



DMII NEWSETTE

vol. XXXVII no. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

January - March 2020

From the International Regent

Message



My beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

We wanted to culminate our 40th founding anniversary with a big bang. And it did! Of a different kind.

As our Rules and Regulations would have it, our Biennial Convention was set on the second week of May on May 8 to 10, 2020 in Iloilo. Preparations began as early as last year, speakers have been invited, and all that was needed was to print the programme.

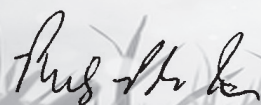
But God has other plans. For the first time in the history of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International and with much difficulty on the part of the organizers, the date of our biennial convention has been reset to August 27 and 28, 2020. It was the City Mayor of Iloilo himself who gave our organizers a firm recommendation to move to a later date, for the common good.

From then on, the news of the postponement spread, and so did the clear and present danger of the corona virus. The decision was timely, even as most of us had to suffer penalties for re-booking flights and hotel accommodations.

This most unfortunate event in our life has jarred our routine and introduced to us new norms, ashes on our head, masks on our face, alcohol in our pockets, no handshakes, no hugs, work from home, live streaming of TV masses, communion by hand, watching re-runs, and the most difficult of all, staying home for weeks - with no personal contact with relatives, friends and associates.

Despite all these, let us thank the Lord because we had time with family, our most important support in this time of crisis. Our moments of silence in the solitude of our rooms have allowed us to commune with God and beg Him to stop this pandemic and bring us back to the normalcy of our routine, this time with a promise to make our lives more productive and meaningful, for others more than ourselves.

As we look forward to another chance of seeing our sisters once again, happy that we are given another chance at living, at loving at kissing and hugging each other again. Better late than never.


SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO
International Regent

**22ND DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION UPDATE/
CONVENTION PROGRAMME**

see on pages 3 & 4

Message



My beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

This Lenten and Easter message comes at a most extraordinary time in our world - the Covid19 pandemic which had infected millions and had killed hundreds of thousands, with the numbers rising each day. Suddenly the whole world is plunged into a so-called “new normal” or a ‘stable abnormal’ that had changed the way people live, work, move and interact with one another.

The pandemic is a great teacher. We had been forced to listen to its message when homes, cities and, yes, countries shut down and stood still, not just for hours, but days, weeks, and months.

No matter how advanced we thought we had come in technology, science, or medicine, no cure could be found. Man is limited; God is Supreme. ‘Be still and know that I am God’, the Sacred Scripture tells. We need God and there is no better recourse than to connect to the Source of all life and healing, the Creator God.

We learned that indeed no man is an island. For so many people, survival in the last months was possible only with the help of other people whose hearts were burning with compassion and generosity. Front liners put their lives at stake to tend to the sick, casting aside their own fears and anxieties.


Life’s precious lessons were dramatically taught. We learned to treasure moments with the family, to know each member more intimately. We were given the opportunity to listen to one another, to understand, to accept, to forgive. Too painful were the moments for families who lost a loved one for there were no goodbyes, no hugs, no chance to gather and give comfort to one another. How many families would have wanted more happy memories to make and to share.

We learned to enjoy once more the simpler things in life. We realized that there are so many things we previously thought we could not live without but now have become non-essential.

The pandemic has given us the opportunity to take stock of our life - mirroring to us our strengths and weaknesses, showing us what had become of ourselves in the eyes of God.

As we had celebrated Pentecost - the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, the Helper and Advocate, we pray that we may be given the wisdom to seek only the things that are truly important and the passion like that of the apostles to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to all people.

May God the loving Father protect you and bless you. May Jesus the Son be always in your heart. May the Holy Spirit always possess you and keep you. And may the blessed Virgin Mary always embrace you with her motherly love.


FR. JERONIMO M.A. J. CRUZ
International Chaplain

22nd DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION UPDATE

(The message from our international Regent Sis. Ruby P. Macario on page 1 regarding our 22nd Biennial Convention came in the heels of the COVID-19 crisis that has befallen not only our country but the whole world. With our prayers that the crisis will soon end, we are providing an update on our 22nd Biennial Convention in Iloilo City that has been re-scheduled on August 27 and 28, 2020. - Ed.)

Past international Regent Sis. Perla Arguelles and her Convention Organizing Committee have completed their work on our convention programme. Please see the program schedule below.

The re-scheduling of the convention from May 8-10 to August 27-28, 2020 necessitated a revision of the schedule of registration of delegates and thus has given prospective delegates a longer chance to make their reservation/registration. They are as follows:

- * P3,500 discounted registration fee of P3,500 when paid by May 15, 2020
- * P4,000 for reservation made and paid by June 1, 2020
- * P5,000 when paid by June 15, the registration deadline

The registration fee includes a convention kit, AM/PM snacks, fellowship dinner on Day 1 (August 27) and lunch and dinner on Day 2 (August 28).

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. WALK-INS WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED.

As of the time of writing (March 20), 1,500 delegates have registered.

DMII assemblies and conferences, according to our International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, are holistic activities - spiritual, formative (an avenue for listening and learning), social, etc. from which participants gain so much. On the side, they are also given a chance to see and visit places that otherwise they wouldn't be able to do. Iloilo City, venue of our Biennial Convention has so much to offer - its cultural, historical and scenic attractions as well as those that Iloilo Province is famous for. This is why DMIs must not miss our 22nd Biennial Convention.

SEE YOU IN ILOILO, SISTERS!



22ND DMII BIENNIAL CONVENTION PROGRAMME

Theme: "DMIs: Faithful Advocates of Unity in the Year of Ecumenism, Inter-Religious Dialogue and Indigenous Peoples"

Day 1 August 27, 2020 – Friday)

9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m. – Distribution of convention kits – Iloilo Convention Center

1:30 p.m. – Opening Ceremonies (Class A uniform)

- * Enthronement
- * Parade of Colors
- * *Lupang Hinirang* – Sta. Maria Parish Grand Choir
- * Pledge to the Flag
- * DMII Hymn – Sta. Maria Choir
- * Presentation of Participants – Parade of Colors by Region
- * Words of Welcome – Sis. Perla Arguelles, Convention Chairperson
- * Inspirational Message & Formal Convention Opening – Sis. Ruby Macario, International Regent
- * Welcome Songs – Sta. Maria Choir
- * Keynote Speech – Rev. Father Alvin Raypan, director of the Year of Ecumenism, Archdiocese of Iloilo

