



DMII NEWSETTE

vol. XXXIX no. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

January - March 2022

Message from the International Regent

AN OPPORTUNITY AND PRIVILEGE TO SERVE

Ave Maria!

My greetings for a Happy New Year 2022 to everyone!



Join me in thanking our God for giving us another year, especially in our dear DMII Community despite the many challenges we are still facing caused by the almost three-year Covid 19 pandemic and the new normal situations we are forced to adopt. Let us thank God that we are still here – alive, healthy, safe and with all the providence we need in our everyday life.

Let me also thank our International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz for his continued guidance, and our International Officers, Regional Representatives, our different Committee Chairs as well as all the Diocesan and Circle officers all over the country for accepting the duties and responsibilities bestowed on them as we continue with our commitment to serve God and country through our DMII Missions.

turn to page 3

DMII INTERNATIONAL BOARD DRAWS UP 2022-23 ACTION PLANS AND PROGRAMS

The first quarter meeting of the DMII International Board was held via Zoom on January 29, 2022. The meeting's main agenda were the plans and programs of the organization for 2022-23.

International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga, presiding from typhoon-ravaged Bohol, was able to overcome (through Mama Mary's help perhaps?) the difficulty of internet connectivity and steered the meeting through the discussions in setting up the organization's plans and programs during her term.

January, 2022 saw the resurgence of Covid 19 cases due to the Omicron variant, a highly transmissible strain that saw whole families and households being infected all at the same time. Thus, the planned activities drawn up for the period were still limited by strict health protocols – no face-to-face assemblies - so they will still be virtual.

DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz crafted the year's DMI theme: "The DMII Journeying

turn to page 4

DMII THEME FOR THE YEAR 2022

**"THE DMII JOURNEYING TOGETHER TO SYNODALITY AND
DISCERNMENT WITH MAMA MARY"**



MAY THE LOVE OF JESUS HEAL OUR NATION



My Beloved DMI Sisters,

The Lord is ALIVE! Alleluia! Alleluia!

We have celebrated the holy days of Lent and as you read this, a joyful Easter Sunday.

We have experienced the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. We hear the command of the Lord to go and proclaim the Good News of our redemption to all the nations.

The past months and days seem to be moments of our own paschal experience – a passover from the slavery of sin and death to new life. We might have elected already a new President but the campaign and elections have taught us a lot of lessons that challenge all of us and even the Church and those who have some kind of influence over other people.

These are the lessons on truth and morals, on faith and life. We ask: How can people live with lies and propagate them? How can people acknowledge evil as present and still accept them? How can people allow themselves be misled by the cunning designs of malicious minds?

There is definitely a disconnect of faith and life. Compromise has become a kind of *modus vivendi*. Many do not want to go through the process of discernment. Esoteric faith has diluted the authentic and faithful embrace of the truth of Christ. Whatever suits the individual and assuage his or her troubled conscience has become acceptable even if they do not always conform to the teachings of the Gospel.

The formation of a good conscience is a mission for all starting with those who educate our young and impart the Christian values. Families primarily bear the responsibility for this. But what kind of families do we have? A great number of families live below the poverty line. These families have survival as their first and uppermost consideration and impetus for decision and action. Many unscrupulous political leaders have exploited this sad situation for their own interests and benefit. Can we say that our system of governance has fostered patronage and poverty? What can our beloved association do in this dire reality?

We remember that we always deal with the people of God. May every encounter then with our brothers and sisters, especially those in the periphery of society be an encounter of Christian witnessing to the power of the love of Christ. The message of Christ must be made known at every instance.

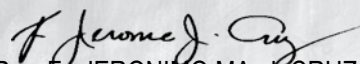
Our mission thrusts are not mere projects. They are the healing power of Christ for those who are wounded by the sinfulness of men. They are a protection for those who are most vulnerable.

As Daughters of Mary Immaculate, we heed the exhortation of the Mother to listen to her Son Jesus and follow what He says. Jesus says: As I have loved you, so you must love one another.” (John 13:34).

The love of Jesus heals. The love of Jesus goes the extra mile. The love of Jesus awakens the desire to share that same love to all.

May the love of Jesus heal our nation, and may that love come through us. God bless you with His choicest blessings. Amen.

With fervent prayers and sincere love,


Rev. Fr. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ
DMII International Chaplain

Message from IR... from page 1

We are indeed thankful to be members of the DMII Community for the privilege to serve through opportune avenues to help the least of our brethren through our Five Missions: Pro-life, Upliftment of Women Workers, Morality in Media, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Youth Welfare/Squirettes of Mary Immaculate.

As we continue doing our missions, let us always anchor everything on our motto: UNITY, FRIENDSHIP, CHARITY, HUMILITY AND SANCTITY with our Blessed Mother as our model, intercessor and guide. Giving our all in our endeavors with purity of intentions completes our being Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

Challenges are inevitable in everything that we do, be it in the DMII as we pursue our missions or in our home, place of work, family life, and social life. With our present economic situation, the price hikes in gasoline and of goods and services as consequence, coupled with the uncertainties caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict, life is not easy for all of us. Let's just remember that we are only temporary habitants here on earth, and our true home is in heaven. This is our consolation and refuge.

With this thought, I encourage everyone not to fear, to bear all these challenges. Challenges are crosses but our spiritual salvation is through a Cross.

We are now in the Season of Lent. As we prepare for the solemn observance of Holy Week, let us once more encounter Christ and ponder the amazing and great Love He sacrificially gave to redeem us. May the glory of Easter be our beacon of hope. Where there is God in our lives there is HOPE.

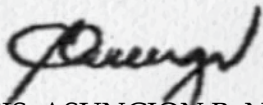
May is specially significant as this is a month dedicated to Mary, our Mother of Hope. While we may be busy with our May activities, let us take to heart the grave responsibility of voting for our national and local officials whose aspiration is to work for the common good.

With our 2022 DMII theme: "The DMII Journeying Together to Synodality and Discernment with Mama Mary", let us prayerfully discern, with Mama Mary's guidance, the right officials to vote for – for the future of our country, of our children and of generations to come.

Let's unceasingly pray and keep safe always. Again, thank you, dear sisters, for this wonderful opportunity to serve with you all.

In unity there is strength and with God, Love feels no burden!

Yours in Christ through Mary,



SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA

International Regent

DMI International Board draws up... from page 1

Together to Synodality and Discernment with Mama Mary” which will be adopted as assembly theme by all the regions in the country.

Regional assemblies of the 14 regions will be virtual. The following regions have submitted the schedule of their assemblies as follows:

Region I – November 12, 2022

Region II – August 13, 2022

Region III – August 27, 2022

Region IV – August 20, 2022

Region V – August 4, 2022

Region VI – July 23, 2022

Region VIII – June 25, 2022

Region IX – September 10, 2022

Region X – October 15, 2022

Region XII – June 11, 2022

Region XIII – July 16, 2022

Region XIV – October 22, 2022

The Missions International Committee Chairpersons also presented their respective action plans and programs. Please see page 26 for the details.



Region XII Representative Sis. Sheila Peji receives the DMII donation for the Diocese of Surigao.

Sis. Sionee thanked the DMI sisters for reaching out to the victims of Typhoon Odette through their cash donations. The funds raised were given to DMI sisters whose houses were damaged or lost completely as well as for other needs. Recipients of the donation were sisters from Bohol (Diocese of Tagbilaran and Talibon), Cebu (Archdiocese of Cebu), Negros (Diocese of San Carlos), and Surigao del Norte (Diocese of Surigao).

In the face of challenges besetting the country and the world in 2022, Sis. Sionee also encouraged the DMIs to help promote the Five Saturdays Devotion to the Blessed Mother in reparation for the five types of offenses against the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The first Saturday of the devotion requires going to confession, receiving Holy Communion, praying the five decades of the Rosary and meditation.

