



# DMII NEWSETTE

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January - March 2023

## DIOCESE OF BUTUAN GEARS UP FOR DMII 22<sup>ND</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION

During the first quarter meeting of the DMII International Officers and Board last February 18, 2023, Region XII Representative Sis. Sheila Peji gave an update report on their preparations for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention on September 2 to 3 2023 to be hosted by the Diocese of Butuan.

First in her report was the change of convention venue from Almont Inland Resort Hotel to the Fr. Saturnino Urios University Gymnasium, an airconditioned place that can accommodate 2,000 participants. The Almont Hotel venue can seat only 1,000 persons. The previous two conventions in Davao City and Baguio City had more than 2,000 delegates.

The convention fee has also been reduced to P2,600 (from the previous P3,000) for those registering until April 30; P2,800 for those registering between May 1 up to June 30, the registration deadline.

Acceptance of registration is on a first-come-first served basis. Once the 2,000 pre-paid maximum registration is reached, the registration will be closed. Walk-in registration is not allowed.

The Convention Working Committee headed by



*Region XII Representative Sis. Sheila Peji reports to the Board about the convention preparations.*

Sis. Sheila and Butuan Diocesan Regent Sis. Susan Honculada is leaving no stone unturned to make the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention another “blockbuster”.

The convention program is being drawn up with the theme “DMII: One in Mission Towards the Synodal Church with Mary”. The Fellowship Night’s motif is Regional Folk/Ethnic to be highlighted by a regional dance contest.

As of this writing (March 31), 282 DMII sisters have registered for the convention.

**BE PART OF THE 22<sup>ND</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION.  
Register NOW!**



*The International Officers and Board with Mission Chairpersons and Special Committee Chairpersons.*

# We Are an Easter People



My Beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

In one of his midday Angelus reflections, our dearest Saint John Paul II said, "*We are an Easter People and Alleluia is our song!*" Easter is a season of joy and hope. Christ has truly risen. Easter reminds us that our hope is not in vain and not an illusion. It is the truth.

We do not pretend that life is always beautiful. Easter is not about fun and happiness that comes from shallow reasons. We recognize the presence of darkness and sin. Easter, however, proves that darkness and sin have been conquered. Easter proclaims that death is not the end, that we are called to eternal life, eternal happiness, and joy with God.

Because of the example of Jesus, we realize that joy must be worked for. It necessitates first genuine selflessness and dying to oneself. It demands us to welcome even those people who are against us. It requires us to be synodal, to listen to those who need to be heard.

In this synodal journey of the Church, Jesus' empty tomb encourages us to move forward. Like Mary Magdalene, when she saw the stone rolled back and heard the message of the angels, she did not sulk but rather she announces to Peter and John the incident right away (cf. *Jn. 20:2*). That is the effect of Jesus' Resurrection: it gives us ardor for the mission. It sends us to where we are needed.

My dear DMI, we encourage you to make haste, like Mary Magdalene, to spread the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection (cf. *Mt. 28:8*). This Easter, we foster synodality in our community, especially in our families. We continue to become a blessing to other people. We persist in doing good in the face of adversity. We persevere in faith in front of difficulty. This is truly the Easter that God wanted us to have. An Easter that is full of joy rooted in the faith, shared to all.

Happy Easter to all of you! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Yours in Christ,

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



## **BY SERVING OUR LESS FORTUNATE BRETHREN, WE MANIFEST OUR LOVE FOR GOD**



My dear Sisters in Christ,

We welcome the New Year 2023 with much gratitude to God for the bountiful blessings we receive through His Unconditional Love for us. May we continue to enjoy His blessings as we go about our missions in the coming months.

Every January 1<sup>st</sup>, we celebrate the motherhood of Mary as Mother of our Savior, Jesus Christ. As her daughters, we also believe that she is at our side with her blue mantle of protection to guide us as she leads us to her Son. She is the first and faithful disciple of Jesus.

February is love month. On Valentine's Day, we express in various ways our affection for our loved ones. The love for our families should be modeled after the love of the Holy Family – Joseph, Mary and Joseph.

The silence of St. Joseph is a great virtue that should be imitated. He does not talk much but acts with trustful surrender to Divine Providence. That was how he prepared Jesus for His public ministry. Joseph is the faithful spouse of Mary whose feast day we celebrate on March 19 as the pure and holy husband of Mary.

The Season of Lent – a season of prayer, fasting and almsgiving – is full of religious traditions handed down to us through the ages; but above all these, it is time to fix ourselves spiritually, to get back to having the right relationship with our God. In return for His love for us, let us stand ever ready to serve our less fortunate brethren – the lost, the least and the last.

Our national theme for this year is "DMI: One Mission Towards a Synodal Church with Mary". Through our work in the DMI Missions, done with utmost commitment and dedication, we walk with the Synodal Church guided by Mama Mary along the path that would lead us to Jesus.

Let us just be ready with our FIAT as Mama Mary did.

Advance Happy Easter, dear sisters!

Yours in Christ through Mary,

A stylized, cursive signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Asuncion B. Naraga'.

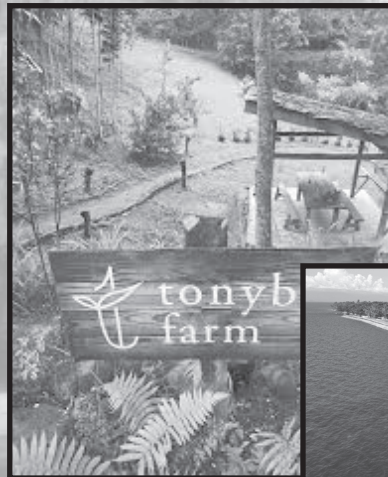
SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA  
International Regent

# POST-CONVENTION TOURS

On September 3, 2023 (Sunday), two tour options are available for those who will choose to stay in Butuan City for an extra day. These are:

**A – Butuan City Half-Day Tour** (with a minimal fee for transportation and tour guide)

Places to Visit – National Museum, Bood Promontory, and the Shrines of Birhen sa Kasilak and Sto. Nino and St. Joseph Cahedral. Lunch at Masao Beach.



**B – Buenascar Tour** (P1,500 per head, guided day tour to Buenavista, Nasipit and Carmen, Agusan del Norte)

Itinerary: Buenas Coffee, Tony Bee Farm, Alicia's Ridge, Narwhal Wall, Mahigalaon Beach Resort, Mt. Carmel and Vinapor Blue Waters





# MOVEMENTS IN THE DMII INTERNATIONAL BOARD IN 2023



**Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya**, International Advocate and Region III Representative, has been elected as International Vice-Regent for Luzon during the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board Meeting on Feb. 18, 2023. She has taken over the position from Sis. Milde Tong whose term ended in 2022.