- 3:00 p.m. – Holy Mass – Most Rev. Romeo Lazo DD, Archdiocese of Jaro – Main Celebrant
Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz – Co-celebrant
Very Rev. Msgr. Jose Maria Delgado – Homilist
- 4:00 p.m. – Prepare for Fellowship (Attire – Filipiniana)
- 6:00 p.m. – Buffet Dinner
- 6:30 p.m. – Fellowship – “Barrio Fiesta”- Regional Presentation Contest

Day 2 (August 28, 2020) – Convention Proper (Class A Uniform)

- 8:00 a.m. – Talk 1 – Dr. Gaines Marie Rosario, Head of LAYFORCE, formation arm of the Archdiocese of Manila
- 9:30 a.m. – Mission 1 – Pro-Life- Sis. Cora Afuang
- 9:45 a.m. – Mission 2 – Morality in Media – Sis. Cathy Pineda
- 10:00 a.m. – Snacks
- 10:30 a.m. – Mission 3 – Upliftment of Women Workers – Sis. Solema Eugenio
- 10:45 a.m. – Mission 4 – Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims – Sis. Laura Cespon
- 11:00 a.m. – Mission 5 – Youth Welfare – Sis. Biannah Villanueva
- 11:30 a.m. – LUNCH
- 1:30 p.m. – Talk 2 – Rev. Fr. Joel Esabra, Pastor, Sta. Teresa de Avila Parish, Carles, Iloilo
- 2:30 p.m. – Plenary Session – IR Sis. Ruby Macario presiding with Fr. Jerome Cruz
- 3:30 p.m. – Snacks
Election of Officers (Past International Regents to act as COMELEC)
Presentation of elected officers and incoming DMII International Board
- 3:45 p.m. – Holy Mass – Main Celebrant – Most Rev. Angel Lagdameo, Archbishop Emeritus, Archdiocese of Jaro
Co-Celebrants – Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz
Rev. Fr. Joenick Territorio, ICD
Rev. Fr. Julius Almeria
- 5:15 p.m. – Bidding of the next convention venue
- 6:00 p.m. – DINNER
- 6:30 p.m. – Star Circles Awards
- 7:00 p.m. – Ballroom Dancing (Featuring Totong Villaruz Band)

Day 3 (August 29, 2020, Sunday) – Tour of Pilgrim Sites (Optional)

DIOCESE OF LAOAG HOSTS REGION I ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Marlin Abratique, International Secretary
& Region I Representative*

The Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle of Laoag City together with Our Lady of Grace Circle of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte hosted the regional assembly of Region I at the Northview Hotel, Airport Road in Laoag City on December 14, 2019.

With the theme “DMII@ 40: Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor ... in the Year of the Youth” (Luke: 2:52), 100 participants representing the Diocese of Baguio -the St. Joseph the Worker, Our Lady of Atonement and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Circles, the Diocese of Nueva Segovia- St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle, the Diocese of Ilagan - Our Lady of Atocha Circle and the assembly host, the Diocese of Laoag - Our Lady of Good Counsel and Our Lady of Grace Circles.

The opening ceremonies started with the Enthronement and Consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary with Rev. Fr. Rey Respicio and International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario carrying the image with International Vice-Regent Sis. Milde Tong and other officers joining the processional. While the group marched toward the altar the “Stella Maris” was sung.

Sis. Cristina Ballesteros, Regent of the host circle, gave an emotional welcome address to participants and guests after which Region I Representative Sis. Marlin Abratique presented the assembly participants.

IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde Tong gave an inspirational message depicting the real picture of the DMI: simple, humble, kind, compassionate, sacrificing and loving. She ended her talk calling on all DMI sisters to be life guides to everyone especially to the youth.

Most Rev. Msgr. Renato Mayugba, DD, Bishop of the Diocese of Laoag, was Main Mass celebrant and keynote speaker. Rev. Fr. Rey Respicio, DMII Diocesan Spiritual Director was co-celebrant.

In his keynote address, Bishop Mayugba talked about St. John of the Cross whose feast day is December 14. St. John was given religious education at a very young age and became acolyte at an Augustinian monastery. He later joined the Carmelite Order where he took the name John of St. Matthias which later became John of the Cross when he followed Theresa of Avila.

In his homily, Bishop Mayugba also talked on the assembly



The processional during the Enthronement and Consecration ceremony

theme. He said that the number 40 is not just a number but very significant in the Holy Bible. It generally symbolizes a period of testing, trial and probation. He cited some instances in the Bible such as: Moses who lived 40 years in Egypt, 40 years in the desert before God selected him to lead his people out of slavery, the Israelites who wandered in the wilderness for 40 years and Jesus fasting for 40 days. The Bishop connected the motto of the association to the crucifix. He called on the DMIs to be humble like Mary. He said that humility is the foundation of all virtues. “Remember that you are a sinner; without Christ you are nothing.” **Sanctity** (from the foot of the cross going to the top) is obedience to God, order of service is to listen to God, align yourselves to the Word of God. The left arm of Christ represents **friendship**. Be loving to one another, be a community of friends, be forgiving, be understanding to everyone and journey together to obtain the goals of the association. The right arm represents **charity** - help with your pocket, give your time, your treasure and your talent. **Unity** represents the unity of Mary Immaculate with her Son, Jesus Christ. He then cited the scene at Mt. Calvary when Jesus, seeing His mother Mary standing at the foot of the Cross with John, said: “Mother, behold your son, son behold your mother” referring to John. Bishop Mayugba also talked about the many abuses happening in the world today, including the abuses against priests. Mary loves the priests and she prays for them. DMIs must pray for them, too.

The reports of the International Mission Chairpersons followed:

Sis. Cora Afuang of Pro-Life discussed current Pro-Life
turn to page 6



Diocesan Regent Sis. Cristina Ballestero, assembly host, welcomes delegates. At foreground is the presidential table.



Bishop Renato Mayugba, keynote speaker and Mass celebrant

issues such as Divorce, Restoration of the Death Penalty, Same-Sex Marriage, Modern Reproductive Technology, SOGIE Equality Bill and Climate Change and Environmental Degradation and the Catholic Church's stand on these issues which the DMII fully supports.

The afternoon session started with a prayer "Catena Legionis" in honor of the Blessed Mother.

Sis. Cathy Pineda of Morality in Media was the afternoon's first speaker. She cited the activities undertaken for the Mission which are concrete, not just concepts. She presented significant points like: "Cellphones bring you closer to people far from you but it takes you away from one sitting next to you." She also quoted Fr. Luciano Felloni who said "Let us fill social media with Good News and let us make the Word of God viral!" She ended her presentation with this message: "You are responsible for everything that you post and everything that you post is a reflection of you."

