

# DMI Newsette

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

April - June, 2014

## 19th DMI Biennial Convention Held April 25-26, 2014

The SUMMER OF '14 will long be remembered by DMI sister-delegates to the 19<sup>th</sup> DMI Biennial Convention held in Bohol on April 25-26, 2014.

Rising above the fears of aftershocks tailing the Magnitude 7.2 earthquake in October last year, 957 sisters came, filling the Bohol Wisdom School Gymnasium to maximum capacity. The heat at summer's peak in the non-airconditioned venue notwithstanding, the sisters went through moments of solemnity, of thoughtful listening, of hearty laughter, of enjoyable pleasantries, etc., the *anahaw* fans provided in the conference kits proving very useful as the

convention program on Day 1 unfolded and progressed.

Convention Chairperson Sis.

Gloria Caminero formally opened the convention after the opening ceremonies starting with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother led by DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, the International Officers and Board, Mission Chairpersons and the officers of the host diocese, the Diocese of Tagbilaran headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Asuncion Naraga.



*The DMII International Board at the presidential table with Msgr. Jeffrey Malanog and Fr. Jerome Cruz (at center, standing), and Past International Regents Sisters Myrna Zapanta and Perla Arguelles and IR Sis. Mila Villanueva (seated 5th, 6th and 7th from left, respectively).*

Vice-International Regent for Visayas Sis. Evelyn Aquino presented the circles from the 14 DMI regions in the country represented by close to a thousand delegates.

Sis. Sionee Naraga warmly welcomed the delegates and thanked them for their attendance in spite of the perceived fears and uncertainties after the earthquake.

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### In This Issue

**MSGR. FRANCISCO G. TANTOCO, JR.**  
(March 14, 1939 - May 23, 2014)

Special Supplement on the 1<sup>st</sup> SMI Luzon and Visayas Area Conferences



# DMI 2015-2016 International Officers Elected

The election of international officers of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate took place on April 25, 2014 after the organization's Business Meeting. The following will compose the 2015-2016 DMI officers and Board of Trustees:

International Regent -  
Sis. Rebbie Pacanan

Vice-International  
Regent for Luzon &  
Region V  
Representative -  
Sis. Cora Afuang

VIR for Visayas &  
Region IX  
Representative -  
Sis. Pureza Guzman

VIR for Mindanao &  
Region XII  
Representative -  
Sis. Annie Ty

International Secretary  
& Region III  
Representative -  
Sis. Alma Cagampang

International Treasurer  
& Region VI  
Representative -  
Sis. Elvie Arambulo

## Regional Representatives:

Region I -  
Sis. Leticia Gano

Region II -  
Sis. Virginia Terrado

Region IV -  
Sis. Fely Gallardo

Region VII -  
Sis. Ma. Adeline Lee

Region VIII -  
Sis. Teresita Viola

Region X -  
Sis. Gloria Caminero

Region XI -  
Sis. Lenie Larrazabal

Region XIII -  
Sis. Nemia Tagle

Region XIV -  
Sis. Angie Baes



*Daughters Of Mary Immaculate International*

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**Tel. No. 833-1203**

**Website: [www.dmiinternational.org](http://www.dmiinternational.org)**

## Executive Officers

Sis. Mila A. Villanueva - Int'l Regent  
Sis. Paulita M. Canonizado- Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon  
Sis. Evelyn D. Aquino - Vice-Int'l Regent - Visayas  
Sis. Cecilia O. Apura - Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao  
Sis. Corazon T. Afuang - Int'l Secretary  
Sis. Amelia C. Castaneda - Int'l. Treasurer  
Sis. Miriam O. Angot - Int'l Advocate

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

## DMI Newsette Editorial Board

Sis. Sally T. Estrada  
**Editor**

## Contributors

Sis. Carmencita D. G. Arce	Sis. Ruby P. Macario
Sis. Julieta V. Cruz	Sis. Perla R. Malazarte
Sis. Helen B. de Leon	Sis. Aurora C. Manangan
Sis. Leticia O. Gano	Sis. Ma. Clotilde R. Tong
Sis. Pureza M. Guzman	Sis. Annie O. Ty
Sis. Ma. Adeline A. Lee	Sis. Teresita L. Viola
Sis. Violeta C. Luna	Sis. Mylene Segundera-Bass

*From the International Regent*

## MESSAGE



The 19th DMI Biennial Convention held in Bohol last April 25 and 26 was filled with a number of imponderable experiences, starting two years ago when Tagbilaran City was voted as venue of our next convention. First, there was the 7.2 magnitude earthquake which devastated the northern part of Tagbilaran.

This led to 'fears' of our sisters about going to the convention. Second, the sweltering heat inside the non-airconditioned gym where the first day of the convention was held. Third, there were only a few palm trees to shield convention delegates from the heat of the sun in the beach venue on Day 2.

For the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, these challenges that many might have considered negative became stimuli to which the DMI delegates responded positively. We campaigned hard for attendance, convincing the sisters that Tagbilaran City had been spared by the earthquake. When Convention Day came, 957 sisters from all over the country, braving their fears, filled the convention hall. The sweltering heat in the gym? They considered it a health spa! Happy to have lost a few pounds while listening to Dr. Rene Bullecer's talk on "How to Implement the DMI Missions". The exposure to the sun on the beach? It was a sun-tanning session, a good source of Vitamin D! And under the skimpy shade of a palm tree, Fr. Ruel Gado, he who held his audience captive with his characteristic humor, obliged the audience by standing on top of soft drink cases while delivering his talk on "The Virtues of an Ideal DMI".

At convention's end, it was group dancing on the beach with a live band until the sun began to set. This beautiful sunset capped the day. The soft breeze from the blue sea bade the sisters good-bye, seemingly whispering, "Sleep well tonight, sisters! And remember this wonderful experience."

I, too, shall long remember this beautiful ending . . . a melodrama of fortitude, a saga of belief and a never-ending story to be told! As we all look to the coming years, let us all remember the strength of our sisterhood! Our oneness, our positiveness, our humility and our thankful acceptance of the graces and blessings that God, through our Blessed Mother, has given us and will continue to do so for as long as we uphold and practice the virtues as Mama Mary's true daughters.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

**SIS. MILA A. VILLANUEVA**  
**International Regent, 2013-2014**

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*19th DMI Biennial Convention Held April 25-26, 2014...Cont'd. from Page 1*



*The International Officers and Board line up for the floral offering to Mama Mary during the convention opening ceremonies.*



*VTR – Visayas Sis. Evelyn Aquino presents the circle delegates during the Parade of Circles. To her right is Sis. Mae Claire Jabines, program emcee.*



*The concelebrated Mass officiated by Msgr. Jeffrey Malanog and Fr. Jerome Cruz.*



*Dr. Rene Bullecer, guest speaker, receives a plaque of appreciation from Sisters Mila Villanueva and Evelyn Aquino.*

She also gave a backgrounder on the convention theme “Proclaim Jesus’ Words . . . Emulate Mary’s Virtues . . . Make DMI a Way of Life”. The theme was derived from the objectives of the Year of the Laity.

DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz was the morning speaker on the topic “Mama Mary’s Virtues”. He was introduced by Sis. Margie Aninon, regent of Rosa Mystica Circle of Tagbilaran. Fr. Jerome started his talk

by reminding the DMI sisters about the celebration of the Feast of the Divine Mercy on the first Sunday after Easter, April 27. He said that Jesus, the Word made flesh through Mary Immaculate, is the fountain and source of all forgiveness.

Fr. Jerome emphasized the unwavering faith of Mama Mary during the whole life of Jesus until His Crucifixion, quoting passages in the Bible that tell of her virtues that every DMI must uphold and emulate as

her true daughters. He exhorted his audience to live out their faith, to be witnesses to Jesus’ teachings because “words become useless if not with deed”.

A concelebrated Mass by Msgr. Jeffrey Malanog, JCL, VG and Fr. Jerome ended the morning session.

In his homily, Monsignor Malanog posed a question to the DMI sisters: Why have you come? He said that the overriding reason must be to share the

identity as daughters of God through the Holy Spirit.

“Pro-life promotes respect and protection of life from birth to tomb encompassing both the physical and the spiritual. As pro-lifers, we must also defend life from the onslaughts of sin,” he said.

Because of the present state of the country, many Filipinos are forced to take on demeaning jobs for the sake of the family. It is



because of this that the fulness of their dignity as children of God has not been fulfilled.

"Stay focused on your mission and continue to be God's instruments by living out your faith, by being real DMIs" was his final message to the convention delegates.

Dr. Rene Josef Bullecer was the afternoon session speaker on the topic "What and How to Implement the DMI Missions". He was introduced by Sis. Mary Anne Jabines, vicarial regent. Dr. Bullecer is the president for the Philippines of Human Life International and a member of the Pontifical Council on Health Care in Rome.

He started by citing current statistics on the Roman Catholic Church to point out the role the lay people must play as defined by the Year of the Laity. The Church, he said, has 172 cardinals, 52 of whom are non-voting. As of April, 2014, there are 5,135 bishops, 411,300 priests and 731,732 nuns ministering to the spiritual needs of 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide. The number

of priests continues to diminish ("There are less priests because there are less children"). The total Catholic population requires no less than 2 million priests and 10 million nuns. At present, only 16% of Catholics go to Mass.

Based on these statistics, the laity is called upon to play a more active role in the mission of evangelization. Thus the observance of the Year of the Laity with the theme "Filipino Catholic Laity: Called to be Saints . . . Sent Forth as Heroes".

Dr. Bullecer asked the DMI sisters: Is your faith firmed up after the Year of Faith? In the Year of the Laity, the particular mission of the lay faithful is the sanctification and transformation of the world from within - starting with the family, the parish community, the country, the world. Pope Francis has reportedly told Catholics: "You must go into the world of the family, of business, of economics, of politics, of education, of the mass media and the



*The convention delegates enjoy an ice-breaker.*



*The hard-working Convention Working Committee of the host diocese, the Diocese of Tagbilaran.*



*Left: The St. Joseph Cathedral in Tagbilaran City; Right: Bishop Leonardo Medroso delivers his homily.*



*The International Board with Bishop Medroso and Father Jerome before the altar of St. Joseph Cathedral.*

social media, to every human endeavor where the future of humanity and the world are at

stake, and to make a difference, the difference

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that the Gospel and the grace of Christ bring to human affairs."

Also citing the challenges of the Reproductive Health Law and the DEATH Bills (divorce, euthanasia, abortion, total population control and homosexual or same-sex marriage) that the Church continues to oppose, he said that marriage is a human right, not a heterosexual privilege and quoted Pope Benedict XVI: "Stay strong on marriage, fight euthanasia and eugenics" and John Bohner, former US Speaker of the House: "Human life is not an economic or political commodity and no government on earth has the right to treat it as such".

Dr. Bullecer called on the DMIs to stand up for Jesus, to stand for the Faith with Mary as model and guide. The way to her Son, he said, is by following God's Commandments and the teachings of Jesus. The challenge and the mission for the Catholic

laity in the present world is to know the faith and to live the faith. These are enshrined in the 5 Missions of the DMI.

In ending, Dr. Bullecer exhorted his audience: "Do not be afraid to stand up for Jesus. Remain steadfast in emulating the virtues of Mama Mary and stay committed to the DMI missions as a way of witnessing and living out your faith."

During the International Regent's time, Sis. Mila reported the amendments to the DMI Rules and Regulations through board resolutions that the members ratified during the National Officers' Meeting in May, 2013 such as the sharing of net income from regional assemblies, area conferences and biennial conventions, the membership identification cards renewable every five years, the mission chairpersons' term of office, the holding by the Squirettes of Mary of area conferences alternately with their biennial conventions.

She also reported that, by virtue of Board Resolutions, the schedule of a biennial convention may be changed when warranted and the creation of a Calamity Fund to be utilized in times of disasters and extreme emergencies. In response to Supertyphoon 'Yolanda', an amount had been taken from the Mission Fund to be donated to DMI sisters who are victims of the calamity. Each DMI region will also donate houses for the victims.

After the Year of Faith, the suggested theme for regional assemblies is "Service, Hope and Love" in observance of the Year of the Laity.

International Treasurer and Region III Representative Sis. Amy Castaneda rendered the Treasurer's Report. Publication of the organization's Annual Financial Statement in the *DMI Newsette* was requested by delegates. The reports of the Mission Chairpersons came next. The reports are capsulized in the following:

Sis. Helen de Leon for Pro-Life said that a Pro-lifer's job is a work in progress which, according to Pope Francis, is an arena of never-ending struggle. In the aftermath of the Supreme Court ruling on the Reproductive Health Law, she urged the DMI sisters to continue the campaign against the evils of contraception, to intensify the lessons taught in Pre-Cana seminars, to be more aggressive in conducting Natural Family Planning and to continue the advocacy for the preservation and protection of the environment. She also reported that DMI circles have started to adopt the Bereavement Ministry which she introduced as a pro-life activity to help ease the pain when a family loses a loved one.

Sis. Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers called for more livelihood programs for marginalized women in the community, assisting them in securing capital for their micro-business through membership in



cooperatives and Grameen-style institutions. She also asked her audience to add spiritual activities to the mission's projects and undertakings.

Sis. Chit Arce for Morality in Media battled for tie ups with other groups such as catechists, parent-teachers' associations in schools, the Squirettes of Mary and others to promote media literacy especially among the youth. She stressed the importance of networking with other organizations in the Church, NGOs and government agencies

to promote good media. These are in addition to the traditional activities that DMI circles regularly undertake in their communities.

