



DMII NEWSETTE

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January - March 2024

DMII BOARD Q1 MEETING, TEAM-BUILDING AND PLANNING WORKSHOP HELD

The DMII International Board's First Quarter Meeting was held together with a Team-Building and Planning Workshop on February 2-3, 2024 amid the peace and quiet of the Antipolo hills.

A cool breeze greeted the participants at the Mary Hill Retreat Center which stands on top of a hill that provides a 360-degree view of the surrounding countryside and the sprawling metropolis of Metro Manila.

During the morning session of Day 1, facilitators from the Bukal ng Tipan Pastoral Care Center, Sisters Ma. Alicia Gutierrez and Joy Candelaria who were lay delegates of Synod 2023 in Rome conducted the getting-to-know-you group exercises. Sisters Aleli and

Joy are based at the St. Joseph Parish in Las Pinas City. Both have spent several years doing parish pastoral work.

The DMII 2023 theme "Growing in Synodality with Mary" keyed the workshop. There was extensive talk about synodality – walking together on the same path, conversation with the Holy Spirit, synodal intra-ministerial journey, the three synodal pillars : communion, participation and mission, and the transition of the synodal consultations from an event to an experience.

The DMII Vision and Missions were also revisited for a review of the relevance of DMII's current programs and activities in pursuing its missions.

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A group picture of participants with (at center, seated): Workshop Facilitator Sis. Aleli Gutierrez, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Sis. Annie Ty, Fr. Mark Lesage and Facilitator Sis. Joy Candelaria.

“Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move”



Beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

As we celebrate Easter Sunday, let me walk you through our conversion journey and the renewal of your commitments as Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

You are pilgrims in search of the true meaning of your mission. You are bonded together in a good and sacred cause: to love our God and our neighbor, as yourselves.

Your mission is to emulate the life and to spread the splendid virtues of Our Mother. She, a simple woman of Nazareth, who with her Fiat, committed herself to her blessed role of being the mother of Jesus.

As DMIs, you have made a binding compact to work for the kingdom of God with faith, hope, and love.

Ladies in blue, you become walking Gospels like Mary, bringing with you Jesus' presence in every path that you take. No obstacle nor sufferings can stop you from your works of charity, carrying up your sleeves sublime faith, mercy and justice.

You are modern-day heroines who survived the pandemic and who, afire with the love of Christ, have given yourselves totally to Christ in the service of the poor. You have committed that you shall not only be sowers but also reapers of a rich harvest.

Your sisterly love for each other takes root in your heart. You need not go far in extending help and assistance because your sisters are just right there beside you.

You are living and walking disciples of Christ who are builders of the Church of the Poor. Humble DMIs are instruments of bringing spiritual and temporal goods to others.

Years of DMI mission have been spent by your forerunners who have planted the seeds to cultivate your virtues of Friendship, Unity, Charity, Humility and Sanctity. Nurture them and bring them with you always.

Let the image of our Patroness, Mary Immaculate, remind you of total submission to the Lord's will that would bring us ultimate glory. As soldiers of Mary and stewards of the Lord's gospel, you are agents of transformation and partners of the Church in building a true Christian nation.

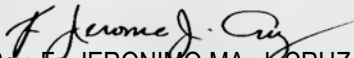
May God, the Lord of all that is good and true, bring into fulfillment all your needs and aspirations.

You, the modern heroes, should empower yourselves in this modern world. Carry with you a firm resolve to face these challenges:

- You are called to take a stand and continue to organize yourselves in meaningful and significant projects.
- You should continue to move and be dynamic. You do not just stand there. There are things to do.
- Learn to forgive. It does not matter who hurt you first. What matters is that you go and build the bridge.
- Evangelize and bring every one you meet to the house of God.
- Sacrifice – let that money you earn go to a worthy cause. Do not just keep it.

To see His Majesty and to imitate Him... that is the sum of Christianity. We should realize by now how Mary has helped us to see His Majesty more clearly and imitate Him more fully.

Yours in Christ,


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

LOOKING FORWARD TO AN EVEN MORE VIBRANT DMII



My dear DMI Sisters

A blessed 2024 to all of you!

It is my great honor and pleasure to relay to you our DMI Missions directions for the year 2024 onward.

As we start the year, all the Officers, Regional Representatives, Mission Chairpersons and Special Committees comprising the DMII Board, together with our International Chaplain held a Team-Building and Planning Workshop at the Mary Hill Retreat Center in Taytay, Rizal last February 2 and 3, 2024.

It was a very fruitful and meaningful activity for we were able to evaluate what best practices we need to accomplish to better serve our DMI sisters and our parish communities as we go about our work in the Missions.

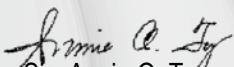
We selected a theme, "DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity". This will be the theme of all our conferences and assemblies this year, underscoring the importance of empowering our leaders as well as equipping our members with full understanding and knowledge about our task of evangelization, of bringing our communities closer to the Church.

We encourage every circle in all the fourteen regions in the country to fully implement our planned programs and activities for the DMI Missions as well as to increase membership that has been depleted largely because of the pandemic through an active recruitment campaign, the formation of new circles and the reactivation of inactive ones.

It is with confidence that we look forward to an even more vibrant DMII through the inspiration that our Blessed Mother provides and by going about our tasks with enthusiasm and integrity.

Let us pray for our Blessed Mother's constant guidance as we walk as one on our synodal journey that leads us to her Son Jesus.

Yours in Christ through Mary,


Sis. Annie O. Ty

International Regent

DMII Board Q1 Meeting... from page 1

Later in the morning, Fr. Mark Lesage, CICM, who was largely responsible for the establishment of the Mary Hill Retreat Center complex, came and later joined the group in a photo session before he left.

The Mission International Chairpersons – Sisters Angie Baes for Pro-life, Shirley Corvera for Morality in Media, Milde Tong for Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims, Tess Labilles for Upliftment of Women Workers and Evelyn Alcantara for Youth Welfare/SMI presented their mission programs. (Please see page 8 for their flagship programs.) The chairpersons of the Special Committees also rendered reports – Sisters Juliet Cruz, International Auditor for Membership, Biannah Villanueva for Formation and Pilgrimages and Sally Estrada, editor-in-chief of the DMI Newsette.

A Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Jerome at the Center’s chapel ended the afternoon session.

After a short recess for dinner, the group reconvened for the First Quarter Board Meeting during which the events for the year were calendared – the National Officers’ Meeting in May, the regional assemblies in the 14 regions, the area conferences in

Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and the Board’s quarterly meetings.

A resolution was passed for a donation to Pro-Life Phils. as project partner in the celebration of Pro-Life Month. The donation will come from DMII’s Mission Fund.

International Regent Sis. Annie Ty named the chairpersons and members who will compose the Board’s standing committees such as the Executive Committee, and the Committees on Ways and Means, Finance, Audit, Laws and Regulations, Missions and Ceremonials. Nearing midnight, the group called it a day to resume the meeting the following morning.

On Day 2, the participants went back to their respective groups to discuss among themselves their aspirations for the organization and the actions needed to attain them. Out of the groups’ outputs, a DMII theme for the year was crafted: “DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity”. All regional assemblies, area conferences and other DMII official gatherings will carry this theme.

The two-day workshop ended with a Cenacle Prayer led by the sisters from Mindanao and a Holy Mass presided by Fr. Jerome.