**Sis. Pinky Saavedra**, Region XIV Representative, takes over the position of International Vice-Regent for Mindanao for 2023 from Sis. Luz Binoya, IVR-Mindanao for 2022 and Region XIII Representative.



**Sis. Lorie Manalansan** becomes the 2023 Region V Representative vice Sis. Milde Tong, Region V's 2022 RR.



**Sis. Milde Tong** has assumed the position of International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers in 2023.



**Sis. Juliet Cruz** has been designated as Alternate Region V RR for 2023 concurrently with her position as International Auditor for Membership.

# REGION I ASSEMBLY IN THE CITY OF PINES

*By Sis. Millet Jaurigue, Vicarial Regent, Diocese of Baguio  
with Sis. Tina Ballesteros, Region I Representative*



*Fr. Jerome Cruz and Sis. Sionee Naraga carry the image of the Blessed Mother during the processional for the enthronement and consecration Ceremony.*

A bright sunny day in Baguio City welcomed 110 participants for the first face-to-face Region I Assembly post-pandemic on November 26, 2022.

The assembly participants came from seven circles of three dioceses of Region I – Our Lady of Atocha, Mater Immaculata and Queen of Mercy Circles of the Diocese of Isabela, Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle of the Diocese of Laoag and Our Lady of Atonement, St. Joseph the Worker and St. Vincent Ferrer Circles of the Diocese of Baguio.

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist by Bishop Victor Bendico of the Diocese of Baguio signaled the opening of the assembly. DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz was co-celebrant. Bishop Bendico was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga followed by group photos of the delegates.

The conference proper was held at the Mt. Mary Hall of Sangkabalayan Building

with Fr. Marlon Nebrez and his assistants doing the physical arrangements and the stage backdrop.

The opening ceremony started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother led by the DMII International Officers present. The regional and circle officers offered candles and flowers at her altar. Sis. Carol Dimaano led the DMI Prayer followed by the National Anthem and the Panunumpa sa Watawat led by Sisters Rosalinda Jamorabon and Marilyn Dacones, respectively. Vicarial Regent and assembly host Sis. Emelita “Millet” Jaurigue welcomed the delegates after the Parade of Circles.

Regional Representative Sis. Tina Ballesteros in her opening remarks exhorted the participants to continue their journey with Mama Mary so that she may present them to her Son and bring them Home to Him.

Rev. Fr. Berlynden Dao-anis, vicar general of the Diocese of Baguio was the assembly keynote speaker on the theme “The DMII: Journeying Together in Synodality and Discernment with



*Keynote speaker Fr. Berlynden Dao-anis is awarded a certificate of Appreciation.*



*The presentation of circle banners*



Mama Mary". He led the community in praying the Prayer for the Synod and invited them to look together at the Church which is still malayo (distant from the faithful), malabo (ambivalent) because of inconsistencies and witnessing, nakakalito (confused and confusing) because of disorganized and uncoordinated effort in mission. Why the cracks in Christian life? It is the gap between God and us. There is a call to love together, to make synodality our way of life, to create a space for conversations and dialogue. He further said that our Blessed Mother is our model and guide and he gave a reflection on the Joyful Mysteries. He emphasized her pre-ordained role in salvation history to be the mother of His Only-Begotten Son. Her Immaculate Conception was in preparation for her role as the spotless vessel who will bear Him. Concluding his message, Fr. Dao-anis said that everyone must always be aware of God's presence and the abundance of His grace and Divine Providence.

In his inspirational message, Fr. Jerome posed the questions: Do you experience the love of Jesus? How? He pointed out that the Lord does everything, looking into the eyes when calling for conversion in the hearts of people. He further said that when one loves, it should be true love; when he listens, it should be true listening.

There must be empathy.

As ice breaker, sisters from the St. Joseph the Worker Circle led the delegates in singing an Ilocano medley. Lunch break ended the morning session.

The afternoon's first speaker was Morality in Media Chairperson Sis. Biannah Villanueva who gave safety tips when using social media: a) Manage your privacy setting; b) Remember, once posted, it stays posted; c) Keep personal information personal; d) Protect your computer; e) Know what action to take; f) Use strong passwords; and g) Be cautious about social networking sites.



*The members of the International Board during Fellowship Night at The SM Sky Garden. Seated from left: Sisters Biannah Villanueva, Marlin Abratique, IR Sionee Naraga and Josie Halog. Standing: Sisters Millet Jaurigue (assembly host), Tina Ballesteros, Lorie Manalansan and Milde Tong.*

Pro-Life International Chairperson Sis. Marlin Abratique talked about the present threats and challenges against life: poverty, EJK, attacks on marriage, homosexual union among others. She also cited why young people experiment on homosexuality - traumatic experience as a teen-ager, peer pressure, and rebellion as a result of dysfunction in the home. It also has become a fad. In ending her talk, Sis. Marlin quoted part of Pope Francis' Evangelium Vitae, the Gospel of Life " . . .but no less grave and disturbing are the facts that conscience itself, darkened as it were by such widespread conditioning, is finding it increasingly difficult to distinguish between good and evil in what concerns the basic value of human life."

Sis. Lorie Manalansan of the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee said that she was happy to be able to join the Region I Assembly after a 5-month medical journey. She reported about the various activities by circles around the country for the mission one of which is the on-going project of the Our Lady of Grace Circle in the Diocese of Laoag, turning a dumpsite into a mini-park.

International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Milde Tong encouraged everyone to be very watchful against the increasing work of the devil, citing California as the hub of abortion in the US where even a 7-month-old fetus can be aborted.

Sis. Sionee Naraga exhorted her audience to always pray as a way of communicating with God and Mama Mary and establishing a good relationship with them. She also encouraged them to practice the DMI mottoes as a way of life, pray the Five First Saturday devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and read the Bible daily. Her last reminder: Observe ALMA - act like Mary always.

The assembly speakers were awarded certificates of appreciation, statues of Our Lady of Atonement and Christmas cards as tokens.

After the recessional, the assembly participants moved to the SM Sky Garden for dinner and fellowship, courtesy of the SM Management. It was a happy and memorable night with a guest violinist provided by SM playing Christmas carols and old-time favorites. Some sisters showcased their talents in song and dances led by Sis. Millet who sings like a pro. A closing prayer led by Sis. Arcely Juezan closed the assembly.



*Giving of awards during Fellowship Night*

## BLESSED QUEEN AND MOTHER CIRCLE DONATES BARANGAY CHAPEL

By Louie F. Lampen

The Blessed Queen and Mother Circle of Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan donated a barangay chapel in Banaoang, Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan in its mission of helping and serving the local community. The chapel is in honor of San Isidro Labrador.