Sis. Milde Tong for Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims reported that 45-50% of circles in the country have adopted children of prisoners as scholars under the Mission's 10-Year Scholarship Program. She also said that CDs of the Formation Program module for prison parolees and probationers and their families have already

been distributed to circles.

Sis. Ruby Macario for Youth Welfare/ Squirettes of Mary reported the very successful 1<sup>st</sup> SMI Luzon Area Conference held on March 29-30, 2014 at Lola Corazon's Leisure Farm in Candaba, Pampanga. She also introduced the new SMI March that the Squirettes sang for the first time during the conference. The Visayas and Mindanao Area Conferences are also scheduled to be held later in the year. The campaign for more SMI circlettes is proceeding without let-up to recruit

and train young girls for eventual leadership in their parishes and as future DMIs.

The election of a new set of DMII officers for Year 2015-16 was the last part in the program for Day 1. An Election Committee was created to supervise the election. Past International Regent Sis. Myrna Zapanta was designated as Elecom chair. Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, past International Advocate and Region XI Representative was elected as the incoming IR. (Please see the

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*Elecom Chairperson Sis. Myrna Zapanta explains the election procedures.*



*The incoming Board prepares to elect the new International Officers. Elecom member Sis. Perla Arguelles stands at right.*



*Fr. Ruel Gado, Day 2 guest speaker*



*The delegates at South Palms Resort in Panglao*



*'Cheer leader' Sis. Mila Villanueva and Father Jerome welcome the delegates to South Palms.*

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***19th DMI Biennial Convention Held April 25-26, 2014...Cont'd. from Page 7***



***A 'wacky' pose by Sisters Mila Villanueva and Miriam Angot as Fr. Jerome hands the Gold Star Circle trophy to DR Sis. Angie Baes of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga.***



***Hawaiian-garbed delegates get ready to dance to a live band.***



***International Regent-elect Sis. Rebbie Pacanan gives a short message of thanks.***



***Conference Chairperson Sis. Gloria Caminero thanks the delegates before declaring the convention officially closed.***

complete list of the 2015-16 DMII Officers and Board on page 2.

It was TGIF and the DMI sisters shed off their blue DMI uniform and donned their smart casuals. It was still a dress-up affair and they came in their Sunday best. The Fellowship Night during DMI assemblies and conferences is a much-awaited event which gives the DMI sisters the chance to dress up in their fineries carrying the evening's motif. In the past it was Hawaiian, Filipiniana, Caribbean, etc. It was simpler this time which afforded

them to travel a little lighter.

Nine regions presented a variety of dances making it a very colorful musical night (shown in the accompanying photos). The Star Circle Awards were also given to the 2014 circle awardees. (Please see the list of Star Circle Awardees on page 11.) The night ended late with the delegates line-dancing and 'zumba-ing' to their hearts' content.

Day 2 of the Convention opened with a Eucharistic celebration at St.

Joseph Cathedral in Tagbilaran City with Bishop Leonardo Medroso, DD, JCD of the Diocese of Tagbilaran as main celebrant. Fr. Jerome and some circle spiritual directors of the Diocese were co-celebrants.

In his homily, Bishop Medroso quoted St. Paul who said that the splendor of Christ's Resurrection is shown in the people redeemed by Him. Christ is life and a reflection of this are the people in the community who love one another, such as in

the unity of local churches.

"Christ is alive in the DMI," Bishop Medroso said, "because your members in the community love one another. Bring Jesus to other people through your community."

His challenge to the DMIs: "Look at yourselves as visionaries. Bring the Good News to other people by going out of yourselves, out of your community, to the world. Go out and teach love for others. Christian love has an added dimension: love



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for the poor and love for one's enemy."

After the Mass, the delegates boarded buses for South Palms Resort in Panglao Island for the remainder of the convention program.

(An aside: The DMIs seem to bring the sunshine wherever they go as had been our experience for many years in most assemblies and conferences. There may be days of inclement weather and rain in the places where the events were to be held and we would all pray for good weather. Come THE day, the sun would come out and shine brightly during the entire duration of the event. We believe that Mama Mary has always interceded for her beloved daughters.)

The white sand on the beach of South Palms Resort glistened under the bright sun. Some delegates, particularly the seniors, complained about the heat. However, the strong spirit of sisterhood prevailed. With the International

Regent as 'cheer leader' and the gentle breeze from the sea giving them comfort, the delegates soon started to settle down for the rest of the program – the continuation of the Star Circle Awards and the message of the last speaker, Rev. Fr. Ruel Gado, SVD of the Holy Name University.

Introduced by Sis. Daya Lanada, SMI lady counselor, Fr. Gado talked on "A DMI's Way of Life". Standing on soft drink cases under the shade of a palm tree to be seen by his audience (the stage was exposed to the sun), Fr. Gado related his experience as a missionary in Japan for six years, including humorous incidents that evoked laughter.

He then spoke about Mary's faith and humility to accept without question the Father's Will that she be the mother of His Son. Mary's *Fiat* ("Your will be done") gave way for Jesus' coming and His Sacrifice for man's Redemption. The message of Easter is New Life. There is no Resurrection without Crucifixion.

He also cited the first miracle that Jesus performed through Mary at the wedding at Cana. She had said to Jesus, "Your time has come" which signaled the start of Jesus' public ministry. Mary's role in the history of man's Redemption was acknowledged by the Council of Ephesus proclaiming Mary as the Mother of God.

"Faith is a gift from God," Fr. Gado said. We need to strengthen it through prayer that comes in many ways – the Bible, expression of one's love everyday, the Eucharist (the highest form of prayer) and the Rosary. We are called upon to be witnesses to the Gospel. Living out one's faith is an enormous challenge. As DMIs, your missions are expressions of love of God and your neighbors. Go outside and teach love for others. "Get out and be missionaries" was his final message to his audience.

A bidding for the venue of the next DMI biennial convention, our 20<sup>th</sup>, took place

with Davao being chosen as convention host. It is Mindanao's turn to be the next convention venue.

The 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention officially ended before lunch. A live band started playing and groups of DMIs, in their Hawaiian attires started dancing, unmindful of the hot sun. This they did while waiting for the buses that will take them back to Tagbilaran City. The last batch danced till sunset.

While some delegates prepared to leave for home, several groups stayed to enjoy Bohol's many tourist attractions.

For the sisters of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, it was great relief that the convention was finally over. They did a yeoman's job despite the odds. All's well that ends well!

*"Faith is a gift from God that He makes available to anyone who wants it. All you have to do to get it is ask Him."*

## Regional Presentations During Fellowship Night





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## 2014 Star Circle Awardees

The search for the 2014 DMI Star Circle awardees yielded a bountiful harvest of 17 Gold Star Circle and 16 Silver Star Circle awardees. These circles successfully met the sets of criteria for each of the two categories and were given their awards during the 19<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention held in Tagbilaran City, Bohol on April 25-26, 2014.

