



# DMINewssette

To Jesus through Mary

DMI

VOL. XXVII, No. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

April - June 2010



## 17th DMI National Biennial Convention - One of The Best Ever!

The just-concluded 17<sup>th</sup> DMI National Biennial Convention held in Zamboanga City was really one for the books. Against all odds, the convention turned out to be one of the best attended with over a thousand DMI sisters from all over the country registering as delegates, some begging to be

accommodated even at the very last minute. This in spite of the pre-agreed rule that no walk-in delegate will be accepted at the convention registration desk.

But our ever-gracious convention hosts relented, being aware that the late registrants had traveled for

many hours from far away. They spread the welcome mat and greeted everyone with open arms, replete with a *rondalla* playing at the airport the whole day before the opening program of the convention.

Day 1, May 21, 2010  
(Friday)

The Mass at the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the afternoon of May 21, 2010 ushered in the convention with three bishops as main celebrants: Their Excellencies Most Rev. Archbishop Orlando B.

Turn to Page 4

## DMII 2011-12 International Officers Elected

The election of international officers of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate took place on the morning of May 22, 2010 during the organization's business meeting. The following will compose the DMII Officers and Board of Trustees for 2011-2012:

International Regent

Vice-Int'l Regent (VIR) for Luzon & Region V Representative

VIR for the Visayas & Region X Representative

VIR for Mindanao & Region XIII Representative

Regional Representatives:

Region I

Region II

Region III

Region IV

Region VI

Region VII

Region VIII

Region IX

Region XI

Region XII

Region XIV

- Sis. Lyding Ramirez

- Sis. Mila Villanueva

- Sis. Carmen de la Torre

- Sis. Nemias Tagle

- Sis. Ofelia Lucas

- Sis. Carmelita Domondon

- Sis. Amy Castaneda

- Sis. Flor Barcial

- Sis. Paulita Canonizado

- Sis. Nimfa Yyance

- Sis. Rita Samarista

- Sis. Baby Acevedo

- To be announced later

- Sis. Lelis Pimentel

- To be announced later,

Sis. Lyding having been elected as IR

The International Secretary, International Treasurer and International Advocate will be appointed by the International Regent from among the Regional Representatives.



*Daughters Of Mary Immaculate International*

**Block 3, Lot 5, Kathleen Place, Fernando St., Pasay City**

**Tel. No. 833-1203**

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

### Executive Officers

Sis. Jean T. Velarde - International Regent  
Sis. Alice A. Capiral - Int'l Vice-Regent - Luzon  
Sis. Carmen O. de la Torre - Int'l Vice-Regent - Visayas  
Sis. Lydia L. Ramirez - Int'l Vice-Regent - Mindanao  
Sis. Lydia P. Ordonez - International Treasurer  
Sis. Teresita B. Villarino - International Secretary  
Sis. Rebecca C. Pacanan - International Advocate

Msgr. Francisco G. Tantoco, Jr.  
**International Chaplain**

Rev. Fr. Jerome Ma. J. Cruz  
**Vice Int'l. Chaplain**

### DMII Newsette Editorial Board

Sis. Sally T. Estrada  
**Editor**

### Contributors

Sis. Manolita Q. Acevedo	Sis. Ofelia G. Lucas
Sis. Cora T. Afuang	Sis. Constanca P. Macomb
Sis. Ludy A. Amita	Sis. Sonia G. Manlapig
Sis. Miriam O. Angot	Sis. Lourdes N. Pensotes
Sis. Letecia M. Azura	Sis. Narcisa R. Pepito
Sis. Flordeliza G. Barcial	Sis. Rosalinda C. Pimentel
Sis. Teresita Q. Birata	Sis. Rose L. Ramiro
Sis. Rita O. Caballero	Sis. Lolita C. Romero
Sis. Lita M. Canonizado	Sis. Rita R. Samarista
Sis. Linda L. Castillo	Sis. Nemias G. Tagle
Sis. Helen B. de Leon	Sis. Milde R. Tong
Sis. Carmelita T. Domondon	Sis. Mila A. Villanueva
Sis. Pureza M. Guzman	Sis. Nimfa D. Yyance
Sis. Adelina A. Lee	Sis. Mylene Segundera-Bass

## ***From the International Regent***

### **MESSAGE**

***(On the Solemnity of the Church's Observance of the Year for Priests, June 11, 2010)***



*My dear Sisters:*

*Greetings of love and peace!*

*Our DMI 17<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Convention held at the Astoria Regency Convention Center in Pasonanca, Zamboanga City was very successful indeed! It was a loving, meaningful and spirit-filled gathering of Mama Mary's daughters that tells so much about a truly ALIVE AND ACTIVE ORGANIZATION. The presence of over a thousand sister-delegates from Aparri to Jolo manifested the strong union of the DMI membership.*

*The convention theme "Serve with Love, Faith, Charity and Integrity for the Spiritual Well-being and Peace of our Land" poses a challenge to our organization as we ponder upon its urgency to give our share as our nation starts anew after the recently-concluded national elections and consequent change of administration.*

*Our special thanks to the hosts, the circles in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga headed by Convention Chairperson Sis. Beth Salmon and VIR for Mindanao Sis. Lyding Ramirez, Past International Regent Sis. Beling Panganiban and Sis. Angie Baes and all the committee chairpersons and members who all did a great job. Congratulations to all of you!*

*The presence of our Vice-International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz and the bishops who graced the occasion – Archbishop Orlando Quevedo of Cotabato. Archbishop Romulo Valles of Zamboanga and Bishop Martin Jumoad of Basilan – made the event doubly significant and memorable. Their inspiring homilies giving wisdom, information and insights added to the thrill of being in Zamboanga. Let it be known that I and most of our sisters in the Convention were moved to tears as Bishop Martin related how our Catholic brothers are being persecuted in Basilan.*

*The enthusiasm exuded by our mission chairpersons as they presented ideas concerning our thrusts was most contaminating, compelling our sisters to remain in their seats and listen intently. The lure of shopping at the barter trade and the bazaar outside the convention hall was a poor competitor.*

*To top it all, the delectable food and the warm reception, the friendliness and sincerity of the hosts and the sisterhood that the gathering fostered reflected God's goodness and love for us all. Praise God!*

*We heard the very positive response from sister-delegates on the proposal that all prospective members, before admission into the DMI, should be required to attend complete sessions of the DMI Formation Program prior to their exemplification. This will ensure that we shall be admitting and welcoming strong, loyal and committed members, knowledgeable and fully equipped to face the challenges of a life of service that a DMI is tasked to have – a life dedicated to the service to our Lord through "the least, the last and the lost" amongst us with the Blessed Mother as our model and guide.*

*Also, dear sisters, may we request for frequent and fervent prayers for our priests?*

*May the Holy Spirit continually inspire and guide us in all that we do.*

*Lovingly to Jesus thru Mary,*

**SIS. JEAN TEJADA VELARDE**



## DMI 17th National Biennial Convention..Cont'd from Page 1

Quevedo, OMI of the Archdiocese of Cotabato, Most Rev. Archbishop Romulo G. Valles, DD of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Most Rev. Bishop Martin S. Jumoad, DD of the Prelature of Isabela de Basilan.