The message of Immediate Past International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario to still look forward, full of hope, to the New Year despite the challenges by “making the one journey that requires the inspiration and stirs the soul with the One Constant up there Whose Invisible Hand guides us throughout the journey” brought the Board meeting to a fitting close.

THIS IS TO ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM DMI INTERNATIONAL FOR THE AMOUNT INDICATED
ALONGSIDE OUR RESPECTIVE NAMES AND SIGNATURE
DIOCESE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE

#	NAME	AMOUNT	SIGNATURE	DATE RECEIVED
1	HERNANDEZ, LILY S.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
2	NAJARES, MARIA BEATRIZ A.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
3	RODRIGUEZ, VERONICA	2,000.00		7-21-2022
4	CHAVEZ, FLORENTINA L.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
5	PEREZ, MERIT	2,000.00		8-1-2022
6	LOPEZ, VERONICA B.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
7	CLAROS, CONCEPCION E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
8	COMBES, MONICA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
9	COMBES, MONICA M.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
10	CONCEPCION, PAMELA V.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
11	CRISTOBAL, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
12	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
13	TRINIDAD, LORNA A.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
14	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
15	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
16	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
17	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
18	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
19	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
20	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
21	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
22	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
23	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
24	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
25	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
26	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
27	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
28	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
29	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
30	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
31	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
32	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
33	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
34	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
35	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
36	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
37	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
38	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
39	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
40	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
41	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
42	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
43	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
44	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
45	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
46	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
47	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
48	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
49	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
50	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
51	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
52	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
53	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
54	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
55	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
56	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
57	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
58	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
59	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
60	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
61	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
62	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
63	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
64	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
65	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
66	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
67	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
68	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
69	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
70	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
71	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
72	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
73	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
74	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
75	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
76	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
77	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
78	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
79	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
80	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
81	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
82	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
83	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
84	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
85	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
86	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
87	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
88	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
89	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
90	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
91	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
92	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
93	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
94	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
95	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
96	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
97	TRINIDAD, LORNA P.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
98	TRINIDAD, LORNA F.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
99	TRINIDAD, LORNA E.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
100	TRINIDAD, LORNA C.	2,000.00		8-1-2022
TOTAL		2,000.00		8-1-2022

The list of cash donation recipients from the Diocese of Surigao

SMI ONLINE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONTEST HELD

By Sis. Biannah Villanueva,
Youth Welfare/SMI International Chairperson
and Sq. Abbie Gail Villanueva, Past SMI Chancellor

"Christmas Despite the Pandemic – *Tuloy na Tuloy Pa Rin ang Pasko*", the fourth quarter SMI theme was re-launched during the last quarter of 2021 and featured an Online Christmas Carol Contest. The goal of the contest was to showcase and celebrate the talents of the Squirettes as a way to strengthen their resilience and Mary-like positive attitude despite the pandemic.

The contest was announced in early November inviting the Squirettes to send a video group presentation as their circlette's or diocese's entry to be submitted before the big event on December 23, 2021. That gave them over a month to prepare their presentation.. The contest organizers provided a list of Christmas songs from which the contestants chose their song. The prizes at stake were for the Over-all Best Presentation, Best in Voice Quality, Best in Choreography and Rendition and Best in Props and Costume. The winning groups received cash prizes.

The big event was conducted via Zoom. Program host was Sq. Mary Joy Ancheta, National SMI Vice-President for Luzon. The opening prayer was led by Sq. Elvanne Laynes, SMI National Chancellor. Sq. Elizabeth Urmeneta, SMI National President, in her welcome remarks, said that the pandemic must not weaken our faith, hope and gratitude during the Christmas Season.

An explanation of the contest mechanics opened the contest proper. The entries were arranged alphabetically and grouped in seven batches of five contestants with intermission numbers inserted in-between each batch.

International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario in her inspirational message underscored the importance that music plays in our lives – as our companion, mode of self-expression, stress reliever and tool to change our world. SMI International Chairperson Sis. Biannah Villanueva presented her with a certificate of appreciation afterwards.

The 3-member contest board of judges were Ms. Lesley Ann Valenn Aldaba who was introduced by

Sis. Evelyn Alcantara, SMI Coordinator for Luzon, Mr. Uzziel Herman Adores by Sis. Ging Manulat, SMI Coordinator for Visayas and Mr. Marlon Balansag by Sis. Annie Ty, SMI Coordinator for Mindanao.

The criteria for judging were Voice Quality, Style and Performance and Over-all Appeal.

While the judges were conferring to determine the winning entries, Sis. Biannah delivered her last message as the outgoing SMI Chairperson. She thanked the Squirettes for their creativity and inspiring commitment to the SMI and to Mama Mary, particularly during the pandemic when their resilience was put to a test. She also thanked the Tita DMIs for giving their full support for all the activities of the Squirettes during the past year such as the Hugot Challenge, SMI Goes Online, and the Face Shield Design-making Contest.

The following entries were adjudged winners:

Best in Costume - Our Lady of the Abandoned Circlette, Region V

Best in Voice Quality – Our Lady of Lourdes – Makato Circlette, Region IX

Best in Choreography – Our Lady of the Abandoned Circlette, Region V

Fifth Place – Mother of Perpetual Help Circlette, Region XIV

Fourth Place - Help of Christians Circlette, Region XII

Third Place - Our Lady of Lourdes – Polomolok Circlette, Region XIII

Second Place – Mina de Oro Circlette, Region VII

Grand Winner - Our Lady of Lourdes – Makato Circlette, Region IX

Early Bird – St. Paul of the Cross Circlette, Region V

turn to page 6

SMI Online Christmas Carol... from page 5

Sis. Biannah congratulated the winners and thanked all groups who joined the contest as well as the organizers who made the event happen. The activity ended with a closing prayer led by Sq. Elvanne.



Our Lady of Lourdes – Makato Circlette - Grand Winner and Best in Voice Quality



Our Lady of the Abandoned Circlette – Best in Costume and Choreography



Mina de Oro Circlette – Second Place



Our Lady of Lourdes – Polomolok Circlette – Third Place



Help of Christians Circlette – Fourth Place



Mother of Perpetual Help Circlette – Fifth Place



St. Paul of the Cross Circlette – Early Bird Prize

MEET YOUR 2022-23 DMII INTERNATIONAL BOARD



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

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



SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA
International Regent

San Jose de Tagbilaran Circle (Home Circle)
St. Joseph the Worker Parish Cathedral Shrine
Diocese of Tagbilaran (Bohol)

Past Region X Representative
Bohol Provincial Coordinator, Missionary Families of Christ, Handmaids Section
Treasurer and Council Member, MFC
Treasurer, Holy Cross Parish Local Cemetery Commission, Maribojoc, Bohol



SIS. MA. CLOTILDE R. TONG
International Vice-Regent – Luzon
and Region V Representative (2022)

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

Served in the same position, now on her second term
Past President – Rotary Anns of Bagumbayan
Past President - Sta. Isabel College Alumnae Association
Past President – Apostleship of Prayer, Holy Eucharist Parish



SIS. CONCHITA P. NIERE
International Vice-Regent – Visayas
& Region X Representative

San Narciso Circle
San Narciso Parish, Consolacion, Cebu

Past Alternate Region X Representative and Diocesan Regent,
Archdiocese of Cebu
Speaker, Parish Renewal Experience (PREX) seminars
Cebu Vicarial Coordinator, Alliance of the Holy Family International



SIS. LUCINA A. BINOYA
International Vice Regent - Mindanao
(2022) & Region XIII Representative

St. Paul the Apostle Circle
St. Paul Parish, Matina, Davao City -
Archdiocese of Davao

Served as Region XIII Representative, now on her second term
Member, Philippine Institute of Certified Public Accountants
President, National True Vine Servant Community
Member, Ways & Means Committee, Regional Major Seminary, Davao City



SIS. MA. PINKY B. SAAVEDRA
International Vice-Regent – Mindanao
(2023) & Region XIV Representative