The break-out groups during the Day 1 morning session



Workshop facilitators Sisters Aleli Gutierrez and Joy Candelaria



Fr. Jerome Cruz and Fr. Mark Lesage



Participants’ group exercise

MEET YOUR 2024-25 DMII INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS AND BOARD



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

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



SIS. ANNIE O. TY
International Regent

Immaculate Conception Circle (home circle)
Diocese of Tandag (Surigao del Sur)
B. S. Human Ecology, University of the Phils – Los Banos
Businesswoman
Past Region XII Representative
Past Area Coordinator for Mindanao, Youth Welfare/SMI and Morality in Media
Member, Board of Trustees, Philippine Red Cross, Surigao del Sur Chapter
Past Area Vice-President, Phil. Chamber of Commerce & Industry - Mindanao



SIS. MERINNISA O. LIGAYA
**International Vice-Regent for Luzon
& Region III Representative**

Immaculate Conception Circle, Diocese of Iba
(Zambales)
Bachelor of Laws and Masteral, MPMM
Judge, Municipal Trial Court in Cities, Olongapo City
Concurrently serves as DMII International Advocate
Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Iba



SIS. NORIVIC H. LAROA
**International Vice-Regent for Visayas
& Region X Representative**

San Jose de Tabunoc Circle, Archdiocese of Cebu
B.S. Industrial Management Engineering
and B.S. Civil Engineering
Proprietor/Manager, NH Laroa Construction
Past Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Cebu
President, Parish Pastoral Council, St. Joseph Parish
Chairman, Ways & Means Committee, Society of Angel of Peace



SIS. MARIA PINKY B. SAAVEDRA
**International Vice-Regent for Mindanao
& Region XIV Representative**

St. Joseph Circle, Archdiocese of Zamboanga
Registered Nurse, Ph. D. in Public Administration
& Governance
Businesswoman
Past Diocesan Regent
Second term as IVR-Mindanao and Region XIV Representative
Secretary, Padre Pio Prayer Group, St. Joseph Parish
Treasurer, Mother Butler Mission Guild, Zamboanga Chapter



SIS. MARIA LORETA S. MANALANSAN
**International Secretary & Region V
Representative**

Mother of Divine Grace Circle, Diocese of Kalookan
B.S. Commerce, major in Management, MBA (cand.)
Past International Chairperson, Upliftment of Women Workers Committee
Region V Representative (2023)
President, APL Outreach Team of American President Lines



SIS. NORMA F. EUSEBIO
**International Treasurer & Region
VI Representative**

Theresian Circle, Los Banos, Diocese of San Pablo
Retired bank employee
Past Diocesan coordinator for Pro-Lie
Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of San Pablo
Founder, Pagmamahal sa Kapwa Foundation, Inc.



SIS. LETICIA O. GANO
Region I Representative

Mater Immaculata Circle, Diocese of Ilagan (Isabela)
Doctor of Education
Campus Exec. Director, Accreditation of Chartered
Colleges and Universities in the Philippines
Past Diocesan Regent
Past Region I Representative
Parish Coordinator, Perpetual Adoration Ministry
Parish Coordinator, Holy Face of Jesus



SIS. VIRGINIA S. CABERO
Region II Representative

Mystical Rose Circle, Diocese of Urdaneta



SIS. MARILYN P. SAN DIEGO
Region IV Representative

Sta. Clara Circle, Diocese of Malolos
Certified Public Accountant
Master of Science – Taxation
Ph. D. in Business Management
CEO, Top Gem Cable Installation Services

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Malolos



SIS. AGNES P. ARADA
Region VII Representative

Holy Cross Circle of Bauan, Batangas,
Archdiocese of Lipa
B.S.B.A. – Accounting
Currently connected with the Araneta Group of
Companies

Region VII Representative, 2022-23

Past Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Lipa

DMII Representative to the Archdiocesan Council of the Laity



SIS. CORAZON B. BO
Region VIII Representative

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle,
Diocese of Legaspi (Albay)
B.S. in Elementary Education

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Legaspi



SIS. ROSALINDA L. DESALES
Region IX Representative

St. Anne Circle, Diocese of San Carlos (Negros Occ.)
B.S. Business Administration
Currently connected with La Paz Sugar Corporation

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of San Carlos

Vice-Chairman, Conciliation Committee, Central Lopez Multi-Purpose

Cooperative



SIS. THELMA D. LIM
Region XI Representative

St. James the Greater Circle,
Diocese of Catarman (Leyte)
Retired educator
Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Catarman

Adviser, Board of Directors, Confraternity of Our Lady of Lourdes

Worship Commission, Parish Pastoral Council

Life Member, Girl Scouts of the Philippines



SIS. SUSAN I. HONCULADA
Region XII Representative

Queen of Divine Grace Circle,
Nasipit, Agusan del Norte
Certified Public Accountant
Petron Gasul Distributor, Agusan del Norte and Sur

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Butuan

Past SMI Coordinator for Mindanao

Treasurer, Nasipit Parish Finance Council

President, Association of Caraga Coconut Entrepreneurs and Stakeholders, Inc.



SIS. ELIZABETH A. DIPALING
Region XIII Representative

San Pablo Circle, Archdiocese of Davao
Government employee

Past Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Davao

Marian Parish Coordinator, San Pablo Parish, Davao City

MISSION INTERNATIONAL CHAIRPERSONS



SIS. ANGELA L. BAES
Pro-Life

Our Lady of Purification Circle,
Archdiocese of Zamboanga
Former bank manager
Past Treasurer, Ateneo de Zamboanga University

Past IVR-Mindanao and Region XIV Representative

Past Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Zamboanga

Past Pro-Life Area Coordinator for Mindanao

President, Council of the Laity, Archdiocese of Zamboanga

Board Secretary, ADZU Alumni Association

Board Secretary, KMFI (Micro-finance)

Vice-President, Parish Pastoral Council



SIS. SHIRLEY I. CORVERA
Morality in Media

Our Lady of Divine Grace Circle,
Nasipit, Agusan del Norte, Diocese of Butuan
A.B. Communication Arts, UPLB

Registered Nurse in the Philippines and the USA

Local Legislative Staff Officer IV,

Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Agusan del Norte

Past Vicarial Regent, Diocese of Butuan

Past Morality in Media Coordinator for Mindanao

Currently Chairman, Municipal Tourism Council of Nasipit



SIS. TERESITA D. LABILLES

Upliftment of Women Workers

Rosa Mystica Circle, Diocese of Malolos
Businesswoman

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Malolos
International Secretary and Region IV Representative – 2022-23
District Chairman, District 377 of the Inner Wheel Club of the Phils.



SIS. MA. CLOTILDE R. TONG

Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims

Risen Christ Circle, Diocese of Paranaque
B.S. Commerce

Entrepreneur, Food and Service Management
Past Int’l Vice-Regent for Luzon and Region V Representative
Past Int’l Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers
Past President, Apostleship of Prayer, Holy Eucharist Parish
Past Ann President, Rotary Club of Bagumbayan, Manila



SIS. EVELYN R. ALCANTARA

Youth Welfare/SMI

Immaculate Conception – Karangalan Circle,
Diocese of Pasig
Registered Nurse

Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Pasig
Past Youth Welfare/SMI Coordinator for Luzon
Concurrently Region V Treasurer
ICP Youth Ministry Coordinator
Board member, Women’s Golf Ass’n of the Phils.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES



SIS. JULIET V. CRUZ

International Auditor for Membership

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

Concurrently Alternate Region V Representative
Past Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Paranaque
Past Int’l Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers
Head, Finance Committee, Holy Eucharist Parish Pastoral Council
Vice-Chairman of the Board, Gemphil Electronics Corp.



