



DMI NEWSETTE

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April - June 2016

20TH DMI BIENNIAL CONVENTION – ANOTHER RECORD BREAKER



The 20th DMI Biennial Convention opening ceremonies



Archbishop Romulo Valles, D.D. of the Archdiocese of Davao, main Mass celebrant and keynote speaker.

Through the years, the biennial conventions of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International do not fail to build on and break attendance records of the previous ones.

This was proven once again during the 20th DMI Biennial Convention last April 23-24, 2016 in Davao City which saw some 1,850 DMI sisters from all over the country converging at the SMX Convention Center at SM Lanang Premier. Thus, the recently concluded convention now holds the record of being the best attended convention in the history of the DMII topping the 1,600 delegates to the 18th Biennial Convention in Tagaytay City in 2012.

The enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother marked the convention opening and its attendant ceremonies followed by the Parade of Circles and presentation of delegates by region.

International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan declared the formal opening of the convention. Past International Vice-Regent for Mindanao Sis. Nemie Tagle acknowledged the presence of guests led by the DMII International Officers and members of the Board. Past International Regents Sis.

Mila Villanueva, Lyding Ramirez, Myrna Zapanta, Perla Arguelles and Amy Veloso were also present.

In her welcome address, Convention Chair Sis. Laura Cespon, Region XIII RR, the convention host, thanked the delegates for coming to Davao, saying that their presence more than compensates the efforts of the Convention Working Committee who worked long and hard to ensure a well-managed convention program and the DMI sisters' comfortable and enjoyable stay in Davao.

A hand mime presentation by the Kapariz composed of students from the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School and a welcome song by DMI sisters from the Archdiocese of Davao, "Tayo'y Dabawenyo" conducted by Sis. Rosita Tompong, preceded the concelebrated Mass with Davao Archbishop Romulo Valles, D.D. as main celebrant and keynote speaker. Co-celebrating with him were Davao Auxillary Bishop George Rimando, D.D. and Rev. Fathers Jerome Cruz, DMI international chaplain, Emmanuel Gonzaga, diocesan chaplain, Dionisio Tabilaran, Leonie

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2017-18 DMII INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS ELECTED

The election of the 2017-18 International Officers of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International took place after the organization's Business Meeting on April 23, 2016 during the 20th Biennial Convention.

The following will compose the 2017-18 DMII International Officers & Board:

Sis. Rosalinda "Lelis" Pimentel

International Regent

Sis. Gloria Caminero

VIR-Visayas and Region X Representative

Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia

International Secretary & Region IV Representative

Sis. Elvie Arambulo

International Treasurer & Region VI Representative

Sis. Ruby Macario

Vice-International Regent for Luzon
& Region V Representative

Sis. Angie Baes

VIR-Mindanao and Region XIV Representative

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

- Region I - Sis. Remedios Agosto
- Region II - Sis. Virgie Terrado
- Region III - Sis. Alma Cagampang
- Region VII - Sis. Eufelia Dollentas
- Region VIII - Sis. Zenaida Sto. Tomas
- Region IX - Sis. Yolanda Galvez
- Region XI - Sis. Magdalena Larrazabal
- Region XII - Sis. Tess Miranda
- Region XIII - Sis. Laura Cespon



The 2017-18 International Officers and Board are presented to the convention delegates after the election. From left: Sisters Remedios Agosto, Virgie Terrado, Elvie Arambulo, Thess Curia, Angie Baes, Gloria Caminero, Ruby Macario, Incoming IR Sis. Lelis Pimentel, Outgoing IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan †, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Sisters Leni Larrazabal, Alma Cagampang, Tess Miranda and Laura Cespon.