Sis. Sol Eugenio of Upliftment of Women Workers, whose lively introduction of her topic caught the attention of her audience, said that the main thrust of this Mission is to promote self-worth and dignity in the home, community and country. She urged all DMII members to practice the Acts of Corporal Works of Mercy, to empower women,

to restore the dignity of women and to educate them. Her final message: "No matter where you are in life, inspire and empower the women around you. Success is sweeter when shared."

Sis. Biannah Villanueva of Youth Welfare/SMI presented her topic "Understanding our SMI in the Age of Social Media". She said that society is composed of three to four generations, namely: Generation X which is also known as Baby Boomers (1961 to 1981), Generation Y or the Millennials (1980 to 2000), Generation Z (2000 to 2008) and Generation Y and Z or E Generation. The issues of today's youth are attitude, spirituality, mental health, social media influence and internet addiction. She presented some alarming data such as the increase in the last 25 years of teen-age depression by 75% and that the Philippines is ranked 6th among Asian countries addicted to Internet.

For Assistance to Prisoner's Families & their Victims, Mission Area Coordinator for Luzon Sis. Lydia Ordonez who was not able to attend the assembly sent hand-outs of her report for distribution to the participants

Region I Representative Sis. Marlin Abratique started her presentation by talking about a young boy who asked a man, "What is a woman?" Struck by the question, the man answered, "Tears are her way of expressing grief, her doubts, her love, her loneliness, her suffering and her pride." Sis. Marlin then talked about human rights and women's rights, the legal bases of which are the Philippine Constitution, Art. 11, Sec.14 and CEDAW. The elements of human rights are supreme, inherent, unalienable and imprescriptible. Discussions



International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario receives a token gift from Sis. Cristina Ballesteros and Region I RR Sis. Marlin Abratique. To her right is IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde Tong.



Guest speaker Fr. Jose Francisco Peralta, Jr.



The delegates in action, a group dynamics exercise



The International Board during Fellowship Night



A group photo of delegates on Fellowship Night

about men and women must use these premises: not a war of the sexes, not anti-male, both men and women are victims although more so among women, and both have a stake in the struggle for gender equality. She ended her presentation with a poem “Why Women Cry”.

Rev. Fr. Jose Francisco Peralta, Jr., the pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish of Cadaratan, Bacarra, Ilocos Norte, a young and good-looking priest, played instrumental music evoking actions like gathering, molding, absorbing, growing blossoming and withering which he related to the assembly theme. Gathering of DMIs such as meetings and conferences are occasions for members to learn, to listen to teachings, and to share and uphold the mottos and values of the group which become part of the members’ formation. With these, the DMIs are molded, shaped and formed to become Daughters of Mary Immaculate. With more women joining the association, the DMII blossoms as younger women are formed to take over as older members “wither and give way for the young to take the reins of leadership.

International Regent Sis, Ruby Macario in her message titled “The Miracle in Me” shared the story about her premature granddaughter’s fight for her life, her eventual victory and now is already a big girl. She also shared her recent pilgrimage to Lourdes to pray at the Grotto of the Blessed Mother which she did despite the cold weather

and some difficulties. She said that she is so blessed by Mama Mary who is full of grace. Sis. Ruby also told the participants the targeted activities of the association during her term: notably the promotion of pilgrimages, the 2000 Hail Mary devotion, members’ ID cards, organization of new circles both here and abroad. She also reminded the sisters about basic DMI rules and regulations. She ended her talk with two love songs and a poem to the delight of her audience.

Closing the day’s session was Fr. Rey Respicio. He congratulated the organizers for such a well-planned assembly, and the participants, for their lively participation during the sessions. He then gave his final blessing.

The evening’s fellowship program and dinner started at 6:00 p.m. with the delegates coming in their red attires and Santa hats as it was almost Christmas. The different circles presented colorful songs and dances. A stand-out was the presentation of the Our Lady of Atocha Circle with a medley of Christmas carols.

Special awards were given: Sis Luz Alvarez in her elegant red *terno* as the Best Dressed in Red Attire” and the “Oldest Assembly Participants”- 91-year-old Sis. Teodora Serrano of Our Lady of Atocha Circle and Sis. Betty Calina of Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle. Winners in the circle presentations and the raffles went home with the prizes they won.

REGION XII ASSEMBLY HELD AT BALANGHAI HOTEL IN BUTUAN CITY

*B*alanghai Hotel in Butuan City was the venue of the Regional Assembly of Region XII last October 11-12, 2019. The DMI sisters of the Diocese of Butuan headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Susan Honculada were the assembly hosts.

The registration of delegates started at 2:30 p.m. on October 11 followed by a Eucharistic celebration and a pilgrimage to the Birhen sa Kasilak Mindanao Shrine in Brgy. Bading, Butuan City. A Living Rosary was held with representatives from the different dioceses leading each rosary decade. According to the delegates, the activity was a truly spiritually enriching experience that many of them felt for the first time.

The Fellowship Night and Dinner was held in the evening with the delegates coming in their “Hollywood best” for the night’s theme, “Hollywood Fever.” The opening salvo in the evening’s program was a lively Latin dance number performed by the hosts. The rhythmic beat of La Cumbia, salsa and cha-cha that filled the hall was very inviting for the dance-loving DMIs.

The delegates from the Diocese of Malaybalay romped away with most of the prizes - the best dance presentation, the Most Stunning Delegate and the Ms. DMII. The last was a fund-raising activity that contributed quite a hefty amount to the Region’s and the host Diocese’s funds.

Hosting the night’s program were Sisters Shirley Corvera, Inday Joven and Ofel Rodela.

The program proper was held on Day 2, October 12, starting with the traditional opening ceremonies with the Enthronement and Consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary. International Vice-Regent for Mindanao and Region XII Representative Sis. Tess Miranda declared the formal opening of the assembly followed by the welcome address of Diocesan Regent Sis. Susan Honculada.

Sis. Ruby Macario during her International Regent’s time talked about the holiness of the Blessed Mother through the acronym GRACE. She also reiterated the DMII’s call for the formation of SMI circlettes for every DMI circle, the first Saturday 2000 Hail Mary devotion and the basic rules that DMII members must observe.

The International Mission Chairpersons rendered reports on their respective missions

- Sis. Cora Afuang of Pro-Life on current pro-life issues and the DMII’s support to the Church’s stand on these issues;
- Sis. Cathy Pineda of Morality in Media underscored the importance of media in values formation and social media’s important role in promoting good



Pilgrimage to Birhen sa Kasilak Mindanao Shrine, Butuan City



Assembly delegates line up at both sides of the aisle for the Enthronement and Consecration ceremony.