Spearheaded by Sisters Gertrudes Fernandez, Erlinda Escobal, Marina Fernandez and Judy Ann Mabunga, members of the circle based at the Holy Family Parish unselfishly gave their time, talent and treasures to make the construction of the chapel possible. In

addition to the structure, special projects were also undertaken such as the construction of comfort rooms, perimeter fence, water utilities and the beautification of the chapel and its premises.

In a related event, Sis. Gertrudes Fernandez, to celebrate her birthday on November 16, 2022, gave free meals to the construction workers and traffic enforcers in their barangay. She was assisted by Regent Sis. Lourdes de Guzman and Sisters Esther Calimlim, Violy Mariano and Erlinda Escobal.



*The DMI sisters who spearheaded the construction of the San Isidro Labrador Chapel, from left: Sisters Gertrudes Fernandez, Judy Ann Mabunga, Erlinda Escobal and Marina Fernandez.*



*Members of the Blessed Queen and Mother Circle distribute food packs to construction workers and traffic enforcers of Bgy. Banaoang.*

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## CACAO TREES PROPAGATED FOR LIVELIHOOD

By Sis. Esther Calimlim, Recording Secretary,  
Blessed Queen and Mother Circle

Cacao trees are now grown in backyards of most houses in the Holy Family Parish in Sta. Barbara, Pangasinan. Planting of cacao trees was promoted by the Blessed Queen and Mother Circle to process the fruits into chocolate as a healthy food for breakfast and snacks.

The circle, through Sis. Esther Calimlim, gathered the mothers in the neighborhood to teach them how to process cacao seeds into



*Sis. Esther Calimlim with the mothers who attended the demo on cacao processing.*



# MIRACULOUS MEDAL CIRCLE'S MISSION ACTIVITIES IN PHOTOS



**Distribution of gift packages to Female PDLs**

*The DMI sisters of the Miraculous Medal Circle visited the female PDLs in the BJMP facility in Dagupan City to distribute food and groceries to the inmates. A Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Marlon Allam and catechism was given by Sis. Alma of Mary Help of Christians Seminary.*

## **Catechism for children of Brgy. Caranglaan**

*A series of catechism lectures was started on Oct. 17, 2022 by the DMI sisters to prepare the children of Bgy. Caranglaan in Dagupan City for first communion. The lectures were held on Oct, 23, November 6, 13 and 20 when the actual confession and communion took place during the Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Laforteza. The children were taught how to pray the rosary,*

*the Seven Sacraments and the Ten Commandments. Diocesan Regent Sis. Aileen Santos, assisted by Squirette Marie France, talked about the importance of prayers and why the need for confession in preparation for communion. The lectures were held at the Holy Cross Chapel. The children received gifts from the sisters after the activity.*



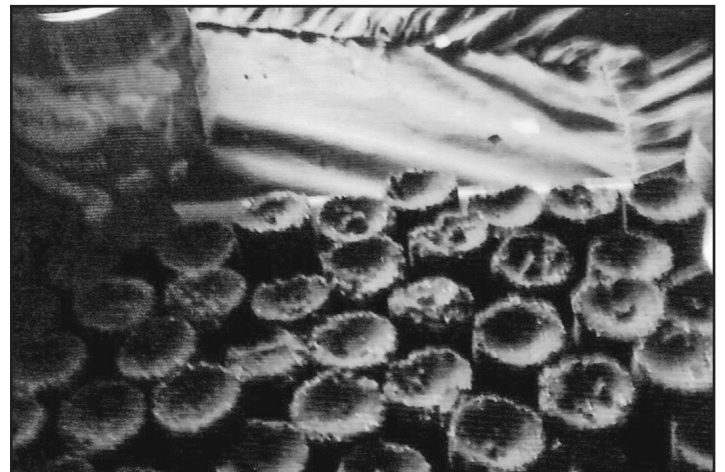
chocolate, starting from drying the cacao seeds, roasting them in low fire until they turn light brown, removing the skin of the seeds, grinding the seeds finely two times, adding sugar and molding the cacao mixture into

bars and wrapping them in wax paper.

The mothers are now able to prepare chocolate for their families and as a means of additional income.



*Cacao seeds become . . .*



*. . .chocolate tablea.*



# SAN JOSE CIRCLE PURSUES PRO-LIFE MISSION

*By Sis. Evangeline Ruanto, Circle Scribe*

The DMI sisters of San Jose Circle of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija visited the Home for the Girls on January 21, 2023 as part of the Pro-Life mission. The Center, located in Bgy. Singalat, Palayan City, is run by the Dept. of Social Welfare and Development for girls who are physically or sexually abused, abandoned or with behavioral problems, or out-of-school who need to be cared for and/or rehabilitated.

Spearheaded by Regent Sis. Nerissa Grospe and Pro-Life group head Sis. Nida Vicmundo, the DMI sisters donated blankets, sanitary napkins and snack items to the 69 girls, aged 7 to 18 years, being cared for at the time of the visit. The girls presented dance numbers to entertain their guests as well as to show their appreciation for the visit. Center Head Ms. Emelita Cruz-Bolivar thanked the DMI sisters for their donation.



*The San Jose Circle DMIs with their donations.*

## PRO-LIFE MISSION'S POST-CHRISTMAS GIFT-GIVING

*By Sis. Evangeline Ruanto,  
Circle Scribe*

The PRO-Life Mission Group of San Jose Circle headed by Sis. Nida Vicmundo with Regent Sis. Nerissa Grospe distributed rice, groceries and blankets to residents of Bgy. Capintalan, Carranglan, a mountain area of Nueva Ecija. Barangay Captain Marites Baucan welcomed the sisters during the activity.

After their visit to Carranglan, the sisters proceeded to the Tahanan ng Damayang Kristiyano (TDK) in Bgy. Parang Mangga in San Jose City and distributed the rest of the gift packs to 20 elderlies (aged 56 to 99 years) and seven abused girls (aged 9 to 23 years) residing in the shelter. Fr. Ricardo Pangilinan, Jr. is the TDK's director.



*Residents of Carranglan line up to receive their gifts.*



*The DMI sisters with their gift packs get ready for their mission.*



*The elderly residents of Tahanan ng Damayang Kristiyano.*



# SAN JOSE CIRCLE HOLDS BASIC BIBLE SEMINAR

The DMI San Jose Circle conducted a Basic Bible Seminar at the chancery of the St. Joseph Cathedral on Feb. 9, 2023 spearheaded by the circle's Morality in Media Group headed by Sis. Evangeline Ruanto.