### **GOLD STAR AWARDEES**

#### **ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CIRCLE**

St. Raphael the Archangel  
Parish, Diocese of Tarlac  
Region III

#### **IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF KARANGALAN CIRCLE**

Immaculate Conception Parish  
Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

#### **OUR LADY OF THE ABANDONED CIRCLE**

Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Our  
Lady of the Abandoned  
Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

#### **ST. GABRIEL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CIRCLE**

St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows  
Parish, Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

#### **ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS CIRCLE**

St. Paul of the Cross Parish  
Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

#### **STO. NINO DE MOLINO CIRCLE**

Sto. Nino de Molino Parish  
Diocese of Imus  
Region V

#### **CAUSE OF OUR JOY CIRCLE**

St. Joseph Parish  
Archdiocese of Manila  
Region V

#### **RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE**

Holy Eucharist Parish  
Diocese of Paranaque  
Region V

#### **MINA DE ORO CIRCLE**

St. Joseph Cathedral  
Diocese of San Jose, Mindoro Occ.  
Region VII

#### **IMMACULADA CONCEPCION CIRCLE**

Immaculada Concepcion Parish  
Diocese of Tandag  
Region XII

#### **OUR LADY OF PURIFICATION CIRCLE**

Sta. Maria Parish  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

#### **OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE**

St. Anthony of Padua Parish  
Putik, Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

#### **ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CIRCLE**

St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish  
Tetuan, Archdiocese of  
Zamboanga  
Region XIV

#### **SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR CIRCLE**

San Isidro Labrador Parish  
Talon-Talon, Archdiocese of  
Zamboanga  
Region XIV

#### **NUESTRA SENORA DEL PILAR DE ZARAGOZA CIRCLE**

Metropolitan Cathedral of the  
Immaculate Conception  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

#### **ST. JOSEPH CIRCLE**

St. Joseph Parish  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

#### **ST. CHARLES CIRCLE**

St. Charles Parish  
San Diego, California, U.S.A.

### **SILVER STAR AWARDEES**

#### **HOLY FAMILY OF PARANG CIRCLE, Holy Family Parish**

Diocese of Antipolo  
Region V

#### **SAGRADO CORAZON CIRCLE**

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish  
Diocese of Cubao  
Region V

#### **MARY ALL BEAUTIFUL CIRCLE**

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish  
Diocese of Cubao  
Region V

#### **MEDALLA MILAGROSA CIRCLE**

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal  
Parish, Diocese of Cubao  
Region V

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## *2014 Star Circle Awardees...Cont'd. from Page 11*

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE  
CIRCLE  
Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish  
Diocese of Imus  
Region V

MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE  
CIRCLE, Sacred Heart of Jesus  
Parish  
Diocese of Kalookan  
Region V

MARY MOTHER OF THE  
CHURCH CIRCLE  
Mary Mother of the Church Parish  
Diocese of Paranaque  
Region V

OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL  
CIRCLE  
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA CIRCLE  
Shrine of San Antonio de Padua  
Diocese of San Pablo  
Region VI

MATER PURISSIMA CIRCLE  
Immaculate Conception Parish  
Archdiocese of Lipa  
Region VII

SAN SEBASTIAN CIRCLE  
San Sebastian Parish  
Diocese of San Jose, Mindoro Occ.  
Region VII

MORNING STAR CIRCLE  
San Isidro Labrador Parish  
Diocese of Malaybalay  
Region XII

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP  
CIRCLE  
Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

OUR LADY OF THE ROSE CIRCLE  
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish  
Archdiocese of Manila  
Region V

QUEEN OF THE ANGELS CIRCLE  
Santuario de San Roque Parish  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

OUR LADY OF PEACE AND GOOD  
VOYAGE CIRCLE  
Tugbungan Parish Church  
Archdiocese of Zamboanga  
Region XIV

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## *CBCP: Pope Francis To Visit Next Year*

atholic Church leaders  
officially announced the visit  
of Pope Francis to the  
Philippines in 2015.

In a pastoral letter, Catholic  
Bishops' Conference of the  
Philippines (CBCP) president  
Archbishop Socrates Villegas said  
the Pope will visit areas  
devastated by super typhoon  
Yolanda (Haiyan), "God willing at  
the beginning of next year, 2015."

Dr. Alberto Gasbarri, chief  
organizer of the Pastoral Visit;  
Dr. Paolo Cornvini, office of the  
protocol and Dr. Stephanie Izo,  
secretariat of the Vatican,  
conducted inspections of the

areas to be visited by the Holy  
Father.

Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio  
Cardinal Tagle said the Vatican  
would release the exact date of  
the visit either by August while  
the schedule and itinerary of the  
pontiff's visit will be released by  
November this year.

Tagle said Pope Francis  
requested that his visit be  
pastoral and simple.

"The request communicated, he  
wants the visit to be pastoral  
and simple. He wants to  
encounter people who  
suffered..." he said.

Tagle said because of the Pope's  
age and medical condition, they  
would have to limit his  
movements by designating  
certain areas which he will visit.

Villegas called on the people to  
be spiritually prepared for the  
coming of Pope Francis by  
reviving personal and family  
prayer and by being charitable.

"We must prepare the nation to  
receive the Holy Father by  
setting our minds and hearts in  
communion with our dear Pope  
Francis, the messenger of peace,  
love, and the apostle of poor,"  
he said.



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*From Urdaneta City*

## ***Mater Admirabilis Circle Members Attend Recollection In Kamay Ni Hesus***

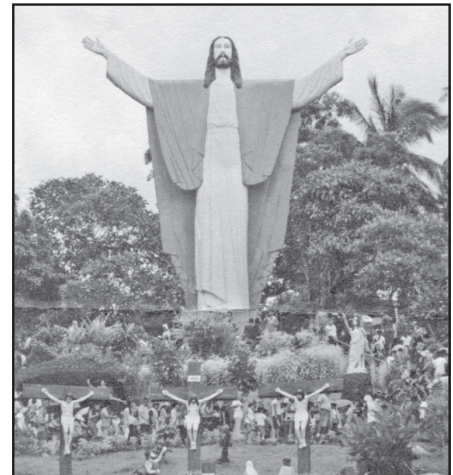
**T**he members of Mater Admirabilis Circle of Urdaneta City started their 2014 calendar of activities with a recollection held at Noah's Ark in Kamay ni Hesus, Lucban, Quezon last Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, 2014. Retreat master was Fr. Joseph "Joey" Faller, a healing priest and founder of Kamay ni Hesus.

Region II Representative Sis.

Aurora Manangan coordinated the activity attended by 14 DMI sisters, some with their families.

The recollection was highlighted by Fr. Faller's talk and healing session. According to him, the process of spiritual and physical healing is done and integrated into the different parts of the Eucharistic celebration - the introductory rite, penitential rite, liturgy of the Word, liturgy of the Eucharist, communion rite and concluding rite.