Fr. Matt James Priscillas, guest speaker, receives a token of appreciation from Sisters Susan Honculada, and IVR-Mindanao Sis. Tess Miranda.

manners and right conduct and leadership and skills training for the youth;

- Youth Welfare's Sis. Biennah Villanueva reported the "Synod on Youth" inspired by Pope Francis that the DMII had sponsored from which the 2019-20 SMI work plan is based. The plan includes training in entrepreneurial and leadership skills and spirituality enhancement among others.

Past IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel exhorted the DMI sisters to make the Blessed Mother's humility and other virtues their model and inspiration and make this as a lifelong commitment.

Rev. Fr. Mart James Priscillas, formator of the Diocese of Butuan urged the DMIs to help the youth and entice them to participate in spiritual activities. His was a talk full of exhortations and challenges for DMIs, with their wisdom

and experience, on how to better assist the youth.

An open forum followed each talk by the speakers interspersed with "breakers" to shake off the previous night's "hang-over" and to enable them to stay "tuned" and better absorb the speakers' messages.

"Sealed with a Kiss", a commitment rite was a memorable one. Each diocese was given a canvas cloth with a picture of Blessed Mother Mary. Each delegate from the diocese kissed the vacant space on the cloth to leave a kiss mark. The cloths were given to the dioceses after being blessed by the Bishop to be taken home as a memento reminding them of their commitment to Mama Mary.

A Concelebrated Mass led by the newly-installed bishop of the Diocese of Butuan, Most Rev. Cosme Almedilla brought the assembly to a close.



"Sealed with a Kiss", a commitment rite.



The concelebrated Mass led by Butuan Bishop Cosme Almedilla.



DMI sisters of the Diocese of Butuan, assembly hosts, with the International Board



Guests from the International Board on Fellowship Night.



Dance presentations during the colorful "Hollywood Fever" Night.



DMII ACTIVITIES DURING PRO-LIFE MONTH

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

February is Pro-Life Month as per Presidential Proclamation 214 issued during the time of Pres. Cory Aquino. During this month, various activities dedicated to the preservation and respect for human life as well as the sanctity of marriage and the Filipino people are undertaken by DMI circles all over the country.

Pro-Life Month was launched on February 9, 2020 with a motorcade from SM Manila to the Sto. Nino Cathedral in Tondo passing through the busy streets of Sta. Cruz and Tondo. The motorcade was organized by Pro-Life Philippines Foundation. DMI sisters from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Kalookan and Manila joined the activity. Highlighting the activity was a Eucharistic celebration led by Bishop Broderick Pabillo, Archdiocese of Manila apostolic administrator, as main celebrant.

On February 15, the annual Walk for Life organized by the Sangguniang Laiko of which the DMII is also a member was held. DMI sisters coming from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Kalookan and Pasig joined other Catholic groups as they walked around the Quezon Memorial Circle praying the Rosary and singing Marian songs. A short program followed during which some groups spoke about their sad experiences such as the extra judicial killings. Bishop Broderick Pabillo was again main celebrant together with other priests in a concelebrated Mass.

Other pro-life activities during the month were the traditional visit to the Memorial/ Tomb of Aborted and Unborn Babies by DMI circles all over the country before which DMI sisters offered prayers and flowers and lighted candles.



Preparing for the Pro-Life Motorcade



DMI sisters in the Walk for Life at the Quezon Memorial Circle



Participants in the motorcade



Visit to the Memorial for the Unborn by a circle in Davao.

FESTIVAL OF TWINS HELD

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

A Festival of Twins was successfully organized and implemented in Region V. Spearheaded by International Pro-Life Chair Sis. Cora Afuang in cooperation with the Pro-Life Philippine Foundation, 38 twins and a set of triplets together with their parents converged at the Riverbanks Center in Marikina City. The group paraded around the area up to the Jollibee North Triangle where a program cum fellowship ensued.

During the program there was a couple who shared their experiences bringing up their twin sons. When the mother of the triplets revealed how at first, she wanted to abort the babies in her womb but by God's grace was prevailed upon to go on with her pregnancy. Today, she is so thankful for the gift of three lives that God blessed her and her husband with.

Noteworthy among the participants were a month-old twins (the youngest), a 57-year old twins (the oldest)

who are both DMI members from the Diocese of Manila, a set of SMI members and a set of twins from the Diocese of Antipolo one of whom is a lay minister.

Certificates of appreciation were given to the participants to acknowledge the parents' admirable promotion and protection of life through their unconditional love, care, support and nurturance of their twin children which was the objective of the activity.

Ninety DMI sisters led by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario and Pro-Life Phils. Foundation President Sis. Rita Linda Dayrit who is also a DMI member from the Diocese of Paranaque attended the event. DMIs from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Kalookan, Manila and Pasig showed their support and cooperation by their presence in the activity.

Clamors for a repeat of the activity were expressed especially during Pro-Life Month.



The Parade of Twins



The DMII Board members who attended the Festival of Twins.



Sets of twins who joined the activity.

2020 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATED

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan, Upliftment of Women Workers
Coordinator for Luzon & Region V Correspondent*

March 8, 2020 was a significant day for the “fairer sex” as it was International Women’s Day, the highlight of the celebration of International Women’s Month and various DMI circles in Luzon had their own forms of celebration.

This year’s theme of the celebration was “I am Generation Equality; Realizing Women’s Rights” which is aligned with UN Women’s new multi-generational campaign, Generation Equality. This theme is aimed at uplifting women which had been rather slow for a majority of women despite economic progress. Also, women continue to be undervalued as there are those who continue to experience multiple forms of violence and abuse particularly human trafficking.

The year 2020 represents an opportunity to mobilize global action to achieve gender equality and human rights of all women. In support of this theme, several activities were held by various circles as their celebration theme.

