



DMII NEWSETTE

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January - March 2019

FIRST MEETING OF THE 2019-20 INTERNATIONAL BOARD CONVENED

International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario convened the first meeting of the DMII International Officers and Board last January 19-20, 2019 at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel in Ermita, Manila. Present were the international officers, regional representatives, mission chairpersons and their area coordinators and the chairpersons and assistant chairpersons appointed to special committees. International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz was also present.

Day 1 (January 19, Saturday) was a getting-to-know-you day with a Team-Building session conducted by Mr. Rene Austria, a professional trainer who conducts and facilitates training programs and seminars for corporations and other groups.

The Team-Building session underscored the fact that a group of individuals, no matter how diverse their personalities are, can work together harmoniously and be able to accomplish the organization's goals and projects. Effective communication and respect for the views and opinions of others in the group to eventually reach a consensus are keys to the group's success.

After the Team-Building session, Fr. Jerome celebrated an Anticipated Mass, the following day being a Sunday.

The Board's first business meeting for the year took place on Day 2, January 20. First on the agenda was the crafting of the DMII's over-all theme for the year "DMII at 40, Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor Before God and Men – in the Year of the Youth".

The International Regent presented the DMII's over-all plans during her term focusing on:

- * Membership, both domestic and foreign
- * Spiritual activities and pilgrimages
- * DMII's Missions and thrusts
- * Activities for the 40th Anniversary celebration
- * Tag-line slogan for the DMII
- * Theme for regional assemblies and area conferences
- * Communication

turn to page 4



The DMII International Officers and Board take time out to pose for this group picture.

From the International Chaplain

Lent and Easter **GRACE-FILLED MOMENTS OF HOPE AND LIFE**



The Holy Seasons of Lent and Easter are grace-filled moments of hope and life. They bid us to pray, offer sacrifices and show compassion to our brothers and sisters in need. They remind us of the great love of God who saved us from evil and sin by the Passion, Death and Resurrection of God's only son, Jesus.

The annual commemoration of Lent and Easter goes beyond the rigid repetition of holy rites and traditions. It is a real call to conversion and growth in the spirit. The ambience of a hot summer evokes the memory of the desert experience of Jesus who fasted and prayed for forty days and was tempted by the devil. Jesus emerged victorious by the power of Truth and the reminder that man is not only a material and physical being but a spiritual creation who lives by the grace of God.

Conversion takes meaning when we realize that God is pure Love who has lavished on us all goodness, mercy and care while we wallow in the dirt and darkness of sin and selfishness. The awareness that our sorry state is not the original plan of God but the product of our own misuse of freedom moves us to return to the merciful embrace of forgiveness of Him who is waiting for us.

As members of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, we have the mandate to bring this good news of hope and salvation to all, especially those who are threatened by the culture of death, immorality and decadence of values, those who are suffering because of injustices and abuses, and the young who are vulnerable to the scheming forces of evil. At the heart of our mission and endeavors is Jesus who is the Source of all power, healing and life. Mary, our Mother, is the best model of faithful and total love of Jesus that leads us to the fountain of grace and blessings.

May the saving power of the resurrection fill our hearts and strengthen us to proclaim with all boldness that Jesus is alive and living in us and among us.

A Blessed Lent and a Happy Easter to all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Fr. Jeronimo Ma. J. Cruz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

FR. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ
International Chaplain

From the International Regent

DMI @ 40 A JOURNEY IN SERVICE, SHARING AND SPIRITUALITY



My beloved sisters in the DMI,

We are 40 years old.

Allow me to quote what we wrote in our 2018 Biennial Convention coffee table book/souvenir program:

"The number 'forty' is highly symbolic in all biblical literature, representing 'a long time,' especially a time of trial or testing.*

"Consider that, in the story of Noah and the Great Flood, it rained for '*forty days and forty nights*' (Gen 7:4, 12, 17; 8:6). Moses spent 'forty days and forty nights' on Mount Sinai when receiving the Law from God (Exod 24:18; cf. Deut 9:9-25). After His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples for forty days, before ascending into heaven (Acts 1:3). The Israelites spent *forty years* in the desert (7:36, 42; 13:18).

"The year 2018 is the 40th founding anniversary of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International. The number 40 is indeed significant in the life of the DMII, in its journey of service. Through the years, the path travelled by DMI had been long and arduous, albeit joyful and meaningful. For 40 years, DMIs have walked the mile, following the footsteps of Mama Mary, emulating her virtues and, along their long and challenging journey, reinforcing their faith and that of others and taking a vital role as Mary's daughters.

"There is more to come for DMI. We set our sights on the years ahead and the more difficult times under which we shall labor and love and love some more. This is not THE END."

Indeed, my dear sisters, this is just the beginning. We have exerted so much efforts to launch, celebrate, and now, this May 2019, culminate our 40th founding year. We quote bible passages which have been our guide in all our efforts.

Isaiah 43:2

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow you: when you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle on you.

Throughout our 40-year journey, we have been beset by challenges from all fronts – and yet, we walked the streets and the halls of Congress to defend our prolife sentiments. We left our comfort zones and let our voices be heard. We held placards and tarpaulins to shout out our advocacies during our walks for life and dances for Mary.

Matthew 18:2-5

He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me."

Youth welfare has become our mission, albeit, our passion. Without complaint, we have spent our time, talent and treasure to bring out the best of our future DMIs. In return, we have learned how it is to be like children, in the midst of all the challenges facing us as mature individuals – as evidenced by the time we spend organizing leadership, personality, and spiritual formation for them, and holding their hands as they held ours in a partnership marked by love, respect, and faith.

turn to page 4

IR's MESSAGE... from page 3

Luke 11:34

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness.

Vigilance is our mission, albeit, our passion. We will not allow all forms of media to tempt nor tarnish the purity within us. Of late, we have expressed our campaign on this front through slogans and taglines in posters and arts, and various fora conducted by professionals.

Psalm 46:5

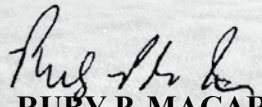
God is within her, she will not fall.

We recognize and salute women who work and make change work for them. We shall stand side by side with them in advancing gender equality, empowerment and protection of women, as well as their access to public services and infrastructure. In connection with this, for this our 40th year, we have made it a point to celebrate May 12 (Mother's Day) a day to send cheers to women in the prisons, prisoners' wives, and all women amidst us.