St. Joseph Circle
St. Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Mother Parish,
Zamboanga City - Archdiocese of Zamboanga

Past Diocesan Regent- Archdiocese of Zamboanga
Shell Gasoline Retailer
President, Ateneo Nurses Association
President, BSN Pioneer 80
Central Vicariate Coordinator, Archdiocese Council of the Laity



SIS. TERESITA D. LABILLES
International Secretary and Region
IV Representative

Rosa Mystica Circle
San Jose del Monte, Bulacan - Diocese of Malolos

Past Region IV Alternate Representative
Owner and Manager, TSLabilles Trading
President, Inner Wheel Club of the Phils., Dist.377
District Coordinator, Council of the Laity, Eastern District, Diocese of Malolos



SIS. ILUMINADA C. LAGUNDA
International Treasurer and
Region VI Representative

San Sebastian the Martyr Circle
San Sebastian the Martyr Parish , Lumban, Laguna
Diocese of San Pablo

Formerly Diocesan Regent, Diocese of San Pablo
Certified Public Accountant
Retired Provincial Auditor of Laguna Province – COA
Chairperson, Finance Council of the San Sebastian Parish Pastoral Council



SIS. CRISTINA M. BALLESTEROS
Region I Representative

Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle
Diocese of Laoag

Immediate Past Regent, Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle
 Retired Teacher, IN College of Arts & Trades, Laoag City
 Lifetime member, Research & Educational Training Institute
 Linguistic Society of the Phils.
 Facilitator, Pre-Caná Seminar, St. William the Hermit Cathedral Parish



SIS. MERINNISA O. LIGAYA
International Advocate and
Region III Representative

Queen of Angels Circle
Olongapo City
Diocese of Iba

Served as International Advocate, now on her second term
 Presiding Judge, MTCC Br. 1, Olongapo City



SIS. AGNES P. ARADA
Region VII Representative

Holy Cross Circle
Bauan, Batangas
Archdiocese of Lipa

Past Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Lipa



SIS. EUFEMIA B. ABRAGAN
Region VIII Representative

Holy Trinity Circle
St. Clare Parish, Tigaon, Camarines Sur

Past Diocesan Regent
 Part-time Professor, Sienna College
 President, Philippine Association of Social Workers, CamSur Chapter
 President, Social Workers Development Leaders Network for Region V (Bicol)
 Legal Consultant, Farmers' Cooperatives of Tigaon and Sangay Municipalities, CamSur



SIS. ILDA G. BORLONGAN
Region IX Representative

Mother of St. Augustine of Hippo Circle
Pavia, Iloilo
Archdiocese of Jaro

Past Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Jaro
 Chairperson, Chemistry Dept., Central Philippine University, Jaro, Iloilo City
 Board Director, Integrated Chemists of the Phils., Panay Chapter



SIS. IGMEDIA BALAGAÇO
Region XI Representative

Tower of Ivory Circle
Tacloban City
Archdiocese of Palo

Past Vicarial Regent
 Member, Senior Citizens Association



SIS SHEILA O. PEJI
Region XII Representative

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

Past Mindanao Area Coordinator for Morality in Media
 Past Diocesan Regent
 Ready Reserve, Medical Services 1502nd Infantry Battalion
 Corporate Treasurer, Communication Link for Emergency Assistance
 Network (CLEAN)
 Member, DepEd Nurses Association – Agusan del Sur
 Public Information Officer, DepEd NEU



SIS. JULIET V. CRUZ
International Auditor – Membership
and Chairperson, Special Committee for
Local & Foreign Membership

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

Served in the same positions in the 2019-21 term, now on her second term
 Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Paranaque
 Member, Finance Committee, Holy Eucharist Parish Pastoral Council
 Chairman of the Board & President, Cruzville Realty and Dev. Corp.
 Vice-Chairman of the Board, Gemphil Electronics Corp.



SIS. ISABEL S. TICZON
International Auditor –
Financial

St. Paul the First Hermit Circle
St. Paul the First Hermit Parish, San Pablo City
Diocese of San Pablo

Resort owner
 Member – Sin Nombre Club de Laguna



SIS. SALVACION T. ESTRADA
DMI Newsette Editor

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

Past Regent, Risen Christ Circle
 Past Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of Paranaque
 Past Parish PREX Board Coordinator
 Retired corporate executive

DMI MISSIONS

1. PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE



SIS. BRIGIDA CECILIA R. ABRATIQUE
**International Chairperson
for Pro-Life**

*St. Joseph the Worker Circle
St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Pacdal, Baguio City*

Past International Secretary and Region I Representative
Works for the Commission on Human Rights, Cordillera Adm. Region (CAR)



SIS. LOURDES M. FELICANO
**Pro-Life Area Coordinator –
Luzon**

*St. Columban Circle
Diocese of Iba*

Past Alternate Region III Representative



SIS. EMMA M. VICTORIA
**Pro-Life Area Coordinator –
Visayas**

*Our Lady of Candles Circle
Archdiocese of Jaro*

Past Region IX Representative
President, Marian Association Movement Organization, Archdiocese of Jaro
Vice-President, Regional Service Providers Council – BJMP – Iloilo
Treasurer, Archdiocesan Commission on the Laity



SIS. ANGELA L. BAEZ
**Pro-Life Area Coordinator –
Mindanao (2nd term)**

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

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. BIENNAH ELENA C. VILLANUEVA
**International Chairperson
for Morality in Media**

*Medalla Milagrosa Circle
Diocese of Cubao*

Past International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI
Chemical Engineer



SIS. EVELYN R. ALCANTARA
**Area Coordinator for
Morality in Media – Luzon**

*Immaculate Conception - Karangalan Circle
Diocese of Pasig*

Present Diocesan Regent – Diocese of Pasig
Registered Nurse
Member, Forest Hills Ladies' Circle Golf Club
Board Member and Membership Committee Head,
Women's Golf Association of the Philippines



SIS. MELISSA MANULAT
**Area Coordinator for
Morality in Media – Visayas**

*Sto. Nino de Kalibo Circle
Diocese of Kalibo (Aklan)*

Formerly SMI Coordinator for Visayas
Diocesan Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI
Diocesan Choir Master



SIS. ANNIE O. TY
**Area Coordinator for
Morality in Media – Mindanao**

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

Board Member, Philippine Red Cross, Surigao del Sur Chapter
Businesswoman

3. UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS



SIS. MA. LORETO S. MANALANSAN

International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers & Region V Representative for 2023

*Mother of Divine Grace Circle
Malabon City
Diocese of Kalookan*

Past Area Coordinator for Upliftment of Women Workers - Luzon
Region V DMI Newsette Correspondent
Consultant/Trainer. HR Management & Business Solutions, Inc.



SIS. APOLONIA MISLANG

Area Coordinator for Upliftment of Women Workers – Luzon

*Our Lady of Consolation & Cinture Circle
Paombong, Bulacan
Diocese of Malolos*

Past Vicarial Regent, Vicariate of St. Anne
Chairperson, Upliftment of Women Workers Committee
Small Business owner



SIS. NIDA A. CATUBAO

Area Coordinator for Upliftment of Women Workers – Visayas (2nd term)

*Tower of Ivory Circle
Tacloban City
Archdiocese of Palo*

Formerly Financial Secretary, Tower of Ivory Circle
Member, Senior Citizens Association



SIS. SHIRLEY CORVERA

Area Coordinator for Upliftment of Women Workers – Mindanao

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

4. ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS (APFV)



SIS. CORAZON T. AFUANG

International Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims

*St. Paul of the Cross Circle
Diocese of Antipolo*

Formerly Int'l Chairperson for Pro-Life
President, Pro-Life Phils. Foundation
Director, Barangay Office of Senior Citizens Affairs. Concepcion
Dos, Marikina City