Circle Regent Sis. Nerissa Grospe welcomed the seminar participants followed by the opening remarks of Sis. Conchita Amurao. Past Region II Representative Sis. Hilaria Hipolito also gave an inspirational message.

Fr. Peter Albino, Jr., pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in Talugtug, NE was the resource speaker. According to Sis. Evangeline Ruanto who introduced him, Fr. Peter is also the diocesan director of the Commission of Biblical Apostolate and of the Commission of Catechesis. His talk about "The Bible as the Word of God", accompanied by an audio-visual presentation held the interest and attention of his audience. A lively open forum followed.

The well-attended activity ended with a closing prayer. Due to the success of the seminar, another one is planned to be held in the latter part of the year.



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*From the Diocese of Iba (Zambales) – Region III*

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## DIOCESE OF IBA HOLDS PRO-LIFE SYMPOSIUM

*By Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya,  
Int'l Vice-Regent for Luzon & Region III Representative*

**"We are just God's stewards to the gift of life"** was the theme of the symposium last March 11, 2023 of the Diocese of Iba. It was attended by 120 DMI sisters from the 15 circles comprising the vicariates of the Diocese – San Jose, San Sebastian and San Agustin. The symposium was held at St. William Church in San Marcelino, Zambales.

The resource speaker was Fr. Eric de la Cruz, pastor of St. William Parish. In his talk, he presented the symposium objectives – to understand the concept of spirituality and stewardship and to appreciate and embrace the Church's teaching about the value of human life and all creation. He pointed out that spirituality is not exclusively a matter of religious conviction, not a conglomeration of abstract concepts, nor empty traditionalism but a "way of life". It is a practical application of commonly held principles of daily life challenges, an ability to draw from the rich experiences of the past for inspiration and driving force, a radical way of seeing and living life and a recognition of the human desire to look for the deeper meaning of life.

On stewardship, Fr. Eric stressed that a steward is a person entrusted with great responsibility. As a steward, he takes the lead in determining the



*Fr. Eric de la Cruz, resource speaker.*

*turn to page 12*



*The symposium participants*

direction that life will take, the realities and challenges faced and discovering potentials and opportunities for growth and development.

Spearheading the successful activity were Diocesan Pro-Life Chair Sis. Mila Matias and Pro-Life Coordinator for Luzon Sis. Lourdes Felicano. IVR-

Luzon and Region III Representative Sis. Nene Ligaya and Diocesan Regent Sis. Marietta Romera and the other diocesan officers lent full support to the activity held in celebration of Pro-Life Month.

The symposium started with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary and ended with the DMIs singing "If We Hold on Together".



*From the Diocese of Malolos – Region IV*

## **A TRIBUTE TO THE DMII REGION IV REPRESENTATIVES**

*By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia, Region IV  
Newsette Correspondent*

Through the years, the women at the helm of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International come and go as they finish their term to give way for a new set of International Officers and Board of Trustees. Among these women whose commitment and dedication to the organization have been tried and tested through all the 44 years of its existence are the Region IV (Diocese of Malolos) Representatives who have assumed pivotal roles in the National organization.

All of them up till now remain active in the Diocese of Malolos, attending meetings and being present in various activities to lend their support to ensure the success of the DMII's undertakings.

Late last year, this writer initiated an activity to pay tribute to the pillars of the DMII Diocese of Malolos, our Regional Representatives to the International Board. They are as follows:

**Sis. Neneng Nicolas – District Deputy//  
Regional Representative, 1999**

**Sis. Prising Hermogenes – Regional  
Representative and International Secretary,  
2000 to 2004**

**Sis. Piling San Juan – Regional Representative,  
2005 to 2008**

**Sis. Tessie Villarino – Regional Representative  
and International Secretary, 2009 to 2010**



**Sis. Flor Barcial – Regional Representative, 2011 to 2012**

**Sis. Violy Luna - Regional Representative, 2013 to 2014**

**Sis. Fely Gallardo – Regional Representative, 2015 to 2016**

**Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia – Regional Representative and International Secretary, 2017 to 2018**

**Sis. Aida de la Cruz – Regional Representative, 2019 to 2021**

**Sis. Teresita Labilles – Regional Representative, 2022 to present**

We would like to say, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. Thank you for your presence, your examples, your friendship, your dedication to the organization. Thank you for telling us and the younger members of the DMI that being part of our organization is worth our time, our efforts, our resources and that here, we all grow in faith, in service to the church. Thank you for giving us examples of growth in our personal and spiritual lives. You showed us that here we find friends, and we discover a community where we experience love and learn how to serve the Lord and our parishes.

In you, we realize that indeed service brings out the best in us. When we serve, we develop our talents, and like you, reach the fullness of our womanhood. Seeing our

gifts unfold, we realize how much blessings we have received from the Lord, and therefore, we are moved to share with others.

Most of all, we see in you that service and love of the Lord are better than all the anti-aging creams and procedures. Perhaps this is also your secret weapon against boredom and depression. We want to grow old like you. We hope we can inspire the younger members as you inspired us.

Please continue teaching and challenging us that we must make a difference in the life of the people whom we serve. Tell us that going out of our comfort zones and being available to others will alleviate their pains and sufferings. This makes us feel good knowing that this is the heart of the call to belong to the DMII and be in leadership.

You witness to us what an author said about becoming adults: that age is not a barrier to what we can do and share. It merely limits our speed, quantity and quality of movement. But it never stops us from living and loving and caring and sharing. We realize that a different way of doing things come to us as we advance in age. But it is the same we who say Yes to our God, who continue to live in us.

Thank you, dear sisters, for your persons, for your presence, for your precious contributions to our organization and to our lives.



*The Region IV RRS - Left photo: Front row, left to right: Sisters Piling San Juan, Prising Hermogenes, Tesy Villarino, and Flor Barcial. Second row: Sisters Tess Labilles, Aida de la Cruz, Thess Curia, Violy Luna and Fely Gallardo. Right photo: Seated: Sisters Neneng Nicolas and Piling San Juan. Standing: Sisters Prising Hermogenes, Tesy Villarino and Fely Gallardo.*

# REGION V CELEBRATES PRO-LIFE MONTH WITH “WALK FOR LIFE”

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,  
Region V Representative and  
Regional Newsette Correspondent*

The DMIs of Region V participated in the “Walk for Life” organized by the LAIKO group last February 18, 2023. It was their first face-to-face activity after the pandemic.

Representing the DMII were sisters from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Imus, Kalookan, Manila, Novaliches and Pasig. The Diocese of Paranaque was not represented as a diocesan exemplification of new members coincided with the Walk.