My dear daughters of Mary Immaculate, let us remain true and steadfast in our calling. Let our love for our Mother Mary resonate everywhere, in the way we conduct ourselves and serve others. Let us pray for strength and the good health of our sisters and leaders, that we will continue to perform our missions to our brothers and sisters in the community. Let us all remain united and loving all the way to the road upholding and practicing the virtues of Unity, Friendship, Charity, Humility, and Sanctity.

Let our 40 years and beyond be a journey in service, sharing and spirituality

Sincerely, Sincerely,


SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO
International Regent

**Forty Days & Forty Nights
by Felix Just, S.J., Ph.D*

First Meeting... from page 1

The DMII Calendar of Activities was also drawn up. On top of the calendar is the Annual Officers' Meeting to be held on May 26, 2019 at the Golden Bay Restaurant in Pasay City. (Please turn to page 16 for a list of the activities and their respective schedules.)

The chairpersons of the DMI Missions presented

their plans and programs during their term. The programs and activities have been circularized to all circles in the country through their respective regional representatives. The mission chairpersons suggested that the projects and activities be carried out on the diocesan, vacarial and circle levels.



The Board meeting in session.



The Team-Building Workshop facilitated by Mr. Rene Austria.

DMIs CELEBRATE PRO-LIFE MONTH

By Sis. Cora Afuang,
International Chairperson for Pro-Life

Pro-lifers, including the DMII Pro-Life Committees of various circles in the dioceses comprising the 14 DMI Regions all over the country had been busy in February when Pro-Life Month, acknowledged “Respect and Care for Life Month” under Proclamation No. 214, is celebrated. The major activities during Pro-Life Month are as follows:

Launching of Pro-Life Month February 3, 2019

As a starter, on February 3, the DMIs in the Diocese of Antipolo together with the officers of Pro-Life Philippines attended the opening Mass at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish (OLA), Marikina City to launch Pro-Life Month. Shortly after the Mass, Msgr. Peter Canonero, pastor of OLA, formally blessed the Tomb for the Aborted Babies. The Tomb is a donation

from Bishop Francis de Leon of the Diocese of Antipolo where aborted fetus/babies, usually found dumped in garbage bins, can be given a decent burial.

After the blessing, a brief seminar on Mental Health and Teen Sexuality followed. Participants were the Squirettes of Mary members of the Diocese of Antipolo. The resource speakers were Mr. Rolando de los Reyes, a guidance counselor, and Dr. Ryan Capitulo, a medical practitioner.



Launching of Pro-Life Month in the Diocese of Antipolo



The officers of Pro-Life Philippines with Msgr. Peter Canonero during the blessing of the Tomb for Aborted Babies.

National Convention of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life February 7 to 9, 2019

On February 7 to 9, Sisters Cora Afuang and Biennah Villanueva, Youth Welfare International Chairperson, represented the DMII in the National

Convention of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life at the Bayfront Hotel in Cebu City. The 3-day conference was attended by about 400 representatives of various Catholic organizations all over the Philippines having apostolic work on family and life. Priests from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were in attendance led by four bishops – Archbishop



Members of the clergy with delegates who attended the Convention of the CBCP-Episcopal Commission on Family and Life in Cebu City.

Gilbert Garcera of Lipa, Archbishop Jose Palma of Cebu, Bishop Daniel Presto of Pampanga and Bishop Cantillas of Maasin, Leyte. Various speakers gave updates on their work in the apostolate. Special attention was given on the Youth, 2019 being the Year of the Youth.

turn to page 6

Walk for Life, February 16, 2019

DMI sisters from Regions IV and V participated in the Walk for Life sponsored by the Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas and endorsed by the CBCP. The event was highlighted by a Mass officiated by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle. More than 300 DMIs joined other participants from other church/parish groups in walking around the Quezon Memorial Circle in response to the call by the Church to stand up for life.



The DMI delegation during the Walk for Life at the Quezon Memorial Circle.

Mass for the Unborn and Aborted Babies, February 17, 2019

DMI circles all over the country were asked to offer a Mass for the Unborn and Aborted Babies in their respective parish churches on February 17 followed by a floral and candle offering at the Tomb or Memorial for the Unborn and Aborted Babies. In Region VII, the Our Lady of Peace Circle of Nasugbu, Batangas even held a parade where posters and tarpaulins with pro-life slogans were carried by the participants. (Please see related story on page 17.)



DMI circles all over the country offered Masses and prayers before the Tomb/Memorial for the Unborn and Aborted Babies on Feb. 17.

Forum of the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan February 23, 2019

On February 23, Sisters Cora Afuang, Biennah Villanueva and Cathy Pineda, International Chairperson for Morality in Media were at the Cardinal Sin Center of the Ateneo de Manila Loyola School of Theology upon the invitation of the *Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan* (SLB) in celebration of the 33rd Anniversary of the organization. SLB's philosophy is *Manalangin, Manindigan at Makialam*. The forum aimed to shed light on the current situation of the country and the historical factors that build up to it and to discern possible responses coming from the participating communities. The main topic of the discussion was the impact of the upcoming mid-term elections on the future of the country.



Sisters Cora Afuang (at center) and Biennah Villanueva and Cathy Pineda (standing) with other participants in the Forum organized by the Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan.

Fr. Luciano Felloni of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish was one of several resource speakers.

DMIs ATTEND WOMEN SUMMIT 2019

In celebration of International Women's Day on March 8, 2019, a delegation of DMI sisters led by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario attended Women Summit 2019 at the University of Makati Auditorium. Spearheaded by the Inner Wheel Club of the Philippines, a number of women groups, including the Daughters of Mary Immaculate Int'l, were invited to participate. The theme of the summit was "Balance for Better – Better the Balance, Better the World".

Some 1,000 women leaders and advocates coming from various women organizations, local government units as well as some students attended the Summit. The DMII was represented by 38 delegates from Regions V and III (Tarlac).

There were ten speakers, all women, who are outstanding in their respective fields – former Miss International Gemma Cruz-Araneta, Ms. Cory Aquino, Ms.

Gina Lopez, Ms. Domini Torrevillas, Sen. Cynthia Villar (represented by her daughter Camille), Justice Aurora Recinia, Bai Omera Dianalan-Lukman, Ms. Susan Locsin, and Dr. Soonok Kang (a Korean) of Global Peace International.

It was an afternoon well-spent listening to the speakers talk about their advocacies, how they have influenced public policy in social, economic, political and cultural spheres to bring about balance in the country.



The DMII delegation to the Women Summit led by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario.