Daughters of Mary Immaculate International

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

Tel. No. 833-1203

Website: www.dmiinternational.org

Executive Officers

- Sis. Rebecca C. Pacanan - International Regent
- Sis. Corazon T. Afuang - Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon
- Sis. Pureza M. Guzman - Vice-Int'l Regent - Visayas
- Sis. Annie O. Ty - Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao
- Sis. Alma C. Cagampang - International Secretary
- Sis. Elvira S. Arambulo - International Treasurer
- Sis. Yolanda U. Dagandan - International Advocate

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

DMI Newsette Editorial Board

Sis. Salvacion T. Estrada - Editor

Contributors

- Sis. Angela L. Baes
- Sis. Carmen P. Baquillid
- Sis. Gloria Caminero
- Sis. Laura V. Cespon
- Sis. Julieta V. Cruz
- Sis. Agueda Fely G. Gallardo
- Sis. Leticia A. Gano
- Sis. Mary Annie G. Jabines
- Sis. Edna May O. Landicho
- Sis. Magdalena Larrazabal
- Sis. Ma. Adeline A. Lee
- Sis. Catalina Rebecca A. Pineda
- Sis. Virginia Terrado
- Sis. Teresita L. Viola



In Memoriam **Sis. Rebecca Conge-Pacanan** **1947 – 2016**

*By Sis. Corazon T. Afuang,
Vice- International Regent – Luzon*

May 10, 2016. As the nation was eagerly awaiting the early results of the just-concluded national elections, members of the DMII received a sad and unsettling news – the untimely demise of their International Regent, Sis. Rebecca Conge-Pacanan at around 6:00 AM in a hospital in Tacloban City. She was 69 years old.

Just two weeks earlier, she was in the thick of a major DMI activity – the 20th DMI Biennial Convention in Davao City. Although admittedly she was not looking very well during the convention, everybody thought that her recent dialysis was causing it. Nobody ever thought that it would be her last encounter with her DMI sisters considering that her term will end in December, 2016. She was able to present to the body the amendments to the DMI Rules and Regulations and was successful in having the same ratified by the members present. She enjoyed posing with all the participants in the dance contest during Fellowship Night and with the Star Circle awardees the following day. There was not a hint whatsoever of early goodbyes or any foreboding of early departures. Indeed, death comes like a thief in the night!

Members of the International Board composed of International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, Past International Regents Sis. Mila Villanueva and Sis. Lyding Ramirez, Incoming International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel, Regional Representatives Sisters Letty Gano, Cora Afuang, Adeline Lee, Pureza Guzman, Gloria Caminero, Leni Larrazabal, Annie Ty and Laura Cespon, Incoming RR Sis. Ruby Macario and Sis.

Josie Halog of the DMI Office flew to Tacloban to attend the final rites for Sis. Rebbie.

Her mortal remains were brought initially to the St. Peter Memorial Chapel in Tacloban City and later to the City Hall of Tacloban for necrological services (she was a three-term councilor of the city).

The DMII Board also performed the prescribed necrological rites for a departed DMI sister on the evening of May 16, 2016 in the presence of the Pacanan family and other DMI members

A funeral mass was held at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Church in V & G Subdivision in Tacloban City on May 17 concelebrated by Fr. Jerome, Msgr. Benedicto Catilogo and Fr. Kim Margallo. (As gathered from some reliable sources, the Pacanan Family played a big role in the construction of this church.)

DMI members from the Tower of Ivory Circle were on hand to bid Sis. Rebbie good-bye. A very touching moment was the sight of DMI sisters lining up at the center aisle with lighted candles as Sis. Rebbie's coffin was being brought out of the church.

She left behind a loving family composed of husband Rufino and four children – Rex, Roy, Regina and Rey and five grandchildren – Aezabel, Aeron, Aezaac, Harlem Shawn and Hendrix Skye. She was finally laid to rest at the Tacloban City Old Cemetery.

Again, our deep condolences to the family of Sis. Rebbie. We continue to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.



Tarpaulin photo of Sis. Rebbie and the International Regent's banner displayed during her wake.



Some members of the International Board during the funeral Mass. From left: Sisters Carmen Baquilid, Pureza Guzman, Edna May Landicho and Adeline Lee.



Floral offering for Sis. Rebbie by DMI sisters from the Tower of Ivory Circle.

Good-bye, Sis. Rebbie!

(Eulogy delivered by Vice-IR Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang on behalf of the DMII at the necrological services organized by the Saungguniang Panlungsod ng Tacloban on May 16, 2016 in honor of Atty. Rebecca C. Pacanan, a three-term councilor of Tacloban City – Ed.)

Good afternoon to one and all. My name is Corazon T. Afuang, the Vice-International Regent for Luzon of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, a religious organization of which our departed Sis. Rebecca Conge-Pacanan is the International Regent, the highest officer in our organization, up to the time of her untimely demise.