During the Mass, cash offerings were received from the different circles represented in the convention which were later turned over to Bishop Jumoad for the reconstruction of the cathedral in Isabela City destroyed during a recent attack by the Abu Sayyaf. The bishop gratefully acknowledged the offering of the DMI sisters.

A motorcade then brought the delegates to the Astoria Regency Convention Center in Pasonanca. The delegates felt Zamboanga City's warm welcome as residents paused from their usual

activities to line the street and watch the convoy of several vehicles filled with ladies in blue pass the city's main streets on its way to the convention venue, many waving to the delegates as they passed by.

The opening ceremonies of the convention was preceded by the entrance of Past International Regent Sis. Beling Panganiban carrying the Blessed Mother's image followed by the DMI international officers led by International Regent Sis. Jean Velarde and Vice-International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and the circle delegations from Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao who were acknowledged by their respective Vice-International Regents - Sis. Alice Capiral of Luzon, Sis. Carmen de la Torre of the Visayas and Sis. Lyding Ramirez of Mindanao. The invocation took the form of a doxology



*The beautiful altar of the Blessed Mother dominates the right side of the stage.*

by selected DMI sisters from the host region.

Sis. Jean Velarde formally opened the convention. Convention Chairperson Sis. Beth Salmon then welcomed the delegates. The announcement that there were over a thousand participants who are attending the convention was met with loud applause. Attendance was beyond expectation!

Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, a past president

of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and currently secretary-general of the Federation of Asian Bishops Conferences, was the keynote speaker who dwelt on the convention theme "Serve with Love, Faith, Charity and Integrity for the Spiritual Well-being and Peace of our Land". He was introduced by Sis. Beth.

In his keynote address, Archbishop Quevedo said



*Archbishop Romulo Valles, DD of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga during the Eucharistic celebration at the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.*



*The parish priests of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and DMI spiritual advisers who took part in the concelebrated Mass.*



that the mission of the Church is to announce the good news of Jesus and the way to evangelize is by serving. The spiritual well-being of people is part of the over-all vision of the Church. From this vision should flow the vision of the DMI so that there could be peace in our land.

“The core of our problem in this country is the lack of spirituality,” Archbishop Quevedo declared. “Walking with the spirit of Jesus, that is walking with the spirit of courage, fidelity, understanding and peace, is part of being holy, of being spiritual. It is the spirit that should drive us as mothers, as single persons, as fathers,” he continued.

Quoting Blessed Mother Teresa, Archbishop Quevedo said, “We should do ordinary things with great love.” This is the path to being holy persons, true to our calling as a people created in the image of God, and to being a holy nation.

There are only two nations in this part of the world that are Catholic - East Timor (95% Catholic) and the Philippines (80-85% Catholic). “But how come we have so many problems?” he asked.

Archbishop Quevedo then proceeded to cite the country’s present

predicament. Citing Vatican II, he said that the dichotomy/separation of faith and life is the reason for our present problem. PCP II had declared that the gap between the rich and the poor is constantly widening. Millions of Filipinos live in poverty. We are a country where political power can be bought. Corruption is deeply entrenched in all parts of government. Filipinos possess a strong sense of family but not of the common good which our culture reinforces. Family interest reinforces corrupt practices.

“In the light of these political, economic and social challenges, what is our real need today?” Archbishop Quevedo asked.

“We need healing and renewal,” he stressed. “The fundamental requirement of healing is TRANSFORMATION, a change of heart. We need to hope for a better future. We need a change of political leaders and of political structures. We need to radically change our values, mindsets and way of life. We need to practice what we believe in. We need to grow in faith, love and integrity. We need first and foremost to be

**Turn to Page 6**



*Past International Regent Sis. Beling Panganiban carries the image of the Blessed Mother before the opening ceremony.*



*International Regent Sis. Jean Velarde and Vice-Int'l Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz enter the convention hall followed by the DMI International Officers and Board.*



*The entrance of colors signals the start of the opening ceremony.*



*Convention Chairperson Sis. Beth Salmon welcomes delegates during the opening ceremonies.*

**DMI 17th National Biennial Convention ...Cont'd from Page 5**



*Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, OMI, convention keynote speaker, receives a plaque of appreciation from Sis. Jean Velarde and Fr. Jerome Cruz. With them in photo, from left, are Sis. Lyding Ramirez and Sis. Beth Salmon.*



*Bishop Martin Jumoad is awarded a plaque of appreciation by, from left: Sisters Angie Baes, Beth Salmon, Jean Velarde and Lyding Ramirez.*

EVANGELIZED. Our problem as Catholics is that we are sacramentalized but not evangelized. We do not understand the fundamental meaning of sacrament. The sacraments are sacred moments with Jesus, but for us, they are mainly social events. Changing people's spiritual orientation would require an integrated faith formation."

In ending his keynote speech, Archbishop Quevedo challenged the DMI to take a lead in the work of evangelization. "The work is formidable and

challenging," he warned. "But this is our mission as Church - to evangelize - which is God's mission."

A plaque of appreciation was later awarded to Archbishop Quevedo which brought the opening ceremony to a close.

The dinner and evening fellowship saw a colorful presentation by the host region, Region XIV. (Please see separate story on pages 10 and 11.)

**Day 2, May 22, 2010  
(Saturday)**

On the second day of the convention, Bishop Martin Jumoad of the Prelature of Isabela de Basilan celebrated Mass at the Astoria Regency Convention Center. In his homily, he related the sufferings of the Catholic laity in Basilan particularly in Sumisip, Lantawan, Lamitan and Maluso who have fallen victims of persecution by the Abu Sayyaf. He requested the DMI sisters present to pray incessantly for the suffering Church so that peace may eventually come to Basilan.

Moved by Bishop Jumoad's account of the situation in Basilan, the DMI sisters once

again showed support through their generous cash gifts during the offertory.

The morning session was devoted to the DMI's annual business meeting. International Regent Sis. Jean Velarde rendered her report, highlighting among others the growth in the DMI membership, a strengthened spiritual formation program for members, updating and reprinting of the DMI Rules and Regulations (Red Book), the Handbook of Information (Yellow Book), Handbook on DMI Ceremonials and the Squirettes of Mary



*The DMI mission chairpersons in a souvenir photo, from left: Sisters Linda Castillo of Upliftment of Women Workers, Narcing Pepito, alternat RR for Region X, Amy Veloso, past International Regent, Helen de Leon of Pro-Life, Sally Estrada. Newssette editor, Jean Velarde, International Regent, Milde Tong of Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, Mila Villanueva of Squirettes of Mary and Sonia Manlapig of Morality in Media.*



Handbook ( the Handbook on Members' Formation is also in the works), fund-raising activities such as the commemorative calendar for the Building Fund to fully pay, equip and maintain Mary's Haus, DMI's urgent response to national issues and concerns such as HB 5043, the Reproductive Health Bill and the Maguindanao Massacre and disaster response to Typhoons 'Ondoy' and 'Pepeng'.