On their way home, the DMI sisters visited several old churches in



*The giant image of the Resurrected Christ on the topmost part of the hill. Reaching the top requires climbing the concrete stairs consisting of more than 300 steps.*

Tayabas and Lucban. Everyone felt tired but spiritually enriched after the activity.



*The DMI sisters with Fr. Joey Faller*

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*From Tarlac City*

## ***New Circle In San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Receives Charter***

**T**he San Sebastian Circle of Tarlac City headed by Regent Sis. Elizabeth Leano initiated the chartering of a new DMI circle in San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish also in Tarlac City. The group who oriented the aspiring members of the circle consisted of Region III Representative Sis. Amy Castaneda, and

*Turn to Page 14*



*The charter officers of San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle headed by Regent Sis. Armilyn Ramil with Region III Representative Sis. Amy Castaneda and Regent Sis. Elizabeth Leano of San Sebastian Circle.*



*The charter members of St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle during the exemplification ceremony.*



*The charter officers and members of St. Catherine Circle.*

*From Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur*

## New Circle Organized in Ilocos Sur

A new DMI circle was formally organized with the exemplification of its charter members last Dec. 14, 2014. Named St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle, it is located in St. Catherine Parish, Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur. The circle is the first to be organized in Ilocos Sur and is composed of more than 25 members who expressed their commitment to serve in the DMI missions.

The formation of a circle in St. Catherine

Parish was initiated by Sis. Sosima Racho, vicarial regent of the Vicariate of Sta. Rita, Diocese of Cubao. The officers and members of the Diocese traveled to Ilocos Sur to pursue the mission. Assisting them in member recruitment and other pre-organization activities were the relatives and friends of Sis. Sosima in Sta. Catalina.

The Diocese of Cubao headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Lydia Ordonez expressed their gratitude to

Bishop Ernesto Salgado of the Archdiocese of Vigan and the priests of the Archdiocese who welcomed the DMI in their respective areas, most especially Msgr. Victorio Rabaca, the pastor of St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish.

After the exemplification ceremonies, the circle's charter officers were installed by DR Sis. Lydia Ordonez. They are: Sisters Lolita Racho – regent, Susan Refuerzo – vice-regent, Estella Rafanan – recording secretary,

Enriqueta Rabino, financial secretary, Beatriz Rafanan – scribe, Rosario Navarro – treasurer, Bienvenida Ragucos – chancellor, Violeta Reotutar – custodian, Cosmedin Florendo, Germelina Redoble and Aurea Oandasán – trustees, Rusielle Collado – banner bearer, Luzviminda Raquipo – monitor, Esther Reotutar and Angelita Cortez – guides, Conchita Redoble and Feliza Oriendo, guards and Reynalda Villegas – organist.

### *New Circle In San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish Receives Charter...Cont'd. from Page 13*

Sisters Elizabeth Leano, Amy Pasion, Jeanette Sy, Deanne Lacsina, Rose Tongol and Bivencia Caingat.

On February 9, 2014, the 25

charter members of San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle were exemplified by Sis. Amy and the Exemplification Team of San Sebastian Circle with Sis. Divina Dimal as exemplifying officer. The circle's

officers were later elected and installed into office. Sis. Armilyn Ramil is the charter regent of San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle.



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*From Baguio City*

## St. Vincent Ferrer Circle Goes On Pilgrimage

***The group visited the Mary Help of Christians Theology Seminary in Palapad, San Fabian. Located on top of a hill, the seminary building was blessed and inaugurated on February 11, 2014.***

Last March 9, 2014, DMI sisters of the St. Vincent Ferrer Circle, Naguilian Road, Baguio City went on a pilgrimage to San Fabian, Pangasinan.

The group visited the



***The DMIs at the facade of San Fabian Church.***

Mary Help of Christians Theology Seminary in Palapad, San Fabian. Located on top of a hill, the seminary building was blessed and inaugurated on February 11, 2014. The seminary sits on a 2.7-hectare lot donated by Mrs. Cardoso, and the structures from funds donated by the Diocese of Pangasinan, the nearby community and generous friends and benefactors, among them, Mr. Henry Sy and Mr. Daniel Meehan. The building is made of "hollowbricks" from Batangas.

At present, the seminary has 13 seminarians, two priests and a four-member service staff. The seminarians pay for their board and lodging, while sponsors shoulder

their tuition fees, school materials and other needs.

Daily Masses are held at the beautiful church, at 6:20 AM during weekdays and 7:00 AM on Sundays. Three halos dominate the

painting at the center of the altar - the innermost halo showing the Crucified Jesus with Mama Mary and Mary Magdalene, the middle halo showing the 12 apostles and the outermost halo, the 18 prophets and Abraham. A stone relic of the cave where St. Paul stayed for three years is kept underneath the altar table.

The group met the rector/officer-in-charge of the seminary, Most Rev. Msgr. Oliver Mendoza. They were toured around the place by Bro. Jake



***The DMI sisters of St. Vincent Ferrer Circle with the seminarians of Mary Help of Christians Theology Seminary.***

Rubillos and were shown the seminary's facilities including rooms named after their donors/benefactors. This is in grateful acknowledgment of their invaluable contribution, according to Bro. Jake.

The DMI sisters appreciated the cozy ambiance of the seminary which they found to be very conducive for deep prayer and meditation. On their way home they also visited the quaint San Fabian Parish Church.

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*From the Diocese of San Jose (Nueva Ecija)*

## **Diocesan Pilgrimage Held**

The DMIs of the Diocese of San Jose (N.E.) held a joint pilgrimage tour of churches and shrines in Southern Luzon on February 8-9, 2014. Some fifty sisters from four circles of the diocese – St. Joseph Circle of San Jose City, St. James Circle of Lupao, St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Rizal and Sta Cecilia Circle of Guimba – joined the pilgrimage. They visited Monte Maria in Alfonso, Cavite, the Basilica of Mary Mediatrix of all Grace in Lipa City and *KamayniHesus* in Lucban, Quezon. The group stayed overnight at Noah's Ark where a recollection was given by Fr. Carmelo Villocillo after dinner.



A health and wellness campaign had been launched by the DMI sisters of San Jose Circle. Begun last year, the campaign had a few adherents at first. The campaign caught on and this



## **San Jose Circle Advocates Health and Wellness**

year, more sisters come to the Social Hall of the Heart of Jesus Hospital for regular daily exercises starting at 5:00 a.m. Taking the lead in the activity is Sis. Sola Lazaro, the energetic assistant administrator of the hospital. Realizing the benefits of an active lifestyle, the DMI sisters of San Jose Circle encourage other sisters to engage in recreational and physical activities such as ballroom dancing, walking, doing household chores, etc. as Dr. Eleonor Lopez, a cardiovascular specialist had suggested. Needless to say, health and wellness requires a holistic approach, involving social, spiritual, emotional and mental dimensions.