SIS. MERINNISA O. LIGAYA -

International Advocate



SIS. SALVACION T. ESTRADA

Editor, DMI Newsette (2007 to present)

Risen Christ Circle, Holy Eucharist Parish,
Diocese of Paranaque
Litt.B. in Journalism, MBA

Retired Corporate Executive
Past Diocesan Secretary, Diocese of Paranaque
Past PREX Board Coordinator and editor of The Vineyard, official monthly publication of the Holy Eucharist Parish



SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO

Co-Editor, DMI Newsette

Our Lady of Lourdes Circle,
National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes,
Diocese of Cubao

Currently Exec. Asst. to the CEO & President and Communications Officer, Vitarich Corporation
Past International Regent (2019 to 2021)
Past Int’l Vice-Regent for Luzon and Region V Representative
Past Int’l Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI



SIS. BIENNAH ELENA C. VILLANUEVA
**Chairperson, Special Committee on
 Formation & Pilgrimage**

Medalla Milagrosa Circle,
 Diocese of Cubao
 Chemical Engineer

Past Int'l Chairperson, Youth Welfare/SMI
 Past Int'l Chairperson, Morality in Media
 PPC Service Cluster Head, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish



SIS. ELIZABETH C. BONGON
**Chairperson, Special Committee on
 Ceremonials**

Fatima Circle of Quezon City, Diocese of Cubao
 Past Regent, Fatima Circle
 Past Chairperson of Special Committee on
 Ceremonials (1st term)

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

COUNCIL OF ADVISERS



SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA
**Immediate Past International Regent
 (2022-23)**
 San Jose de Tagbilaran Circle,
 Diocese of Tagbilaran



SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO
Past International Regent (2019-21)
 Our Lady of Lourdes Circle,
 Diocese of Cubao



SIS. ROSALINDA C. PIMENTEL
Past International Regent (2017-18)
 Immaculate Conception Circle,
 Diocese of Tandag



DMII MISSION PROGRAMS FOR 2024

Pro-Life

Chairperson – Sis. Angie Baes
Area Coordinators – Sis. Lourdes Pelicano – Luzon
Sis. Judith Legaspi – Visayas
Sis. Teresita Miranda – Mindanao
 Suggested Programs and Activities:

First Quarter

1. Awareness of Fertility and Family Planning – seminar or talk on the ill effects of contraception and abortion
2. “Walk for Life” or “March for Life” (a joint endeavor of DMII and Knights of Columbus)
3. Growth and development of infants and school children – feeding program focusing on good nutrition

Second Quarter

1. Care of sick DMI sisters and/or relatives

2. Care of elderlies – visit Home for the Elderly, communicate and pray with them, share sanitary supplies
3. Care for spiritual growth of marginalized families – catechesis/ evangelization
4. Care of the environment - clean-up drive. tree planting, teach or demonstrate the 3 Rs – Reuse, Reduce and Recycle
5. Create a joyful and healthful environment – flower and vegetable gardening

Third Quarter

1. Assistance to calamity victims – distribution of relief goods
2. Respect for human rights – symposium on the Rights of Women and Children
3. Wake services for departed DMI (necrological and draping ceremony) or family member (wake prayer service)

Fourth Quarter

1. Honoring the unborn – offering of Mass, floral offering and lighting of candles before the Tomb of the Unborn
2. Continue DMII’s Spiritual Adoption Program
3. Strengthening of family solidarity and spirituality – teach/encourage families to pray the Holy Rosary, 2,000 Hail Marys, attend Holy Mass
4. Participation in pro-life church activities – recollection, procession, adult baptism, mass weddings and mass Confirmations

Morality in Media

Chairperson – Sis. Shirley Corvera

Area Coordinators – Sis. Irma Pulangco – Luzon

Sis. Sonia Alvarino – Visayas

Sis. Marilyn de Asis – Mindanao

Programs:

1. Conduct a national activity, a webinar via Zoom on “Forms and Effects of Media and How to Promote Morality in Media” to be conducted by Rev. Fr. Richard Lagos, a media evangelizer and parish priest of the Shrine of the Holy Face of Jesus of Manoppello, Immaculate Conception Parish, Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija, on April 20, 2024.
2. Action Programs for Circles and Dioceses –
 - Organize a forum for members to be conducted by a media practitioner/critic or a priest on effects of good and bad media, social netiquette, how to promote positive moral values in social media and how to handle negative posts on social media; e.g. bashing, fake news, trolls, etc.
 - Use available materials on media from Catholic media organizations and other sources (Catholic schools, seminaries, convents) for research and regular distribution of copies to circle members.
 - Create a Facebook page where informative materials related to media and moral values and other related items such as inspirational and motivational articles, pictures and videos

can be posted. The page can also serve as a tool to communicate with DMI sisters, and for write-ups and photos of circle activities and announcements/advisories.

- Encourage DMI members to become good media warriors through their personal social media accounts and group chats by posting materials similar to those in their circle FB page.
- Encourage the holding of regular Cenacle Prayer by the circle during which activities of the circle for their mission projects, fund-raising and others can be discussed afterwards. Monthly Cenacle Prayers and Bible sharing can also be conducted by Morality in Media Chairpersons in their parishes at the home of a chosen family, if possible in the area of informal settlers and those needing prayer and conversion. To sustain the evangelization effort, MIM Mission members must visit the chosen families on a regular basis with values formation and team-building as a culminating activity.
- Organize a symposium or webinar for target groups such as the youth or families in the parish or diocese. A child psychologist or guidance counselor may be invited as resource speaker. Suggested topic: Effects of Media on Families and Communities. The seminar can be brought to schools for the students. Topics to be discussed must be age-appropriate.
- Network with other church organizations, apostolates or other groups (Ex. Parish Formation Council or catechists) that can assist the DMII in promoting good media and in conducting values formation and team-building workshops and promoting the Cenacle prayer to families.
- Partner with a local radio station where programs, whether stand-alone (with a DMI sister as host) or a segment of a regular program (with a DMI as guest) can air DMII Mission activities and other information to promote the organization to its external public.

Upliftment of Women Workers

Chairperson – Sis. Teresita Labilles

Area Coordinators – Sis. Apolonia Mislang for Luzon

Sis. Elenita Basilan for Visayas

Sis. Lucina Binoya for Mindanao

Sustainable development goals:

- * Women's Health
 - Cervical cancer awareness
 - Breast cancer awareness
 - Medical and surgical services
 - Mental health
- * Women Empowerment/Socio-Economic Activities
 - Women's rights
 - Rights of children
 - Care for the elderly
 - Narcotics
- * Education
 - Financial assistance
 - Scholarships
 - Support for out-of-school youth and adults needing basic literacy skills through ALS
 - TESDA for technical education and skills development of Filipino workers, both hands-on and online courses
- * Decent Work and Economic Growth
 - Livelihood projects
 - Seminars (trainings for baking, cooking, cosmetology, GoNegosyo, etc)
 - Lending money to start small business – sari-sari store
 - Continuing projects related to livelihood
 - Support local businesses
- * Eliminate Inequalities
 - Eradicate forced labor
 - End modern-day slavery and human trafficking
 - Promote sustainable tourism and increase aid for trade support for developing communities
- * Gender Equality
 - Ending gender disparities
 - Eliminate violence against women and children
 - Eliminate early and forced marriage
 - Strict policies vs. harassment issues
 - Promoting life balance
 - Securing equal participation

Assistance to Prisoners' Families and Their Victims

Chairperson – Sis. Ma. Clotilde Tong

Area Coordinators – Sis. Aura Eunice Santos for Luzon

Sis. Eve Bolarde for Visayas

Sis. Luz Almenda for Mindanao

Flagship Programs for the APFV Mission:

1. Continue sending to school at least one child of a person deprived of liberty (PDL) or victim of a crime (at least one per circle in all the dioceses in all the regions of the country).
2. Extending monetary assistance to PDL's family
3. Providing legal assistance when needed
4. Continuing holistic value formation for the PDL's/victim's family using the sample module distributed earlier or any relevant materials for their formation program.

Youth Welfare/SMI

Chairperson – Sis. Evelyn Alcantara

Area Coordinators – Sis. Monica Bularan for Luzon

Sis. Melissa Manulat for Visayas

Sis. Margarita Ampo for Mindanao

Planned Programs and Activities:

1. 19th SMI Biennial Convention - July 20-22, 2024 at D'Leonor Inland Resort and Adventure Park, Davao City
2. Launch campaign to increase the number of SMI circlettes of at least one circlette per semester per region or a total of two circlettes per year per region. Also revive/reactivate inactive circlettes.
3. Set a goal of one SMI circlette for every DMI circle in the country.
4. Review the SMI Handbook –
 - Enhancement of the SMI ceremonies and program flow
 - Official SMI opening and closing prayers
 - Revise SMI schedule of activities
 - Change the age range of SMIs from 9 to 25 years old to 9 to 30 years old
5. Other activities –
 - Seminars for Lady Counselors for easier tracking and assistance to DMI's Area Coordinators
 - SMI Leadership Camp for preparing potential SMI leaders.