International Treasurer and Region V Representative Sis. Lydia Ordonez then presented a report on the

organization's financial condition.

Awardees of the Star Circle Awards for 2008-2009 were then announced. Seventeen circles received the Gold Star Circle Award and 39 for the Silver Star Circle Award.

The election of DMI international officers for 2011-2012 with Sis. Lyding Ramirez being elected as International Regent ended the morning session. (Please see separate write-up on the election on page 2. )

The international chairpersons of the DMI

missions rendered their reports during the afternoon session.

Sis. Helen de Leon, Pro-Life chair, stated that pro-life which is all about love is all-encompassing. She reported the programs that circles all over the country have undertaken to promote, preserve and protect life at all stages, notably the nationwide campaign against HB 5043, the Reproductive Health Bill.

Sis. Sonia Manlapig, Morality in Media chair, reported the DMI's continuing campaign to promote good values

through the media. She also reported the partnership the DMI has established with the Optical Media Board, the Movie & Television Review and Classification Board and other groups to effectively carry out this DMI mission.

Sis. Milde Tong, chair of Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims suggested several programs to be able to help families of prisoners and victims aimed at providing moral

*Turn to Page 8*



*Participants in the dance presentations by Region XIV, convention hosts during Bienvenido Night.*



*Past International Regent Sis. Perla Arguelles receives a convention souvenir from Sis. Beth.*



*Sis. Beth Salmon presents a special convention souvenir, the Blessed Mother's image mounted on a vinta, to Fr. Jerome.*



*Sis. Beth hands a convention souvenir to Sis. Amy Veloso, past International Regent.*



support, spiritual guidance and counseling, and financial and social rehabilitation. She also showcased some programs adopted on the local level that other circles may be able to replicate in their parishes.

Sis. Linda Castillo of the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee said that she is tasked with a not-too-happy mission as the committee has marginalized women, prostitutes, women in crisis, women OFWs and others as target beneficiaries. The DMI through this mission works closely with several government agencies, NGOs and parish ministries such as Family Life in accomplishing the mission. Of special concern at present are the migrant workers and the families they leave behind because of the great number leaving the country for better opportunities abroad and the adverse effects this has on motherless families.

SMI Chairperson Sis. Mila Villanueva reported the growth in number of Squirettes of Mary circlettes being formed or reactivated in various regions of the country since the membership campaign launched the other year. She also urged her audience to

get ready to send delegates to the SMI National Biennial Convention to be held in Boracay in May, 2011.

The afternoon session was made livelier by the group dynamics exercises the speakers employed during their presentations which held the attention and interest of their audience, the lure of the barter trade and the bazaar outside of the convention hall where they can "shop to death" notwithstanding.

The story on pp 10 and 11 records the music, color and pageantry of the Filipiniana Night during which 13 regions of the country vied for prizes for their song and dance presentations. This evening fellowship brought the program for Day 2 to a close.

### Day 3, May 23, Sunday

A concelebrated Mass on the morning of May 23, Pentecost Sunday, started the convention's closing session with DMI's Fr. Jerome Cruz as main celebrant.

In his homily, Fr. Jerome posed the question: Why are you DMIs? He said that the presence of the DMIs in this biennial convention was by the power of the Holy Spirit. He urged the

delegates to study very well the charism and mission of the organization, and for emphasis coined the word ULTRA, standing for U - united in understanding, L for loving leadership, T for transformation, R for rooted in Christ and A for animation.

Fr. Jerome's parting message was: "God chose you to be DMIs, to be leaders, to provide loving leadership, animated by the Holy Spirit - full of faith, full of hope and full of love."

Sis. Lyding Ramirez, the newly-elected International Regent, gave a short message of thanks for having been elected to the top DMI position and invoked the guidance and grace of the Holy Spirit as she leads the organization in fulfilling its missions. In her closing remarks, Sis. Lyding thanked the very hardworking ladies of the Convention Committee for staging such a successful convention, and the delegates, for coming to Zamboanga even against the advice of their husbands, families and friends, making the 17<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Convention one of the best-attended and most successful ever.

The next national convention, the 18<sup>th</sup> for

DMI, will be hosted by Luzon in May, 2012. By popular choice, Tagaytay City might be the next venue.

As they bade their good-byes, the delegates' parting words were "See you in Tagaytay!" amid hugs and kisses and high hopes of being together again in May, 2012.

*In his homily, Fr. Jerome posed the question: Why are you DMIs? He said that the presence of the DMIs in this biennial convention was by the power of the Holy Spirit. He urged the delegates to study very well the charism and mission of the organization, and for emphasis coined the word ULTRA, standing for U - united in understanding, L for loving leadership, T for transformation, R for rooted in Christ and A for animation.*

## ***Gold and Silver Star Circle Awardees Cited During 17th National Biennial Convention***

For their outstanding achievements and exemplary performance during the year 2008-2009, 17 circles were awarded the Gold Star Circle Award and 39 received the Silver Star Circle Award during the DMI 17th National Biennial Convention held in Zamboanga City last May, 2010.

The Gold Star Awardees are:

<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Diocese</u></b>	<b><u>Circle</u></b>
II	Cabanatuan	Immaculate Conception Circle
IV	Malolos	Three Kings Circle
		Immaculate Conception Circle
		Rosarian Circle
		Sta. Clara Circle
		Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle
		Sto. Rosario of Maysan Circle
V	Cubao	National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle
		Sagrado Corazon Circle
	Paranaque	Risen Christ Circle
	Antipolo	St. Paul of the Cross Circle
		Our Lady of the Abandoned Circle
VI	San Pablo	Our Lady of Salvation Circle
VII	San Jose Oriental Mindoro	San Sebastian Circle
IX	Kalibo	Sto. Nino de Kalibo Circle
		Our Lady of Mediatrix Circle
XIV	Zamboanga	Our Lady of Purification Circle

The Silver Star Awardees are:

<b><u>Region</u></b>	<b><u>Diocese</u></b>	<b><u>Circle</u></b>
I	Isabela	Our Lady of Atocha Circle
II	Cabanatuan	St. Nicholas of Tolentine Circle
		Ina ng Laging Saklolo Circle
		Mother Church Circle
IV	Malolos	Queen of Flowers Circle
		Santissimo Sacramento Circle
		National Shrine of Fatima Circle
V	Kalookan	Mother of Divine Grace Circle
	Cubao	Regina Mundi Circle
		Mater Dei Circle
		Mary All Beautiful Circle
		Sagrada Familia Circle
		Medalla Milagrosa Circle
	Manila	Cause of Our Joy Circle
		Jubilee 2000 Circle
		Our Lady of the Rose Circle
		Queen of All Hearts Circle

*Turn to Page 13*

# Convention Fellowship Nights - A Festival of Dances

A very festive air pervaded the Astoria Regency Convention Center during the two Fellowship Nights (May 21, Friday and May 22, Saturday) that capped the day's program of activities of the 17<sup>th</sup> DMI National Biennial Convention.