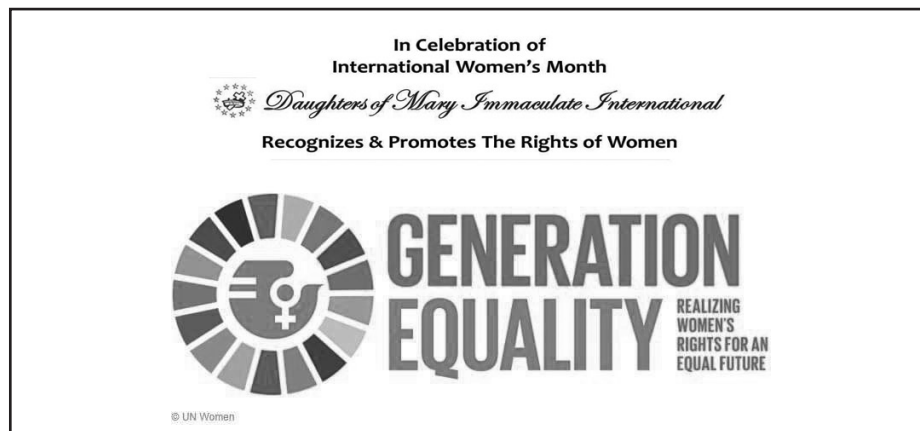
In Region I, the St. Joseph the Worker Circle in Baguio City held a symposium on Gender Equality on International

Women’s Day which was attended by parishioners after Mass at their parish. The St. Vincent Ferrer Circle, also of the Diocese of Baguio likewise had a talk on Gender Sensitivity with Region I Representative Sis. Marlin Abratique as resource speaker on March 28, 2020.

Other activities to mark the occasion were the Free Acetic Wash and affordable Pap Smear test conducted by the Our Lady of Consolation & Cincture Circle of the Diocese of Malolos (Region IV).

In the Diocese of Imus, Region V, the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle sponsored a free breakfast, a Zumba session and an inspirational talk.

A tarpaulin stating DMII’s recognition and support for women’s rights, “Generation Equality ... Realizing Women’s Rights for an Equal Future” was recommended by the DMII National Office to be posted by circles all over the country which they did by displaying the tarpaulin at the courtyard of their respective parish churches.



The DMII tarpaulin to support Generation Equality and Women’s Rights.



A motorcade was held by the DMI sisters of St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle of the Diocese of Nueva Segovia (Ilocos Sur).



Observance of the International Women’s Day by the San Antonio de Padua Circle sisters in the Diocese of San Pablo.

MYSTICAL ROSE CIRCLE PARTNERS WITH LGU AND DEPED FOR SEALED PROGRAM

By Sis. Luzviminda de Guzman, Past Diocesan Regent

In early 2019, the Mystical Rose Circle of St. Thaddeus Parish in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan initiated a community-based program called SEALED - Sharing Educational Awareness in Littering and Environmental Degradation as a Pro-Life activity. Aimed at promoting awareness among all sectors of the community to protect the environment and make it safe and clean for present and future generations, the program was fully supported by the pastor of St. Thaddeus Parish, Fr. Lazaro Hortaleza.

The SEALED Community-Based Program was launched on April 27, 2019 at Palacapac Elementary School. The circles program partners are the Pozorrubio LGU and the Department of Education.

The launching was attended by barangay captains, the school administrators of the six pilot schools and the DMIs of Mystical Rose Circle.

The Program has seven components:

1. Education information through training/seminars;
2. Cleanliness - clean-up drive along creeks, drainage and riversides
3. Beautification - tree-planting
4. Food productivity - bio-intensive gardening
5. Sanitation - solid waste management
6. Income-Generating Projects - making cement tiles out of plastic aggregates
7. Feeding Program

The program will end on May 29, 2021 after which it will be expanded to other barangays of Pozorrubio if found that the program's goals had been achieved.

Several activities have been undertaken under the program's seven components, notably the following:

Pro-Life Benchmarking Activity

On February 19, 2020, the SEALED Team led by Sis. Luzviminda de Guzman, currently Pro-Life coordinator of the Diocese of Urdaneta, conducted a benchmarking activity in Alaminos City. The team was composed of representatives from the DMII, the Pozorrubio LGU and Dep Ed. Mr. Philip Terry, Solid Waste Management head of the Office of the Mayor and Mr. Gerald Nicomedez

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Launching of the SEALED Community-Based Project at Palacapac Elem. School. In photo are shown Sis. Luzviminda de Guzman, Sis. Felicidad Lardizabal, past circle regent, Mr. Alexander Johnson, school principal and Dr. Neil Gavina, Public Schools District supervisor.



The SEALED Team during their benchmarking activity



Dr. Richealyn Tadeo tries her hand at making cement tiles.

Mystical Rose Circle... from page 13

represented the LGU. Dr. Martina Saldivar, principal of Pozorrubio Central School led the Dep Ed Team composed of Dr. Angelo Cerezo, Dr. Ariel Muargas, Dr. Richealyn Tadeo, Mr. Rodel Magno, Mr. Sonny Ibaan, Mr. Marilou Tabongbong, Mr. Joel Diso, Ms. Rominda de Guzman and Mrs. Rena Marie Carganilla. Representing the DMII were Circle Regent Sis. Felisa Alcaide, Diocesan Regent Sis. Virginia Cabero and Circle SMI Coordinator Sis. Marites Duran.

The Team observed the production of cement tiles using a mixture of plastic aggregates and cement, solid waste segregation, preparation of organic fertilizer using biodegradable materials and vermiculture and the city's Material Recovery Facility and landfill. They also visited the E-Kawayan Project using bamboo in making furniture, picture frames, trophies, religious objects, cellphone, etc. The Team was able to conceptualize how the SEALED Community-Based Program will be implemented. - *Sis. Felisa Alcaide, Mystical Rose Circle Regent*

Project WOW GANDA Launched

An innovative work plan titled WOW GANDA was launched by Miss Rominda de Guzman, SHS teacher at the Eugenio P. Perez National High School in Pozorrubio last February 21, 2020.

Diocesan Pro-Life Coordinator Sis. Luzviminda de Guzman who conceptualized the SEALED Program introduced the program to the teachers and students of the school. Mr. Philip Terry of the Mayor's Solid Management Unit discussed the two-year plan of the



Launching of Project WOW Ganda with Sis. Luzviminda de Guzman, Mr. Philip Terry of the Mayor's Solid Management Unit, Dr. Richealyn Tadeo, EPPNHS principal, Miss Rominda de Guzman and the school's teaching force.

municipality and thanked the Mystical Rose Circle and Fr. Lazaro Hortaleza for conceptualizing this community-based environment program. He also announced that the WOW GANDA and other SEALED projects will be included in the municipal budget. The Eugenio P. Perez National High School will also be recommended as entry to the Search for Best Solid Waste Management Project conducted annually by the DENR.