WALK FOR LIFE 2024

*By Sis. Edna May Landicho,
Region V Newsette Correspondent and Events Officer*

At the break of dawn of February 17, 2024, around 5,000 lay people and clergymen gathered at the Welcome Rotonda in Quezon City to answer the joint call on the faithful by CBCP Episcopal Commission on Family and Life Chairman Bishop Jesse Mercado and Papal Nuncio to the Philippines Archbishop Charles Brown to join the movement that defends “the culture

of life” against the “culture of death”. This year’s theme is “Together, We Walk for Life”.

This annual event, first held in 2017, was organized by the Council of the Laity of the Philippines in collaboration with the CBCP’s Commission on the Laity. It aims to demonstrate solidarity in upholding

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Diocese of Antipolo led by Vicarial Regent Nelly Ganibo of the Vicariate of Aranzasu



Diocese of Cubao led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Baby Ayson



Diocese of Imus sisters braving the dark street of Espana



Diocese of Kalookan led by DR Sis. Marlene Mayor



Diocese of Manila led by DR Sis. Lourdes Que



Good Shepherd Circle of the Diocese of Novaliches

NEWS BRIEFS FROM SAN JOSE CIRCLE

By Sis. Ma. Elvira Martinez, Circle Scribe



Regional Biblical Apostolate Assembly, January 18, 2024. The Diocese of San Jose’s Commission on Biblical Apostolate held a Regional Biblical Assembly last January 18, 2024 spearheaded by its director, Rev. Fr. Pedro Albino, Jr.. The assembly was held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in San Jose City with the theme “God’s Word: The Breath of New Life”. Rev. Fr. Francis Gustilo, president of the Don Bosco School of Theology was the guest speaker. A Eucharistic celebration presided by Bishop Roberto Mallari, D.D. concluded the event.



Circle Pilgrimage, January 7, 2024. A pilgrimage to the Our Lady of Fatima in Bgy. Tonod, San Jose City was made by the circle members led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Josephine Carino and Circle Regent Sis. Evangeline Ruanto. Fr. Kyiel Bueno of the Franciscan Order briefed the pilgrims regarding the plenary indulgence that may be obtained when one visits the Belen in any Franciscan church as declared by Pope Francis in celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Belen that St. Francis created.



Dental Mission for Day Care Pupils, February 14, 2024. A project of the Pro-Life Committee, the Dental Mission benefited 85 day care pupils of Barangay Parang Mangga, Dizol, Tabulac and Tulat who received dental check-up and fluoride application as protection from cavities.



Installation of 2024 Circle Officers, November 30, 2023. The circle officers of San Jose Circle led by Regent Sis. Evangeline Ruanto and Vice-Regent Sis. Perfecta Quines were installed in the presence of Diocesan Regent Sis. Marivic Mendoza and Past Regional Representative Sis. Hilaria Hipolito.

DMIOESE OF BALANGA HOLDS TRAINING ON LIFE-SAVING EMERGENCY MEASURES

By Sis. Melissa Reyes

The St. Joseph Circle of the Diocese of Balanga spearheaded a seminar on Life-Saving Emergency Measures at the St. Joseph Formation Center in Balanga City. The seminar covered basic knowledge of emergency medical services, basic life support and first aid last November 30, 2023.

The resource person was Mr. Mark Anthony Calderon, manager and founder of the Bataan Rescue Alliance. Fifteen housewives from the community participated in the training. They were given demonstration on the treatment of various stages of burns, cuts and scrapes, sudden head and back injuries and administering first aid to breathing difficulties and cardiac arrest.

The DMI sisters will continue to sponsor more life-saving emergency seminars as a Pro-Life project.



Mark Anthony Calderon, resource person



Walk for life 2024... from page 11

the dignity of life and protecting life at all stages, from conception to natural death.

From the Welcome Rotonda, the participants then walked toward the University of Sto. Tomas Grandstand in Espana, Manila where a short program was held and capped by a Eucharistic celebration by Cardinal Jose Advincula, Archbishop of Manila with CBCP President Bishop Pablo David and other priests as concelebrants.

DMI sisters from the dioceses of Region V - Antipolo, Cubao, Imus, Kalookan, Manila, Novaliches,

Paranaque and Pasig – participated in the event.

“It was an exhilarating 2-kilometer walk in the early hours of the morning. We had our needed exercise in the process. From there we went to Quiapo to pay homage to the image of the Black Nazarene. It was a very fulfilling day for us,” said the DMI sisters from the Good Shepherd Circle of the Diocese of Novaliches. “Next year we promise we will have more participants from our circle,” Circle Regent Sis. Blesilda Concepcion said.



DMIs and SMIs of Mary Mother of the Church Parish, Diocese of Parañaque



SMIs of the Diocese of Pasig

DIOCESE OF BALANGA EXEMPLIFIES 90 NEW DMI MEMBERS

*By Sis. Thelma Manansala,
Diocesan Regent*

Ninety new DMI sisters were admitted to the circles of the Diocese of Balanga during the exemplification ceremony held at the Crowne Royale Hotel in Balanga City last October 21, 2023.

Members of the Diocesan Board headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Thelma Manansala included Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Digna Banzon, St. Michael the Archangel Circle Regent Sis. Flor Rodriguez, Regent of the Vicariate of Our Lady of the Pillar Sis. Bernadette Paraiso. Vicarial Regent of St. Dominic de Guzman Sis. Corazon Villanueva and Diocesan Secretary Sis. Anna Capuli served as marshals.

Guest priest Fr. Jason Balan, rector of Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary talked about Sanctity before the Rite of Commissioning and Investiture performed

by the Diocesan Regent. Fr. Balan also spoke on the importance of the Lessons on the Virtues of the Blessed Virgin Mary that every DMI member must live by as well as on Synodality, of walking together led by the Blessed Mother along the path toward her Son Jesus.



The Diocesan Board composing the Exemplification Team



ADVENT RECOLLECTION USHERS IN CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

An Advent Recollection last December 10, 2023 ushered in the Christmas celebration in the Diocese of Balanga. Rev. Fr. Nathaniel Sergio Ma. Duran, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Pto. Rivas, Balanga, Bataan was the recollection speaker on the theme “DMII: One in Mission Towards a Synodal Church with Mary”.

The attendees in the event numbered 210. considered to be the biggest assembly of DMI sisters in the diocese.

Fr. Duran talked on Synodality, meaning journeying together. Likened to a human body, various members of the Church must

function as a whole, and lacking one part means the inability to function normally. All members of the Church then must work together in their mission of evangelization.

The recollection part ended at noon with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Fr. Milver Cruz, parish priest of St. Dominic of Guzman Parish, Abucay, Bataan.

A fun-filled Christmas celebration was held in the afternoon with dance contests, parlor games and raffle draws. Winners in the Tiktok Dance Challenge were St. Dominic of Guzman Circle as champion and St. Catherine of Alexandria, runner-up.



*Rev. Fr. Nathaniel Sergio Ma. Duran,
recollection speaker*



Participants from the Vicariate of St. Dominic of Guzman

STO. ROSARIO CIRCLE CONDUCTS MEDIA FORUM FOR STUDENTS

*By Sis. Sheryl S. Villarico, Chairperson,
Circle Morality in Media Committee*

The Morality in Media Committee of the Sto. Rosario Circle of Orani, Bataan sponsored a forum for Grades 10 and 11 students of the Holy Rosary Parochial Institute at the school's Bulwagan ni Maria last November 10, 2023. The forum on the ethical use of social media was part of the circle's Information, Education and Communications Campaign (IECC) for the youth who are the most actively involved sector in the realm of social media.

The resource speaker was Mr. Hark Herald Sarmiento, a sought-after speaker on the subject, being an educator, an accomplished writer, seasoned researcher and leadership trainer.

The first part of the forum focused on the evolution of social media, its advantages and disadvantages and the Vatican Council II Inter Merifica or Decree on Mass Media, the Catholic approach to mass media. It was an interactive session covering a wide range of topics such as online etiquette,

cyberbullying, online privacy the impact of social media on mental well-being and the importance of verifying information before sharing. The second part was on personality development wherein the self-esteem of individuals is emphasized as a formidable defense against potential negative influences of social media. Moreover, an enriched spiritual life – strong

faith in God and high moral values – serves as a strong foundation enabling the young to maneuver through the digital landscape with resilience and moral clarity.