The first night was *Bienvenido* Night when circles of the host region (Region XIV) took center stage to showcase the very best in the art and culture of their region

through music and dance.

The convention delegates watched in awe as our sister-hosts in their very colorful native costumes presented their song-and-dance numbers, unfolding one after the other, starting with *Vamos a Zamboanga* and on to other dances that reflect the melding of cultures - Chinese, Malay, Spanish - and the dance rituals of the Yakan, Subanen, Tausog and T'boli tribes.

It was indeed a night to

remember, causing the delegates from the other regions to wonder: "Can our presentation tomorrow night equal the pomp and glitter of this night?"

Saturday night, Filipiniana Night came and true to the indomitable DMI spirit, the different regions proved able to measure up with their official entries to the Regional Dance Contest: performers were the DMI sisters from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Paranaque and

Imus for Region V, the Diocese of Gumaca for Region VII, the Archdiocese of Jaro for Region IX, the Archdiocese of Cebu for Region X, the Archdiocese of Calbayog for Region XI, the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro for Region XII and the Diocese of Marbel for Region XIII. Presenting intermission numbers were DMI sisters from Baler, Quezon for Region II, Diocese of Iba for Region III, Prelature of Palawan for Region V, Diocese of Calbayog for Region XI,

## *Bienvenido Night presented by Region XIV*





## Filipiniana Night - Regional Dance Presentations



Bukidnon and Cagayan de Oro for Region XII and Diocese of Tagum for Region XIII.

The Board of Judges, composed of Choreographer Jeffrey Fabian as chairman and Sis. Jean Velarde, Sis. Beling Panganiban and Noni Lacayan as members, had a tough time selecting the best presentations. After some time, the judges narrowed down their choices to the following: First Prize - Region XII with a medley of tribal dances by the Queen of Peace Circle of Wao, Lanao del Norte, Second Prize - Region V with *Pamaypay ng Maynila/Siete Virtudes de Maria*; and Third Prize - Region VII with *Habanera Botolena* by DMI sisters from Lopez, Quezon (Diocese of Gumaca).

Special prizes were also given. St. Francis Xavier

Circle of Agusan del Sur was given a prize for sending the largest delegation of 20 sisters.

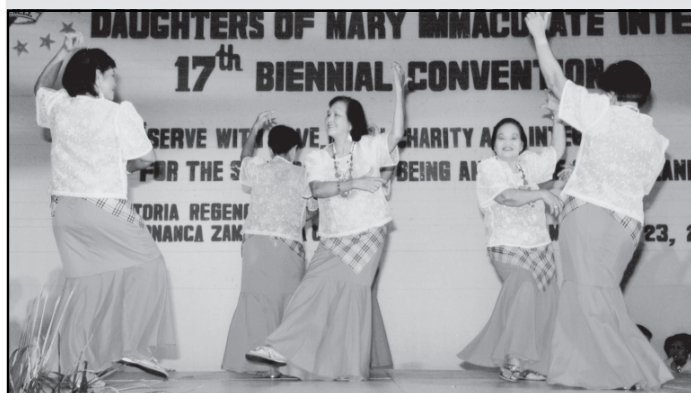
The inviting beat of dance music brought many delegates to the dance floor, unmindful of the time. DI's went around to ensure that the delegates have as much fun. And they did. What a night!

*The Board of Judges, composed of Choreographer Jeffrey Fabian as chairman and Sis. Jean Velarde, Sis. Beling Panganiban and Noni Lacayan as members, had a tough time selecting the best presentations.*





## More Photos - Filipiniana Night



## DMI Partners With MTRCB To Promote Good Media



*MTRCB Director Atty. Eric Mallonga and Morality in Media Chair Sis. Sonia Manlapig (3rd and 4th from left, respectively) with Sisters Rose Padre and Chit Lariosa of Our Lady of Unity Circle.*

International Chairperson for Morality in Media Sis. Sonia Manlapig headed a DMI delegation who visited the offices of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) last March 8, 2010 to dialogue with the agency concerning morality in media as one of DMI's missions.

Representing the MTRCB in the dialogue was Atty. Eric Mallonga, a board director.

Atty. Mallonga oriented the group on the organization, objectives and functions of the MTRCB to better situate the DMI's role in the proposed partnership. As to its primary function, the Board is tasked to formulate rules and regulations necessary to accomplish its

objective of reviewing and classifying motion pictures, TV programs and related promotional materials and commercials, both locally produced and imported from abroad, applying contemporary Filipino cultural values as a general standard. In implementing this function, the Board

screens, reviews and examines these materials and approves, disapproves or deletes objectionable portions of the materials and in certain cases prohibits the importation and exhibition of such materials that the Board finds outrightly objectionable.

Responding to the position paper presented by the DMI during the dialogue, Atty. Mallonga expressed MTRCB's gratitude for the support the organization is extending to the agency in its task to improve, upgrade and uphold Filipino moral values. He also said that the DMI can contribute

invaluably in having an effective national regulatory council by reporting or filing a complaint concerning what may be indecent or immoral media exhibitions. The MTRCB in turn will promptly review, conduct a hearing and act upon such complaint.

### *Gold and Silver Star Circle Awardees...Cont'd from Page 9*

	Paranaque	Our Lady of Unity Circle
		Our Lady of the Lilies Circle
		Mary Mother of the Church Circle
		Our Lady of Buensuceso Circle
		Immaculate Conception of Karangalan Circle
	Antipolo	St. Bernadette Circle
	Prelature of Palawan	Mater Purissima Circle
VII	Lipa	St. Joseph the Worker of Numancia Circle
IX	Kalibo	Immaculate Conception Circle
XII	Tandag	Morning Star Circle
	Malaybalay, Bukidnon	Queen of Peace Circle
	Butuan	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle
XIII	Davao	St. Ignatius of Loyola Circle
XIV	Zamboanga	Queen of Angels Circle
		Our Lady of Peace & Good Voyage Circle
		Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle
		Divine Mercy Circle
		Our Lady of Fatima Circle
		St. Joseph Circle
		San Antonio Ma. Claret Circle
		Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Circle
		St. Charles Circle
	Dipolog	
	San Diego, California, USA	



## Region I Holds Diocesan Assembly

A diocesan assembly was held last March 20, 2010 hosted by the Our Lady of Atocha Circle in Alicia, Isabela. The assembly was attended by the three circles of the diocese, namely, Mater Immaculata Circle of Cauayan, Queen of Mercy Circle of Angadanan and Our Lady of Atocha Circle of Alicia. It was a successful event attended by almost 100 participants. The theme of the assembly was "Faithfulness to Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of All Priests"



*Assembly guest speaker Fr. Rick Leus Angobong with members of the Mater Immaculata Circle of Cauayan.*

Assembly guest speaker was Rev. Fr. Rick Leus Angobong who talked on the Seven Last Words in observance of the Lenten Season. Vice-International Regent for Luzon Sis. Alice Capiral and International Secretary Sis. Tesy Villarino acted as session resource persons.