The school will start making cement tiles out of plastic aggregates. The aggregates will be collected from the different pilot schools to be paid by the DMII at P3 per kilo until such time that the municipal government is able to acquire a shredding machine. The project will then be an income-generating project of the school. - *Sis. Myrna T. Ligot, Mystical Rose Circle*

Rosary-Making as an Income-Generating Project

Parents and guardians of pre-school and Grade 1 pupils of Palacapac Elementary School were taught how to make rosaries out of glossy paper as rosary beads. They are paid P 15 per 100 beads by the Mystical Rose Circle. Their products are regular rosaries and rosaries for the 2000 Hail Marys which the DMI sisters sell at the Pastoral Council store and during DMI meetings and conferences such as the National Officers' Meeting, the Region II Officers' Meeting and the Luzon Area Conference.

Rosaries for the 2000 Hail Marys have become saleable as the other parish organizations have also adopted the 2000 Hail Mary devotion. The DMI sisters pray the 2000 Hail Marys every first Saturday of the month and upon request of some families in their homes such as the municipal mayor who hosted the activity recently. - *Sis. Teofila M Guinoo, Mystical Rose Circle.*



Rosary-making, an income-generating project

SAN JOSE CIRCLE'S EPIPHANY PROJECT

By Sis. Evangeline Ruanto, Circle Scribe

The San Jose Circle of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija had in the past reported various projects promoting the DMI Virtues of Unity, Friendship, Charity, Humility and Sanctity in fulfillment of the association's Missions and Thrusts for Pro-Life, Morality in Media, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, Upliftment of Women Workers and Youth Welfare.

During the later part of 2019, Rev. Fr. Getty Ferrer, pastor of the St. Joseph the Worker Cathedral Parish, presented the Circle with a project proposal titled "Supply and Installation of Real Stained Glass with Clear Glass (Double Glazing) of the Epiphany". It will be a remake of the Epiphany glass image at the left front side of the cathedral which had already faded. The total project will cost P300,000.

The DMII members, ever devoted to Jesus and Mama Mary realized the merit of the project and so accepted the challenge of pursuing it. They began to make pledges ranging from P500 to P100,000 depending on their capacity. They set November 15, 2019 as the deadline for their fund-raising. Although voluntary, they were able to raise the needed amount. The project was fabricated in Manila and installed at the cathedral starting December 7. The project was completed on December 10, 2019.

The circle identified the Epiphany Project as part of Pro-Life, a reminder of God's manifestation of His great and unconditional love for mankind by sending His only Begotten Son through the Blessed Virgin Mary to redeem us from our sins.



Fr. Getty Ferrer, pastor of St. Joseph Cathedral Parish and Project Epiphany proponent, stands before the remake of the stained glass Epiphany at the cathedral's front side.



The members of San Jose Circle with Bishop Roberto Mallari (at center, front row) and Fr. Redentor Asuncion (at right).

From the Diocese of Balanga (Region III)

DIOCESAN CIRCLE OFFICERS' ORIENTATION HELD

*By Sis. Digna Banzon, Diocesan Regent,
Diocese of Balanga*

The Diocese of Balanga held an orientation of new officers of circles in Bataan last February 9, 2020. The activity was held at Crown Royale Hotel in Balanga City.

International Advocate sis. Merinnisa Ligaya of the Diocese of Iba was the resource speaker. The purpose of the activity was for the attendees to familiarize themselves regarding their duties and responsibilities as leaders of their respective circles.



Circle officers who attended the Orientation.



Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya, resource speaker.



From the Diocese of Malolos (Region IV)

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION AND CINCTURE CIRCLE'S MISSION ACTIVITIES

By Sis. Mely Dela Pena, Region IV Correspondent

The Our Lady of Consolation & Cincture Circle led by Circle Regent Sis. Melita s. Bondoc organized and implemented civic and outreach activities in Parokya ni Santiago Apostol in Paombong, Bulacan for the DMI Missions.

- 1) PRO-LIFE, On February 25, 2020, the DMI sisters offered a special prayer for the unborn and Aborted Babies. Flowers and candles were also offered by the group after the Mass. The Pro-Life Chairperson is Sis. Milet Milanes.



- 2) **ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS.** Mission Chairperson Sis. Emerlinda Domingo led a group who visited the Macalino couple Warlito, 74 and Cresencia, 73 in Bgy. San Jose, Paombong, Bulacan bringing with them groceries and cash donations. The couple who depends on their small pensions has a child detained at a rehabilitation center in Nueva Ecija for drug dependence. To augment their small income, the wife sometimes sells banana cue for the medical needs of her sick husband. Their other two children are married.



- 3) **UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS.** The Circle visited four women weavers who are residents of Bgy. Culis, San Jose in Paombong to give encouragement to women in this sector. The town is known as “Ina ng Pawid” because nipa palm (or sasa) abounds in the place which has become a source of livelihood of many families. Fronds of the nipa palm are processed to become roofing (pawid) of nipa huts. Women make woven products such as baskets, mats, etc. to augment the family income. The average income of a weaver is about P80 per day. The DMI sisters' visit had helped uplift the weavers' spirit for the honorable work that they do.



- 4) **MORALITY IN MEDIA.** A campaign on “Awareness on Corona Virus” was launched by the circle's Morality in Media Committee chaired by Sis. Paulina Bulaong together with the Pro-Life Committee. The project was held with the parishioners of Parokya ni Santiago Apostol as target beneficiaries. The DMI sisters distributed flyers about the symptoms of the disease and its prevention underscoring the importance of personal hygiene. They also distributed free bottles of alcohol to the parishioners for added protection.



- 5) **YOUTH WELFARE/SMI.** The Squirettes of Mary members led by SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Marilou Robles conducted a Clean-up Drive in Barangay Pinalagdan, in Paombong on February 25, 2020. The aim of the activity was to promote the quality of life of community residents by addressing the issue of cleanliness of their surroundings.



NEW CIRCLE FORMED IN PALAWAN

By Sis. Lorie Manalsan,
Region V Correspondent

On February 22, 2020, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International saw the birth of a new circle, the Nuestra Senora de Salvacion Circle, the first in the Prelature of Taytay, Palawan.

The circle belongs to the parish of the same name in Barangay Salvacion, Busuanga, Taytay, Palawan.

Initially, an orientation was conducted by International Vice-Regent-Luzon and Region V Representative Sis. Milde Tong. With her was Sis. Lydia Ordonez, International Auditor-Financial and Luzon Coordinator for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims.

Twenty-two ladies attended the orientation and ten of them immediately signed up to be charter members of the

circle who were later confirmed through a short conferral ceremony. An election of circle officers followed. Elected charter regent was Sis. Ma. Fatima Libra.