Before she became the highest officer of our organization, she was an active member of the Tower of Ivory Circle here in Tacloban City. She was considered a pillar of her circle, always at the forefront of any activity involving her circle. This was in addition to the numerous organizations she was affiliated with – the City Government of Tacloban as a 3-term councilor, the Regional Federation of Women Legislators as its Executive Director, the Women in Nation-Building (WIN) as its National President, plus some others that I may not be aware of.

As a member of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, she had achieved what every normal DMI member would have dreamed of accomplishing. She assumed various important positions – circle regent, vicarial regent, diocesan regent, regional representative, national advocate and lastly, international regent.

At the outset, she may appear to be a passive person. But in actuality, she was in fact a go-getter and an achiever. A school-teacher-turned-lawyer, she was a good planner, moderator in team-building and a focused implementor which at times was misinterpreted as stubbornness on her part. At the start of her term in January, 2015, she met with all of us members of the DMI Board to plan and map out the vision and mission of her term. Number 1 among her plans was to look into the organization's Rules and Regulations. Being a lawyer, she saw the need to streamline and consolidate some of our Rules and Regulations and her timetable was our Biennial Convention in April, 2016. It was quite an ambitious move in the minds of some of us considering that we meet only quarterly. But Sis. Rebbie



worked overtime, even at home and even if her health was deteriorating, to finalize these changes. And so, on April 24, 2016, she was able to present these amendments/changes to the DMI members during our National Convention in Davao City and had the same approved. Two days before her date with her Maker, she emailed to all the Board members including our Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz the final copy of the Amended Rules and Regulations and instructed our Sis. Ruby Macario to post it in our website.

Now, it dawned on me, was Sis. Rebbie in such a hurry to finish her pet project because she felt she was running out of time? Actually, her term of office is until December, 2016. Included in the amendments approved by the DMI members was the provision on leadership succession in case of the incapacity or death of the incumbent International Regent. Originally, our Rules and Regulations stated that the vacancy will be filled up by electing from any of the three Vice-International Regents.

In the amended rules, Sis. Rebbie simplified the procedure. The vacancy will be filled up automatically by the Vice-International Regent coming from the area (Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao) where the departed International Regent comes from. No more election. So in the instant case, it is Sis. Pureza Guzman, the vice-international regent from the Visayas who will continue

VIR-VISAYAS IS INTERIM INTERNATIONAL REGENT

With Sis. Rebbie Pacanan's passing last May 10, 2016, an interim International Regent was installed to serve the rest of her term which ends in December, 2016.

VIR-Visayas and Region IX Representative Sis. Pureza M. Guzman was installed as interim International Regent in Tacloban City during the wake of Sis. Rebbie with International Advocate Sis. Yoly Dagandan as installing officer. This was in accordance with the Amended DMII Rules and Regulations the members ratified during the Biennial Convention on April 23-24, 2016 in Davao City which provides for the designation of the Vice-International Regent of the area where the deceased IR came from as interim IR for the rest of the latter's term.



Sis. Pureza Guzman being installed as interim International Regent by Int'l Advocate Sis. Yoly Dagandan in the presence of International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz.

Sis. Pureza's home circle is the St. Thomas of Villanova Circle in Miagao, Iloilo, Archdiocese of Jaro. At present she is Division Chief of the Provincial Government of Iloilo Province.



Sis. Rebbie's remaining term. Again, did she have any premonition that she will not be able to finish her term?

Now I also recall how she requested to have a photo session on stage with all the dance presentors from the 14 DMI regions of the country during the Fellowship Night of our convention. To my recollection, no other International Regent had requested that. It is the members who request to have a photograph with the International Regent. Again, did she have some ominous foreboding of her earthly departure?

Although she already appeared weak at that time and had to remain seated all throughout the photo session, she nonetheless looked happy and gamely smiled for everyone. I was informed by one sister much later that Sis. Rebbie was exceptionally happy that night because the Biennial Convention was a success with close to 2,000 DMI delegates in attendance coming from all over the country, the biggest attendance on record so far of any biennial convention!

It also came to my knowledge through Sis. Carmen Baquilid, a fellow DMI from the Tower of Ivory Circle and National Chairperson for Pro-Life that Sis. Rebbie was deeply touched by the show of concern by the officers and board members of the DMI regarding her medical condition and requirements. She even requested Sis.