SIS. LINA F. REYES

Area Coordinator for APFV – Luzon

*Immaculate Conception – Karangalan Circle
Diocese of Pasig*

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Pasig



SIS. JUDITH LEGASPI

Area Coordinator for APFV – Visayas

*Sto. Nino de Kalibo Circle
Kalibo, Aklan
Diocese of Kalibo*

Past Circle Regent



SIS. MARILYN DE ASIS

Area Coordinator for APFV – Mindanao

*San Isidro Labrador Circle
Talon-talon, Zamboanga City
Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Zamboanga &
Prelature of Isabela de Basilan*

Retired Professor
Former Director of Guidance and Testing Center, Universidad de Zamboanga
Currently Consultant of Guidance Services, Immaculate Conception Elem. School
Ex Officeio President, Phil. Guidance & Counseling Ass'n, Zamboanga City Chapter
Public Image Chair, Rotary Club of ZC North

5. YOUTH WELFARE/ SQUIRETTES OF MARY



SIS. CATALINA REBECCA A. PINEDA
**International Chairperson
 for Youth Welfare/SMI**

*San Jose de Navotas Circle
 San Jose de Navotas Diocesan Shrine & Parish
 Navotas City*

Formerly International Chairperson for Morality in Media
 Agripreneur



SIS. TEODORICA "CHODEE" AMORANTO
**Area Coordinator for Youth
 Welfare/SMI – Luzon**

*St. Polycarp Circle
 Cabuyao City, Laguna
 Diocese of San Pablo*

Formerly SMI Diocesan Coordinator, Diocese of San Pablo
 Concurrently Vicarial Regent, Vicariate of St. Polycarp



SIS. ELENITA BASILAN
**Area Coordinator for Youth
 Welfare/SMI – Visayas**

*Tower of Ivory Circle
 Tacloban City*

Businesswoman
 Past Regional SMI Coordinator and Lady Counselor, Region XI
 Member, Mother Butler Guild, Redemptorist Parish, Sto. Nino of Prague.
 Holy Trinity



SIS. SUSAN HONCULADA
**Area Coordinator for Youth
 Welfare/SMI – Mindanao and
 Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Butuan**

Petron Gasul dealer
 President, Ass'n of Caraga Coconut Entrepreneurs & Stakeholders, Inc.
 (ACCESS)
 President, Nasipit Chamber of Commerce & Industry
 Treasurer, Nasipit Tourism Council
 Treasurer, Finance Council, St. Michael the Archangel Parish

SPECIAL COMMITTEES



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



SIS. MILA A. VILLANUEVA
**Asst. Special Committee Chairperson
 – Foreign Membership**

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

Chairman of the Board. Perkeno Plastics, Inc.



SIS. EMELIE RAMOS
**Asst. Special Committee
 Chairperson – Local Membership**

*St. Nino de Molino Circle
 Sto. Nino de Molino Parish, Bacoor City, Cavite
 Diocese of Imus*

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Imus

COUNCIL OF ADVISERS



SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO

Immediate Past
 International Regent (2019-21)



SIS. ROSALINA C. PIMENTEL

International Regent -2017-18



SIS PUREZA M. GUZMAN

International Regent – 2015-16



SIS. MILA A. VILLANUEVA

International Regent -2013-14

STO. NINO DE MOLINO SMI CIRCLETTE GOES TO MARIAN EXHIBIT

By Sis. Fe Alonsagay, Circle Monitor

Squirettes of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circlette led by their Lady Counselor, Sis. Jocelyn Fria motored to Quezon City last February 9, 2022 to view the Marian Exhibit put up at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Shrine. The exhibit was initiated by the Parish Pastoral Council together with the Confraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International. Immediate Past International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario extended the invitation to us, along with other DMIs, to view the exhibit.

In the group were 9 SMI officers with their Lady Counselor and other Tita DMIs Sisters Eva Galeno, Adelaida Bondoc, Teresita Seblario and myself.

On our way to the exhibit, the Squirettes took turns in leading the Rosary. Upon arrival at the venue, we visited and prayed at the Adoration Chapel. Then we viewed the 18 apparitions of the Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette Soubirous. As viewing the exhibit was limited to just a few persons at a time, we went in separate groups where the images of Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Manaoag, Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Penafancia, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, Our Lady of Piat, Our Lady of Sorrows and others were on exhibit.



The Squirettes with Lady Counselor Sis. Jocelyn Fria



DMI Sisters Aida Galeno and Adelaida Bondoc while viewing the exhibit.

Lunch was at the grounds of the Shrine where tables and benches are provided. Fr. Jeff Agustin, the Shrine's pastor was very accommodating and posed with us for pictures.

The group thanked Sis. Ruby for her invitation to the exhibit and

Past Imus Diocesan Regent Sis. Inday Ramos who planned our activity

The Sto Nino de Molino DMI Circle and SMI Circlette look forward to more such activities in the future.

STO. NINO DE MOLINO SMI CIRCLETTE HOLDS INVESTITURE, INSTALLATION CEREMONIES

By Sis. Catherine Longcob, Past Regent,
Sto Nino de Molino Circle



The new members of the Sto Nino de Molino Circlette were officially welcomed to the SMI during the Investiture Ceremony conducted by Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Emelie Ramos. Thirteen DMI sisters stood as sponsors who placed the pin and sash on the new Squirettes.



SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Jocelyn Fria installed the 2022 officers of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circlette headed by Sq. Jhoanna Charmaine Samilo as president. The Installation Ceremony took place at the Knights of Columbus Hall in the presence of Past DR Sis. Emelie Ramos. Circle Vice-Regent Sis. Rosalia Gacias assisted Sis. Jocelyn during the ceremony.



STO. NINO DE MOLINO CIRCLE SISTERS PREPARE ADVENT WREATH

The sisters of Sto. Nino de Molino Circle had been tasked to design and put up the Advent Wreath at their parish church. The activity was one of many they are involved in in the life of their parish. The colorful wreath was made from the leaves of a pine tree, the evergreen symbolizing eternal life that Jesus gifted the world in His Act of Redemption. On the first Sunday of Advent, the sisters also lighted the first candle before the Mass.



OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CIRCLE CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY, DMII MARKER BLESSED

By Sis. Rony Bambilla, Circle Vice-Regent

The Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle celebrated its 25th Anniversary last December 15, 2021. Twenty-one of the 30 charter members including Diocesan Regent Sis. Zenia Velasco were given Certificates of Appreciation as the circle's charter members. Sis. Luz Tamayo, now 84 years old, was the circle's Charter Regent.

The circle at present has 103 committed members and still counting. The Thanksgiving Mass was followed by the unveiling and blessing of the DMII marker at the church patio by Fr. Jun Perez, parish priest and Fr. Florenz Ompad, SDS, parochial vicar.



The officers and members of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle



The unveiling and blessing of the DMII marker

From the Diocese of Kalookan – Region V

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE NUESTRA SENORA DE NIEVA CIRCLE

By Sis. Monique Bularan, Diocesan Regent



PARISH COMMUNITY PANTRY GOES ON. To sustain the community pantry for many months to come, the San Roque Cathedral Parish CSSD called for the different parish organizations to volunteer particular items they see as essential goods to be included in the pantry. The Nuestra Senora de Nieva Circle volunteered to give one-fourth kilo packs of sugar as its share. Cartons upon cartons of packed sugar arrived, much more than the CSSD expected that, in appreciation, it gave 15 whole ayuda packs to the DMI. The circle in turn gave the packs to families of prisoners/victims.

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." (Proverbs 11:25)



ZUMBA FOR WELLNESS. Besides losing weight, Zumba helps lower the risk of heart disease, reduces blood pressure and blood cholesterol and boosts good cholesterol. The circle sponsored a 2-hour Zumba session at the KACI Compound. The activity was participated by 50 women from different walks of life -street sweepers, market vendors, bank employees, etc. Dubbed as “All About Having Fun Despite the Pandemic”, this Upliftment of Women Workers activity was aimed at the upliftment and well-being of women in the community.