The Nuestra Senora de Salvacion Circle enjoys the full support of Rev. Fr. Ric Uy. Pastor of Nuestra Senora de Salvacion Parish who looks forward to having more DMI circles organized in his Vicariate. He promised to help in the recruitment of more members to complete the required 25 members for a circle to be formed.

The exemplification of the members through the Long Conferral ceremony will be scheduled soon.



The new recruits take the oath led by Sis. Lydia during the short conferral rite.



The charter members of Nuestra Senora de Salvacion Circle with Sis. Milde Tong, Fr. Ric Uy and Sis. Lydia Ordonez (standing at center, front row).

NEW CIRCLE ORGANIZED IN THE DIOCESE OF PARAÑAQUE

Another new circle has been organized in the Diocese of Parañaque with the exemplification of its charter members and installation of its officers headed by Sis. Magellan Tayco as its charter regent. Named the Lady Magnificat Circle, it is based in the Mary Mother of God Parish in Muntinlupa City. Present during the event were Parañaque Diocesan Regent Sis. Linda Pacursa and Vicarial Regent Sis. Esperanza Jose.



NEWS ROUND-UP FROM THE DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO

By Sis. Fortunata Aquino,
Region VI Correspondent

VICTIMS OF TAAL VOLCANO ERUPTION HELPED

The DMII Diocese of San Pablo heeded the call for help for victims of the Taal Volcano eruption in January, 2020. The immediate response of circles in the Diocese was to contribute P1,000 each to create an initial fund to be used for the first wave of donations to be given to the victims. Additionally, each circle undertook its own outreach activities. The Our Lady of Salvation Circle of Sta. Cruz, Laguna, for one prepared relief goods and distributed them, with some school supplies to the Taal evacuees at the Pilot Evacuation Center in Bgy. Duhat, Sta. Cruz. Part of the relief goods was turned over to the Parish of St. Isidore Labrador in Bgy. Makiling, Calamba City through Rev. Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul Adefuin, past DMII diocesan spiritual director.



Members of the Our Lady of Salvation Circle turn over some relief goods to Past DMII Spiritual Director Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul Adefuin at the St. Isidore Labrador Parish in Calamba City.



AWARDS OF APPRECIATION PRESENTED TO DMIs FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

The Diocesan Mission Coordinators and the Regional Correspondent of the Diocese of San Pablo together with DMI sisters who have reached the age of 80 years were honored during the Diocesan Christmas Party held at Ricardo's Forest Hill in Alaminos, Laguna last January 5, 2020. The theme of the event was "Strengthening Unity Among DMIs", for them to serve as agents of unity and love among the circles.

Handing out the award, an image of the Immaculate Conception were Region VI Representative Sis. Isabel Ticzon and Diocesan Regent Sis. Ilinada Lagunda. The DMI sisters who turned 80 were Sisters Lilia de la Cruz of St. Paul the first Hermit Circle, Norma Donato of Our Lady of the Pillar Circle, Rodelia Sombillo of Our Lady of Assumption Circle, Jane Corcuera of La Resurreccion Circle, Sampaguita Castillo of St. John the Baptist Circle, Myrna Bolanos of San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle, Corazon Almeda of St. Augustine Circle and Elvira Talatayod of Theresian Circle.

Rev. Fr. Richard Buenaventura, DMII Diocesan Spiritual Director, in his Christmas message, inspired

the sisters to render service in their mission/apostolate with Christ in their hearts - for them to serve as agents of unity and love among the circles.

The event was made enjoyable and colorful with the presentations of the different circles as well as the games and raffles with prizes given to the winners.



Region VI Representative Sis. Isabel Ticzon and Diocesan Regent Sis. Ilinada Lagunda with the honorees.

“KONSEPTO NG KATOLIKO SA FAMILY PLANNING” SEMINAR **By St. John the Baptist Circle**

On March 9, 2020, the St. John the Baptist Circle headed by Circle Regent Sis. Evelyn Ramos sponsored “*Konsepto ng Katoliko sa Family Planning*”, a Pro-Life seminar at the Jose P. Rizal Hospital Conference Room in Calamba City. The resource speaker was Sis. Natalia Badenas, the hospital’s nurse supervisor. Nineteen women present for prenatal check-up together with their husbands were the participants. Vicarial Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio and ten DMI sisters from the Theresian, Mother of Life and St. John the Baptist Circles also attended the seminar. The Family Planning sa *Konsepto ng Simbahang Katoliko* which advocates natural family planning is included in the procedures of the Philippine Clinical Standards Manual of the DOH, 2006. Sis. Norma Eusebio who was then Diocesan Chair for Pro-Life initiated the project with assistance from his late son, Dr. Artemus Eusebio in 2015 and was approved by Bishop Buenaventura Famadico of the Diocese of San Pablo. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the DMII Diocese of San Pablo with Dr. Tern’s

24 Oras Paanakan as partner for Pro-Life. The MOU was signed on August 16, 2015 by then Diocesan Regent Sis. Loreta Santos and Dr Artemus Eusebio, medical director, in the presence of Region VI Representative Sis. Elvie Arambulo and Sis. Norma. This was how the *Sentro ng Programang Pro-Life ng DMI* of the Diocese of San Pablo started.



The DMI sisters talk to the patients of the Obstetrics Ward of J.P. Rizal Hospital.



THERESIAN CIRCLE’S WATCH YOUR HEALTH PROJECT

On February 2, 2020, the Theresian Circle in collaboration with the Sto. Domingo Diagnostic and Medical Center sponsored the Watch Your Health Project, an annual activity of the Circle held at the

Batong Malake Covered Court in Los Banos, Laguna. Some 318 individuals availed of the services offered. The project is one of the circle’s community services to residents of Los Banos and outlying areas,



The Watch Your Health Project while going on at the Batong Malake covered court in Los Banos, Laguna.

DMII POCKET FOREST REVISITED

*By Sis. Carmen Baquilid,
Region XI Correspondent*

During the Visayas Area Conference held last August 3-4, 2019 in Palo, Leyte hosted by the Tower of Ivory Circle of Tacloban City, some guests from the International Officers and Board attended the event. Before they returned to Manila, the Board headed by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario was invited to visit AC Farms owned by the Baquilid Family in Canmamutong, Palo, Leyte.

Alongside the feast and the merriment that the occasion provided, a tree-planting was also conducted as a Pro-Life project. Seedlings of narra, dao and mahogany trees provided by the Leyte PEMRO were planted on a vacant space of the farm by Sis. Ruby and her party consisting of International Vice-Regent-Visayas Sis. Yolly Dagandan, International Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya, the International Mission Chairpersons - Sisters Cora Afuang, Cathy Pineda, Sol Eugenio and Biennah Villanueva, and members of the Tower of Ivory Circle.