With the theme “SANAOL (Synodality, Accompaniment and Nearness: Let’s All Walk Together for Life)”. The activity started in early morning at the Quezon City Welcome Rotunda and ended at the University of Sto. Tomas grandstand where a program and a Eucharistic celebration presided by Msgr. Bernardo Pantin, CBCP secretary-general were held.

The “Walk for Life” has been held by LAIKO yearly since 2017 in collaboration with the CBCP Episcopal Commission on the Laity to promote the Church’s moral teachings amidst institutional changes that seemingly undermine the sanctity and dignity of human life.



... Diocese of Imus



...Diocese of Kalookan



Delegations from the Diocese of Antipolo ...



... Diocese of Cubao



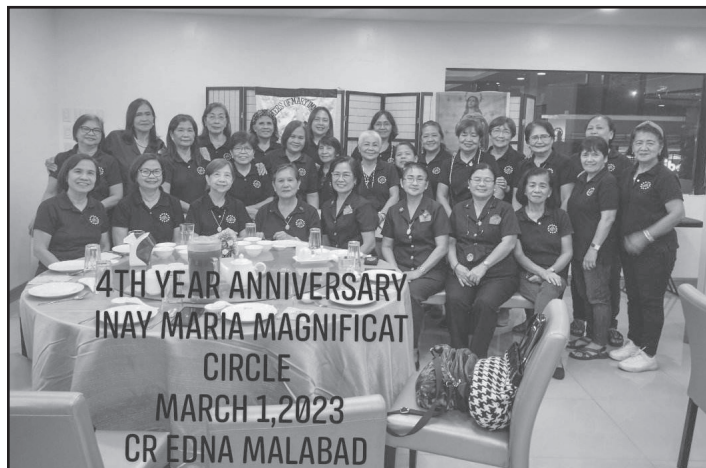
... Diocese of Novaliches





## INAY MARIA NG MAGNIFICAT CIRCLE CELEBRATES 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

The Inay Maria ng Magnificat Circle, Diocese of Imus celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary last March 1, 2023. The circle's 26 members looked back with pride on what they have accomplished and, with eagerness and firm resolve, look forward to even more meaningful projects that they plan to undertake for the DMI missions to serve their parish communities. Guests during the celebration were Diocesan Regent Sis. Leonora Habon, Vicarial Regent Sis. Catherine Longcob and Circle Regents Sisters Thess Guerrero of Sto. Nino de Molino Circle and Teresita Verde of Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle. – Sis. Edna Malabad, Circle Regent.



## OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE SMIs JOIN NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK CELEBRATION

By Sis. Genie Perlas,  
Circle Recording Secretary

The Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish celebrated the National Bible Week with the theme "Ginagabayan Tayo ng Salita ng Diyos sa Tamang Daan, sa Katotohanan at Buhay". The whole-day event included contests on Poster-Making, Essay-Writing and the Parade of God's Words with the Squirettes excitedly carrying placards bearing Bible quotes.

A Holy Mass, the enthronement and blessing of the Holy Bible concluded the celebration. The winners of the contests were then announced. Squirette Samantha Ellyka Monge won second place in the Essay Writing Contest with the theme "Mahalagang Milagro na Matatagpuan sa Bibliya at ang Mensahe Nito sa Kasalukuyan". In the Poster-Making Contest, Squirettes Joy Ann Mary Cruz and Jollie Mae Queenie Peligro won third place. Their entry's theme was "Ang Bibliya at Teknolohiya sa Buhay ng Kabataan Ngayong 2023".

Lady Counselor Sis. Kate Raguindin and Tita DMIs extended support to the activity and helped in the distribution of snacks after the parade.



the Poster-Making Contest



Winners in the Essay-Writing Contest and . . .



The Parade of God's Words

# OLQP CIRCLE'S YOUTH WELFARE COMMITTEE HOLDS POST-VALENTINE GIFT-GIVING

By Sis. Rony Bambilla



The Youth Welfare/SMI Committee of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of the Diocese of Imus distributed pre-loved toys and provided snacks for some 50 children in the mission areas of the parish last February 26, 2023 as a post-Valentine outreach project. The toys and food served were donated by the Squirettes of Mary and their Tita DMIs.

## MORE UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE OF IMUS IN PHOTOS



*Region V's WALK FOR LIFE. The delegation from the Diocese of Imus was the earliest to arrive at the starting point of the Walk, the Quezon City Welcome Rotunda.*



*DMI Officers' Installation. Officers of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circle were installed into office on February 11, 2023.*



*SMI Investiture and Induction of Officers. The Squirettes of Sto. Nino de Molino Circlette held their investiture ceremony and induction of officers also on February 11, 2023. They actively assist their Tita DMIs in their Mission activities.*



## MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE CIRCLE PARTICIPATES IN FEAST OF STO. NINO/SINULOG FESTIVAL

By Sis. Jessie Abagat, Vicarial Regent

Different organizations of the Sacred Heart Parish of Tugatog, Malabon City participated in the colorful Sinulog Festival to celebrate the Feast of the Sto. Nino on January 15, 2023.

A contest among the different participating organizations was held at the barangay plaza of Tugatog Diwa Sports Complex. The Mother of Divine Grace Circle members, in their colorful costume and props danced during the procession and won third place.



The Mother of Divine Grace Circle festival participants with VR Sis. Jessie Abagat carrying the image of the Sto. Nino.

From the Diocese of Paranaque – Region V

## A VISIT TO THE HOUSE OF SOMANG BY RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE

By Sis. Cherry Torreces, past Circle Scribe

The Risen Christ Circle of Holy Eucharist Parish in Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City together with the Mary Immaculate Circle of Levitown, Better Living Subd. also in Paranaque City visited the House of Somang, Phils., a home for the elderly in Levitown. The House of Somang is run by the Kkotongnae (Flower Village) Sisters of Jesus from South Korea and is a non-profit, non-government institution and charitable-based, residential facility for the orphaned, abandoned, neglected and homeless elderly.

Spearheaded by Risen Christ Circle's Pro-Life Chair Sis. Linda Chincuanco and Co-Chair Sis. Reylen Labrador, the visit was held on December 8, 2022 in celebration of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

Right after the Holy Mass and a short prayer before the image of the Immaculate Conception at the Holy Eucharist Parish Church, the sisters proceeded to the orphanage bringing with them their donations of food and other gifts. They were welcomed by sisters from the Mary Immaculate Circle and the community of the House of Somang.

Messages from the officers of the Risen Christ Circle – Incoming Regent Sis. Leigh Cuenca, Vice-Regent Anna Lee Arada, and Pro-

Life Chair and Past Regent Sis. Linda Chincuanco and an opening prayer by Chancellor Sis. Ofelia Valera, got the morning's program underway with Circle Scribe Sis. Cherry Torreces as program emcee. She and Sisters Anna Lee and Recording Secretary Marcela Agbuya rendered a song. The lolos and lolas enjoyed the ensuing videoke session and the parlor games.