“Dear friend, I pray that everything may go well with you and that you may be in good health – as I know you are well in spirit.” (3 John 1:2)



FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION AND MOTORCADE. Members of the circle, in support of the Pro-Life Mission, joined the Eucharistic celebration at the Manila Cathedral and the motorcade to some Marian Shrines in Metro Manila in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8, 2021.

“And a great portent appeared in heaven, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.” (Revelation 12:11)



ACTIVE PARTICIPATION BY THE DMI AND SMI IN PARISH ACTIVITIES. The members of the Nstra. Sra. De Nieva DMI Circle and SMI circlette continue serving their parish even during the lockdown by being choir members, lectors/commentators and collectors/greeters during the online masses on Facebook as well as when the daily public masses resumed at the Cathedral of San Roque. They are shown in photo with Bishop Pablo David of the Diocese of Kalookan and Fr. Jerome Cruz, rector of the San Roque Cathedral.

WELLNESS AND HEALTH PROMOTED BY ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS CIRCLE AS PRO-LIFE ACTIVITY

By Sis. Susan Ong, Past Circle Regent

*T*he St. Paul of the Cross Circle celebrated Pro-Life Month by conducting a Zumba-Aerobics Dance Session at the Rancho 4 East Covered Court, Concepcion Dos, Marikina City on February 19, 2022 to launch a wellness and health program for the community.

The initial session had 14 DMI sisters as participants, aged from 54 to 81 years old. They wore colorful aero outfits as they followed the age-related dance moves of ZIN Instructor Jimmy. The moves were slower but moving most of the muscles and bones in the body as they danced cha-cha and swing. The music was choice retro dance and retro remix music.

After being confined inside the four walls of their homes for two years, the sisters were out at last feeling the wind on their faces, smelling the flowers, seeing the falling leaves and renewing the camaraderie that they sorely missed.

The sisters found the activity very enjoyable that they plan to meet regularly every month for their Zumba-Dance sessions. As Kenneth Cooper had said, “We do not stop exercising because we grow old; we grow old because we stop exercising.”



The St. Paul of the Cross Circle sisters take a breather during their zumba session.

INSIGHTS GAINED FROM THE “WALK FOR LIFE” OF THE SANGGUNIAN LAIKO NG PILIPINAS

By Sis. Agnes Arada, Region VII Representative and
Newsette Correspondent



The Archdiocese of Lipa participated in the national webinar sponsored by the *Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas* held on February 26, 2022. Through Diocesan Regent Sis. Isabelle Daria, the vicarial regents of the archdiocese gave the insights they gained from the webinar.

1. God loves the world so all creations need to be saved.
2. We need to choose leaders, not rulers.
3. Our choice reflects our identity.



Vicarial Regent Sis. Marilou Magboo
Holy Cross Circle, Nasugbu, Batangas



Vicarial Regent Sis. Rosalie Dastas
Our Lady of Peace Circle, Nasugbu, Batangas

We learned what pro-life is really about. We need to walk the talk, not being half-baked pro-life advocates. We need to stand up and be fully armed with the proper and correct knowledge about our various pro-life activities, projects and advocacies.

As to election rules and regulations, we need to properly address all election issues pertaining to the different stages of election guidelines, report irregularities that we have observed, take good care of our voting and our voter's rights and make it our obligation to pray. We need to be alert in posting and re-posting materials on social media. We must avoid being instruments of causing or spreading lies and untruths on social media. We need to discern on everything we read, watch and listen to on social media. We are duty bound as members of the DMII to teach others and make others aware of the evils and bad influences caused by social media.



Vicarial Regent Sis. Lynne Villanueva
Saint Martin of Tours Circle, Taal, Batangas

I've gained a better outlook about pro-life. That it is not for human life only since the environment is life as well. We must take into account everything when we want to be a pro-lifer. That we must look at all aspects of the issue and not pick only those that suit us.

As for the coming elections, the concept of voting as an act of prayer and spirituality was well-emphasized. However we must exercise better judgment and discernment when casting our ballot. As the youth have asked: “*Kumusta ka, Nacion? Sino ang talagang tumulong?*” We must ask ourselves who really helped.

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA HAS A NEW DMI CIRCLE

By Sis. Agnes Arada, Region VII Representative
and Newsette Correspondent

A new circle has just been organized in Bolo, Bauan, Batangas. Named Our Lady of Fatima Circle, it is based at the Holy Family Parish. The charter officers of the new circle led by Charter Regent Sis. Annie Paglinawan were officially installed last November 21, 2021 following the exemplification of its charter members.

The Our Lady of Fatima Circle was organized through the efforts of Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Merly Gutierrez and Diocesan Regent Sis. Agnes Arada.

The new circle has since been active in outreach activities for the DMI Missions.



The officers and members of the Our Lady of Fatima Circle with Fr. Emmanuel Madlangbayan, DMII archdiocesan spiritual director, Past Diocesan Regent (DR) Sis. Merly Gutierrez, DR Sis. Agnes Arada, Vicarial Regent Sis. Lynn Villanueva and Charter Regent Sis. Annie Paglinawan.



The circle's outreach program on January 8, 2022



NEWS

HOLY CROSS CIRCLE CELEBRATES WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, CONDUCTS LIVELIHOOD SEMINARS



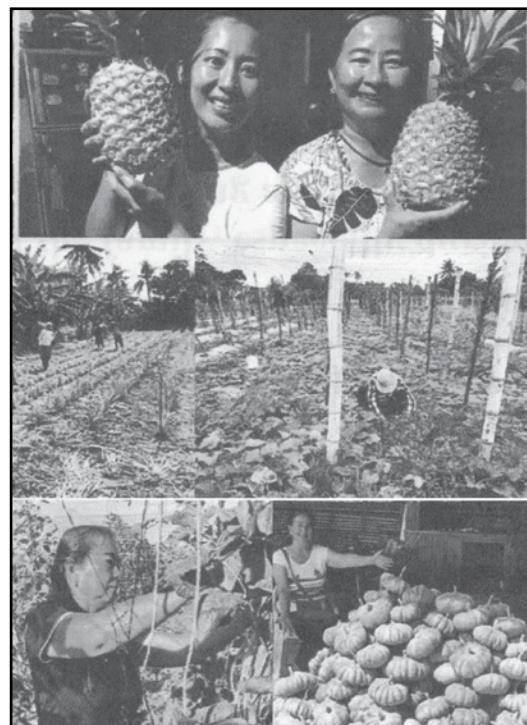
World Day of the Poor. The Holy Cross Circle of Bauan, Batangas celebrated the World Day of the Poor with gift-giving and free services benefitting the marginalized sector of the community.



DA Livelihood Seminars for Farmers. The Dept. of Agriculture RFO4 Calabarzon headed by Ms. Avelita Rosales gave cooking lessons to the DMI sisters and farmers using cassava as main ingredient on October 26, 2021. The participants learned how to prepare cassava cake, pichi-pichi, cassava polvoron and cassava chips. They were also given printed leaflets of the cassava recipes. The activity was a project of the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee.



ADOPT A FAMILY



Vegetable Gardening, Sharing of Produce. The mother-daughter tandem of Sisters Helen Tatlonghari and Rachelle Cusi of the Holy Cross Circle donates part of the produce of their sizeable farm to those in need. They also help housewives in growing their own vegetable garden for the family's consumption and to sell to augment their income.

MISSION ACTIVITIES OF ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CIRCLE

The mission projects of the St. Martin of Tours Circle of Taal, Batangas were the gift-giving activity during the World Day of the Poor and the Adopt-a-Family Program.



WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL CIRCLE: 31 YEARS WITH MAMA MARY

By Sis. Cynthia Aranas, Circle Vice-Regent

The year 2022 is a milestone year for the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle, the pandemic notwithstanding. We are celebrating the circle's 31st Anniversary and to commemorate the event, an array of activities to serve the community has been lined up to remind our brothers and sisters in Christ that indeed there is Mama Mary's light at the end of even the darkest tunnel. Here are some of them:



IN MEMORY OF THE UNBORN CHILDREN. On February 11 in celebration of Pro-Life Month, we offered flowers and lighted candles as we prayed a Special Prayer for the Unborn and Aborted Babies before the Tomb of the Unborn led by our DMII Foundation Circle Regent Sis. Laura Cespon. The tomb is located at the Carmelite Compound in Bajada, Davao City.