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*Bocaue, Bulacan*

## **Queen of Flowers Circle Holds Recollection**



*From Region IV (Diocese of Malolos)*

The Queen of Flowers Circle of St. Martin of Tours Parish in Bocaue, Bulacan sponsored a day-long recollection for its members on March 14, 2014. Recollection master was Msgr. Albert Suatengco, DMI Region IV spiritual director, who expounded on the theme "To Influence Leaders for God: Intercede with God for Leaders". In the group photo, Msgr. Suatengco is seated at the center. Flanking him are Regent Sis. Evelyn de los Reyes (at his right) and Past International Board Member Sis. Piling San Juan (at his left.)



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*From Region V*

## Region V Assembly Slated

Sis. Cora Afuang, International Secretary and Region V Representative, has just announced the forthcoming Regional Assembly of Region V to be held at the Lyceum of the Philippines University – Cavite Campus. It is located at Governor's Drive, Manggahan, Gen. Trias, Cavite and is dubbed the only resort campus in the Philippines. The assembly will be held on August 30, 2014.

The theme for this year's assembly is "DMI: Faithful Warriors of Jesus and Mary in the Year of the Laity". Interesting speakers have been invited to talk on the theme.

The registration fee of P1,000 covers the cost of

the conference kit, lunch and two snacks. All participants must **pre-register. No registration will be done on-site.**

Details of the Assembly have been made available through Region V's Diocesan, Vicarial and Circle Regents. The Circle fee of P400 and the registration fees of participants may be deposited to any branch of Security Bank under the Account Name: Daughters of Mary Immaculate Int'l Region 5 and Acct. No.: 0602-023217.

A copy of the deposit slip must be sent to Sis. Josie Halog by e-mail at [josiehalog@yahoo.com](mailto:josiehalog@yahoo.com). The name of the remitting circle and the list of participants must accompany the deposit slip. Deadline of registration is **August 15, 2014.**

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*From the Diocese of Paranaque*

## Diocesan Exemplification Held

Diocesan Regent Sis. Sol Eugenio led the Diocese of Paranaque Exemplification Team in performing the Long Conferral ceremony for 15 new DMI sisters from Our Lady of Buensuceso, Our Lady of Friendship and Mary

Mother of the Church Circles. The activity was held at Fortunata Village, Paranaque City on February 15, 2014. Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Del Lopez hosted the event.



*The Diocese of Paranaque Exemplification Team.*



*Sisters Sol Eugenio, Babes Jose and Del Lopez with the new DMI sisters.*

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# Diocese of Balanga Holds Diocesan Assembly



*Sisters Alma Cagampang and Ellen Magpantay award a Certificate of Appreciation to assembly guest speaker, Fr. Jhoen Buenaventura.*



*The Parade of Circles during the assembly's opening ceremony*

Inspired by the empowerment of the laymen and challenged by the call of the Church to help the religious spread Christianity, the DMI sisters of the Diocese of Balanga held a Diocesan Assembly with the theme "DMII's Renewal of Commitment in the Year of the Laity".

The assembly was held at the Penelco Leadership Hall in Balanga City last February 28, 2014. The keynote speaker was Rev. Fr. Jhoen Buenaventura, pastor of the San Ramon Nonnatus Parish in Dinalupihan, Bataan. His message was primarily focused on one's commitment to achieve his purpose. Well-versed with the DMII's 5 Missions, he called on DMI sisters to remain committed to achieve them.

Fr. Buenaventura expounded on the Top Ten Elements present in achieving one's purpose. They are:

1. Vision - know and understand your missions.
2. Plan - set up goals and start working on them. Think of positive strategies.
3. Passion - love what you are doing as if achieving it is the only thing that matters to you.
4. Flexibility - accept and be adaptable to new ideas according to the present needs.
5. Truth - say YES when you mean yes, and

***The assembly was held at the Penelco Leadership Hall in Balanga City last February 28, 2014. The keynote speaker was Rev. Fr. Jhoen Buenaventura, pastor of the San Ramon Nonnatus Parish in Dinalupihan, Bataan.***

- NO when you mean no. Be truthful to yourselves, to your co-members and to your organization because any organization not aligned to the truth is FAKE. Truth is the key to better commitment.
6. Risk - do not be afraid to take risks in speaking the truth. Do not expect everyone to like you when you speak the truth.
  7. Nucleus - love is the nucleus that binds everyone in an organization. It is because of love that makes everyone happy, united and connected in working together to achieve your missions.
  8. Action - do not stop working hard to achieve them.
  9. Priorities - always remember your goals even when there are other tasks.
  10. Self-management - manage your time and at the end of the day, keep posted to your vision. Sometimes you may wonder why for so long a time, you are still a DMI. This is commitment!

All throughout his talk, Fr. Buenaventura was able to hold the interest of his audience because of his great sense of humor. Everyone was in high spirit when he celebrated Holy Mass after his talk

Adding color to the assembly were the presentations made by all the eleven circles of the Diocese of Balanga which were varied - folk dances, drama skits and modern dances replete with beautiful costumes and colorful props. The first prize went to St. Catherine of Sienna Circle with a Muslim Fan Dance which the dancers executed with such grace and elegance.

The assembly ended with the awarding of certificates of appreciation to deserving diocesan officers and certificates of attendance to new members by Diocesan Regent Sis. Ellen Magpantay and incoming Region III Representative and Past DR Sis. Alma Cagampang.

## Region-Wide Members' Exemplification Held

February 16 and 17, 2014 were red-letter dates for the DMIs of Region VIII when new members in the different dioceses of Bicol were exemplified in joint Long Conferral ceremonies.

The first was held on February 16 for the dioceses in the northern part of Bicol consisting of the Archdiocese of Caceres, and the Dioceses of Libmanan and Daet. The ceremony was held at Villa Gaite's Reception Hall in Baao, Camarines Sur. The second was held on



*Region VIII RR Sis. Terry Viola invests a DMI sister with the crown of Mama Mary during the Long Conferral ceremony*



*New DMI members in Region VIII are shown above with RR Sis. Terry Viola (seated, left) after their long conferral.*

February 17 at the Reception Hall of Albay Cathedral for dioceses in Southern Bicol – the Dioceses of Legaspi, Sorsogon and Virac.

Region VIII Representative Sis. Terry Viola who led the Exemplification Team said that old DMI members also joined in the conferral rites to renew their commitment to serve the DMII through its Five Missions. The newly-exemplified DMI sisters were introduced to their obligations as DMI members, particularly in emulating the Blessed Mother's virtues as her true daughters.



### FREE ULTRASOUND FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS



A joint project of :  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION OF  
THE PHILS., INC. (KCFAP) &  
DAUGHTERS OF MARY  
IMMACULATE,  
INTERNATIONAL  
(DMII)



In support to our PRO-LIFE thrust, the Knights of Columbus Jurisdiction through its State Deputy and KCFAP President, Sir Knight Arsenio Isidro G. Yap, extends the opportunity for the DMII to have **Free Ultrasound for expectant mothers** as one of their projects by allowing use of an modern and advance Ultrasound Technology.