The DMI sisters had the chance to socialize with the House of Somang elderly when they served their snacks as well as bond with the sisters from the Mary Immaculate Circle after the program. The activity was brief but memorable for everyone.



# IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-KARANGALAN CIRCLE CELEBRATES 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

By Sis. Cora Soliven

*Y*es! We got two decades and counting! The celebration of our 20<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary on October 24, 2022 started with a Thanksgiving Mass at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church with our parish priest, Fr. Mark Emman Sese as celebrant. A dinner and fellowship followed at Club Filipino in San Juan City with the theme “20<sup>th</sup> Year in Synodality with the Church Missions Inspired by our Mother Mary Immaculate”.

Club Filipino’s Gabaldon Room was filled with 78 sisters and guests including our past but still very supportive parish priests – Rev. Frs. Jorge Bellosillo, Apolinario Matilos and Errol Manaquil.

Sis. Cora Afuang, International Chairperson for APFV and past regent of the Diocese of Antipolo delivered an inspirational message. Sis. Cora is called “Nanay” by us for her full support to the circle when still a part of the Diocese of Antipolo. She continued doing so in her various capacities such as past Region V RR, and international chairperson for Pro-Life. A virtual message was also given by Sis. Lorie Manalansan, international chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers and Region V Representative for 2023.

The last part of the program was an audio-visual presentation showing memories and documented activities of the circle’s service to the community and, above all, the Lord our God.

Ending the celebration on a high note was dancing to the music of a one-man band, Mr. Allan Matas, musical director of Disneyland-Florida.



*Sis. Cora Afuang with Past Regents Sisters Josie Felix, Lina Reyes and Thelma Fatalla and their husbands.*



From the Diocese of San Pablo – Region VI

# DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO CELEBRATES FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES AND WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

By Sis. Llarina Mojica,  
Region VI Newsette Correspondent



*A DMI sister of the St. Augustine Circle hands a food pack to a mother at the Pagamutang Panlalawigan ng Laguna.*

*T*he Diocese of San Pablo commemorated the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of the Sick last February 11, 2023 by distributing food packs to patients and hospital frontliners. The Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Circle visited the Ospital ng Binan while the St. Polycarp Circle distributed food packs at the Holy Rosary Hospital, Bailon St., Cabuyao, Laguna. The Pagamutang Panlalawigan ng Laguna in Bay was the beneficiary of St. Augustine Circle and the Laguna Medical Center, formerly known as Laguna Provincial Hospital, was visited



# STO. SEPULCRO CIRCLE - DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO'S 19<sup>TH</sup>

By Sis. Llarina Mojica,  
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

A new circle in the Diocese of San Pablo, its nineteenth, was formally organized on December 8, 2022 with the exemplification of its charter members. The Sto. Rosario Circle of Pacita Complex is its mother circle.

Initial talks about the organization of the new circle began on April 26, 2022 by Vicarial Regent Sis. Chodee Amoranto, Circle Regent Sis. Isabel Aloc and Fr. Edgardo Titoy, pastor of the Sto. Sepulcro Parish in Landayan, San Pedro City. The new circle is named Sto. Sepulcro Circle.

Composing the exemplification Team were Diocesan Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio, Sis. Chodee Amoranto, vicarial regent and SMI coordinator for Luzon and Regent Sis. Adela Reyes. The election

of officers took place after the exemplification rites. Sis. Merlita Bicara was elected as the circle's charter regent.



*The Exemplification Team, from left: Sisters Elen Gonzales, Regent Adela Reyes, DR Norma Eusebio and VR Chodee Amoranto.*



*The Sto. Sepulcro Circle charter members with the exemplification team.*

by the Our Lady of Salvation Circle. Other circles in the diocese headed by the St. Paul the First Hermit Circle conducted a feeding program for cathedral workers and church volunteers.



*Patients of the Ospital ng Binan (triage area) receive food packs from the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Circle and the Laguna Medical Center from the Our Lady of Salvation Circle.*

## MATER PURISSIMA CIRCLE CONDUCTS LIVELIHOOD SEMINAR FOR PDLs' FAMILIES

By Sis. Merle Gutierrez

The Lingap Pangarap Center at Cuta Journal in Batangas City was the venue of a livelihood seminar for twelve families of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) last October 8, 2022.

The participants were taught how to prepare/process fish such as *bangus*, *galunggong* and others for *tinapa*, *daing* and sardines. Step-by-step procedures included brining (immersing the fish in salt and water solution), deboning and cooking Spanish sardines.

The Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims Committee headed by Sis. Isabelita Gutierrez conducted the training. Her demo team included Sisters Lyn Montavano, Girlie Marcial, Isabelle Daria and Ging

Faytaren. Other circle members present also assisted in the activity – Sisters Nikka Ilagan, Regent Loida Guillo, Auring Buenviaje, Kriziel Andal, Lilian Flores and Nini Bukis.

The participants included the wives, daughters and close relatives of PDLs who were provided the seminar materials for free such as fish, spices and twizzers for deboning. The trainers also gave tips on the financial and marketing aspects of running a business venture.

After the demonstration, the participants tasted the processed fish and brought home samples of the products they made.



*Fish deboning by DMI sisters and seminar participants*



## ORIENTATION OF SMI ASPIRANTS BY OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE

The Our Lady of Fatima Circle celebrated its first anniversary on November 20, 2022. As part of the anniversary celebration, an orientation for prospective Squirettes of Mary members was held with Sis. Nikka Ilagan of the Mater Purissima Circle as speaker.

The 35 SMI aspirants who attended the orientation were prospective members of the Our Lady of Fatima and the St. Martin of Tours Circlettes.





## OUR LADY OF PEACE CIRCLE PROVIDES PIGLETS FOR LIVELIHOOD

By Sis. Agnes Arada, Region VII Representative

The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of the Our Lady of Peace Circle of Nasugbu, Batangas turned over five piglets to Ms. Maricel Patricio, a resident of Bgy. Munting Indang, Sitio Tala, Nasugbu last February 15, 2023.

The activity was part of the Mission's livelihood program to enable the community's womenfolk to earn a decent living. A Memorandum of Agreement is signed between the circle and the chosen beneficiary giving the conditions for the execution of the project.



Our Lady of Peace Circle's Sis. Litha Casiping (in the middle) with the project beneficiaries.