Carmen to thank the Board in the event she is unable to thank them personally.

As a member of the Board, I am grateful that through Mama Mary's intercession, Sis. Rebbie left for the Great Beyond peacefully with the knowledge that her DMI sisters love her and care for her.

Finally, to the members of her family, on behalf of the officers and members of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, I extend our sincerest condolences on the untimely death of Sis. Rebbie. We share your great loss but let us be assured that God has a reason for everything. In the case of Sis. Rebbie, Mama Mary led her to Jesus sooner than we expected so as to set her FREE – free from pain, sufferings and anxieties. Let us believe and accept that Sis. Rebbie is in a much better place than we all are.

Sis. Rebbie, we implore you to look after us your sisters in the DMII. Let us feel your guiding presence as we continue with our avowed tasks. We may not have been very expressive of our love and appreciation of what you have done for the DMII but we do love you and thank you for everything you did for the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International during your short stint as International Regent. Rest in peace and enjoy the eternal company of Jesus and Mama Mary.



DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz carries the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary for enthronement assisted by Past International Regents Sisters Lyding Ramirez and Myrna Zapanta.



The Parade of Colors



Convention Chairperson Sis. Laura Cespon welcomes delegates to the 20th DMII Biennial Convention.

Espana, Pedro Lamata and Alan Alindajao.

Archbishop Valles' homily centered on the theme of the convention, "The Holy Eucharist: Life of Every Family United with Mama Mary". He said that the Word of God proclaimed in the Eucharist is made flesh in Jesus Whose victory in conquering death is transformative for all of us.

The offering of Jesus in the Eucharist participated in by all of US who are shaped, molded in heart and mind like Jesus is the perfect worship. The Eucharist gives the family the joy of believing; the heart listens, radiating hope and love.

At present, the family is under attack from many sides. Christ's example of eating a meal together with his disciples and washing their feet conveys messages of love and service and responsibility for one another. A family centered on Christ does the will of the Father and is challenged to build up the other family, the bigger family of humanity to do the will of the Father. The dynamics of the Eucharist poses a profound challenge: Give all, leave nothing for me. The Father gave all, His Only Son, for us. So did Mary who gave her all for the Lord. ("Let Your will be done.")

Archbishop Valles concluded his homily with this message: Live life faithfully. The Lord will repay us (His rewards).



Co-celebrants of the Mass presided by Archbishop Valles.



International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan awards a plaque of appreciation to Archbishop Valles. Also in photo are Fr. Jerome and Davao Diocesan Regent Sis. Lucina Binoya.



Hand mime presentation by the Kapariz of the Philippine Nikkei Jin Kai International School.

At lunch, a group called the Himig Singers entertained the delegates with their beautiful rendition of songs so well-loved by the audience.

The business meeting opened the afternoon session



Past International Regents Sisters Perla Arguelles, Lyding Ramirez, Mila Villanueva and Myrna Zapanta. Not in photo: Sis. Amy Veloso.

with the annual reports of the International Officers: Sis. Alma Cagampang, international secretary, read the minutes of the National Officers' Meeting in May, 2015, Sis. Elvie Arambulo, international treasurer, the financial report, and International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, a report of the organization's accomplishments during her term, notably, the sale of the DMI building to acquire another one in a better location, increase in collection of dues, increase of copies of the DMI Newsette being distributed to circles, increased attendance in DMI assemblies and conferences, the amended Rules and Regulations for ratification of the members later in the afternoon, DMI mapping and others.

The afternoon guest speaker was Ms. Joji Ilagan Bian, a very successful woman business leader, who chairs the Joji Ilagan Career Center Foundation in Davao City and operates four schools on management, culinary arts and tourism and a BPO (call center) company. She holds leadership positions in various civic and professional associations, notably as country representative to the Asia-Pacific Council of Hotel and Restaurant Institutions.

Ms. Bian's talk on "Woman Empowerment" held the interest of the DMI sisters, who, she said belongs to an organization moving in a people-oriented environment.

"Powerful women are made, not born." They just work smarter, not harder, possess the energy, both physical and intellectual, and the ability to control their emotion.