The DMII Circles in Baliuag, Malolos and Obando Bulacan have already provided free ultrasound to more than 200 expectant mothers.

For particulars, please coordinate with Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia, Diocesan Chair on Pro-life & Vicarial Regent of the Vicariate of the Immaculate Conception, Diocese of Malolos @ 5272242 or email at [guillercuria@yahoo.com](mailto:guillercuria@yahoo.com)



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*From Zamboanga del Norte*



*The just-exemplified Holy Cross Circle of Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte and their sponsors from the St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle of Zamboanga City headed by Circle Regent Sis. Marites Go with Vicarial Regent Sis. Grace Gonzales and Diocesan Regent Sis. Angie Baes. At center, last row is Fr. Wilson Tumapon, parish priest.*

## New Circle Organized in Siocon

Last June 7, 2014, a new DMI circle was organized in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte. The circle had been named Holy Cross Circle after its Parish. Twenty-seven candidates answered the call for membership and were eventually exemplified by the Exemplification Team of Our Lady of Purification Circle of Sta. Maria Parish, Zamboanga City as the circle's charter members. The election and installation of its charter officers immediately followed.

Here's the story of the mission:

The dream of some spouses of the Knights of Columbus as well as some brother-Knights to establish a DMI circle in

Holy Cross Parish inspired and prompted the St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle of Zamboanga City headed by Circle Regent Sis. Marites Go to pursue the mission. Sis. Marites informed Diocesan Regent Sis. Angie Baes about their intention which the latter supported. The mission was coordinated with Sis. Mila Navato, head of the Purification Circle Exemplification Team and Sis. Tita Penaflor, Diocesan Chairperson for Ceremonials.

At 3:30 a.m. of June 7, the group consisting of sisters from Purification and St. Ignatius of Loyola Circles headed by DR Sis. Angie Baes left Zamboanga City for their 5-hour land trip to Siocon.

Three hours of the trip were on rough and bumpy road. With the Blessed Mother as their Protectress, they arrived safely in Siocon despite some inconveniences along the way.

A welcome streamer greeted them upon their arrival. They had lunch with brother Knights headed by Bro. Ben Bahandi and the DMI candidates. Prior to the ceremonial, Sis. Angie gave the candidates a one-hour orientation about the DMII for them to better appreciate their entry into the organization.

The Conferral of Degrees was carried out in an expressive and inspiring manner by the

Exemplification Team consisting of Sis. Mila Navato as Regent, Sis. Nenie Abendan as Vice-Regent, Sis. Chit Paragas as Past Regent, Sis. Liling Asesor as Chancellor and Sis. Lowell Tantoco as Custodian with the footworks being led by Sis. Baby Montano as Monitor, Sis. Liza Mae Sedillo as Flag and Banner Bearer and Sisters Titing Iglesias and Darling Tandoc as Guides. Circle Regent Sis. Mila Fernandez of the Our Lady of Purification Circle emceed the program.

The circle's charter officers were then elected with Sis. Sylvia Hornejas being unanimously chosen as charter

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*From Bacoor, Cavite*

## **Sto. Nino De Molino Circle Sponsors Campus Media Sympo**

**T**he Sto. Nino de Molino Circle sponsored a symposium on "The Dangers of Media and the Internet" at the St. Jerome Emiliani Institute, Bahayang Pagasa Subd., Bacoor, Cavite last Feb. 18, 2014. Spearheading the activity were Vicarial Regent Sis. Inday Ramos of the Diocese of Imus, Circle Regent Sis. Siony Merhan and the circle's Morality in Media Committee headed by Sisters Lydia Limcolioc and Lily Habon. The school's Grade V and VI pupils and all high school students together with their teachers and principal, Sis. Josie Caparas attended the symposium.

The resource speaker was Sis. Sonia Manlapig, former International

Chairperson for Morality in Media. In her PowerPoint presentation, Sis. Sonia discussed media literacy, the positive and negative effects of media on morality and the dangers that media, particularly the internet, pose among the youth.

She said that the freedom and unsupervised use of the internet and TV viewing by children of working parents result in less family and social interactions, absence of outdoor/physical activities, unlimited access to dangerous materials such as pornography and violence, corruption of language use (text messages), etc. To counter these dangers, she suggested that parents should closely guide their children in the

use of the internet and choice of TV programs, set a good example and teach them to be responsible, be vigilant and critical about the media materials available in their homes and

exchange of ideas as several students fielded intelligent and interesting questions showing their great interest and full understanding of the topics discussed. In ending, Sis. Sonia



*The DMI sisters of Sto. Nino de Molino Circle with the symposium guest speaker, Sis. Sonia Manlapig (seated at center).*

communities, encourage their children to get involved in more outdoor and social activities, etc.

The open forum that followed became a lively

encouraged her young audience to be "ambassadors" of good media to their young siblings using the knowledge they gained during the symposium.

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### ***New Circle Organized in Siocon...Cont'd. from Page 20***

regent. Vicarial Regent Sis. Grace Gonzales of Purification Circle installed the officers.

At the end of the Pentecost Sunday Mass the following day, Sis. Angie formally presented the new DMI circle of Holy Cross Parish to its pastor, Fr. Wilson Tumapon during which she said, "We praise and thank God that, as we celebrate

the Year of the Laity, we were able to gather disciples for Jesus and devotees of the Blessed Mother who will work in the Lord's vineyard in friendship, unity and charity through the DMI's 5 Missions."

The DMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga also acknowledged with thanks the assistance and support extended to them by Fr. Tumapon,

Asst. Parish Priest Fr. Rodel Agudera, the two host families from the Knights of Columbus and their brother Knights and their new sisters in the DMI. The group returned to Zamboanga City after a short tour of Siocon, not missing the marketplace where they bought fresh vegetables and other goods to bring home.

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*From Ozamis City*

## DMII Dialogues with Prison Parolees and Their Families



A delegation from the Daughters of Mary Immaculate led by International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva conducted a dialogue with prison parolees and their families at the Hall of Justice of Ozamis City on

November 24, 2014. The activity was in pursuance of the DMI Mission on Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims. The dialogue forms part of the new Formation Program for Probationers and Parolees that Sis.

Milde Tong, Mission international chairperson had just launched. Aside from Sis.Milde, the delegation included Region XIV Representative and DMI International Advocate Sis.Miriam Angot who is a judge of

the Metropolitan Trial Court of Ozamis City and the diocesan, vicarial and circle regents of Region XIV. The Region XIV Assembly formally closed in the morning of the same day.