DIocese OF SORSOGON HOSTS REGION VIII ASSEMBLY

By Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas, Past Region VIII Representative

The Regional Assembly of Region VIII (Bicol) was held last December 9, 2018 at the Aemelianum College in Sorsogon City hosted by the Diocese of Sorsogon. The assembly theme was "Connecting Members Across the Region for Professional and Personal Development".

More than 290 DMI sisters representing 23 circles in the seven dioceses – the Archdiocese of Caceres and the Dioceses of Daet, Legazpi, Sorsogon, Masbate, Virac and Libmanan – comprising Region VIII attended the assembly.

turn to page 20



Guests from the International Board are from left: Sisters Zeny Sto. Tomas, Ruby Macario and Milde Tong with Region VIII officers.



The assembly hosts, the DMI sisters of the Diocese of Sorsogon with their guests.

IMMACULATE HEART CIRCLE REGION III ASSEMBLY HOST

The Immaculate Heart Circle of Angeles City, Archdiocese of San Fernando (Pampanga) hosted the Region III Assembly at the Forum, Orchids Garden in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga last Dec. 1, 2018 with the theme “DMII: Embracing a Life of Humble Service and Credible Witnessing to Jesus Thru Mary”. The assembly host was headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Joann Dizon. Incoming Region III Representative.

The enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother opened the assembly.



The enthronement ceremony led by IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel.



Awarding of plaques of appreciation to guest speakers Fr. Christopher Salonga and Bro. Chito Jongco by Region III Representative Sis. Alma Cagampang and the assembly host.



The assembly host, the Immaculate Heart Circle with Fr. Jerome Cruz.

Members of the International Officers and Board attended the Assembly headed by DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel and IR-elect and Int'l Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario.

The guest speakers were Bro. Chito Jongco and Fr. Christopher Salonga who shared their life experiences as humble servants of God during the morning session.

Workshops on the DMI missions were held in the afternoon when delegates joined the break-out sessions facilitated by the chairpersons of the five DMI missions: Hub 1 – Prolife by Sis. Cora Afuang, Hub 2 – Morality in Media by Sis. Edna May Landicho, Hub 3 – Upliftment of Women Workers by Sis. Milde Tong, Hub 4 – Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims by Sisters Luz Binoya and Lydia Ordonez, and Hub 5 – Youth Welfare by Sis. Annie Ty, SMI Coordinator for Mindanao who substituted for Sis. Cathy Pineda. Inspirational messages were given by IR Sis. Lelies and Fr. Jerome Cruz.

MEET YOUR 2019-20 DMII INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS & BOARD



REV. FR. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ
DMII International Chaplain

Rector, San Roque Cathedral,
Caloocan City
Vicar General.
Diocese of Kalookan



SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO
International Regent

Our Lady of Lourdes Circle
(Home Circle)
National Shrine of Our Lady
of Lourdes, Quezon City
Diocese of Cubao

Formerly International Vice-Regent -Luzon
and Region V Representative
Executive Assistant to the President & CEO and
Communications Officer, Vitarich Corp.



SIS MA. CLOTILDE R. TONG
*Int'l Vice-Regent – Luzon and
Region V Representative*

Risen Christ Circle,
Holy Eucharist Parish
Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City
Diocese of Paranaque

Formerly International Chairperson for Upliftment of
Women Workers
Past President – Rotary Anns of Bagumbayan
Past President – Sta. Isabel College Alumnae Ass'n
Past President, Apostleship of Prayer, Holy Eucharist Parish



SIS. YOLANDA U. DAGANDAN
*Int'l Vice-Regent – Visayas &
Region XI Representative*

Tower of Ivory Circle,
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Tacloban City
Archdiocese of Palo

Formerly Acting Region XI Representative
Past Regional Director for Region 8
– Philippine Women Judges Association
Past Regional Director for Region 8
– Philippine Judges Association
Member – Integrated Bar of the Philippines
– Leyte Chapter
Vice-Chair for Finance,
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Pastoral Council



SIS. TERESITA M. MIRANDA
*Int'l Vice-Regent – Mindanao
and Region XII Rep. (2nd term)*

Immaculate Conception Circle
San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish
Tandag, Surigao del Sur
Diocese of Tandag

Formerly Region XII Representative
Retired government official



SIS. BRIGIDA CECILIA R. ABRATIQUE
*International Secretary &
Region I Representative*

St. Joseph the Worker Circle
St. Joseph the Worker Parish
Pacdal, Baguio City
Diocese of Baguio

Formerly Diocesan Regent
Connected with the Comm. on Human Rights – CAR



SIS. ISABEL S. TICZON
*International Treasurer &
Region VI Representative*

St. Paul the First Hermit Circle
St. Paul the First Hermit Parish
Diocese of San Pablo (Laguna)

Resort owner, Nutritionist-Dietitian
Member – Sin Nombre Club de Laguna



SIS. HILARIA P. HIPOLITO
Region II Representative

San Jose Circle
St. Joseph Cathedral
Diocese of San Jose (Nueva Ecija)

Formerly Diocesan Regent, Diocese of San Jose
Member, Retired Teachers' Association



SIS. JOAN MARY L. DIZON
Region III Representative

Immaculate Heart Circle
Holy Rosary Parish
Angeles City
Archdiocese of San Fernando
(Pampanga)

Past Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of San Fernando
Financial representative of the Holy Rosary Parish
Pastoral Council



SIS. AIDA Y. DE LA CRUZ
Region IV Representative

Queen of Flowers Circle
St. Martin of Tours Parish
Bocaue, Bulacan
Diocese of Malolos

Formerly Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Malolos
Principal, St. Martin of Tours Parish Day Care School
Corporate Secretary, Sto. Nino Academy
Past President, Soroptimist International of Bocaue



SIS. EUFELIA A. DOLLENTAS
Region VII Representative
(2nd term)

Mina de Oro Circle
St. Joseph the Worker Parish
Vicariate of San Jose (Mindoro Occ.)