Guest speaker Joji Ilagan-Bian talks on "Woman Empowerment".

More of her pointers on empowerment: Stand out by making a favorable first impression. Develop your own brand mantra. Create your personal image. Determine your emotional appeal. She cited the attributes of a powerful woman: exudes confidence, respectability, inspiring to others, happy, joyful, positive, fun to be with and with a high level of enthusiasm. She also gave tips on power-dressing focusing on a woman's assets and down-playing her weaknesses.

International Advocate Sis. Yoly Dagandan presented the amendments to the DMI Rules and Regulations drawn up by the Board which were later ratified by the members.

The election of the 2017-18 international officers ended the day's session. The Election Committee composed of Fr. Jerome and the Past International Regents present supervised the conduct of the election that saw Past VIR-Mindanao and present SMI Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Lelis Pimentel being elected as the next International Regent. *(Please see separate story on page 2.)*

The Fellowship Night, a much-anticipated part of the convention program, was a dress-up affair with the DMI sisters donning the national costumes of countries their respective regions represented. The main feature of the evening was a regional dance competition featuring

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IR Sis. Rebbie clarifies a point during the presentation of the proposed amendments to the DMI Rules and Regulations for the ratification of members. Flanking her are International Advocate Sis. Yoly Dagandan and International Secretary Sis. Alma Cagampang.



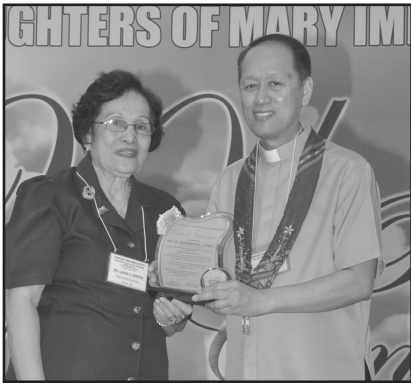
Fr. Jerome leads the prayer before the election of the 2017-18 International officers.



Sis. Lelis Pimentel, incoming International Regent.



Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla, D.D., mass celebrant on Day 2 (Sunday).



Fr. Jerome receives an appreciation award as inspirational speaker.



VIR-Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang receives a special award for Region V which sent the biggest delegation to the convention.



Sis. Rebbie receives an appreciation award from Sis. Laura Cespon.



Closing remarks by VIR-Mindanao Sis. Annie Ty.



Sis. Rebbie, Fr. Jerome and Sis. Lelis carry the image of the Blessed Mother during the recessional.

folk dances of different countries. (Please see “An Affair to Remember” on page 9 for photos of Fellowship Night.)

Day 2 (April 24, Sunday) of the convention started with a concelebrated Mass with Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla, D.D. as main celebrant and Fathers Jerome, Emmanuel Gonzaga and Steve Villanueva as co-celebrants.

Archbishop Capalla in his homily urged the DMIs to help put order in our country, especially moral order, at the present time when society is being destroyed by many immoral values. “Look to Mary who was conceived without sin, and thus, without disorder, as your model and guide. Mary should be the model of all – Catholics,

Protestants, Muslims. Because of the order in her life, she is the Queen of Peace.” He further said that the glory of Jesus is on the Cross and in the celebration of the Paschal mystery, we experience the living presence of Jesus.

An inspirational message by Fr. Jerome followed. Posing the questions: Are we alive after Mass? During Mass, did we feel united as a family? Did we feel the presence of Jesus and Mama Mary?, he said that by our “Yes” answer, we have already achieved the convention theme.

He also said that a DMI must radiate inside beauty in or out of her uniform. The DMI missions are expressions of our love for Jesus.

The Star Circle Awards followed with 12 Gold Star Circle awardees and 21 Silver Star awardees receiving citation plaques from IR Sis. Rebbie assisted by the Awards Committee composed of International Vice-Regents Sisters Cora Afuang, Pureza Guzman and Annie Ty. Eighteen “9Teeners”, DMIs 90 years old and above also received special citations for their long-standing membership and dedicated service to the DMI. (Please see page 13 for the complete list of these awardees.

The hall was abuzz with excitement when the bidding for the next convention venue (in Luzon in 2018) was taken up. Baguio City had been selected as the venue of the 21st DMI Biennial Convention.