A seminar on soap-making was made part of the assembly program to enhance the livelihood opportunities of members. Spearheading the seminar was Past VIR for Luzon Sis. Mila Paguila who currently chairs the Committee on Upliftment of Women Workers.

Dance numbers were presented by the participating circles during the fellowship.

Jimenez worked very hard to ensure the success of the assembly.

The organizing committee of the assembly was led by Region I Representative Sis. Ofelia Lucas. The Our Lady of Atocha Circle led by Regent Sis. Fely

*"The theme of the assembly was 'Faithfulness to Mary, Mother of Christ and Mother of All Priests'"*



*Certificates of recognition were awarded to assembly resource speakers VIR for Luzon Sis. Alice Capiral (left photo) and International Secretary Sis. Tesy Villarino (right photo).*



*"As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace." ---- (1Pt. 4:10)*

# Diocese Of Malolos Holds Officers' Meeting

by Sis. Corazon T. Villano, Regent, Immaculate Conception Circle



*The diocesan officers of the Diocese of Malolos (Region IV)*

The Vicariate of the Immaculate Conception, composed of the Immaculate Conception, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, The Rosarian and Nuestra Senora de las Flores Circles, hosted the Officers' Meeting of the Diocese of Malolos last June 12, 2010. Vicarial Regent Sis. Violy Luna headed the organizing committee for the event which was held at the Villa Rosalinda Resort in Malolos City. A mini-seminar with the theme "Trust in the Love and Care of Jesus and Mary" was held jointly with the meeting.

The panel of speakers included Sis. Bel Ortiz, SMI diocesan chairperson whose topic was "SMI Squirettes, the Young Leaders Imitating the Virtues of Mary", Sis. Malou Reynoso, vicarial regent of the Vicariate of Fatima with her lively presentation on "The Picture of a Real DMI" animated through popular and inspirational songs, and Sis. Didith Urbano, diocesan chairperson for Morality in Media who discussed good and bad media, focusing on the internet and its effects on people, particularly the

youth. International Secretary and Region IV RR Sis. Tesy Villarino gave an inspirational message. Gracing the occasion were Diocesan Regent (DR) Sis. Flor Barcial and Past DR Sis. Isabel de la Fuente.

The closing remarks by Past International Board Members Sis. Piling San Juan and Sis. Prising Hermogenes brought the event to a close.

*"We never give more honour to Jesus than when we honour his Mother, and we honour her simply and solely to honour him all the more perfectly. We go to her only as a way leading to the goal we seek - Jesus, her Son."*

*-Saint Louis Marie de Montfort*



## Our Lady Of Atocha Circle Extends Free Medical Services

The Our Lady of Atocha Circle of Alicia, Isabela hosted last March 13 to 15, 2010 a medical mission offering free cataract operation to indigent parishioners in Alicia, Isabela.

Partnering with the Rotary Club of Pasig and some NGOs, the Circle was able to provide free cataract operation to 50 eye patients and reading glasses to about 200 recipients.

The Lucas-Paguila Medical Clinic & Hospital owned by Past Vice-International Regent for Luzon Sis. Mila Paguila provided the facilities and equipments for the mission with the assistance of Region I Representative Sis. Ofelia Lucas.

Last February, the Circle sponsored free ECG and blood sugar screening for some public schools and indigent residents also through the Lucas-Paguila Medical Clinic & Hospital.



*A volunteer doctor attends to an eye patient. In background are members of the Our Lady of Atocha Circle who assisted in the mission.*

### From Paranaque City



*Sr. Nida Mata, RSC, principal of Sacred Heart School, is flanked by DMI Sisters, from left, Nette Versola of Mother of Good Counsel Circle, Sonia Manlapig, Helen Balmores and Alexa Santos of Mother of Good Counsel Circle.*

## Media Campus Sympo Resumed

The Vicariate of San Martin de Porres in the Diocese of Paranaque resumed its series of campus symposia last March 16, 2010 at the Sacred Heart School in Multinational Village, Paranaque City attended by Grade 6 students of the school.

Spearheading the project is the Morality in Media Committee of Risen Christ Circle of Moonwalk headed by Sisters Helen Balmores and Dina Infante. Symposium

speakers were Vicarial Regent Sis. Sonia Manlapig who is also international chairperson for Morality in Media and Sisters Helen Balmores, Dina Infante, Ella Palileo and Bing Latumbo who

are on the school's teaching staff. The topic was "Media - A Double-Edged Sword" which dwelt on the good and bad influences of media on man and society.

Also present were DMI sisters from the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Circle of Merville, Mary Mother of Good Counsel Circle of Marcelo Green Village and Rosa Mystica Circle of San Agustin Parish.



From Tondo, Manila

## Photo News from Cause Of Our Joy Circle



**New SMI Members Exemplified.** New members of the SMI Mary Immaculate Circlette were exemplified last April 5, 2010 at the St. Joseph Formation Center with Fr. Nesti Gungon as guest speaker. The exemplification team headed by Outgoing President Monica Valencia welcomed the 21 SMI recruits aged 9 to 12 years.



**Circle Accepts Donation of Computers.** The members of the Cause of Our Joy Circle headed by Regent Sis. Yollie Concepcion accept a donation of ten LCD Desktop Computers from Acer Philippines Country President Manuel Wong. The turn over was held last March 17, 2010 at the St. Joseph Formation Center in the presence of Fr. Nesti Gungon, parish priest, PPC President Rodolfo Segovia, Acer Philippines Finance Officer Jennifer Chua and Vicarial Regent Sis. Jean Castaneda. The computers will be used by students of the Basic Computer Course offered free in the Parish, spearheaded by the circle through its Morality in Media and Upliftment of Women Workers Committees.



**"Hulog Boundary" Program.** Ten pedicabs were made available by the Cause of Our Joy Circle to ten indigent women to generate income for their families thru its "Hulog Boundary" Program. Photo at left shows Regent Sis. Yollie Concepcion and Upliftment of Women Workers Committee Chair Sis. Naty Roman and other circle members before the row of pedicabs. At right is 45-year-old Antonette Tibay a recipient, who will pay back the pedicab, without interest, in ten monthly installments.

# National Shrine Of Our Lady Of Lourdes Circle's Twin Feat

by Sis. Ruby Macario, Regent-elect, Diocese of Cubao

## Special Award from Philippine Orthopedic Hospital

The National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle in Quezon City was the recipient of a special award from the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital in Banawe, Q.C. during the celebration of the hospital's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary last December, 2009.

The award was given for the continuing support the Circle has extended to POH in the last 15 years by way of bringing cheer to patients of the spinal ward. During these regular visits, circle members distribute gifts and supplies such as adult diapers and serve snacks to the patients. A Eucharistic celebration precedes the day's program.



*Past Regent Sis. Emma Liao (3rd from right) receives the special award from the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital.*

Three years ago, the circle also adopted an abandoned child at the children's ward who has been a regular recipient of food and other supplies from the circle.