The event also gave the DMI sisters the chance to recruit prospective members of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate. The circle plans to conduct similar forums in other schools in the coming days.



The Sto. Rosario Circle sisters with the resource speaker Hark Herald Sarmiento and the students of Holy Rosary Parochial Institute.

From Region V

"SAFE INTERNET DAY" CELEBRATION IN REGION V

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
Int'l Secretary & Region V Representative*

Joining hands with the rest of the world in celebrating "Safe Internet Day", the dioceses and circles in Region V held various activities as part of promoting the Morality in Media Mission.

The objective in the active participation of almost all dioceses in the region was to raise awareness for a safer and better internet use, especially by children and young adults. Additionally, it served as a reminder to be responsible for the things one posts or comments on social media. The message is "Think before you click".

The activities to celebrate the day were jointly undertaken by DMI circles and SMI circlettes in most dioceses of Region V. Tarpaulins and posters designed by the Squirettes with messages

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Diocese of Kalookan hang their tarp to voice out their call for safety on Cyberspace done here by the San Jose de Navotas and Mother of Divine Grace Circles

Safe Internet Day... from page 15

for people to take a most responsible stance in using the internet. These were also posted in their respective Facebook accounts to remind virtual friends on the importance of maintaining respect and courtesy even on the web.

The “Safe Internet Day” is an annual global celebration that started as an initiative of the European safe borders project in 2004. The “Safe Internet Day” underscores the importance of staying vigilant and informed in today’s digital landscape as well as to spread positivity and good morals in today’s world reminding us of God’s love for mankind.



Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle of the Diocese of Imus hangs a colorful tarp to call the attention of the public on responsible use of social media.



The Ina Maria Circle of the Diocese of Imus posted reminders to observe vigilance in using the internet.



St. Anthony of Padua Circle of the Diocese of Imus display their reminder during the Safe Internet Day at their Church patio.

From the Vicariate of Puerto Princesa – Region V

VICARIATE OF PUERTO PRINCESA CELEBRATES 42ND FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
International Secretary & Region V Representative*

One hundred sisters of the Vicariate of Puerto Princesa, Palawan celebrated their 42nd founding anniversary on February 14, 2024 coinciding with Valentine’s Day. The celebration took place in Brooke’s Point in the southern part of Palawan some four to five hours land travel from Puerto Princesa.

Among the participants were sisters from the newly-organized Assumption of Our Lady Circle in Abungan, Taytay who traveled over 370 kilometers to meet their other sisters, report their circle activities and present a dance number.

The theme of their two-day celebration was “Onward to Synodality Through Cheerful Giving of Time, Talent and Treasure”. Ushering in the event was a Eucharistic celebration presided by Most Rev. Socrates Mesiona, MSP, DD, Apostolic Vicar of Puerto



The Regional Officers with Bishop Socrates Mesiona

Princesa at the Pastoral Center of St. Joseph Husband of Mary Parish church, venue of the event.

Vicarial Regent Sis. Zeny Villegas declared the opening of the assembly after which Bishop Mesiona keynoted the event with a talk on fulfilling the DMI Missions in the DMIs' synodal journey.

Rev. Fr. Jesusinio "Jing" Panganiban, Jr., pastor of the St. Joseph the Husband of Mary Parish was the next speaker. It was quite obvious he is a close friend of the DMI sisters in the parishes he has served who he jokingly called his "ex".

The parish priest of Sto. Nino Parish in Espanola, Palawan, Fr. Joseph Cacacha also spoke. He said that synodality is walking together of all, an inclusive way that welcomes everyone without prejudice against those whose way of life is unlike their own. Fr. Cacacha was able to hold the interest of his audience, the unholy hour and sweltering heat notwithstanding.

Region V Representative Sis. Lorie Manalansan then took the floor to bring the Palawan sisters up to date on DMII matters emanating from the National Office assisted by International Auditor for Membership and Region V Alternate RR Sis. Juliet Cruz and Regional Secretary Sis. Jing Velasco. Sis. Juliet even gave time for a dialogue with Circle Regents during lunchtime to clarify certain matters in the local circle-National Office relationship.

The Socials Night ended the program on Day 1, highlighted by a search for Ms. DMI won by Sis. Rubielyn Landicho, regent of the host circle.

A vicarial meeting took place on Day 2 starting with a Holy Mass. The circle regents rendered their reports on the projects and

activities of their respective circles during 2023. They were Circle Regents Sisters Lorna Rodriguez, past regent of St. Bernadette Circle, Ma. Lourdes Solomon of St. Michael Circle, Aileen Apostol of St. Peter Circle, Ma. Arlin Josue, a doctor and Past Regent of St. Joseph the Husband of Mary Circle, Anna Glynn Dawadao of Immaculate Conception Circle, Aurora de la Cruz of St. Genevieve Circle, Elizabeth Alcantara of Assumption of Our Lady Circle and Grace Policarpio of St. Francis Circle.

Past Vicarial Regent Sis. Nitz Austria also reported on the past activities of the Vicariate while VR Sis. Zeny Villegas talked on the direction the Vicariate is headed to in the coming days.

In her reaction to the reports, Sis. Lorie emphasized that the priority of DMI circles must be the activities and projects in pursuance of the DMI Missions mandated by the CBCP and implementing them can be counted as also serving the parish as they are aligned with the needs of their parish communities which the various parish ministries also address. She also encouraged the circles to vie for the Star Circle Award given to outstanding circles which they can achieve through the recommended "one project per mission per quarter" requirement by the International Mission Chairs.

The two-day program ended in the afternoon of Day 2 with a bid for the venue of the next vicarial assembly. Quezon, Palawan will host next year's assembly.

Before their departure for Manila, the Regional Officers met for the last time with the Vicarial Officers for an over-all assessment of the just-concluded event to make the next one even better and more meaningful for the participants.



The DMI sisters of Puerto Princesa and their guests

UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE OF ANTIPOLO

By Sis. Cora Afuang,
Past APFV International Chairperson

The different circles in the Diocese of Antipolo under the leadership of Sis. Alma Luces undertook various activities during the last quarter of 2023 among which were:

DIOCESAN SEMINAR FOR STREET SWEEPERS. The seminar on Good Grooming and Personal Hygiene was conducted by Sis. Cora Afuang of the St. Paul of the Cross Circle. Sis. Cora is past International Chairperson for Pro-Life and Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims. Women street sweepers from three barangays of Marikina City attended the seminar. Other diocesan officers were present to give moral support to the attendees. Food packs donated by Congresswoman Stella Quimbo of the 3rd District of Marikina were later distributed to them.



DMI sisters with Sis. Cora Afuang, resource speaker (fifth from right)

SQUIRETTES OF MARY IMMACULATE LEARN CROCHETING. Several SMIs took time out to learn crocheting, a skill that many women years back used to have.

Sisters from the Good Shepherd Convent taught the girls the skill's rudiments.



SMIs learn crocheting from a Good Shepherd sister.

DIOCESAN LONG CONFERRAL. Thirty-five prospective members of circles in the Diocese of Antipolo and four from the Diocese of Pasig were exemplified last December 29, 2023. The Exemplification Team of the St. Paul of the Cross Circle performed the conferral rites.



The participants in the long conferral

DMI SISTERS JOIN THE ‘KARAKOL’ PROCESSION

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

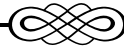
The ‘Karakol’ is a unique way the Cavitenos celebrate the feast of the Sto. Nino.

The pilgrims who join the procession start to dance to the rhythmic music played by a marching band as soon as the image of the Sto. Nino is brought out of the church to show their deep devotion to Him.

The DMI sisters of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circle joined the ‘Karakol’ procession in Bacoor City last January 20, 2024. Wearing their colorful Filipiniana attire, they carried their own image of the Sto. Nino during the procession.