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*From Region XII*

## Region XII Officers Attend Strategic Planning Workshop and Recollection

Region XII Representative Sis. Annie Ty convened the regional officers for a Strategic Planning Workshop cum Recollection last January 10-11, 2014. The activity was held at the Transfiguration Seminary in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.

A recollection followed the workshop. The recollection

speaker was Dom Pachomius Ma. San Juan, OSB. Workshop participants were the Region XII officers and the diocesan officers from the Dioceses of Tandag (Surigao del Sur), Surigao del Norte, Gingoog, Malaybalay (Bukidnon), Cagayan de Oro, Butuan (Agusan del Norte) and Agusan del Sur which comprise Region XII. Past

Region XII Representative Sis.Lelis Pimentel assisted the group in charting the

Region's future projects and activities.



*Participants in Region XII's Strategic Planning Workshop and Recollection held in Malaybalay, Bukidnon.*

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*In Memoriam*

## **Msgr. Francisco G. Tantoco, Jr.**

**March 14, 1939 - May 23, 2014**

*(The following is part of the message delivered by International Regent Sis. Mila A. Villanueva after the Memorial Mass held at the Manila Cathedral on the 40<sup>th</sup> day of Monsignor Tantoco's passing. - Ed.)*

**F**rancisco Guzman Tantoco was born on March 14, 1939. He was the eldest of five children of Francisco Tantoco, Sr. and Grace Guzman.

The young Francisco, Jr. was a true blue Atenean, having finished elementary and high school in Ateneo in 1954. He took up Mechanical Engineering at Feati University. After graduation in 1959, he worked at the Manila Electric Company as a Result Engineer. But, perhaps, being an engineer was not his real calling, he joined the priesthood in 1964 and was ordained priest on Dec. 27, 1969 at the Holy Redeemer Church in Quezon City by Bishop Godofredo Pederal. Nine years later, he was named Honorary Prelate by Pope John Paul I and on April 25, 1985 was incardinated in the Archdiocese of Manila.

Monsignor Tantoco had actively served in the Knights of Columbus from 1954 as Chief Squire of Capital Circle 784. He handled various positions in the KC, from being the first National Chairman for Columbian Squires in 1957 to representing the organization in KC conventions held in the United States, Australia and Dublin,

Ireland. He was the editor of the KC magazine from 1978 to 1988.

His professional involvements had been many and varied – from director of the Asian Youth Institute of UNESCO, CBCP National Director for Youth and Tourism, as board member of various commercial and philanthropic establishments such as the BPI Family Savings Bank, Monte de Piedad Savings Bank, Radio Veritas, Martha's Vineyard Foundation and Hospicio de San Jose. He was also executive director of Caritas Manila, Inc., chairman of the Board of the Asian Social Institute, Vicar General and Moderator Curae and many other religious, business and socio-civic organizations. ALL these he had to relinquish in 2012 due to his failing health.

In spite of all these involvements, Monsignor Tantoco always found time for the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International since his appointment in 1978 as its Assistant National Chaplain. In that year, he worked for the change of our organization's name from Daughters of Isabella to Daughters of Mary Immaculate, at the same time



being responsible for having the change approved by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin. Since then, the DMII became a uniquely Philippine-based organization of devout Filipino Catholic women.

As our International Chaplain, the Monsignor had involved himself in most, if not all, of our activities. He made it a point to attend all regional assemblies, near or far, providing the event organizers with valuable advice to ensure their success and to inspire the DMI sisters with his words of wisdom. He would also gladly oblige to pose with them in almost endless photo sessions. The sisters loved having souvenir shots taken with the good-looking Monsignor who in his youth looked like 1960's matinee idol Mario Montenegro (with his widow's peak) and later during the '70's, dramatic actor Dindo Fernando.

While his illness in recent years limited his mobility and he chose to stay in his "home", the Arzobispado de Manila, he continued to guide our International Regents in matters of policy decisions, expansion of our mission works,

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# Memorial Service For Msgr. Francisco G. Tantoco, Jr. Held May 24, 2014

*By Sis. Cora Afuang,  
International Secretary & Region V Representative*

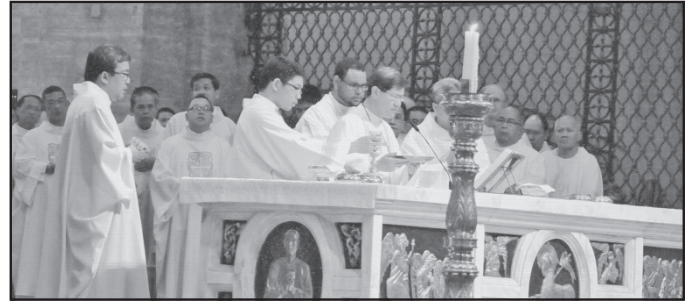
**D**MII's revered chaplain and spiritual director for over three decades, Msgr. Francisco G. Tantoco, Jr. peacefully joined his Creator in the early morning of May 23, 2014. He had just celebrated his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Following his wishes, there was no public viewing and he was laid to rest on the same day at the La Loma Catholic Cemetery. A Memorial Service was held at the newly-renovated Manila Cathedral at 5:00 p.m. of the following day, May 24.

The Mass was celebrated by His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle, archbishop of Manila,

with about 30 priests, DMI Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz among them, co-celebrating with him. A large number of people attended the Mass. Aside from his relatives and friends, several members of various organizations with which Monsignor Tantoco was closely associated during his lifetime were present – the Knights of Columbus, Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, Caritas Manila and Domus Mariae among them.

Cardinal Tagle, in his homily, highlighted two distinct traits of Monsignor Tantoco. He was a man of action. Proofs of this are the many organizations he had been affiliated with and the numerous



*The concelebrated Mass with Cardinal Tagle as main celebrant.*



*Part of the DMI delegation with DMI Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz.*

successful projects he had undertaken with these organizations even up to the time he was already afflicted with Parkinson's disease. He, too, will be remembered for his humility, quietly admitting and accepting his limitations that his illness gradually brought him where he used to be in control of most everything.

All those who have known Monsignor Tantoco will miss him. We in the DMI will forever be indebted to him for his many generous gestures. We will also miss his wisdom . . . and his good looks (in his younger years, a look-alike of 1970's movie actor Dindo Fernando).

## *In Memoriam: Msgr. Francisco G. Tantoco, Jr....Cont'd. from Page 23*

even in the acquisition of our own DMI headquarters, Mary's House in Pasay City. When he learned that we needed additional funds and had to take out a loan, he loaned us his own money, payable in

easy monthly installments, interest-free. When his condition progressively debilitated, he opted to retire in 2012 after serving as the DMI International Chaplain for 34 years. Fr. Jeronimo Cruz who was Asst.

Chaplain since Year 2000 took his place.

For all these, we thank you, Monsignor Tantoco from the bottom of our hearts. We bid you farewell, but not good-bye! Please continue to

look after us and Fr. Jerome so that the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International shall live up to your expectations. And to our publics as well!