Civil Engineer
Coordinator, Service Ministry of St. Joseph Parish



SIS. EUFEMIA M. ABRAGAN
Region VIII Representative

Holy Trinity Circle
Archdiocese of Caceres

Retired DSWD Head, Goa, Camarines Sur
Professor, Siena College, Tigaon, Camarines Sur
Secretary, Parish Pastoral Council, Tigaon, Camarines Sur



SIS. EMMA M. VICTORIA
Region IX Representative

Our Lady of Candles Circle
National Shrine of Our Lady of
Candles Parish
Archdiocese of Jaro (Iloilo)

Formerly Diocesan Chairperson of Assistance to
Prisoners' Families & their Victims, Archdiocese of Jaro
Member, Parish Finance Council of Our Lady of
Candles Parish Pastoral Organization
President, Marian Association Movement,
Archdiocese of Jaro
Vice-President, Regional Service Providers Council in Iloilo
Treasurer, Archdiocesan Commission on the Laity
Member, Management Screening & Evaluation
Committee of BJMP



SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA
Region X Representative

San Jose de Tagbilaran Circle
St. Joseph the Worker Parish
Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Diocese of Tagbilaran

Formerly Alternate Region X Representative

Treasurer, Local Cemetery Commission, Holy Cross Parish,
Maribojoc, Bohol
Treasurer/Finance Officer, Bohol Couples for Christ – Foundation for
Family & Life
Coordinator, Provincial Family Ministries of CFC-FFL – Bohol



SIS. NEMIE A. GURDIEL
Region XIV Representative

St. Francis Xavier Circle
 St. Francis Xavier Parish
 Katipunan, Zamboanga del Norte
 Diocese of Dipolog

Formerly Diocesan Regent of Dipolog
 Chairperson, Parish Prison Ministry
 Auditor, Parish Finance Council
 Member, Zamboanga del Norte Public School
 Teachers & Employees Ass'n
 Member, Philippine Public School Teachers Ass'n



SIS. LUCINA A. BINOYA
Region XIII Representative

St. Paul Parish, Matina, Davao City
 Archdiocese of Davao

Formerly Int'l Chairperson of Assistance to Prisoners'
 Families and their Victims and Diocesan Regent,
 Archdiocese of Davao
 Member, Phil. Institute of Certified Public Accountants
 President, National True Vine Servant Community
 Member, Ways & Means Committee, Regional Major
 Seminary, Davao City



SIS. JULIETA V. CRUZ
*International Auditor for
 Membership and Chairperson,
 Special Committee for Foreign
 and Local Membership*

Risen Christ Circle
 Holy Eucharist Parish
 Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City
 Diocese of Paranaque

Formerly Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Paranaque
 Chairman of the Board and President,
 Cruzville Realty & Dev. Corp.
 Vice-Chairman of the Board, Gemphil Electronics Corp.
 Member, Finance Committee, Holy Eucharist Parish
 Pastoral Council



SIS. LYDIA P. ORDONEZ
*International Auditor for
 Finance and Prisoners'
 Families/Victims Mission
 Coordinator for Luzon*

Our Lady of Fatima
 of Quezon City Circle
 Our Lady of Fatima Parish,
 Galas, Quezon City
 Diocese of Cubao

Formerly Regional Treasurer, Region V
 Past International Treasurer and Region V
 Representative
 Administrative Manager, New La Loma Columbarry,
 Diocese of Kalookan



SIS. MERINNISA O. LIGAYA
International Advocate

Queen of Angels Circle
 Immaculate Conception Parish,
 Olongapo City
 Diocese of Iba (Zambales)

Formerly Vicarial Regent, Diocese of Iba
 Member, Integrated Bar of the Phils., Zambales/
 Olongapo Chapter
 Member, Philippine Women Judges Association
 Member, Lex Athena Sorority,
 Ateneo de Manila University
 Member, Metropolitan Trial & City Judges Asso. of
 the Philippines



SIS. SALVACION T. ESTRADA
DMI Newsette Editor

Risen Christ Circle
 Holy Eucharist Parish
 Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City
 Diocese of Paranaque

Past Regent, Risen Christ Circle and Past Diocesan
 Secretary, Diocese of Paranaque
 Retired corporate executive (VP for Human Resources
 & Corporate Communications)

DMI MISSIONS 1. PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE



SIS. CORAZON T. AFUANG
International Chairperson for Pro-Life (2nd term)

St. Paul of the Cross Circle
St. Paul of the Cross Parish
SSS Village, Marikina City
Diocese of Antipolo

Past Int'l Vice-Regent-Luzon
and Region V Representative
Vice-President – Pro-Life Philippines Foundation



SIS. SYLVIA S. SAN PEDRO
Pro-Life Coordinator for Luzon

San Jose de Navotas Circle
San Jose de Navotas Parish
Diocese of Kalookan

Formerly Vicarial Regent, Diocese of Kalookan
Seafood Concessionaire in one of the leading
supermarket chains
Vice-Chairman, Parish Finance Council, Sto. Nino de
Pasion Quasi-Parish, Diocese of Kalookan



SIS. CONCEPCION ESPERAS
Pro-Life Coordinator for the Visayas

Tower of Ivory Circle
Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
Tacloban City
Archdiocese of Palo

Past Regent, Tower of Ivory Circle and Board
Secretary of Region XI
Retired government civil engineer/ OIC City Engineer
Currently professor of Asian Development
Foundation, Tacloban City



SIS. ANGELA L. BAES
Pro-Life Coordinator for Mindanao

Our Lady of Purification Circle
Sta. Maria Parish, Zamboanga City
Archdiocese of Zamboanga

Formerly Int'l Vice-Regent – Mindanao
and Region XIV Representative
President, Council of the Laity (Zamboanga)
Vice-President, Sta. Maria Parish Pastoral Council
Member, Board of Trustees,
Rotary Anns Club of Zamboanga
Treasurer, Ateneo de Zamboanga University
Corporate Secretary, Microfinance – KCCMDFI

2. MORALITY IN MEDIA COMMITTEE



**SIS. CATALINA REBECCA
A. PINEDA**
*International Chairperson,
Morality in Media*

San Jose de Navotas Circle
San Jose de Navotas Parish,
Navotas City
Diocese of Kalookan

Formerly Int'l Chairperson for Youth Welfare-SMI
and Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Kalookan
Engaged in Agribusiness
– Atencio Farms, Moncada, Tarlac



SIS. HELEN R. BALMORES
*Morality in Media Coordinator
for Luzon*

Risen Christ Circle
Holy Eucharist Parish
Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City
Diocese of Paranaque

Past Regent, Risen Christ Circle and Diocesan
Chairperson for Morality in Media
Retired Educator
Member, Moonwalk Senior Association



SIS. IGMEDIA A. BALAGAPO
*Morality in Media Coordinator
 for Visayas*

Tower of Ivory Circle
 Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
 Tacloban City
 Archdiocese of Palo

Past Vicarial Regent
 Member, Senior Citizens Association



SIS. SHEILA PEJI
*Morality in Media Coordinator
 for Mindanao*

St. Francis Xavier Circle
 Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, San
 Francisco, Agusan del Sur
 Diocese of Butuan