The DMI sisters carry their Sto. Nino image during the procession.



DIOCESAN CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

Some 123 DMI sisters from nine circles of the Diocese of Imus motored to Casa Ludivina in Bgy. Munting Ilog, Silang, Cavite for their annual Christmas get-together. The nine circles were Sto. Nino de Molino, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Inay Maria ng Magnificat and Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circles in Bacoor, St. Anthony of Padua and Immaculate Conception Circles, Candelaria, Nuestra Senora de la Merced Circle, Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle, Dasmaringas City, and Our Lady of Candelaria Circle, Indang.

A dance contest was held with Diocesan Regent Sis. Inday Ramos as chairperson of the board of judges. The Sto. Nino de Molino Circle was adjudged as contest champion.



A group photo of DMI sisters during their Christmas get-together.



NEWS

Nuestra Senora de Nieva Circle Participates in Blood-Letting Project



The Nuestra Senora de Nieva Circle of the Diocese of Kalookan participated in the blood-letting activity of the Health Care Ministry of the San Roque Cathedral Parish at its Pastoral Center in Caloocan City last February 7, 2024. The project was in collaboration with the Caloocan City Health Department. The circle donated eggs, candies, juice and water to blood donors.

– *Sis. Monique Bularan, Youth Welfare SMI Luzon Area Coordinator*



NEWS

Good Shepherd Circle Sisters Visit Tomb of the Unborn

In pursuance of the Pro-Life Mission, the DMI sisters of the Good Shepherd Circle visited the Tomb of the Unborn at the grounds of the Good Shepherd Cathedral to offer flowers and candles and pray the rosary after the morning mass last Feb. 25, 2024. The activity was in celebration of Pro-Life Month.



NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO

By Sis. Ivylyou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

Diocese of San Pablo Holds ‘Walk for Life’

The ‘Walk for Life’ is a nationwide activity organized by the Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas. The DMLs of the Diocese of San Pablo held the activity last February 17, 2024 simultaneously with similar activities in various parts of the country.

A hundred DMI sisters joined the Walk for Life that started at Sampalok Lake in San Pablo City and ended at the San Pablo Cathedral where a Eucharistic celebration by Msgr. Jerry Bitoon took place. In his homily, Msgr. Bitoon emphasized the defense, protection and promotion of life including pastoral care for mental health.

He called on the DMLs to be actively involved in the emerging parish ministries such as the Ministry of Health. He urged them to project a happy life if they are not able to actively serve and to ride on social media to reach more people in the community.



The participants in the Walk for Life

Strong Info Drive on Cyber Security Launched

The Diocese of San Pablo joined the nationwide observance of Safe Internet Day by displaying tarpaulins in various public places in their parish carrying the message of cyberspace security by observing the Golden Rule when using the internet to ensure the safety of all who go online.



The tarpaulin put up by the San Sebastian the Martyr Circle in Lumban, Laguna.

World Day of the Sick Celebrated

The annual Pro-Life Month was a busy one for the DMI circles in the Diocese of San Pablo.

While the focal point of their pro-life celebration was the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11 that Pope Francis declared as the World Day of the Sick, Pro-Life activities started on February 4 when the annual Watch Your Health project of the Theresian Circle was held at the Batong Malake covered court in Los Banos, Laguna.

This was followed by a Feeding Program by the Sto. Sepulcro Shrine Circle held at the Our Lady of Fatima Chapel in Bgy. Landayan, San Pedro City with some 50 residents as beneficiaries.

On February 11, simultaneous activities were undertaken by the vicariates, such as

- Offering of flowers, candles and a special prayer

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News Briefs from Diocese of San Pablo... from page 21

before the Tomb of the Unborn by the Vicariate of St. Paul the First Hermit after Mass at the San Pablo Cathedral.

- Praying for the sick and providing food packs to 50 patients, mostly in the pediatric ward and health workers at the Laguna Medical Center in Sta. Cruz by the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua
- Giving free medical consultations to 150

individuals, mostly senior citizens, at the Barangay Hall of Batong Malake, Los Banos by the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist.

- Visitation of the Sick by the Vicariate of St. Polycarp through the San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle.

Lastly, on February 20, 2024, the sisters of St. Paul the First Hermit Circle facilitated an info session on nutrition, hygiene and morality as part of its Health and Wellness Campaign. Following the session was a feeding program at the cathedral patio for cathedral workers and sampaguita vendors.



The Watch Your Health Project of the Theresian Circle



The Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua at the Laguna Medical Center



The feeding program of the Sto. Sepulcro Shrine Circle

REGION VII CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH

By Sis. Agnes Arada, Region VII Representative and Sis. Mariefa Manalo, Vice-Regent, Our Lady of Fatima Circle, Bauan, Batangas

March of every year is declared as International Women's Month dedicated to all women in the world regardless of nationality, race, creed and color. This annual event is observed to honor women and recognize and celebrate their contributions throughout history up to today. Women have struggled for equality with men over the past years to rise above the mindset and perception of being the weaker gender and subordinate to men. This year's national theme is "Lipunang Patas sa Bagong Pilipinas, Kakayahan ng Kababaihan, Patunayan!" which calls for equal opportunities for women, unhindered by gender biases and discriminatory stereotypes.

In support of the celebration, DMI circles all over the country had tarpaulins and posters made using the official design from the National Office and posted them in conspicuous places in their communities to make people aware of the said celebration. Shown are photos of circles in Region VII. The project was spearheaded by the Upliftment of Women Workers Mission chaired by Sis.

Teresita Labilles.

The DMII believes and strongly advocates for the importance of every woman in society and the essential role she plays in the progress of the community where she belongs. As an organization solely for women, the DMII, with all sincerity and respect, gives highest honor to all women in the world. We honor and appreciate their contributions and will continue to fight for women's rights and gender equality. The essence of the International Women's Month celebration is WE – for gender equality and inclusive society. Running in every DMI's veins is the commitment to fight for every woman's welfare all year round. With the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, the DMII will always step up for every woman, especially those who are marginalized.

Here are some photos of the International Women's Month tarpaulins that circles in Region VII posted in public places in their parishes.

Archdiocese of Lipa (Batangas)



St. Martin of Tours Circle, Taal



Marian Circle, Lian



Holy Cross Circle, Bauan



Our Lady of Fatima Circle, Bauan



Mary Mediatrix of All Grace, Balayan



Nuestra Senora De la Paz Y Buen Viaje Circle, Nasugbu



St. Raphael the Archangel Circle, Calaca



Aquinas Circle, Sto. Tomas

Diocese of Boac (Marinduque)



Lady of Biglang-Awa Circle, Boac

Diocese of Lucena



St. Ferdinand Circle



St. Isidore Circle



St. Michael Archangel Circle, Minor Basilica, Lucena City



St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle



Our Lady of Angels Circle



Our Lady of Penafraancia Circle

Apostolic Vicariate of Calapan (Mindoro Oriental)

Apostolic Vicariate of San Jose (Mindoro Occidental)



St. Augustine Circle, Pinamalayan



San Sebastian Circle, Sablayan



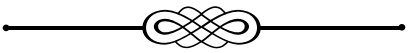
Nuestra Senora de Candelaria Circle

SAFE INTERNET DAY OBSERVED

By Sis. Agnes R. Arada,
Region VII Representative

The Our Lady of Fatima Circle of HFP, Bolo, Bauan, Batangas put up tarpaulins with the message “Be Safer in the Cyberspace” in observance of Safer Internet Day. The tarpaulins were posted in strategic places such as the church patio and Bolo Elementary School to promote safer and more responsible use of online technology, especially among the young.

The internet has become an integral part of people’s lives providing opportunities to learn, create and connect. Internet users must apply the Golden Rule to make it a cordial, safe, respectful and advantageous online place to live in.



HOLY CROSS -BAUAN CIRCLE'S LIVELIHOOD PROJECT FOR WOMEN

The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of the Holy Cross Circle – Bauan headed by Sis. Eugenia Tatlonghari sponsored a livelihood seminar on the preparation of dishwashing liquid for senior citizens of their barangay. The seminar was conducted by Ms. Sonia Garcia, focal person of the Rural Improvement

Club, Provincial Agricultural Office and Ms. Marlene Marave of the Municipal Agricultural Office.

