Rabe, asst. Parish Priest of St. John the Baptist Parish, gave an inspirational talk on values – spiritual, moral and social – that one must uphold not only as a DMI sister but as a Christian in her daily life.

Heading the circle this year are Regent Sis. Remy de la Pena and Vice-Regent Sis. Sampaguita Castillo.



*The zumba sessions sponsored by the St. John the Baptist Circle for barangay residents in Calamba City.*



*The officers and members of the St. John the Baptist Circle.*



## *Pope Francis on God's Judgment and Mercy*

“How much wrong we do to God and His grace when we speak of sins being punished by His judgment before we speak of their being forgiven by His mercy.”

“We have to put mercy before judgment, and in any event God’s judgment will always be in the light of mercy.”





From the Diocese of San Jose (Mindoro Occidental)

# MINA DE ORO DMI, AND SMI, SPREAD CHRISTMAS CHEER

By Sis. Ana Liza Sevilla, Circle Regent

The Mina de Oro DMI Circle and SMI Circlette celebrated Christmas 2015 with different Pakris/Pamayanan of San Jose, Occidental Mindoro last December 18. The whole day activity started in Sitio Imbarasan with gift-giving to some 150 children, then on to the San Jose District Hospital and Zapanta General Hospital where 100 patients were fed lugaw and boiled egg. After lunch, the group proceeded to Manoot Rizal to distribute food and toiletries to some 100 Mangyan families.

For participants of the outreach activity, it was a very fulfilling day, having shared the true spirit of Christmas.



*A gift-giving beneficiary in the Mangyan settlement in Manoot Rizal receives a gift package.*



*The DMI sisters of Mina de Oro Circle on their way to the Christmas Outreach activity. With them is Past Int'l Regent Sis. Myrna Zapanta.*



*The DMI sisters get ready for the gift distribution.*



*Gift are distributed to children in Sitio Imbarasan.*



From the Diocese of Palo

# STS. PETER & PAUL CIRCLE HOLDS 5-IN-1 EVENT

By Sis. Carol N. Quezon, Past Regent

The Sts. Peter & Paul Circle of Ormoc City held a 5-in-1 event last January 11, 2016 after Mass. The different activities unfolding one after the other included the circle's regular monthly meeting with birthday celebrators for January as breakfast hosts, the exemplification of new members, the installation of a new set of officers, a post-Christmas salo-salo and distribution of 'bundles of joy' to 65 pre-selected indigent families needing help the most.

The distribution of gifts took place in the afternoon with beneficiaries receiving packages containing assorted canned goods, sugar, rice, new/slightly used clothing and other usable articles.

Heading the Sts. Peter & Paul Circle this year are Regent Sis. Thelma Aparis and Vice-Regent Sis. Rowena Yu. The past regent is Sis. Carolina Quezon. Rev. Fr. Isagani Petilos is the circle's spiritual director.



*The exemplification of new circle members*



*'Bundles of joy' are distributed to family-beneficiaries.*



*The newly-installed officers of Sts. Peter & Paul Circle with Region XI RR Sis. Leni Larrazabal and Fr. Isagani Petilos (seated at center).*

# **ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA DMIs CONDUCT LEADERSHIP TRAINING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP**

*By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Diocesan Secretary*

**T**he officers of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Isabela de Basilan conducted a Leadership Training and Planning Workshop for the newly-elected officers of circles from the three vicariates of the Archdiocese – Eastern, Central and Western Vicariates. The workshop attended by more than a hundred participants was held at the Zamboanga City Red Cross Hall last January 30, 2016.

Region XIV Representative Sis. Angie Baes, Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra and other diocesan officers handled parts of the workshop. The first part covered the essential elements of leadership while the second part was devoted to planning of projects and activities for the 5 DMI missions and thrusts by workshop groups assigned to each mission. The output of each group consisted of planned projects and activities, their objectives, timetable and budget requirements. The plans were fine-tuned and the final outputs were submitted on February 10.

Capping the workshop was the giving out of awards and recognition to outstanding circles in 2015. Recipients of the awards were: Our Lady of Purification Circle for Pro-life and Morality in Media, St. Joseph Circle for Upliftment of Women Workers, Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, St. Ignatius de Loyola Circle for Best Parish Project, Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage Circle for Youth Welfare, St. Joseph the Worker Circle for the Most Number of New Members, Our Queen of Angels Circle for Fun Photo, Our Lady of Penafrancia Circle for Explicit Action Photo, and San Isidro de Labrador and Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circles for opening a new circle.



*Region XIV Representative Sis. Angie Baes speaks before workshop participants.*



*Region XIV workshop participants*



# DMIS PARTICIPATE IN *MARCHA DE LAS MUJERES* TO LAUNCH WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

by Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Diocesan Secretary

**T**he DMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Isabela de Basilan actively participated in the kick-off parade, the *Marcha de las Mujeres* on March 1, 2016 to launch the celebration of Women's Month in March. This year's theme is "El Buen Estar di Juan Pone na Agenda". As early as 6:00 a.m., the DMI sisters from the Central, Western and Eastern Vicariates assembled near the Zamboanga City Fire Station, ready to walk up to Paseo del Mar for the opening program of the month-long celebration.

March 1, Tuesday, was a purple day since almost all the women from the different sectors, both public and private, wore purple T-shirts to express the rights of women in present-day society. Most of the participants brought banners and placards bearing slogans such as "Stop violence against women", "Igalang si Juana", etc. Zamboanga City Mayor Beng Climaco as well as the chairperson of the Gender & Development

Council expressed their gratitude for the active participation of the women of Zamboanga City.

A Retreat & Recollection was attended by the Zamboanga DMIs last February 27, 2016 with DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Michael Ufana of the Holy Trinity Church in Pasonanca as facilitator. Fr. Michael emphasized that mercy and forgiveness are essential elements of salvation for all. He also said that people in this generation become very legalistic which maybe the reason why they become less merciful. He stressed that the significant role of the DMI is to spread the word of God to the people. Mothers are very significant in the lives of people, being very compassionate to their children just like the Blessed Virgin Mary to her son Jesus. And in the spirit of the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Fr. Michael left this message: Mothers, DMIs included, should not be judgmental but should be charitable and most of all, merciful.

A Eucharistic celebration capped the day-long activity.



*The marcha to Paseo del Mar*



*The DMI delegation during the march*



*The recollection participants*



*Fr. Michael Ufana, recollection facilitator*