CELEBRATING THE FOUNDATION OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES GROTTO. To commemorate the anniversary of the inauguration and blessing of the Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto beside Mary's House, our circle's multi-purpose building, also at the Carmelite Compound, a special Mass was held followed by Holy Rosary prayer by DMIs and SMIs before the grotto on her feast day, Feb. 11. The circle's plans and programs for 2022 were reviewed after the fiesta brunch.



OUR ROLE IN STEWARDSHIP. Gilbert Lacuna Ronquillo is a taho vendor who is a long-time suki of our DMI sisters. He got his training, his taho paraphernalia and bicycle from the Dept. of Labor & Employment. While buying our taho, we would exchange pleasantries with him and he would make kwento about his life. He is still single but he exerts efforts to sell all his taho as he is helping out with the medical expenses of his niece who has leukemia. On Feb. 11, we invited Gilbert to brunch and surprised him with a cash gift of P3,500 to add to his capital. With teary eyes, he thanked us profusely. Yes, we must "let our light shine before men so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Heavenly Father"



TEACHING OUR SQUIRETTES HOMEMAKING SKILLS. Youth Welfare/SMI Committee Chair Sis. Sonia Bonite gave baking lessons to our excited and eager Squirettes on how to bake cupcakes and cookies. This DMI initiative is part of our values formation program to mold these young girls to be productive members of the community and to be responsible members of the family whose lives should be Mary-like and Mary-and-Christ-centered.

turn to page 21

YEAR-END GIFT-GIVING FOR PAROLEES

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Diocesan Regent,
Archdiocese of Zamboanga

The DMII Archdiocese of Zamboanga in partnership with the Zamboanga City Parole and Probation Office No. 2 conducted a year-end gift-giving project for 88 male and female parolees at the ground floor lobby of the Hall of Justice last Dec. 4, 2021.

The parolees enjoy temporary freedom under the strict supervision of the Region 9 Parole & Probation Office.

During the activity, the parolees were given spiritual counseling by the DMI sisters headed by Sis. Maritess Go, diocesan chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV). The gifts they received were donated by the DMI sisters and friends.

Held simultaneously with the activity was the observance of the 18-day Campaign to End Violence Against Women from November 18 to December

12, 2021 spearheaded by the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee.

On December 14, The DMII Archdiocese of Zamboanga was awarded the Most Outstanding Civil Society Organization Community Partner for the rehabilitation of probationers. Sisters Marilyn de Asis and Maritess Go received the award on behalf of the Archdiocese.



DMI sisters during the gift-giving activity



The parolees who attended the activity




Sisters Marilyn de Asis and Maritess Go receive the award for the DMII Archdiocese of Zamboanga.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel... from page 20

CONTINUING OUR WORK OF LOVE FOR PDLs' CHILDREN. We continue our scholarship program for PDLs' children enrolled at the Anawim Elementary School in Bajada, Davao City. The cash assistance given to them may be modest but it assures them of our love and concern.

Daughters of Mary Immaculate International
In Celebration of
International Women's Month
"Gender equality today for a sustainable tomorrow"



Name of Circle
Parish Name
Location (Barrio, City)

A sample tarpaulin message to celebrate International Women's Month

MINDANAO AREA GEARS UP FOR 2022, APFV MISSION PROGRAM SET IN PLACE

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) Coordinator for Mindanao

Despite the pandemic, we in Regions XII, XIII and XIV comprising the Mindanao Area have already set in place our programs for the DMI Missions.

For Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV), we conducted our first quarterly meeting via ZOOM last February 12, 2022. I, as Mindanao coordinator of the mission, presided the meeting with 50 sisters in attendance. Gracing the activity was APFV International Chairperson. Sis. Cora Afuang.

At present, prisoners are called PDLs or Persons Deprived of Liberty. Our mission is to assist their families and victims. PDLs are persons who are arrested, held in lawful custody, detained or imprisoned in execution of a lawful sentence because of crimes or infringement or non-compliance with the law, whether they are accused or convicted. They also include persons under custody of certain institutions such as a psychiatric hospital and the like.

The different government agencies handling PDLs are – **BJMP** or Bureau of Jail Management and Penology under the Department of Interior and Local Government which handles inmates of a District or City suspected of a crime committed and under trial; **BUCor** or Bureau of Correction under the Department of Justice which is in charge of custody and rehabilitation of offenders sentenced to serve a term of more than three years or life imprisonment; and the **Parole and Probation Office** for PDLs on probation and ready for release if they pass the probation period.

The distinction between a **jail** and a **prison**: a jail is intended for a short sentence and temporary

confinement while a prison is for felony with a sentence of more than a year.

PDLs may be classified as **Detainees** who are kept in jail, **Inmates** are those confined in cities, municipalities and district detention centers in the BJMP, and **Prisoners** are those confined in a Colony, Federal or State Prison such as the San Ramon Prison Farms, Muntinlupa, Palawan, Davao and others. Parolees are those ready for release with the agreement of good behavior (on probation) supervised by the Parole and Probation Office in every region.

The APFV program may start with a visit to the Barangay Office, BJMP, BUCor and the Parole and Probation Office to identify the PDLs' families and their addresses who will be extended assistance by the DMI circle. Possible assistance to identified beneficiaries may be food assistance, scholarships to the PDL's children in the form of transportation allowance, school supplies, uniform for face-to-face classes, and others, Sulat Mo, Sagot Ko Program, spiritual activities like praying the Rosary, Bible reading/sharing, lectures on acceptance of the crime committed and on forgiving and forgetting, legal assistance if needed and others based on the needs of the families. We will continue observance of Prison Awareness Month held every October, extending special assistance to the families in various ways such as gift-giving, food distribution, etc.

The planned programs and activities for APFV are DOABLE projects that have been undertaken by several circles in the past.



Sis. Marilyn de Asis presides the meeting.



A screenshot taken during the quarterly meeting with Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Reg. XIV Rep and (clockwise) Sis. Luz Binoya, Reg. XIII RR, Sis. Ernie De Peralta and Sis. Cora Afuang, APFV international chairperson

PRO-LIFE MONTH ACTIVITIES OF REGION XIV

The DMI dioceses and circles in Region XIV joined the DMII Community nationwide in the celebration of Pro-Life Month in February. Activities such as Eucharistic celebrations, floral offerings and lighting of candles accompanying the Special Prayer for the Unborn and Aborted Babies were undertaken by the DMI circles in their respective parishes before the Tomb of the Unborn at the church courtyard. Feeding programs, gift-giving and medical missions also form part of their Pro-life Mission activities during the month

The most significant activity that the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Isabela de Basilan conducted was the “Give Blood, Give Life” Project, a blood-letting spearheaded by the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle of Ayala, Zamboanga City in partnership with the Parish Social Action Group and the Philippine Red Cross, Zamboanga City Chapter. Members of the Greek Letter Organization generously donated blood. More than 50 bags of fresh blood were collected from them.

Other pro-life activities undertaken in the Archdiocese were the Youth Caravan 2022 initiated by Auxillary Bishop Moises Cuevas and participation in the “Walk for Life” national webinar by the Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas. These activities were dedicated to all DMI sisters in Region XIV who celebrated their birthdays during Love Month led by Sis. Marilyn de Asis on February 20.



Gift distribution by the Mother of Perpetual Help Circle of Guiuan, Zamboanga City to celebrate Pro-Life Month.



The “Give Blood, Give Life” blood-letting activity.