The newly-acquired know-how provided the participants an opportunity to earn extra income aside from having the product for their own use at home.



A demonstration on preparation of dishwashing liquid.

A seminar participant proudly displays the product she prepared.



San Sebastian Circle of Sablayan Promotes Safer Internet

The San Sebastian Circle of Sablayan, Mindoro Occidental joined the nation in the observance of Safer Cyberspace Day through its Morality in Media Committee headed by Sis. Villie Orieta.



From the Diocese of Kalibo (Aklan) – Region IX

DIOCESE OF KALIBO SMIS HOLD ASSEMBLY

The Diocesan Assembly of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate in the Diocese of Kalibo was held last October 22, 2023 attended by 150 SMIs coming from the twelve circlettes of the diocese.

The event started with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Bishop Cor Tala-oc of the Diocese of Kalibo at the St. John the Baptist Cathedral Parish church.

Guest speakers were Fr. Joseph Christian Indadano, SMI diocesan spiritual director and Sis. Jonah Eliza Prado-Tordesillas, past SMI National President, who spoke about her personal experience of

being in love and how prayers, especially of the rosary, helped her cope with life's difficulties and pains.

The day's fun-filled part of the program included a religion quiz conducted by Past International Regent Sis. Jean Velarde during lunch and a K-Pop dance challenge won by the St. Isidore Circlette of Lezo, Aklan, first place; Our Lady of Lourdes Circlette of Makato, second place and Stella Maris Circlette of Nabas, third place.

Certificates and tokens of appreciation were awarded to the assembly guest speakers and special guests.



The Parade of Circlettes during the opening ceremony

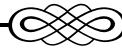


Certificates and tokens of appreciation are awarded to assembly guest speakers and special guests.

STO. NINO DE KALIBO DMIs AND SMIs CELEBRATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH WITH KALIBO LGU

*By Sis. Ging Manulat,
Youth Welfare/SMI Coordinator for Visayas*

The Pastrana Park in Kalibo, Aklan was the venue of “Serbisyo Para Kay Juana”, a project initiative of the LGU of Aklan and participated in by the Sto. Nino de Kalibo DMI Circle and SMI Circlette. The event took place during the four Sundays of March. The DMIs set up a booth showcasing the DMII’s Five Missions implemented in the community. The SMIs distributed rosaries and rosary guides as well as flyers on mental health awareness, prayers on social media and recipes for practical food preparation.



From the Diocese of San Carlos (Negros Occ.) – Region IX

DIOCESE OF SAN CARLOS CIRCLE NEWS ROUND-UP

*By Sis. Rosalinda Desales,
Region IX Representative*

DIOCESAN EXEMPLIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS. Thirty-seven new members were exemplified last November 11, 2023 after an orientation conducted by Sis. Kathryn Fuentes of the Holy Spirit Circle. Hosted by the St. Anne Circle, the new members are from the following circles: Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Anne, St. Joseph, Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Holy Spirit, Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Isidore the Farmer Circles. Squirettes of Mary members performed a doxology after the exemplification rites.



The new members with the Exemplification Team



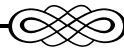
BLESSING OF INCOMING DIOCESAN OFFICERS. The incoming officers of the Diocese of San Carlos were blessed by Bishop Gerardo Almiraza, DD last November 11, 2023 at the PD Hall of the San Carlos Borromeo Cathedral.



OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE TAKES CARE OF PLANTED TREES



The members of Our Lady of Fatima Circle of Forest Drive Village, Bislig City, in their pro-life advocacy of caring for the environment recently visited the DENR Arboretum in San Roque, Bislig City to find out if the trees they planted sometime back are alive and well. They pulled out weeds and removed the debris surrounding the trees. – **Sis. Sahlem Fudalan, vicarial regent**



LA PURISIMA CONCEPCION CIRCLE'S VISITATION OF THE SICK

A group of DMI sisters from the La Purisima Circle of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur visited a sick member of the circle, Sis. Lucia Guazon on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on February 11, 2024. Sis. Lucia, 86, a retired teacher, has been bed-ridden for the past two years. – **Sis. Leonora C. Cotares, diocesan regent**



ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA/BASILAN DIOCESAN OFFICERS INSTALLED

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,
Morality in Media Area Coordinator for Mindanao

Twenty-eight diocesan officers led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Ma. Bella Tandoc and past DR Sis. Marilyn de Asis were installed into office by International Vice-Regent for Mindanao and Region XIV Representative Sis. Pinky Saavedra and DMII Diocesan Spiritual Director Fr. Leh Taib last January 20, 2024. The event was held at the Marian Center of Sta. Maria Parish in Zamboanga City.

The archdiocese has lined up a number of activities to be undertaken during the year, among them are the leadership training for all circle and vicarial regents on February 10, 2024, the exemplification of new members, the organization of a new circle with the goal of having 40 circles in the archdiocese and the holding of the diocesan assembly before the scheduled Region XIV Assembly in Iligan City and the SMI Biennial Convention in Davao City later this year.



The newly-installed diocesan officers with Fr. Leh Taib



ST. JOSEPH CIRCLE CELEBRATES 30TH CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

By Sis. Leilani Ramirez-Yeo,
Circle Vice-Regent

The St. Joseph Circle of Zamboanga City celebrated its 30th charter anniversary last February 26, 2024 with a Thanksgiving Mass and a luncheon get-together at a local hotel. A short program was held during which IVR-Mindanao and Region XIV Representative Sis. Pinky Saavedra gave a brief history of the circle followed by Sis. Edwina Cabato, a charter member, who reminded the sisters about the finer points of being a DMI member. The ladies in blue wore pearl accessories symbolizing their pearl anniversary.

The St. Joseph Circle was born after several attempts to form a circle at St. Joseph Parish. The late Sis. Teresita Bustamante, the late Sis. Sianing Wenceslao and Sis. Gladys Familiar of the Nuestra Senora La Virgen del Pilar de Zaragoza Circle initiated and founded the circle. The late Sis. Erlinda Ko spearheaded the recruitment of at least 25 members from among the wives of the Knights of Columbus and some of her friends who were given orientation and exemplified on February 26, 1994.

To date the circle has 40 active members

including 8 charter members and has produced International and Diocesan Officers such as Sis. Lydia Ramirez, International Regent (2011-12), Sis. Pinky Saavedra, currently International Vice-Regent for Mindanao and Region XIV Representative, Sis. Evelina Balbon, Diocesan Treasurer and past Vicarial Regent, Sis. Pilar Torres, diocesan chairperson for Ways and Means, Sis. Graciela Gonzalez past Vicarial Regent and diocesan chairperson for Pro-Life and Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Edwina Cabato, past diocesan chairperson for Pro-Life, and Sis. Rosalina Bulawin, past diocesan chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers and Socials Committees.

The St. Joseph Circle is the mother circle of five circles in Zamboanga City. They are Our Lady of the Holy Rosary of Manaog Circle in

Tumaga, chartered in 2005, Our Lady of Fatima Circle, Macau in 2011, Transfiguration Circle in Sinunuc, ZC in 2014, Mystical Rose Circle in Westmincom, Upper Calarian in 2017 and La Nuestra Del Pilar Circle in Bgy. Vitali in 2017.

The St. Joseph Circle's three decades of service, devotion and community building through the DMII's Five Missions have left an indelible mark on countless lives and will continue to do so as it pursues this year's theme: "DMII: A Synodal Community with Mary Doing Missions with Inspiration and Integrity."



FRIENDSHIP

*By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia,
Past International Secretary
and Region IV Representative*

(Editor's Note: This article on Friendship starts a series about our Values as Daughters of Mary Immaculate.)

One fine day, I got inspired to start a series of articles on the values that are enshrined in the DMII mottoes – **friendship, unity, charity, humility, sanctity** – in our red handbook that we as Daughters of Mary are invited to grow in.