Dubbed the DMII Pocket Forest, it has inspired the Tower of Ivory and other circles in Region XI to pursue various projects not only for Pro-Life but the other DMI missions as well, such as:

- Mangrove propagation and conservation for Pro-Life
- Donation of more books on Science, Fiction, Encyclopedia and Book of Knowledge by the Morality in Media Committee
- Extension of more livelihood programs such as dress-making, cooking and gardening by the Upliftment of Workers Committee

- Assistance in education and basic needs of children of prisoners by the Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Committee
- Assistance to all the Missions' activities and continuous outreach programs under Hospice Care and Solid Waste Management by the Youth Welfare Committee

The inspiring results of the foregoing activities have increased the active participation of members in the projects. On March 1, 2020, the Tower of Ivory Circle members were specially cited for their commendable implementation of the DMII Mission programs and for perfect attendance during monthly meetings.



The trees at the DMI Pocket Forest five months after being planted.



Tree-Planting at the AC Farms by the DMII International Board after the Visayas Area Conference on August 3-4, 2019.



Members of the Tower of Ivory Circle receive special citation for their Mission programs and members' perfect attendance during monthly meetings.

CIRCLE NEWS ROUND-UP FROM REGION XII

By Sis. Sheilah Peji,
Region XII Correspondent

Diocese of Tandag (Surigao del Sur)

The Queen of Heaven Circle of St. Augustine Parish in Hinatuan, Surigao del Sur exemplified new DMI members on February 15, 2020. Diocesan Regent Sis. Eppie Pimentel; headed the exemplification team.

An investiture ceremony was held for Squirettes of the St. Augustine Parish Circlette in Hinatuan also on February 15, 2020.



Diocese of Malaybalay

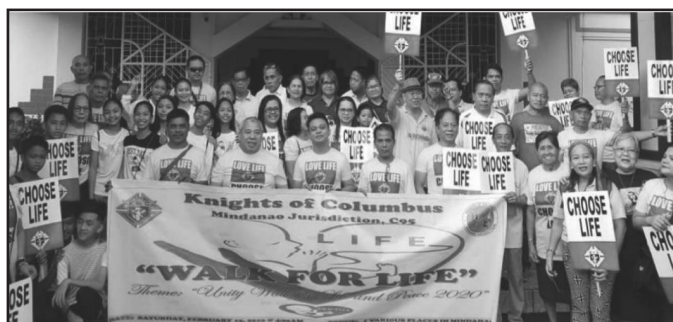
The incoming officers of the Morning Star Circle of San Isidro Cathedral in Malaybalay, Bukidnon were installed on February 16, 2020. Past diocesan Regent (DR) and Past Alternate RR Sis. Lota Gamboa was the installing officer assisted by Past DR Sis. Herminia Kee.



Diocese of Agusan del Sur



Diocesan Regent Sis. Catherine Oclarit presided the Diocesan Officers' Meeting held on February 25, 2020.



The DMI sisters of the St. Francis Xavier Circle of the Sacred Heart Parish in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur held a Walk for Life Activity jointly with Knights of Columbus to celebrate Pro-Life Month last February.

Diocese of Surigao (Surigao del Norte)



The Mystical Rose Circle of San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish in Surigao City has 16 new members who were exemplified on February 16, 2020 with Diocesan Regent Sis. Luz Almada as head of the exemplification team.



A Walk for Life was held jointly by the Mystical Rose Circle and the Knights of Columbus to celebrate Pro-Life Month.

SNAPSHOTS OF ST. JOSEPH CIRCLE'S MISSION ACTIVITIES

By Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Past Diocesan Regent,
Archdiocese of Zamboanga



The St. Joseph Circle's visit to the Home of the Elderly in Talon Talon, Zamboanga City on February 9, 2020 to bring the requested shawls for 32 female and 20 shorts for male residents. The 52 residents in the Home, the only government-run home for the aged in Region 9, also received food and shirts donated by the circle. Spearheading the project was the Pro-Life Committee.



A blood -letting project was held on January 17, 2020 at the VSM Sales Center, Baliwasan Branch in partnership with the Zamboanga City Medical Center. VSM employees and others donated blood during this pro-life activity.



A symposium, "Journeying with Children with Sexual Behavior Problems" was held on March 8, 2020 with Dr. Fatima Concepcion, head of the Women's Desk as resource speaker.



The Zamboanga DMI sisters sailed to Basilan Island for the installation of circle officers of St. Clare and Heart of Mary Circles in Lamitan on February 15 and again on March 1, 2020 for the Sta. Isabel Circle in Isabela City.



Catechism with gift-giving was a back-to-back project of the Morality in Media and Pro-Life Committees for families selling candles in the vicinity of For Pilar. Sis. Baby Reyes Belarmino, a retired formation program teacher conducted the catechism after which snacks were served and love packs consisting of five kilos rice and some clothing apparel were distributed to the families.



An orientation of Gender Sensitivity was sponsored by the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee on February 29, 2020 at the Red Cross Conference Hall. The guest speaker was Ms. Rosalie Molina Aquino.



Fifty SMIs were invested in a diocese-wide SMI Investiture Ceremony on February 25, 2020. The Transfiguration Circle sent the biggest number of recruits with 15 young girls to compose a new circlette in the Archdiocese.

TOWER OF IVORY DMI CIRCLE'S AND SMI CIRCLETTE'S PRO-LIFE OUTREACH

By Sis. Carmen Baquilid,
Region XI Correspondent

On December 31, 2019, the Tower of Ivory Circle headed by Regent Sis. Nida Catubao and SMI Lady Counselr Sis. Leny Basilan visited the Pope Francis Center in Palo, Leyte. The Center is home for 44 beneficiaries 34 elders abandoned by their families and ten orphaned children.

The DMI sisters, with help from the Center's Kitchen staff, served meals with bottled water during the visit.

IVR-Visayas Sis. Yolly Dagandan donated a sack of rice. The circle donated diapers for the elderlies.

The DMIs and SMIs who attended the activity found profound fulfillment in giving and sharing what they have – food preparation and gift-giving by the DMI sisters and the entertainment through songs and dances provided by the SMIs. They brought the spirit of Christmas to the Pope Francis Center with their visit.



The Pope Francis Center in Palo, Leyte



The DMIs and SMIs serving and entertaining the Center's wards.



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