Maricel Patricio, project beneficiary, with her five piglets

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## FREE ULTRASOUND FOR PREGNANT WOMEN PROVIDED BY MARY MEDIATRIX OF ALL GRACE CIRCLE

The Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Circle of Balayan, Batangas provided free ultrasound for pregnant women from 48 barangays last March 4, 2023 as a Pro-Life project. The activity was held at the Knights of Columbus clubhouse.



Pregnant women await their turn. In foreground is Sis Agnes Perey, the circle's trustee.



## ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA CIRCLE'S COMMUNITY GARDEN

A community vegetable garden in Bgy. Antipolo was set up by sisters of the St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle of Pagbilao, Quezon as a Pro-Life and Upliftment of Women Workers mission project. Started on March 5, 2023, the sisters started work on their project after a



The DMI sisters at work in the garden.

short conferral ceremony for new members. Women in the barangay go to the garden to harvest vegetables for their family's need.



Barangay women harvest ginger planted in the garden.

## OUR LADY OF BIGLANG-AWA CIRCLE UNVEILS DMI MARKER

The Our Lady of Biglang-Awa Circle of Boac, Marinduque had completed the construction of its DMI marker which was unveiled on January 29, 2023. Fr. Senen Milambiling, secretary of Bishop Juni Maralit of the Diocese of Boac, blessed the marker located inside the DMI Garden within the grounds of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral after the Mass. The circle then held its first face-to-face meeting after the pandemic.



The sisters pose in front of the DMI marker.



The DMI sisters with Fr. Senen Milambiling.



## VICARIAL ASSEMBLY HELD FEBRUARY 5, 2023

The Vicariate of Calapan held an assembly at the Ferraren Resort last February 5, 2023. Present were Region VII Representative Sis. Agnes Arada, Vicarial Regent Sis. Cecilia Kasilag, St. Augustine Circle (Pinamalayan) Regent Sis. Belen Garillo, Vessel of Honor Circle (Victoria) Regent Sis. Minda Bautista, and Holy Child Circle (Calapan City) Regent Sis. Norma Ferraren who hosted the assembly.

An inspirational message was given by Fr. Ness Adalla. Sis. Sonia Dalaguin, regent of the Holy Cross Circle of Bauan, Batangas was a special guest.



*The DMI sisters of St. Augustine, Vessel of Honor and Holy Child Circles, assembly participants.*

*Fr. Ness Adalla gives his inspirational message.*

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From the Diocese of Iriga – Region VIII

## DMII LEADS CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua, Diocese of Iriga, consisting of the Little Flower, St. Mary Goretti and Our Lady of Penafrancia Circles took turns in praying the daily novena for the Solemnity of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception from November 29 to December 7, 2022. Led by Sister Regents Sol Vargas, Evelyn Bernales and Prinsibini Monsalve, committee members of the Five Missions led the novena prayers.

On the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on December 8, a Holy Mass was celebrated by Fr. Mario Arnulfo Gaité, pastor of San

Antonio de Padua Parish, after which the incoming circle officers led by Regent Sis. Estrella “Star” Oliva were officially installed. Sis. Star took over the position of Past Regent Sis. Sol Vargas.

A Christmas get-together was held after the installation. A short program was held featuring mission presentations, songs and dances culminating in a sumptuous lunch. Fr. Gaité gave an inspirational message focusing on the theme “Stewardship: The Purpose of Life”.



*The newly-installed officers of the Little Flower Circle with Fr. Mario Arnulfo Gaité.*



*The circle members in a group photo during their Christmas get-together.*



# "SHARING OF BLESSINGS" LITTLE FLOWER CIRCLE'S PROJECT FOR FAMILIES OF PDLs

The Little Flower Circle had for its Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims Mission a "Sharing of Blessings" last Sept. 22, 2022, the first Novenary Mass in honor of St. Therese of the Child Jesus held at the San Antonio de Padua Parish Church. Part of the program before the distribution of food packs to the families of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) was a story-telling on the life of St. Therese by Sis. Amy Rariza, SMI Lady Counselor.



*From the Archdiocese of Palo (Leyte) – Region XI*

## ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION TAKES CENTER STAGE IN TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE'S PRO-LIFE MISSION

The Tower of Ivory Circle of Tacloban City partnered with the Phase I Youth Organization of V & G Subd. in its environment protection activities for the DMI Pro-Life Mission.

In the latter part of 2022, the advisers and youth members of the youth organization joined the Tower of Ivory Circle's Mangrove Tree- Planting activity at the Paraíso Mangrove Eco-Learning Park Marine & Wildlife Sanctuary in Bgy. San Jose, Tacloban City.

The activity was part of the program to promote environment education, awareness and protection among the youth in fulfillment of the calling to be good stewards of God's creation.

A lecture by Mr. Roque Regis, the sanctuary's caretaker, introduced propagules as planting material in the reforestation of areas adjoining the seashore. Mr. Regis stressed the importance of mangroves in reducing shoreline erosion and protecting coastline communities against flooding, high winds and waves and even tsunamis.

*By Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid,  
Past Int'l Chairperson for Pro-Life*



*The DMI sisters and members of the Phase I Youth Organization who participated in the Mangrove Planting activity.*



*Propagules being planted by the Mangrove Planting participants.*



# UPDATES ON TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE'S MISSION ACTIVITIES

By Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid



*Celebrating International Women's Month*



*Donation of books to the V & G de la Cruz Memorial School by the Morality in Media Committee headed by Sis. Igmedia Balagapo was turned over to Ms. Daisy Labanta, school principal.*



*Feeding program at the Pope Francis Home for Elderly and Orphans by the Tower of Ivory SMI Circlette*



*Donation to typhoon victims of Maasin, Leyte (Tabang Maasin) through Our Lady of Assumption Circle with Past IVR-Visayas Sis. Yolly Dagandan personally handing the donation.*

From the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan – Region XIV

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH HIGHLIGHTED BY "MARCHA DE LAS MUJERES"

The "Marcha de la Mujeres" on March 8, 2023 highlighted the celebration of International Women's Month in March. The DMIs of the Archdiocese participated in the march, an annual activity held by women in the different sectors – public, private and religious organizations – in the 98 barangays of Zamboanga City.

The theme of this year's celebration was "Gender Sensitivity and All Men and Women Will Be Equal". Majority of the parade participants were women wearing purple t-shirts.

The parade started in front of the Bureau of Fire & Protection Bldg. and ended at Paseo del Mar. A program followed attended by Mayor John Dalipe and other government officials. The mayor delivered a message to his constituents.

The DMII delegation headed by Diocesan Upliftment of Women Workers Committee Chairperson Sis. Mila Espinosa wore purple t-shirts as a symbol of achievement of the DMI's mission.