The International Board takes time out during the 2nd quarter Board Meeting on April 22 for this group photo. From left: Sisters Lyding Ramirez, Sally Estrada, Juliet Cruz, Cora Afuang, Annie Ty, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Tess Curia, Angie Baes, Laura Cespon, Virgie Terrado, Ruby Macario, Myrna Zapanta, Mila Villanueva, Cathy Pineda, Leni Larrazabal and Elvie Arambulo. Kneeling: Sisters Helen Gaite and Josie Halog.

Vice-International Regent for Mindanao Sis. Annie Ty, in her closing remarks, bade good-bye to the delegates and thanked them for helping make the 20th Biennial Convention the great success that it was. Many delegates were moved to tears as Sis. Pacita Veloso led the closing prayer and the image of the Blessed Mother was carried out of the convention hall. The delegates waved blue ribbons as

Fr. Jerome and Sisters Rebbie and Lelis walked down the aisle carrying Mama Mary’s image.

The delegates thanked the program hosts, Sisters Erlinda Loria and Lourdes Almario, for keeping the flow of the convention program smooth and holding the delegates’ attention and interest in the proceedings.



AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER



The International Board in the national costumes of countries their respective regions represented.

Providing a much-needed breather from the convention sessions was the Fellowship Night on April 23, 2016 that the delegates to the 20th DMI Biennial Convention had looked forward to for a chance to change from their blue uniforms

to the colorful attires they prepared for the event.

The evening’s motif was United Nations with the 14 DMI regions representing different countries. The SMX

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Atty. Jesus Melchor Quitain (at center) chief of staff of the Davao City Mayor’s Office extended then Mayor Rodrigo Duterte’s greetings to the convention delegates.

An Affair to Remember... Cont'd from page 9

Convention Hall was a-glitter that night with the DMI sisters in their colorful costumes complete with accessories in gold, multi-hued headdresses, flowers and feathers adding

pomp and color to the affair. Cultural dances of countries the different regions represented was the evening program's centerpiece.

The accompanying photos tell all.



The Dance Contest Board of Judges: Marilyn Nebria, chairperson and Emil Cruz and Jona Joy Palada, members.



Region VII representing China won first place.



Region XII representing USA – Texas , 2nd place.



Region XIV representing Thailand, 3rd place.

"AN AFFAIR TO REMEMBER" Photo Highlights





2016 DMII Star Circle Awardees



For their outstanding achievements and exemplary performance during the year 2014-2015, 12 circles were awarded the Gold Star Circle Award and 21 received the Silver Star Circle Award during the 20th DMI Biennial Convention held in Davao City on April 23-24, 2016.

Gold Star Circle Awardees

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| ROSA MYSTICA CIRCLE Diocese of Malolos Region IV | THERESIAN CIRCLE Diocese of San Pablo Region VI | MEDALLA MILAGROSA CIRCLE Diocese of Cubao Region V | DIVINE MERCY CIRCLE Archdiocese of Zamboanga Region XIV |
| SAN JOSE DE NAVOTAS CIRCLE Diocese of Kalookan Region V | STO. NINO DE MOLINO CIRCLE Diocese of Imus Region V | ST. JOSEPH CIRCLE Archdiocese of Zamboanga Region XIV | MATER DEI CIRCLE Diocese of Novaliches Region V |
| OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CIRCLE Diocese of Imus Region V | TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE Archdiocese of Palo Region XI | ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS CIRCLE Diocese of Antipolo Region V | OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP CIRCLE Archdiocese of Zamboanga Region XIV |