Formerly Diocesan Regent
 Treasurer, Communication Link for Emergency
 Assistance Network (CLEAN)
 President, DepEd Nurses Ass'n – Agusan del Sur
 Public Information Officer, DepEd NEU

3. UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS COMMITTEE



SIS. SOLEMA V. EUGENIO
*International Chairperson,
 Upliftment of Women Workers*

Mary Mother of the Church Circle
 Mary Mother of the Church Parish
 BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City
 Diocese of Paranaque

Head, Commission of Social Services
 of Human Promotions
 Treasurer, Diocese of Paranaque Catholic Schools Asso.
 Auditor, Association of Retired La Sallian Partners
 Consultant, Guild of Educators, Mentors and Students



**SIS. MA. LORETO S.
 MANALANSAN**
*Upliftment of Women Workers
 Coordinator for Luzon*

Mother of Divine Grace Circle
 Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish
 Malabon City
 Diocese of Kalookan

Formerly Regional Secretary and Diocesan Regent,
 Diocese of Kalookan
 Consultant/Trainor, HR Management
 and Business Solutions, Inc.



SIS. NIDA A. CATUBAO
*Upliftment of Women Workers
 Coordinator for Visayas*

Tower of Ivory Circle
 Our Lady of Lourdes Parish
 Tacloban City
 Archdiocese of Palo

Formerly Financial Secretary, Tower of Ivory Circle
 Member, Service Citizen Association



SIS. SHIRLEY CORVERA
*Upliftment of Women Workers
 Coordinator for Mindanao*

Queen of Divine Grace Nasipit
 Circle
 Nasipit, Agusan del Norte
 Diocese of Butuan

4. ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS



SIS. LAURA V. CESPON
*International Chairperson,
Assistance to Prisoners'
Families & their Victims*

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle
Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, Laverna
Archdiocese of Davao

Formerly Region XIII Representative
Dean of College, Mindanao Kokusai Daigaku
Principal, Anawim Elementary School
Board Member, Phil. Association of Teachers &
Educators, Region XI
Vice-President, Council of Deans for Teacher
Education Institutions, Region XI
President, Pundok Jagnaan sa Davao, Inc.
Past President, Order of the Discalced Carmelite,
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*Prisoners' Families/Victims
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SIS. MIRIAM O. ANGOT
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Sto. Rosario de Oroquieta Circle
Holy Rosary Parish
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Archdiocese of Ozamis

Past International Advocate and Region XIV
Representative
Member, Integrated Bar of the Philippines
Member, Philippine Women Judges Association
Member, International Women Judges Association
Executive Judge, First Level Court,
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Mission Coordinator for
Visayas*

Rosa Mystica Circle
Tagbilaran City, Bohol
Diocese of Tagbilaran

Formerly Int'l Vice-Regent-Visayas
and Region X Representative

Project Coordinator, Bohol Dental Mission Team

5. YOUTH WELFARE/SQUIRETTES OF MARY



**SIS. BIENNAH ELENA C.
VILLANUEVA**
*International Chairperson for
Youth Welfare/SMI*

Medalla Milagrosa Circle
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Parish
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Diocese of Cubao

Formerly SMI Luzon Coordinator
Member, Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers



SIS. EVELYN R. ALCANTARA
SMI Coordinator for Luzon

Immaculate Conception –
Karangalan Circle
Immaculate Conception –
Karangalan Parish
Diocese of Pasig

Formerly Diocesan/Region V SMI Coordinator
Registered Nurse



SIS. MELISSA MANULAT
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Kalibo, Aklan
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SIS. ANNIE O. TY
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Board Member, Philippine Red Cross,
Surigao del Sur Chapter
Businesswoman

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*Special Committee Chairperson,
Foreign & Local Membership*



SIS. MILA A. VILLANUEVA
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Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City
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Chairman of the Board,
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SIS. EMELIE RAMOS
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Chairperson – Local Membership
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Sto. Nino de Molino Parish
Bacoar, Cavite
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*Special Committee Chairperson –
Formation and Pilgrimage*

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Ascension of Our Lord Parish - Novaliches, Quezon City
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Formerly Int'l Chairperson for Morality in Media
Retired Professor, University of the Philippines.
Stage, movie and TV actress, playwright and theatre director
Creative writer, book author
Faculty Member, ABS-CBN Star Magic Acting
Workshops and Tagalog Class
Founding President and Adviser, KABARO,
(a woman's organization in Lagro, Q.C.)
Member, PEN PHILIPPINES, NRCP



SIS. ROSALINA O. ENRIQUEZ
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Novaliches, Quezon City
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Member, Rotary Club of Lagro Ascension
Auditor – AOLP
Secretary, Forestry Savings & Loan Association
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SIS. ELIZABETH S. BONGON
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 – Ceremonials

Fatima Circle of Quezon City
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 Diocese of Cubao

Past Regent of Fatima Circle
 Member, Board of Trustees, San Isidro, Galas Sr.
 Citizens Ass'n, Inc.
 Catechist, Our Lady of Fatima Parish



SIS. LOURDES H. LIM
Asst. Special Committee
Chairperson – Ceremonials

Sta. Perpetua Circle
 Sta. Perpetua Parish
 Diocese of Cubao

Member, SSDD Senior Citizen Volunteers, Q.C. Dist. I
 Member, Apostleship of Prayer
 Lector-Commentator

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International Regent – 2017-18

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 Tandag, Surigao del Sur
 Diocese of Tandag

Board Chairman, Philippine Red
 Cross, Surigao del Sur Chapter



SIS. PUREZA M. GUZMAN
International Regent – 2016

St. Thomas of Villanova Circle
 Miagao, Iloilo
 Archdiocese of Jaro

DMII Calendar of Events for 2019-2020

National Events:

Annual Officers' Meeting
 May 26, 2019 – Golden Bay Restaurant, Pasay City

SMI Biennial Convention
 May 17-19, 2019 – Olongapo City

22nd DMII Biennial Convention
 May 8-10, 2020 – Iloilo

Area Conferences:

Luzon Area Conference
 October 26-27, 2019 – Palawan

Visayas Area Conference
 July 6, 2019 – Tacloban City

Mindanao Area Conference
 August 23-24, 2019 – Zamboanga

Regional Assemblies:

Region I
 Sept. 21, 2019 – Laoag

Region 8
 October 5, 2019 – Caceres

Region 2
 July 20, 2019

Region 9
 October 19, 2019 – Capiz

Region 3
 September 7, 2019

Region 10
 June 8, 2019 – Cebu

Region 4
 August 31, 2019

Region 11
 November 9, 2019 – Leyte

Region 5
 July 13-14, 2019 – Ilocos

Region 12
 September 28, 2019

Region 6
 June 22, 2019

Region 13
 November 16, 2019 –
 Sarangani

Region 7
 June 1, 2019 – Occ. Mindoro

Region 14
 November 23, 2019



SIS. MILA A. VILLANUEVA
International Regent – 2013-14

DIOCESE OF PARANAQUE HOLDS DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY

On February 3, 2019, some 150 DMI sisters of the Diocese of Paranaque motored to Tagaytay City for their diocesan assembly at the residence of Sis. Juliet Cruz, past diocesan regent and currently the DMII Board's International Auditor-Membership. The event was a Post-Christmas and Pre-Valentine get-together for the 16 DMI circles in the diocese.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Linda Pacursa welcomed the attendees

and introduced her diocesan team – Vicarial Regents Sis. Adel Cometa of the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua, Sis. Dolor Bautista of the Vicariate of the Holy Family, Sis. Babes Jose of the Vicariate of Our Lady of the Abandoned and Sta. Rita de Cascia and Sis. Lucy Marquez of the Vicariate of St. Martin de Porres.

International Vice-Regent for Luzon and Region V Representative

Sis. Milde Tong gave an inspirational message before the fellowship program consisting of a contest among the circles on the singing of the DMI Hymn, parlor games and dance presentations by selected circles.

At the close of the program and the sumptuous lunch, Sis. Linda thanked Sis. Juliet, their gracious host, who saw to the comfort and enjoyable stay of the DMI sisters at her Tagaytay rest house.



IVR-Luzon and Region V Representative Sis. Milde Tong gives her inspirational message before assembly participants.



Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Juliet Cruz welcomes DMI sisters to her Tagaytay residence.



Diocesan Regent Sis. Linda Pacursa gives her opening remarks to open the day's program.



From the Archdiocese of Lipa (Region VII)

OUR LADY OF PEACE CIRCLE CELEBRATES PRO-LIFE MONTH

By Sis. Sally Dastas, Regent, Our Lady of Peace Circle

The Our Lady of Peace DMI Circle and SMI Circlette of Nasugbu, Batangas celebrated Pro-Life Month culminating in a parade and program on February 17, 2019 at the La Javierada Hall of St. Francis Xavier Parish Church.

Preceding the parade was the registration of Barangay Health Workers and other Barangay officials who participated in the activity.

turn to page 18



Parade participants carry posters and tarpaulins with Pro-Life messages.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO

By Sis. Fortunata Aquino, Region VI Correspondent

Pro-Life Month Celebrated

On February 19, 2019, all circles in Region VI simultaneously commemorated Pro-Life Month through Eucharistic celebrations

and floral and candle offerings in memory of aborted and unborn children in their respective parishes' Tombs and Memorials for the Unborn.



Slogan-Writing and Poster-Making Contest for Students Held

A slogan-writing and poster-making contest was held at the Pedro Guevarra Memorial National

High School in Sta. Cruz, Laguna sponsored by the Morality in Media Committee of the Diocese of San Pablo. Sis. Bennie de la Cruz, diocesan chairperson for Morality in Media initiated the activity, assisted by Sis. Trining Juanillo, vicarial chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims.



Sis. Bennie de la Cruz explains the mechanics of the Slogan-Writing and Poster-Making Contest.

The theme of the on-the-spot contests was "Positibo at Negatibong Epekto ng Media sa Kabataan".

Sixteen students joined the poster-making contest while 18 students submitted entries to the slogan-writing contest. Prizes were

given to the top 3 placers in the contests. Non-winners received consolation prizes.

The DMI regional officers headed by Sis. Isabel Ticzon, Region VI representative, together with Diocesan Regent Sis. Lorie Santos, Vicarial Regent Sis. Lily Banilan and Vicarial Chairperson for Morality in Media Sis. Baby Capilit lent support to the activity.

Also in attendance were the circle regents and members of their circles' Morality in Media Committee.



Our Lady of Peace Circle... from page 17

The preliminary judging of entries to the Poster- and Slogan-Making Contest was held after the parade, followed by a Holy Mass. Awards were then given to winners of the contest.

Capping the day's activity was the recitation of a special prayer for the unborn by the participants at the area where an epitaph for the unborn is situated.



A special prayer for the unborn recited by parade participants caps the day's program.

ARCHDIOCESE OF DAVAO JUMPSTARTS TESDA TRAINING

*By Sis. Laura V. Cespon, Int'l Chairperson,
Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims*

Two circles in the Archdiocese of Davao co-sponsored a TESDA Skills Seminar on February 16 and 17, 2019, launching a series of TESDA Skills Training for DMI circles in the Archdiocese.

The seminar was on Traditional Hilot (massage) with Traditional Aroma Therapy (known in Visayan as tuob, a steam bath with a mixture of crushed ginger, sambong leaves, lemon grass and other herbs in boiling water).

The officers and members of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Circle, Obrero and the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle in Davao City initiated the activity. They were joined by priests, teachers, drivers, retired employees, church parishioners, unemployed women and four wives of prisoners totalling 100 participants.

Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, lent his full support, inviting the TESDA trainers to use the parish hall for the seminar. Engr. Lorenzo Macapili, DTE, TESDA Region XI Director, attended the activity as DMII's project partner. TESDA provided the herbs and the massage oil.

Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte also graced the occasion with her inspirational message.

From the trainers, the participants learned Aroma Therapy (tuob) which one has to go through before the

massage to remove flatulent or trapped gas in the body (panuhot in Visayan) which causes back pain, stomach ache and other pains. The tuob and the massage help in the expulsion of gases and reduce gas formation.

A trainor from Zamboanga named Ging taught the participants the rudiments of traditional hilot. The participants went through a hands-on exercise, each with a partner guided by Ging. The trainor was assisted by accredited massage therapists in the city.

The training was free for everyone and TESDA will award NC 2 certificates to those who will complete the course. A follow-up training is scheduled, then another hands-on exam under an accredited examiner. Completing the course is a written exam the participant has to take and pass before being awarded the certificate.

A DMI sister from the Sacred Heart Circle reported that this early, the wife of a prisoner who attended the seminar earns P250 per massage although she has yet to complete the course. Her clients are teachers and retirees near her home.