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,  
Past Diocesan Regent



*The DMI sisters carry tarpaulins with the celebration theme during the march.*

# SERVANT LEADERSHIP SEMINAR CONDUCTED FOR INCOMING DIOCESAN OFFICERS

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,  
Past Diocesan Regent

The incoming diocesan officers of the DMI Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan attended a Servant Leadership Seminar during a general assembly on January 21, 2023 at the Marian Center of Sta. Maria Parish, Zamboanga City. The officers came from the three vicariates of the Archdiocese as well as from Basilan.

The seminar consisted of talks by Regional Representative Sis. Pinky Saavedra and Diocesan Regent Sis. Maria Bella Tandoc about the National Organization and the DMI Missions by Sisters Ellen Velasco for Pro-life, Maritess Go for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, Mila Espinosa for Upliftment of Women Workers, Susan Cardenas for Morality in Media and Annielyn Padilla for Youth Welfare/SMI. Past DR Sis. Marilyn de Asis talked on servant leadership.

Prior to the assembly, the circle officers were installed into office starting November, 2022. The Eastern Vicariate has ten circles, the Western Vicariate with 12 circles and the Central Vicariate, nine circles. The four circles in Basilan were installed in February, 2023.



*The women at the helm of Region XIV. From left: IVR-Mindanao and Region XIV Representative Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Pro-Life Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Angie Baes, Diocesan Regent Sis. Ma. Bella Tandoc and Past DR Sis. Marilyn de Asis.*

## REGION XIV DIOCESAN OFFICERS INSTALLED

New Diocesan Regent Sis. Ma. Bella Tandoc led the diocesan officers who were installed last January 5, 2023 by Archdiocesan DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Leh Taib. The diocesan officers are: Sisters Ma. Bella Tandoc - diocesan regent (DR), Marilyn de Asis - past DR, Lucita Santos - secretary, Evelyn Balbon - treasurer, Ma. Lourdes Miguel - auditor, Juliet Peralta - scribe, Ellen Velasco - Pro-Life chair, Ernie de Peralta - Morality in Media chair, Mila Espinosa - Upliftment

of Women Workers chair, Maritess Go, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims chair, Annieleyn Padila - Youth Welfare/SMI chair, Angie Baes - Awards Committee chair, Grace Gonzales - Ways & Means Committee chair, and Estee Grace Tan - Socials Committee chair.

Fr. Taib delivered an inspirational message after the installation rites.



*The diocesan officers who were installed into office.*



# SMI HYMN CONTEST WINNER KNOWN

By Sis. Cathy Pineda,  
International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI

The DMI Youth Welfare/SMI Mission conducted a Compose and Sing the SMI Hymn Contest in the latter part of 2022. Ten circlettes from various parts of the country submitted entries before the November 30, 2022 deadline.

The contest aimed to showcase the SMI's talent despite the pandemic, and have more similarities with its mother organization, the DMII with its DMI March and DMI Hymn.

The entries submitted not only showcased the talents of our Squirettes but also the efforts of their circlettes to come up with quality entries that amazed the judges. (The circlettes which submitted their entries are shown in the accompanying poster.)

Adjudged winner by judges composed of heads of the DMI and SMI Missions was the entry of the Our Lady of Lourdes-Makato Circlette of the Diocese of Kalibo (Aklan) in Region IX. The St. Paul of the Cross Circlette of the Diocese of Antipolo in Region V was given the Early Bird Award for submitting the very first entry.

Cash prizes were given to the awardees on February 2, 2023.

The SMI Hymn which has been posted on the Facebook page of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate – National will be played in SMI ceremonies and events. The Hymn will be launched officially during the SMI Area Conference in Bohol on April 15-16, 2023.

# SCHEDULE OF SMI AREA CONFERENCES

The face-to-face area conferences of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate will resume in 2023. This was announced by Sis. Cathy Pineda, International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI. They are follows:

## SMI Luzon Area Conference

July 22-23, 2023  
ION Hotel, 56 Legarda Road  
Baguio City

## Visayas Area Conference

April 15-16, 2023  
Bohol Garden Resort  
San Isidro, Baclayon, Bohol

## Mindanao Area Conference

July 8-9, 2023  
Dottie's Place Hotel & Restaurant  
Butuan City

## SMI HYMN ENTRIES

1. **St. Paul of the Cross, R5**
2. **Queen of Angels, R3**
3. **Mary Immaculate, R5**
4. **Immaculada Conception, R12**
5. **Mary Mother of the Church, R5**
6. **Our Lady of Lourdes - Makato, R9**
7. **St. Polycarp, R6**
8. **Our Lady of Lourdes - Marbel, R13**
9. **Risen Christ, R5**
10. **Mt. Carmel, R13**



## Squirettes of Mary Immaculate



# 2023 SMI AREA CONFERENCE

**DMII Theme - DMI: One in Mission  
Towards a Synodal Church with Mary**

**Sub-Theme - Appreciating our Filipino  
Culture Amidst Digital / Social Media  
World as we Strengthen our Faith to  
Greater Heights**

### LUZON

July 22 - 23  
Ion Hotel, Legarda Road,  
Baguio City

### VISAYAS

April 15 - 16  
Alta Bohol Garden  
Resort, San Isidro,  
Baclayon, Bohol

### MINDANAO

July 8 - 9  
Dottie's Place, Butuan  
City





## SIS. ILDA GARRICETA BORLONGAN

October 21, 1954 - March 6, 2023

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International mourns the untimely passing of SIS. ILDA GARRICETA BORLONGAN, Region IX Representative.

Dr. Ilda Borlongan earned her Ph. D. in Agriculture Nutrition from Tokyo University under the Japan

Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Ronpaku Program. She served as a professor and dean of the College of Chemistry of the Central Philippine University in Jaro, Iloilo until her untimely passing on March 6, 2023 at the age of 68 years. Prior to her career in the academe, she was connected with the South-East Asian Fisheries and Development Corp. (SEAFDEC) as a researcher/scientist for 25 years where she met her husband, Emetrio Borlongan. They were gifted with three children – Jeriel Rose, Iris Ann and Jeremy John who are now all professionals.

Sis. Ilda's home circle is the Mother of St. Augustine of Hippo Circle in Pavia, Iloilo. Prior to her position as Region IX RR, she served as diocesan regent of the Archdiocese of Jaro.

As a leader and officer of the DMII, she was dedicated, hardworking, meticulous, organized and was an expert in multi-tasking, taking care of several committees all at the same time. She was a very active and valuable leader in her parish and community, her co-workers being aware of her outstanding scholastic record and achievements during her student days.

Our deepest sympathy and sincerest condolence to Sis. Ilda's family. We, her DMI sisters, are with you in your hour of bereavement. – **Sis. Pureza M. Guzman, Past International Regent**



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