Let me begin with FRIENDSHIP. This was triggered by a post I saw on YouTube.

The post featured two five-year-old boys who became good friends in kindergarten. Jim is white and Carl is black. But the two told their teacher that they are twins. Of course the teacher did not stop them from doing this. The teacher thought that it is just one of the imaginary tricks of the pair. She, of course, did not tell anything to their mothers.

For one activity, Teacher told the class that twins had to go to school in matching attires. Jim told his mom that for the Twins Day he had to go with the same attire as his twin Carl. The Mom casually told Jim that he has no twin. But Jim cried so hard until the mother agreed to go to school to get the measurement of his twin brother. She also got in touch with the mom of Carl who, she found out, was facing the same problem with her son.

When the two mothers met, and saw the twin, they had the shock of their lives. The boys had nothing in common at all to qualify them as twins. Obviously their sons saw beyond the colors of their skin, beyond the color of their eyes and the texture of their hair. The mothers requested to have a meeting with the teacher to help them understand and handle the situation.

When the teacher asked the boys why they claim they are twins, both of them said the same things: They have the same birthdays, they have the same height and the same eyes. They are the “bestest” friends. The teacher said the boys are inseparable in school and together they help their classmates in class work. They related with each other as though they were real twins, and their classmates took them for their word.

FRIENDSHIP DOES SOMETHING TO OUR SOUL.

So it is true that as kids we first experience friendship before we discover who we are as persons. We learn to trust our friends and find security in their company even before we search for our own identity.

Seeing the two kids in the story made me realize that human nature seems to push us towards somebody else outside of ourselves. Kids do not rationalize why they need friends, they just connect with each other and love the experience. Friendship is like a magnet drawing two persons together.

As adults, we seem to be more whole if we are not just centered in ourselves. We also experience that true joy is doubled when we laugh with a friend; and pain becomes bearable, is halved, when we are able to share it with somebody. Friends lift us up, especially if we can cry with them. And most of all, if we can feel that our friend is a refuge, an ally, kakampi, even protector, then we really feel safe.

Photo NEWS

35 NEW MEMBERS EXEMPLIFIED

The Archdiocese of Zamboanga held an orientation and exemplification of new DMI members coming from the various circles last February 24, 2024



No wonder that friendship is one of the values which DMI espouses. Our need to have friends is vital to our existence. And as we approach being older adults, it is crucial for our mental health that we have friends who have been with us for many years.

FRIENDS ARE GIFTS.

How strange that although we are told that we must choose our friends, many times, we don't actually look for them. They are sort of brought into our lives. We have many companions at work, or neighbors, but we click with one or two, or with a few more than with others. And we wonder why. We enjoy each other's company and feel compassion and warmth when we are with them. We don't know but we feel safe with them. As though we can tell them anything, and they don't mind. As though friends are brought to us to listen to us and we are sure that we will not be judged. We feel that we will be accepted as we are.

NOBODY IS PERFECT.

Sometimes they are not perfect. I mean most of the time. But so are we. There are things in them that we do not like, but we still hang around each other. Among friends, honesty is not always the best policy. We sort of hide some things from them about our personal life. Neither do we tell them exactly what we think about their reactions in a meeting. But when we are down and blue, and we do not like to tell anybody why we are feeling low, we call on our friend to spend some time with us so that we can get away from our problem even momentarily. Many times we do not really talk about what is really bothering us. We just need somebody to distract us from our problem. Surprisingly, coffee and donuts with a friend who makes us laugh can also be as therapeutic to the weary soul. A rest for the tired emotions. Our friendship does not always need to lead us to pray the rosary together or to discuss the handbook. There are projects to plan, and activities to propose, but many times we do not call on our friends for these. We just need company. And laughter.

WHEN SOME FRIENDS BETRAY US

But what if a friend betrays us? Talks behind our back and tell other people about our secrets? Or spreads lies about us? Of course that hurts. That breaks our heart and soul. For it is not only our reputation that is tarnished, not only our name and honor that are degraded. It is our trust and our friendship that are broken. It is our intimacy that is violated.

How do we move on from such betrayal? Just think that it is not our name that was maligned. It is her own dignity that was put into question. People will see her as a traitor. And you, what do you do? If you go on joining the others despite the betrayal, people will learn from you how to handle being betrayed gracefully. Tell yourself that your happiness and your dignity can never be destroyed by anybody. It is only when they see in you the bad things that she spread about you, that people will judge you. Otherwise, ignore your discomfort. People will forget those

gossips. And if they see you continuing to be committed and dedicated, the gossip will be forgotten. Sometimes, silence can really be golden.

And do you realize that if a true friend does it, we really do not get angry at him or her. It is more tampo that we feel. So, after some time, it goes away.

FRIENDSHIP NEEDS INVESTMENT TO GROW

Friendship is a treasure that needs care and attention. Just as a garden needs water and sunlight for the flowers to grow, we need to invest in friendship, too. We should dedicate time, energy, attention to our friends. Getting in touch with them is crucial. Being connected is important. This needs time and effort, of course. Either you text, or do face time, or even email. Sometimes you meet up and spend an afternoon as often as schedules allow it.

After her funeral, stories came out about how Queen Elizabeth kept her feet on the ground and her heart in love with her family. It is reported that despite her busy schedule, she never missed tea time with some of her trusted relatives. She was faithful to them who keep her company. No wonder she maintained her wit, her humor, her sensitivity and mental agility to the hilt.

WE NEED FRIENDS FOR OUR MENTAL HEALTH

These last years, we keep hearing about the importance of taking care of our mental health. Because of the current state of our world, we find ourselves subjected to a lot of stressful situations and many people go through depression, anxiety and social interaction difficulties. One recommendation of experts is being with friends, talking with them even about nonsense. This interaction keeps our positive energies bubbling. For as long as we do not talk about lies and negative things about other people, talking enables us to connect with our innermost thoughts and feelings. Getting in touch with what goes on inside us and being able to express it to somebody makes us whole. It makes us understand ourselves and brings us peace. Most important of all, it connects us to others. It makes us feel that we are not alone. And this keeps our positive energy flowing.

HOW MANY FRIENDS TO HAVE?

And how many friends do we have? Acquaintances, we have plenty. And it is good to recognize people when you meet them. But it is not necessary that we be friends with many. We cannot maintain a lot. A small group of solid, loyal, lasting, faithful sincere friends is enough. Remember the dialogue between St. Teresa of Avila and Jesus? Once Teresa was complaining to Jesus why she undergoes many sufferings. Jesus said: That is how I treat my friends. And Teresa replied: No wonder you have very few friends.

At the heart of our DMI spirituality is our ability to enter into friendship and maintain them. This is an opportunity to give and receive love which is a gift from our God. So, friends do take us to our dear God.



DMII 2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

22nd Annual Officers' Meeting

May 18, 2024

Sofitel Philippine Plaza Hotel, Manila

Area Conferences

Luzon Area Conference

Oct. 26-28, 2024

Laguna

Visayas Area Conference

Nov. 16, 2024

Cebu City

Mindanao Area Conference

Aug. 9-10, 2024

Davao City

19th SMI Biennial Convention – July 20-22, 2024

D'Leonor Inland Resort and Adventure Park, Davao City

Regional Assemblies

Region I September 21, 2024 - Cauayan, Isabela

Region II August 24, 2024 - San Fernando, La Union

Region III September 14, 2024 - Balanga, Bataan

Region IV September 28, 2024 - Malolos, Bulacan

Region V June 15, 2024 - Mandaluyong City, Metro Mla.

Region VI July 27, 2024 - San Pedro, Laguna

Region VII June 8, 2024 - Lucena City

Region VIII May 25, 2024 - Virac, Catanduanes

Region IX July 6, 2024 - Kalibo, Aklan

Region X August 31, 2024 - Dumaguete, Negros Oriental

Region XI October 19, 2024 - Calbayog City

Region XII November 23, 2024 - Cagayan de Oro City

Region XIII June 1, 2024 - Tagum City, Davao del Norte

Region XIV November 24, 2024 - Iligan City, Lanao del Norte



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