Past Regent Sis. Emma Liao received the award on behalf of the circle.

## SMI Officers' Installation and Investiture Held

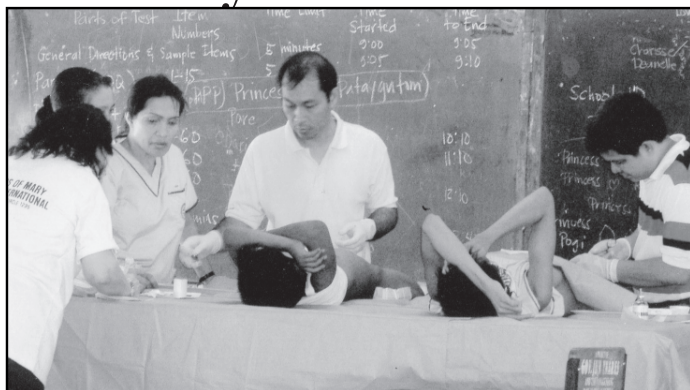


The newly-elected officers of the SMI National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes Circlette led by its president, Karen Calma were officially installed last June 20, 2010 at the Miracles of Mary Learning Center at the church compound in Quezon City. SMI Chairperson Sis. Ruby Macario of the Diocese of Cubao was the installing officer.



*From Marikina City*

## A Busy Summer for St. Paul Of The Cross Circle



*DMI sisters assist a volunteer doctor during their 'Operation Tule'.*



*Circle members on one of their visits to their adopted family during which they brought groceries and other provisions for the children.*

The calendar of the St. Paul of the Cross Circle of Marikina City headed by Regent Sis. Nini Calma was quite full during the summer months of March, April and May, 2010.

The Pro-Life Committee conducted medical missions and various outreach activities, notably

'Operation Tule' in Talim Island, Binangonan, Rizal and in the circle's home parish. Aside from free circumcision, the medical missions also extended medical assistance with free medicines and vitamins provided by generous donors and friends of the DMI.

As for Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims and Upliftment of Women Workers, the two committees partnered to provide much-needed assistance, both material and spiritual to a family of a prisoner at the Marikina City Jail who the Circle has adopted. Part of the assistance was helping four

of the six children with their schooling, providing them daily transportation fares and *baon* and start-of-the-schoolyear requirements such as uniforms, shoes and bags. The mother who sells newspapers at a street corner near their shanty also received a donation of P1,000 to add to her capital to increase her income.

## SMI St. Paul of The Cross Circlette Goes On Marian Prilgrimage

Taking advantage of their school vacation, the "future DMI's of St. Paul of the Cross Parish" kept themselves busy with various activities. Highlighting their summer schedule was a Marian Pilgrimage during which they visited churches within the Diocese of Antipolo.

Led by SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Carol Abucay, they visited nine Marian churches where they offered flowers to Mama Mary.

Capping their summer activities was their participation as "big" angels in the Parish *Santacruz* held on the last Sunday of May.



*The SMI members pose before the image of Mama Mary in one of the churches they visited.*

## San Jose De Navotas Circle Turns 32

The San Jose de Navotas Circle turned 32 years old last May 1, 2010. To celebrate the occasion, the circle members planned a day of sharing by way of a project on Upliftment of Women Workers in thanksgiving to the Lord and the Blessed Mother for this milestone event.

A demo-seminar on detergent powder soap-making started the day's activities. The circle invited the mothers of scholars of St. Philomena Foundation in Navotas City as participants. The mothers watched and later had hands-on experience in soap-making. With this new skill, they can now prepare detergent soap that they can sell or share among themselves for household use.

The day was also the first of the month-long Mayflower Devotion to Mama Mary. The circle sponsored the floral offering and a Mass with Fr. Jerome Cruz, DMI vice-international chaplain as celebrant.

Venue of the activities was the San Ildefonso Parish



*The demo-seminar on detergent powder soap-making for mothers of scholars of St. Philomena Foundation*

in Navotas City. To cap the day, the members had a simple fellowship dinner at the residence of Sis. Linda Gabriel, a circle member.

The circle members look forward to more years of devotion to Mama Mary and service to their parish community.

*From Bocaue, Bulacan*

## Queen Of Flowers Circle Goes On Very First Pilgrimage

by Sis. Malou Mendoza

Every year on June 19, we celebrate the birth of our national hero, Dr. Jose P. Rizal. But last June 19, 2010, the members of the Queen of Flowers Circle of the St. Martin of Tours Parish in Bocaue, Bulacan had a different activity: we went on a pilgrimage to seven churches, the very first that our Circle had undertaken since its organization twenty-five years ago.

Starting out at 5:15 a.m., the pilgrims' first stop was the Cathedral of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, a national shrine in Antipolo City where we had our first Eucharistic celebration for the day. Then we proceeded to the Sta. Clara Monastery in Libis, Quezon City where the Catholic faithful offer eggs with their petition for good weather, then on to the Church of Padre Pio

Pietrelcina where we offered roses and wrote our personal petitions. In this church, certain rules have to be observed when one enters its doors.

The fourth church we visited was the Christ the King Church and the fifth, the beautiful Church of St. Therese of the Child Jesus where we heard our second Mass for the day. With our prayers and the Eucharistic



## PHOTO NEWS



### Green Aerobics Day

The San Jose de Navotas Circle joined the City of Navotas through its City Health Department in the observance of Green Aerobics Day of the World Health Organization last April 10, 2010. The members joined the townspeople in aerobics exercises at the Navotas Centennial Park during which all the participants wore green sports attires. This was the DMI's participation in the celebration of WHO's Year of Urban Health 2010 - World Health Day Campaign for Mental and Physical Health.



### KC-DMI Voters' Education Campaign

The DMI sisters of the San Jose de Navotas Circle attended the Voters' Education Seminar conducted by the Knights of Columbus Fraternal Association (KCFAPI) Team on January 10, 2010. The KCFAPI was duly accredited by COMELEC to conduct the seminar, a learning snapshot on how to vote in the automated elections. The DMIs later distributed posters on the proper filling out of ballots to parishioners of San Jose and San Ildefonso Parishes and other neighboring communities.

## Queen Of Flowers Circle...Cont'd from Page 20

celebrations we had been having, we felt truly blessed.

Church No. 6 was the Redemptorist Church, the National Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Baclaran where we joined many devotees in silent prayer before partaking of lunch.

Our last destination was the Church of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life in the Reclamation Area near the Mall of Asia in Pasay City. The church was closed when we arrived and the guard said it will open at 3:00 p.m.. We used the time to go malling in MOA, window-shopping, sight-seeing and having some refreshments. All too soon, it was 3:30 p.m. and we returned to the church. After saying our last prayers, and of course, some photo ops like we did in all the churches we visited, it was time to head for home. The pilgrimage was well worth it. Everyone of us felt full of the Holy Spirit for having gone on that spiritual journey.