MAMA MARY IN MY LIFE

*By Sis. Maria Caroline Soliven – Elarcosa,
Immaculate Conception Karangalan Circle
and 2013-15 SMI National President*

It was September 8, 2019, the Nativity of our Blessed Mother. And we attended the Mass to celebrate her feast day. When we arrived home after the Mass, my boyfriend of five years told my parents that he wanted to marry me. It was totally unexpected when out of the blue, he wanted to take our relationship to the next level. Things happened quite fast after that.

In October on the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary, I celebrated my 26th birthday. Then on November 26 on our anniversary, he formally proposed to me. The day was the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary and he said, "Since today is the Presentation of our Blessed Mother, I present you to God as my future wife." My heart was filled with excitement and joy. All these momentous events in my life happened on Mama Mary's feast days!

In keeping with tradition, the pamamanhikan took place on February 2, 2020. The Presentation of our Lord at the temple in Jerusalem. Again, he said, "I want to present myself as a son to your family and the Lord." Everything was happening too fast! And some persons close to me said that it indeed is too fast, that I'm still young and other heart-aching comments.

As the days passed, my wedding day drew near. Then it suddenly happened! The Covid 19 pandemic came and necessitated a lockdown, a long-drawn one, putting everything on hold. My life stopped for a moment. I became anxious and depressed because I didn't know what would happen next. What has life to offer me? How will I go on?

Then I saw my wedding souvenirs – pencils that you can use and when used up and become too short can be planted and wait for them to grow. Back to nature! On the pencil is written "Do everything in love (Cor. 16:14)." Tears welled in my eyes. Mama Mary seemed to be giving me a message.

The days came and went and the opening of school necessitated my reporting for teaching duty as planned and mandated. As a teacher, I need to establish myself and stand up for my students.

The school opening gave me the chance to be busy and momentarily forget the uncertainties and problems that the pandemic brought. Then I received a call from my head teacher to ask, "Can you make a video discussion? Any topic of your choice. I'll wait for your answer. I know you can do it." Much as I wanted to decline, I submitted one, not knowing that it was an audition for module writers and video creators for the Division of Pasig.

Why do you give me opportunities that overwhelm me? I asked Mama Mary. It brought me back to the time I was elected

SMI National President. I realized it was what the Blessed Mother wanted me to do. Following her footsteps in praising the Lord gave me reasons to know Him more, love Him more and being of service to Him and others.

For my work, I received my Gawad Primero Award. Then, too, I received a scholarship from the Ateneo de Manila University for a master's degree. What blessings!

Two years have passed and Covid 19 is still with us. Despite the pandemic, I got married last June 12, 2021 on the Feast of Mary Immaculate. On September 8, I found out I was pregnant . . . on Mama Mary's birthday. With a humble heart, I once more thanked Mama Mary and the Lord for these new blessings.

From being a Squirette learning the values and skills that will be required in adult life, I am now a daughter of Mary, emulating her virtues and deep devotion to her Son as His faithful disciple. I know for certain that Mama Mary has always been a companion and guide in my journey through life. So is it with my fellow Squirettes and my sister DMIs now. I see her in my biological mother who is a devoted DMI member. In faith, I face the future with great confidence that Mama Mary will always be in my life..



Mr. and Mrs. Ron Mark Elarcosa (nee Caroline Soliven)

"TALK ON FAMILY", AN ADVENT RECOLLECTION

By Sis. Monique Bularan, Diocesan
Regent, Diocese of Kalookan

The year 2021 continued to be a challenging year for everyone because of Covid 19. We changed how we used to do things because of restrictions and we lived by the day not knowing what tomorrow brings. The challenge caused everyone to go back to basics . . . discovering the value of the family.

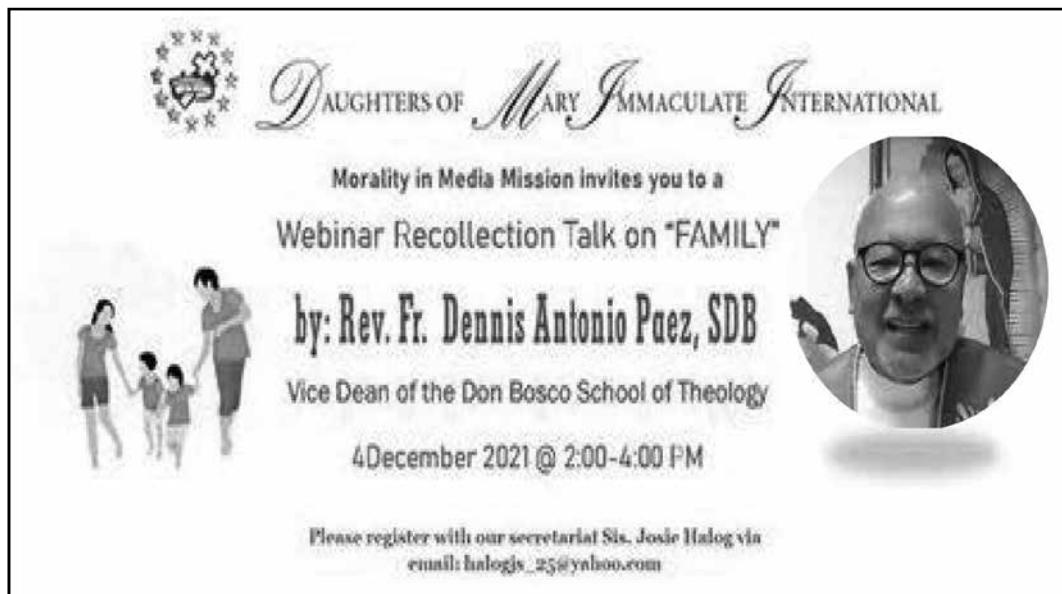
Last December 4, 2021, Fr. Dennis Paez, SDB, vice-dean of the Don Bosco School of Theology was invited as speaker on "Talk on Family", an advent recollection sponsored by the International Morality in Media Committee chaired by Sis. Cathy Pineda.

Fr. Dennis' talk and video made one feel a variety of emotions that made the DMI participants cry. What started as an ordinary webinar turned out to be filled with realizations: where there is family, there is LOVE and the excitement to be alive to spread the love to our family members once more.

Pope Francis in his *"Amoris Laetitia"* said that a perfect family does not exist, nor is there a perfect husband or a perfect wife or perfect children. It is just us sinners. "If we learn to say sorry and ask for forgiveness, the family is saved," Fr. Dennis said.

He continued saying that "our families hurt us the most BUT only our families can heal us". For a healthy family, we need the following phrases said frequently:

- **"May I?"** - As parents it would be easier for us to have taught our children to be blindly obedient but it would be best if we develop children who share their thoughts and ideas. The process develops in us patience and results to approval/acceptance of any decision.
- **"Please"** - Saying "please" is important to let



family members know that you are not taking them for granted. It empowers the family member to choose to take action.

- **"Thank you"** - By saying "thank you", you're also saying "I appreciate you", that you are important. It is very powerful that it makes family members more willing to do something for you again in the future.
- **"I'm sorry"** - Apologies re-establishes the dignity for those you hurt.

Apologizing allows you to let family members know you're not proud of what you did. It repairs relationships by getting people talking again, and makes them feel comfortable with each other again.

What a webinar to end the year 2021! After all the crying, everyone wants to hug their loved ones and start working towards making their relationship with family members better than ever.

Love in the family grows as it is forged by the situations which each particular family experiences. In the face of uncertainty, family has the power to energize. In the face of brokenness, family has the power to heal. In the face of despair, family has the power to bring hope.

2022-23 ACTION PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR THE 5 DMI MISSIONS

Presented hereunder are the suggested programs and activities for 2022-23 by the International Chairpersons of the Five Mission thrusts that can be pursued on the diocesan and circle levels.