A series of seminars will be scheduled for circles in the Archdiocese for interested DMI members, marginalized persons and wives of prisoners and victims.



Sis. Laura Cespon (at left) welcomes Davao City Mayor Sara Duterte and other guests to the TESDA skills Seminar.



A hands-on exercise on massage and aroma therapy.

REGION XIII OFFICERS INSTALLED

By Sis. Nenita Barroso, Region XIII Correspondent

The Diocesan and vicarial regents in the Archdiocese of Davao and the Dioceses of Tagum, Marbel, Digos and Mati comprising Region XIII took their oath of office during the installation ceremonies held last December 15, 2018 at the Marian Hall of San Pablo Parish in Matina, Davao City. DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga was the installing officer.

The installation formed part of the 4th quarter Regional Meeting of Region XIII during which Outgoing Region XIII Representative Sis. Laura Cespon officially turned over her duties and responsibilities to Incoming Region XIII RR Sis. Lucina Binoya. Sis. Laura has been designated as International Chairperson

for Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims for 2019-20.



The Regional officers of Region XIII with Outgoing RR Sis. Laura Cespon and Incoming RR Sis. Luz Binoya.



The newly-installed diocesan regents with the Region XIII officers.



Diocese of Sorsogon... from page 7

Gracing the assembly were guests from the International Board composed of International Regent-elect Sis. Ruby Macario, International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers and Incoming Int'l Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Milde Tong and Sis. Josie Halog of the DMI National Office. They were joined later by International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel whose flight was delayed.

The assembly started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother led by Sis. Ruby and assisted by the guests from the International Board, Regional Officers and the diocesan and vicarial regents of Region VIII. The ceremony was followed by the Parade of Circles participated by circle regents who carried their

respective circle banners.

The whole-day program included speeches and messages from the guests, a contest among circles in singing the DMI Hymn, and awarding of plaques of appreciation to the speakers during the Assembly and the Reorientation seminar and the host circle. Recognition and loyalty awards were also given to outstanding DMI circles and members for their invaluable contribution to the promotion and growth of the organization. The winners in the singing contest also received prizes.

Capping the event were the inspirational message of IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel and a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Msgr. Felix Eligado, Jr., pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish and vicar general of the Diocese of Sorsogon.

LENT - CONNECT . . . RECONNECT

By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia,
Past Int'l Secretary and Region IV Representative



Lent always begins by reminding us, on Ash Wednesday, that all humans are governed by the law of nature. What started as organic will end up organic. If we came from dust, unto dust we will return.

But I heard this joke from a priest's sermon: "*Kung tayo'y totoong galing sa putik, bakit marami sa atin ang plastic?*"

Correct, there are people who are called behind their backs as orocan, plastic ware, etc. Definitely, those types of people whom we brand as plastic do not connect intimately with others. Because they do not show their true colors to people, they cannot establish authentic relationships of trust and love. We can even say: the plastic people pretend, deceive, divide, destroy group goals and group vision. They cannot be the productive elements.

Plastic wares are non-biodegradable. No matter how deep we bury them under the ground, they will not disintegrate nor be part of the earth – ever. They cannot be transformed into dust and will forever remain plastic – indestructible, forever a hazard to the environment. They will obstruct the water flow under the ground. And the smaller particles will kill the organisms on land and especially at sea.

Plastics will not be able to connect with the earth, nor be part of it, nor be part of the mission of the earth to sustain and enrich life. Coming back to humans, after we die, because we are dust, we will again reconnect with the earth, be absorbed again by earth and even fertilize the earth. I now understand the wisdom of the Muslim tradition of burying their dead directly to the ground, wrapped in cloths, not in coffins. Neither do they enclose their dead in cemented tombs. They bury their dead the day after they die, without putting chemicals in their bodies. Therefore, their remains join the earth again, almost immediately, without destroying the fertility of the land.

I also understand why some people opt to be cremated

after death. Their bodies become ashes and do not have to be kept in cemented places. They can donate their coffins; they do not need to be dressed in elegant, expensive burial cloths.

Being plastic is a rich metaphor for the antithesis of the Christian demand for truth and being connected with people, whether in life or in death.

We came into the world crying, and at the end of our lives, other people cry for us. But they cry if we have made our impact in their lives and therefore they will miss us. It means we have connected intimately with their lives and they feel the severance of the bond. If we have lived our lives sincerely connecting with others, especially even serving them, and really loving and interacting with people, they cry when we die.

In our families, do we have solid, bonding, connecting time with our family members? Is it quality time each time we are together? Or is every day a big rush to come and go? Do we spend our weekends, just sleeping away because our nights are busy with our friends in gimmicks and drinking sprees?

And when we come together, do our eyes light up when we see our siblings, parents, children? Or do we dread every moment before we gather because we anticipate the sermons, nagging and blaming to be non-stop?

Do we make it a point to pray together, eat together, laugh together? Tell our stories and plans for the next week? Update each other with our news, breakthroughs, travel plans?

Do we decide to put off all cell phones when we are around the table?

At work, do we listen to each other's woes? Do we know who are in trouble, who are grieving and in pain? Who are celebrating promotions, new children, homecomings? Do we mentor the newbies in the office? Do we make the young recruits feel at home?

Do we visit the sick members of the community? Do we stay a bit outside the church after the service, to keep up with the latest? Is there time for family outreach? Do we volunteer in neighborhood activities?

But the intimate connection should not be limited to people alone, although that's the most important. We also need to be connected to Mother Earth and to all of Nature's

turn to page 24

ACTION PLANS FOR THE FIVE DMI MISSION THRUSTS

Presented below are the suggested programs and projects for 2019-2020 by the International Chairpersons of the 5 DMI Mission Thrusts that can be pursued on the diocesan, vicarial and circle levels.