*The members of the Queen of Flowers Circle in front of the image of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.*

## Sis. Annie's Legacy

Sis. Annie Vicente joined the Our Lady of the Rose Circle of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Makati City at age 83. A woman of many seasons, she served the DMI for only two years but she left the Circle with a beautiful legacy: four DMI daughters whom she brought to the circle's fold, all passionately embracing the DMI's mission of service - Letecia V. Abarra, Lucille V. Lopez, Maria V. Rosario and Ma. Corazon V. Quitay. Deeply committed to serving their

parish, they are also members of various church organizations.

The four Vicente sisters have held various positions in the Our Lady of the Rose Circle. Sis. Letty served as regent in 2007-08, and together with the late Sis. Edna Dator, steered the Circle to STAR status. Sis. Lucille became regent after Sis. Letty's term. The sisters' joint efforts gained for the Circle a Silver Star Award for 2008-09 given during the 17<sup>th</sup> National Biennial Convention held recently in Zamboanga City. Sis. Cora is the Lady Counselor of the Squirettes of Mary. Under her able guidance, the SMI members make significant contributions to DMI projects.



*Sis. Annie Vicente*

With husband Bro. Bernard Quitay, Sis. Cora heads the catechetical ministry of the parish. Sis. Tess, the scribe of the Circle is president of the Legion of Mary. Sisters Letty and Tess are also members of the catechetical ministry.

Sis. Annie who had joined her Creator left four very committed lay workers in the Sts. Peter & Paul Parish. Starting as only one, she left four beautiful and lasting legacies of faith, hope and love in the service of the Lord and their parish community.



*The four Vicente sisters - Letty, Lucille, Cora and Tess*

## Our Lady Of The Lilies Circle Undertakes Media Project



Members of the Our Lady of the Lilies Circle of Muntinlupa City sponsored a project on Morality in Media last March, 2010. Led by Regent Sis. Babes Jose, the circle members are shown in photo burning smut materials before parishioners after the Mass at the Mary Cause of Our Joy Parish. Fr. Jewel Palmani, parish priest, supported the project.



From Las Pinas City

## News Briefs From Mary Mother Of The Church Circle



The DMI and SMI members listen to Fr. Rocky Evangelista during their outreach at the Don Bosco "Tuloy" Foundation.



The group poses before the altar of the Shrine of Padre Pio in Sto. Tomas, Batangas.

### *DMI-SMI Outreach at Don Bosco's "Tuloy" Foundation*

A joint outreach program was held recently by the Mary Mother of the Church Circle and the Squirettes of Mary at the Don Bosco "Tuloy" Foundation where they interacted with the children and listened to Fr. Rocky Evangelista, Foundation director, explain its purposes and objectives and how his home for streetchildren

started and has become a refuge for homeless children.

After the outreach, the group then proceeded to the Padre Pio Shrine in Sto. Tomas, Batangas where they were met by the Shrine's Fr. Jojo Gonda who talked about the virtues of Mama Mary.

### *SMI Investiture and Officers' Installation*

An investiture ceremony was held to welcome and accept new members of the SMI Mary Mother of the Church Circlette followed by the installation of its officers.

The circlette has been conducting various activities for members' formation as well as outreach projects for mission areas of the parish, among which was the Christmas gift-giving for indigent children last December, 2009.



Investiture rites for new Squirettes of Mary members

## SMI Circlette Organized By Sto. Rosario Circle



(LEFT PHOTO) The SMI members in a group photo. Seated, 2nd row, from left: SMI President Klariz Kaye Aquindo, DMI Regent Sis. Fe Aquindo, PPC Moderator Bro. Jun Anota, SMI Int'l Chair Sis. Mila Villanueva, Int'l Treasurer Sis. Lydia Ordonez, Fr. Tony Arnaiz and Sisters Lydia Mendoza and Nene of St. John the Baptist Circle. (RIGHT PHOTO) SMI Sto. Rosario Circlette President Klariz Kaye Aquindo

**Twenty-five young girls were admitted as members of the newly-organized Squirettes of Mary Sto. Rosario Circlette at the Sto. Rosario Parish in Pacita Complex, San Pedro, Laguna.**

The investiture ceremony was held last April 18, 2010 at the Parish's St. Mary's Hall, followed by the installation of the circlette's officers.

Preceding the members' investiture was a spiritual formation seminar conducted by Rev. Fr. Tony Arnaiz, parish priest. The officers of the DMI Sto. Rosario Circle conducted the investiture and officers' installation ceremonies. The new SMI members received membership pins from the DMI sisters.

The installation of officers started with an invocation by Fr. Tony. Sto. Rosario Circle Regent Sis. Fe Aquindo welcomed the SMI members and guests from the DMI National Organization led by SMI International Chairperson Sis. Mila Villanueva.

In her inspirational message, Sis. Mila emphasized that emulating the virtues of the Blessed Mother such as simplicity, chastity, obedience, spirituality and doing tasks with joy and commitment shows one's affiliation as true daughters of Mary. It also fulfills the SMI motto: "To Know, to Love and to Serve" which is the guiding principle that must guide the SMIs in conducting circlette activities. Sis. Mila also urged the members to start conducting fund-raising activities to be able to join the SMI National Biennial Convention to be held in Boracay in 2011.

Circlette President Klariz Faye Aquindo delivered her acceptance

speech and pledged to effectively lead the SMIs in achieving the organization's objectives and goals.

Bro. Jun Anota, president of the Parish Pastoral Council, addressed the members and welcomed the organization on behalf of the PPC. He congratulated the group for holding such an impressive ceremony and encouraged the youth to play an active role in the activities of the parish.

As a gesture of support, he promised to donate P10,000 as seed money to enable the SMI to start some projects. The announcement was met by a loud applause from the SMI members.

The closing remarks by Sis. Angel Vermas and closing prayer by Sis. Aster Munoz officially ended the event. Sis. Mila Villanueva received a special token of appreciation from the DMI circle.



## Activity Updates From St. Paul The First Hermit Circle

by Sis. Isabel S. Ticzon, Circle Treasurer

A series of activities was undertaken by St. Paul the First Hermit Circle of San Pablo City in Laguna since early this year.

February 25 and 26, 2010. The Circle headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Evelyn Reyes and Regent Sis. Yoly Barleta sponsored a lenten recollection for 400 graduating students of City High (Lakeside) at the Lions Clubhouse. Recollection speaker was Rev. Fr. Nino Formeloza of St. Peter Seminary. It was an uplifting occasion for both the students and the DMI sisters.



*A Eucharistic celebration ended the lenten recollection of 400 graduating students of City High (Lakeside) sponsored by the Circle.*

April 11, 2010. Fifteen new members of the Squirettes of Mary were invested by SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Brigie Alican at the Knights of Columbus Bldg., Cathedral Compound. Present during the occasion were Rev. Msgr. Melchor Barcenas, parish priest and DMI spiritual adviser who gave an inspirational message, Vice-International Regent for Luzon Sis. Alice Capiral, Diocesan Regent Sis. Lita Canonizado, Vicarial Regent Sis. Evelyn Reyes and Sis. Lydia Mendoza, regent of St. John the Baptist Circle who conducted the investiture ceremony.