1. PRO-LIFE (Sis. Marlin Abratique – Chairperson)

- Celebrate Pro-Life Month in February – Eucharistic celebrations, floral offering, candle-lighting and Special Prayer for the Unborn and Aborted Babies before the Tomb of the Unborn in respective parishes
- Conduct webinars on issues and concerns of the family, mental health, care for the environment, etc.
- Celebrate the Foundation Day of the Commission on Human Rights in May by holding an Orientation on Basic Human Rights, Concepts and Principles
- Extend financial assistance to the sick
- Extend “ayuda” to half-way houses for women, children and victims of abuse
- Actively participate in church-related activities such as mass baptisms, weddings, etc
- Conduct/Actively participate in community activities such as medical missions, distribution of health kits, etc

2. MORALITY IN MEDIA (Sis. Biennah Villanueva – Chairperson)

- Enhance media awareness through webinars and talks on “Responsible Media” by speakers from the academe, the religious, etc.
- Orient members and their families on how to deal with negativism in media, especially social media such as bashing, trolls, fake news, etc.
- Strengthen the family and the individual through value formation and developing a Christ-centered life through involvement in church and community-related activities such as participation in Mass, Family Day, etc.
- Understand fully the good and bad effects

of media, particularly the children and the community

- Network with other media organizations with similar objectives who can promote good media and prevent proliferation of bad media
- Invite credible speakers in the media industry to provide updates/ new trends/others; ex. The webinar “How Not to Waste Your Vote” sponsored by the Our Lady of Fatima Bacood Circle

3. UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS (Sis. Lorie Manalansan - Chairperson)

- Promote woman empowerment through:
 - gender equality in the workplace
 - recognition of exceptional mothers having back-breaking and menial jobs
 - celebration of International Women’s Month thru Zumba sessions, lecture on self-care, etc.
- Promote health and wellness through:
 - medical missions for women’s health concerns such as bone-scanning, Pap smear, etc.
 - Social activities such as celebration of Valentine’s Day, Mother’s Day, Christmas, etc.
- Provide economic orientation and resources through:
 - Livelihood and skills training through TESDA, etc.
 - Food sufficiency through backyard gardening, etc.
 - Cooking demos/handicraft-making
 - Financial assistance to start a small business
 - Recycling of used materials such as plastic to turn them into new products for home use or for sale
- Provide spiritual development and enrichment activities
 - Participation in Masses as offerors and other roles

- Involvement in church events such as Sunday masses, Lenten Season, etc. including sale of *palaspas*, candles, etc. needed during the occasion
- Religious seminars, recollections, Bible-sharing, etc.
- Partner with/Support other NGOS and organizations with similar objectives
 - Community activities to promote health and wellness such as vaccination campaigns, etc.
 - Partner with NGOs/religious orgs. extending financial assistance to women
 - Support women formerly in the flesh trade

4. ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS (Sis. Cora Afuang - Chairperson)

- Touch base with prisoners to know their families and victims the Mission's beneficiaries (List may also be sourced from barangays, jail wardens or provincial/city/municipal jails)
- Continue scholarship grants to prisoners'/victims' children giving tuition fees, school supplies, uniforms, transpo allowance, etc.
- “Sulat Mo, Padala Ko” - DMI sisters to help in delivering letters of PDLs to their families especially when communicating with them proves difficult
- Regular visitations to families to extend assistance – moral, spiritual, financial, health care, etc.
- Para-Legal assistance during prisoner's inability to get a lawyer through organizations offering free legal help such as FLAG and others
- Assist the family in finding alternative sources of income – small business, skills training for possible employment
- Arrange free wedding for unwed prisoners or baptism for unbaptized members of the family
- Celebrate with family on special occasions such as Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, Christmas, etc.
- Invite families to join recollections, seminars conducted by the parish and other groups

5. YOUTH WELFARE/SQUIRETTES OF MARY (Sis. Cathy Pineda – Chairperson)

Projects for 1st Quarter

- On-line Novena – Holy Rosary prayer for 9 days starting Jan. 16 (Feast of the Sto. Nino) up to Feb. 22 with specific intentions for Tita DMIs, Squirettes and their families for those affected by Covid 19, affected by Typhoon Odette and other personal intentions
- Leadership development – Recognition of SMI academic achievers thru a Certificate of Academic Excellence from the DMI circle or SMI circlette. Award may be coordinated with the school personnel (Sample of certificate is available.)
- Knowledge Dissemination - Orientation of Lady Counselors/SMI President on their duties and responsibility, pointers on leadership, committees in the SMI, reporting

Getting to Know Your Organization -orientation of new SMI members, refresher for old SMIs Activities:

- Virtual investiture/initiation of new members to the SMI
- Installation of officers
- Chartering of new circlette

For 2nd Quarter

- Virtual mini-Olympics (during vacation or school break)
- Organize virtual gathering for online games
- Invite prospective SMI members to join (a tool for membership recruitment and growth)
- Simple fellowship/bonding in place of face-to-face meet-up
- SMI Lady Counselor/Squirettes design simple games, suitable activities such as song contest (Name that Tune), Bible Quiz, Word Puzzle (forming as many words from a root word), Tiktok of the circlette or a team

For 3rd and 4th Quarters

- Assist Tita DMIs in their circle activities pertaining to their spiritual and charitable works .(Ex. Floral offerings, praying the rosary, feeding program during Marian feast days, medical mission, etc.)

turn to page 28

2022-2023 Action Plans... from page 27

- Join or organize parish or Advent recollections
- Attend simbang-gabi and simple Christmas fellowship
- Others:

- Area Conferences
- National Webinars – about the Blessed Virgin Mary, social graces, conforming with the highest principles of Christian and social values

ERRATUM

Diocesan Regent Sis. Mercy Ong sent the list of vicariates and circles comprising the Diocese of Antipolo in the year 2021 to correct what was published in the July-September 2021 issue of the DMI Newsette (Diocesan General Assembly Held, page 11)

1. Vicariate of Our Lady of the Abandoned – Sis. Loida Solidum, Vicarial Regent
St. Paul of the Cross Circle – Sis. Susan Ong, Regent
Our Lady of the Abandoned Circle – Sis. Catherine Ong, Regent
Nativity of Our Lady Circle- Sis. Dalisay Francisco, Regent
St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Circle – Sis. Cleofe Baggayan, Regent
2. Vicariate of Aranzazu - Sis. Julie Lodia, Vicarial Regent
Holy Family of Parang Circle – Sis. Nila Florentino, Regent
Immaculate Conception of Marikina Circle – Sis. Lourdes Cruz, Regent
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Circle – Sis. Carie Cruz, Regent
Sta. Cecilia Circle – Sis. Lhynn Sarmiento, Regent
3. Vicariate of St. John the Baptist – Sis. Precy de Dios, Vicarial Regent
Nstra. Sra. De la Paz y Bienviaje Circle – Sis. Digna Lico, Regent
Our Lady of Light Circle – Sis. Shirley Gongora, Regent
San Andres Apostol Circle -Sis.Nelia Mauban, Regent



Daughters of Mary Immaculate International

Lot 23-A, Block 6, Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Parañaque City

Tel. No. 8810-9530

Website: www.dmiinternational.org

Executive Officers

Sis. Asuncion B. Naraga	- International Regent
Sis. Ma. Clotilde R. Tong	- Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon
Sis. Conchita P. Niere	- Vice-Int'l Regent - Visayas
Sis. Lucina A. Binoya	- Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao
Sis. Teresita D. Labilles	- International Secretary
Sis. Iluminada C. Lagunda	- International Treasurer

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

DMI Newsette Editorial Board

Sis. Salvacion T. Estrada - Editor

Contributors

Sis. Eufemia M. Abragan	Sis. Virginia Cabero
Sis. Brigida Cecilia R. Abratique	Sis. Merinnisa O. Ligaya
Sis. Corazon T. Afuang	Sis. Ma. Loreto S. Manalansan
Sis. Agnes P. Arada	Sis. Sheila O. Peji
Sis. Cristina M. Ballesteros	Sis. Catalina Rebecca A. Pineda
Sis. Igmedia Balagapo	Sis. Ma. Pinky B. Saavedra
Sis. Ilda G. Borlongan	Sis. Biennah Elena C. Villanueva