PRO-LIFE (Sis. Cora Afuang, chairperson)

1. Conduct seminars on various pro-life issues focused on the youth (2019 being the Year of the Youth) and their parents. Sample topics are Mental Health for the Youth, Pastoral Care for Brethren with the Same-Sex Attraction, Current Challenges and Responses to the Psychological Well-being of the Youth , Understanding and Appreciating the Gift of Sex and Sexuality, Youth Empowerment, Teen Sexuality: Freedom of the Choice in Knowing the Truth.
2. Also focus on other areas for concentration in Pro-Life – Natural Family Planning, Care for the Elderly and Care for the Environment.
3. Celebrate Pro-Life Month held in February of each year – Simultaneous Mass offering and lighting of candles at the Tomb of the Unborn by all DMI circles nationwide on February 17 (Sunday). Attendance in activities lined up to celebrate Pro-Life Month by Pro-Life Philippines. (DMI's Pro-Life chairperson is currently vice-president of Pro-Life Philippines.) Pro-Life Month activities include:
 - February 16, 2019 – a Pro-Life Seminar on “The Youth: Current Challenges and Responses for their Psychological and Social Well-being” to be held at the Shrine of Espiritu Santo, Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila
 - Distribution of candies with pro-life message to students in the University belt
 - February 17, 2019 – Walk for Life at the Quezon Memorial Circle
 - February 24, 2019 – Closing Ceremony in cooperation with Educhild Foundation with a Eucharistic celebration at CCMF in Payatas. Quezon City and a Pro-Life talk on “The Ill Effects of Contraceptives” by speakers Dr. Ryan Capitulo and Ms. Lorna Melegrito

MORALITY IN MEDIA (Sis. Cathy Pineda, chairperson)

Objective: Promote media as effective and wholesome instrument of communication for all kinds of information, ideas, objectives and avenues for developing and nurturing moral values.

1. Education – Organize learning session for media awareness – forms and uses of media, their good and bad effects, guidelines in the proper use of gadgets.
2. Values Formation and Promotion of Christ-Centered Life – Teaching by example, family solidarity, involvement with church activities , observance of the Seven Sacraments, choice of good peers/ company.
3. Monitoring/Reporting/Follow-up with MTRCB, Optical Media Board and KBP to ensure that wholesome TV programs and shows and printed materials are shown/circulated for public consumptions.
4. Networking and partnering with other entities such as church organizations, NGOs, etc. to boost the DMI's stand in promoting good media.

Suggested Projects:

- Poster-Making with Slogan on the Effects of Social Media
- Motorcade to create awareness about good and bad media

UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS (Sis. Solema Eugenio, chairperson)

1. Continue the programs initiated by previous chairpersons for uplifting women workers.
2. Conduct free Call Center Training for those interested in joining a Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) company.
3. Sponsor livelihood programs by tying up with TESDA, Sen. Cynthia Villar's Sipag Center offering

pastry-making, food processing, massage and reflexology, dressmaking, gardening, needlework, flower-making and others offered free. Involvement in parish programs of BEC and COSHP.

4. Promote spiritual growth:
 - Talks and symposiums on uplifting of moral values, seminars on the Holy Eucharist,, etc.
 - Retreats and recollections
 - Pilgrimages and visita iglesia
 - Processions, praying the Rosary and other spiritual works of mercy
 - Seminars for *kasambahay*'s spiritual upliftment
5. Conduct seminars and symposiums on Character-Building, Enhancement of Values and Virtues and Good Behavior and Personality Development.
6. Conduct outreach programs – visit to orphanages, hospitals, homes for the elderly, etc. and tie up with BEC and COSHP projects in the parish and other corporal works of mercy.
7. Tie up with the ARLP (Association of Retired La Sallian Partners) for mentoring groups such as the Aetas in Botolan, Zambales and minimum security prisoners at the National Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa City.

ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS (Sis. Laura Cespon, chairperson)

1. Provide livelihood to prisoners' families/victims, such as:
 - - Kariton sa Pangkabuhayan – tie up with DTI
 - - Membership in cooperatives
 - - Livelihood skills training for family members of prisoners/victims – tie up with TESDA, Dep-Ed, etc.
2. Assist children of prisoners/victims to pursue their education – provide school needs and monthly allowance for transpo and food.
3. Improve spiritual life of prisoners'/victims' families – through catechetical instructions in churches/chapels/schools; encourage attendance in Eucharistic celebrations and praying the Rosary.

4. Improve the health and wellness of the families – conduct medical and dental missions providing free consultation and medical/dental treatment and free medicines; educate them on health habits and wellness.
5. Provide services to victims of crime – tie up with professors and students of law schools in seeking justice; refer to experts victims of crime suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and educate the community and law enforcement personnel on domestic violence and other victimization issues.
6. Provide legal assistance to prisoners to speed up their trials and free them when proven innocent.
7. Bring cheer to prisoners/their families/victims during special occasions – adopt a family for Christmas welcoming them to the DMI's home (for *noche buena*, gift-giving, etc.), distribute Love Packs to prisoners (containing clothes, groceries, toiletries, etc.) and other gifts listed in their "Wish List."
8. Alleviate the pains of poverty and difficulty such as celebrating Mother's Day with detained wives and mothers.
9. Pray for all in the Prison System that justice is served and forgiveness given to those who commit crime and giving hope and healing for all who are affected.
10. Join and support activities initiated by the Family Life Ministry of the parish.

YOUTH WELFARE/SQUIRETTES OF MARY (Sis. Biennah Villanueva, chairperson)

1. Leadership & Personality Development.
 - Join in DMI circle's mission activities
 - Organize youth camps/team-building/sports fest
 - Hold seminars and forums on Personality Development
 - Hold conventions/conferences/assemblies
 - Hold socials and parties (acquaintance/Christmas)
 - Hold Annual Recognition Day to award certificates of recognition to SMIs for outstanding performance in school

turn to page 24

Action Plans... from page 23

2. Spiritual Enhancement.

- Join in parish projects and activities such as the Flores de Mayo and Marian feasts
- Serve in Eucharistic celebrations such as greeters and usherettes, lector-commentator, choir, etc.
- Lead in prayers such as the Rosary, cenacle, 2000 Hail Marys
- Organize and hold retreats, recollections and pilgrimages

3. Teach/Learn Entrepreneurial Skills.

- Organize and hold seminars and workshops on selling and negotiating effectively

- Organize and hold seminars/workshops in product-making and marketing

- Participate in product fair

4. Membership Recruitment.

- Recruit girls from Catholic private schools and public schools
- Conduct orientation for prospective candidates for investiture, encourage parents to attend
- Conduct annual election and installation of officers
- Conduct monthly circlette meeting
- Encourage DMI sisters to adopt an SMI (“SMI Mo, Baby Mo”)
- Recall past SMIs as prospective DMI members

Lent, Connect and Reconnect... from page 21

various manifestations.

One day, we shall go back to Mother Earth. Do we compost, do we sort garbage, watch our trash, plant trees, take care of a garden, clean the neighborhood?

I think Lent is telling us that we must be able to ask ourselves and renew our various facets and layers of connectedness – connectedness with ourselves, with others,

with society, with our past, present and future, with nature, and eventually with God.



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