Silver Star Circle Awardees

| | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CIRCLE Diocese of Tarlac Region III | OUR LADY OF THE ROSE CIRCLE Archdiocese of Manila Region V | OUR LADY OF THE LILIES CIRCLE Diocese of Paranaque Region V | ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA CIRCLE Archdiocese of Zamboanga Region XIV |
| ST. GABRIEL OF OUR LADY OF SORROWS CIRCLE Diocese of Antipolo Region V | SAGRADO CORAZON CIRCLE Diocese of Cubao Region V | MOST HOLY TRINITY CIRCLE Diocese of Tagbilaran Region X | STA. LUCIA CIRCLE Diocese of Pasig Region V |
| STA. RITA CIRCLE Diocese of Iba Region III | MARY ALL BEAUTIFUL CIRCLE Diocese of Cubao Region V | RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE Diocese of Paranaque Region V | OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE Archdiocese of Zamboanga Region XIV |
| OUR LADY OF FATIMA (BACOOD) CIRCLE Archdiocese of Manila Region V | MINA DE ORO CIRCLE Diocese of San Jose, Mindoro Occ. Region VII | IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CIRCLE Diocese of Tandag Region XII | OUR LADY OF THE ABANDONED CIRCLE Diocese of Antipolo Region V |
| QUEEN OF FLOWERS CIRCLE Diocese of Malolos Region IV | MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CIRCLE Diocese of Paranaque Region V | IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF KARANGALAN CIRCLE Diocese of Pasig Region V | ST. THOMAS OF VILLANOVA CIRCLE Archdiocese of Jaro Region IX |
| JUBILEE 2000 CIRCLE Archdiocese of Manila Region V | | | |

TRIBUTE GIVEN TO DMII'S 9TEENERS

Special tribute was given to 18 DMI sisters, aged 90 years old and over, for their long and dedicated service to the organization. Their awards, a plaque and a love gift, were received by their respective regents/circle representatives on April 24, 2016 from International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan and Convention Chairperson Sis. Laura Cespon during the 20th Biennial Convention.

SIS. TEODORA DALUPANG RAMIREZ



- 90 years old, Mater Immaculata Circle, Cauayan City, Isabela, Diocese of Ilagan, Region I

SIS. ADELA T. DE GUZMAN



91, Our Lady of the Abandoned Circle, Marikina City, Diocese of Antipolo, Region V

SIS. LIWAYWAY HOFILÉÑA



90, St. Paul the Apostle Circle, Diocese of Gumaca, Region VII

SIS. ELADIA RAMIREZ



90, Sta. Perpetua Circle, Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SIS. EMILIA ALDANA



96, Our Lady of Snows Circle, Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SIS. JOSEFINA VEGA TOYONG



90, St. Joseph the Worker Circle, Diocese of Tagum, Region XIII

SIS. BELEN AVANZADO



91, Medalla Milagrosa Circle, Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SIS. GRACE UY



91, Sto. Nino de Molino Circle, Diocese of Imus, Region V

SIS. CONSOLACION LOPEZ



90, Our Lady of Lourdes Circle, Quezon City, Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SIS. TERESING LUGUE



91, Our Lady of Lourdes Circle, Quezon City, Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SIS. GERTRUDES TOLENTINO MAÑALAC



92, Mater Immaculata Circle, Cauayan City, Isabela, Diocese of Ilagan, Region I

SIS. LOURDES C. FAROL



94, Risen Christ Circle, Holy Eucharist Parish, Diocese of Paranaque, Region V

SIS. SOLEDAD REYES ALBERTO



95, San Jose de Navotas Circle, Diocese of Kalookan, Region V

SIS. JESUSA LABAO



96, Our Lady of Lourdes Circle, Quezon City, Diocese of Cubao, Region V

SIS. BASILISA RODRIGUEZ GATUS



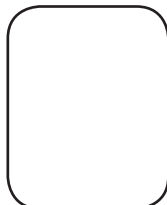
98, Our Lady of Buensuceso Circle, Paranaque City, Diocese of Paranaque, Region V

SIS. TARCILA BALAG ESQUILLO



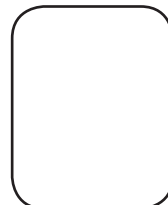
90, St. James the Greater Circle, Diocese of Calbayog, Region XI

SIS. MATILDE CENIZA



Sto. Nino Circle, Cebu City, Archdiocese of Cebu, Region X

SIS. ESTELA HENTANOSAS



100, St. Gemma de Galgani Circle, Archdiocese of Cebu, Region X

FR. JEROME CELEBRATES 25TH SACERDOTAL ANNIVERSARY



DMI International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jeronimo Ma. J. Cruz celebrated his 25th sacerdotal anniversary with a Concelebrated Mass on April 2, 2016 at the San Ildefonso Parish Church in Navotas City.