The officers of the SMI circlette were also installed during the occasion.

The investiture of the new SMI members was doubly

significant in that it was the first to be held in two decades.

April 17, 2010. A Skill Training Seminar was sponsored by the Circle for the SMI members and high school students. The "Gunting at Suklay" Seminar resource person was Mr. Wilfredo Dandan, a professional hairdresser who demonstrated and gave tips on how to do basic haircutting and different hairstyles. The seminar was held at the Gesmundo Foundation Center in Bgy. Sta. Catalina.

Spearheading the project was the Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee headed by Sis. Nena Millares.



*The newly-invested Squirettes of Mary members with members of the Circle.*



*The "Gunting at Suklay" livelihood seminar spearheaded by the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of the Circle.*

## Virgen De Regla Circle Feeds Indigent Children



The officers and members of the Virgen de Regla Circle of Lapu-Lapu City in Cebu sponsored the feeding of indigent children of their parish last May 1, 2010 after their first Saturday devotion. The children were fed *lugaw*. The circle's activity was in support of the program of the parish under Fr. Jess Dumauual, MSC, parish priest.

*From Nasipit, Agusan del Norte*

## Queen Of Divine Grace Circle Undertakes Spiritual Activities

The St. Michael Parish in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte is the home parish of the Queen of Divine Grace Circle.

Circle Scribe Sis. Ofelia Rodelas reported a number of activities that the circle regularly undertakes aimed at deepening members' devotion to the Blessed Mother and strengthening relationship with one another. The activities are in support of projects of the parish.

Foremost in the Circle's spiritual activities is the 2,000 Hail Marys held every first Saturday of the month. The devotion was introduced last year by Region XII Representative Sis. Lelis Pimentel.

The Circle also holds a weekly cenacle held each Wednesday at the place of Vice-Regent Sis. Susan Honculada.

The DMI sisters attended a lenten recollection last March 20, 2010. It was held at the Honculada's Beach House in Ata-Atahon, Nasipit with Fr. Oneil Babano as recollection speaker.

The Circle's Pro-Life Committee held a series of symposiums with students in the community as participants: in Northwestern Agusan Colleges on March 12, 2010, St. Michael College of Caraga on March 15 and Nasipit National Vocational School on March 22. Symposium speakers were Dr. Ched Atupan on human reproduction and Sis. Ofelia Rodelas on courtship and engagement.

The Circle plans to undertake more activities and projects for the formation of its members and in pursuance of the DMI missions.



*The Queen of Divine Grace Circle members in one of their activities.*



*Pro-Life Seminar for students of Northwestern Colleges.*



From San Diego, California

## St. Charles Circle Resumes Corporate Mass

The Corporate Mass held jointly by the DMI St. Charles Circle and the Knights of Columbus has been resumed in 2010, the first one held last January 31, 2010.

The Corporate Mass (meaning a united group) is celebrated to bring KC brothers and DMI sisters

together to demonstrate unity in the celebration of the Eucharist. A potluck reception follows at the Parish Center as a fellowship activity.

### Circle Observes Busy Year-Round Calendar

St. Charles Circle Regent Sis. Josie Francisco also reported a number of

activities that keep the Circle busy all year round.

Events during the first quarter included assisting the Knights of Columbus which held a Third Degree Exemplification on January 17. On January 24, the Circle hosted a dinner for residents of the Inter-Faith Shelter and on

March 13, a St. Patrick's dinner-dance together with the KC.

The DMI sisters also hold Rosary Services for departed parishioners.

As a pro-life project, the Circle secured signatures

*Turn to Page 28*



DMI sisters wait to join the entrance procession for a Corporate Mass. In photo from left, front row: Sisters Elsa Barnes, Carmelita Tesoro, Virgie Aragoza, Belen Bautista, Josie Francisco, Aida Mata and Dita Marbello. Back row: Sisters Alicia Salce, Carmen Hold, Masing Alviz and Vangie Miranda.



KC brothers and DMI sisters gather for St. Patrick's Dinner-Dance. Group photo includes Sisters Loly Salamanca and Dita Marbello, Bros. Ray Marbello, Bob Barretto and Rusty Egay and Sisters Nina Egay, Josie Francisco and Aida Alfaro.



Bake Sale Day saw DMI sisters preparing pastries to be sold after the morning masses at the church courtyard. The group includes Sisters Carina Esguerra, Masing Alviz, Nina Egay and Virgie Aragoza.



Regent Sis. Josie Francisco secures the signature of Sis. Rita Rivera in support of the California Human Rights Amendments.

## Mother's Love

by Jonah Eliza C. Prado, National President, Squirettes of Mary

When asked how many mothers I have, I usually answer three: Mama Mary who is my mother in heaven, Nanay Beth who is my biological mother, and my teacher in grade school. That was how it went during my elementary grades. When asked the same question now that I have grown up and become a part of the Squirettes of Mary, I hold up my hands, count all my fingers and even ask the help of others and exclaim, "Count all the DMIs plus three!"

How do we know that a certain woman is our mother? Basically, she is the one who brought us out in this world and takes care and nurtures us. However, I believe

that every woman who has the capacity to love, care for and support a child can be a mother. This is the very reason that I now say that I have many mothers, those wonderful ladies in blue, the DMIs, regardless of their status and stations in life.

The DMIs are my mother in church. We may not be related by blood but we are truly connected by our love and devotion to our Blessed Mother Mary. They are busy, they have their own families to attend to, and yet they never forget to help us Squirettes when we need them.

It was a memorable month of May, Mama Mary's month, that we had

this year when we held our First SMI Diocesan Acquaintance Party at Mariano's Beach Resort in Tangalan and our mass investiture at the Acevedo Farm. During these events, the DMIs of Aklan showed their unconditional love for us through the full support, time, effort and cooperation they gave.

Those were moments that we will continue to cherish in our hearts and our mothers, the DMIs helped make them a reality. To all of them, our very big THANK YOU.

And all these we offer in honor of Mama Mary who continuously looks down upon us and prays for us to our Heavenly Father.



*The SMIs of Kalibo with Tita Ging and Tita Sandra. Inset: Jonah Prado with SMI National Secretary Jessany Yap and Tita Margie of Banga, Aklan who won in the Hep, Hep Hooray! Contest.*



*The Squirettes of Mary members with Fr. Tudd Belandres, DMI Diocesan chaplain, during their mass investiture at the Acevedo Farm.*

### *St. Charles Circle...Cont'd from Page 27*

in support of the California Human Rights Amendments, thus affirming that life begins at conception.

The Circle's April-June, 2010 calendar includes a Mother's Day Dinner-Dance on May 8, a Corporate Mass on May 30, participation in the St. Charles Parish Bazaar at the church

grounds on June 5 to 8 and a Bake Sale/Membership Drive on June 27.

The Circle holds its regular meetings on the last Saturday of each month.