Aside from being DMII Chaplain since 2012, he is also vicar general of the Diocese of Kalookan, pastor of the San Ildefonso Parish, director and principal of San Jose Academy in Navotas, superintendent of the Kalookan Diocesan Schools Association and national chaplain of the Catholic Youth Organization of the Phils. He anchors the Saturday edition of "Hello, Father 911" over Radio Veritas.

Main celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration was

Most Rev. Pablo "Ambo" David, bishop of the Diocese of Kalookan. Co-celebrating with him were Rev. Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J. emeritus professor of Theology of the Loyola School of Theology, San Jose Major Seminary and members of the clergy of the Diocese of Kalookan.

In his homily, Bishop Ambo expounded on part of Pope Francis' Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy, "You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weaknesses in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error; let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved and forgiven by God." The apostles, the first ministers that Jesus chose, were not men who were highly placed in the community but common men who had weaknesses.

Among Fr. Jerome's guests were officers and members of organizations with which he has been affiliated, both past and present. After the Mass, a thanksgiving reception hosted by the San Ildefonso parishioners followed at the St. James Academy Auditorium in Malabon City.



The Mass celebrants headed by Bishop Pablo David (second from left). To his right is Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J.



Guests from the DMII with Fr. Jerome during the reception. From left: DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada, VIR-Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang, DR Sis. Rita Lucena of the Diocese of Antipolo, SMI Luzon Coordinator Sis. Ruby Macario and Youth Welfare Int'l Chairperson Sis. Cathy Pineda.

DON'T COMPLICATE LIFE

Missing somebody? **CALL**

Want to meet up? **INVITE**

Want to be understood? **EXPLAIN**

Have questions? **ASK**

Don't like something? **SAY IT**

Lake something? **STATE IT**

Want something? **ASK FOR IT**

Love someone? **TELL HIM/HER**

KEEP YOUR LIFE SIMPLE

From the Diocese of Baguio

"CHRIST RECALL" BY THE ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CIRCLE



DMI and KC members pause for a group photo before their walk on rough terrain for their Lenten Way of the Cross.

In observance of Lent, the DMI sisters of the St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Pacdal, Baguio City joined the parishioners of St. Joseph the Worker Parish in trekking the hilly slopes of Mt. Cabuyao in Tuba, Benguet for their Holy Week Way of the Cross. Reflections on Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection took place at the 14 life-size images of the stations of the Cross. The route was on rough terrain making the walk from one station to the next tough and difficult.



The Lenten Recollection at the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal chapel.

As Fr. Vic Munar, parish priest, put it, the Way of the Cross is not only about Christ's Passion and Death, but also about our life as we go through sufferings from which we learn to love life all the more.

At the Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Chapel, Fr. Vic facilitated the Diocesan Lenten recollection during which the pilgrims received plenary indulgence. His talk dwelt on the seven capital sins and how God's grace works fully when one's heart is freed from these sins.



RENEWAL OF VOWS ON LADIES' NIGHT



The 'brides and grooms' DMI-KC couples who renewed their marriage vows at a post-Valentine event.



passing under the crossed ceremonial swords of 4th degree knights. It indeed was a sight to behold! The couples who have been married for 21 up to 54 years renewed their commitment of love for life as they said "I do" and exchanged wedding rings once again.

At the reception, they proclaimed their undying devotion to each other, vowing to being always there with open arms and giving hearts. Endearing words such as "If I had to choose again, I will still choose you" sealed their promise of lifetime togetherness. The "wedding reception" was complete with the cake-and-wine ceremony amid the cheers of their DMI sisters and KC brothers. They then danced the night away.

Ladies' Night is an annual event held by the Knights of Columbus of St. Joseph the Worker Parish to celebrate Valentine's Day. During the occasion, the KC brothers give a treat to their ladies.

This year's Ladies' Night last February 20, 2016 was a very special occasion with 12 married couples renewing their vows at the parish church. The brides, in their formal gowns, and their grooms, in white tuxedo, marched down the aisle,

From the Diocese of Balanga (Region III)

ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA CIRCLE'S WAY OF THE CROSS/WALK FOR LIFE

By Sis. Grace Sayas

The St. Josephine Bakhita Circle and Knights of Columbus Council 16302 held their annual Walk for Life (Save the Unborn) synchronously with the Way of the Cross last March 23, 2016 (Holy Wednesday) with some parishioners of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish in Tala, Orion, Bataan.

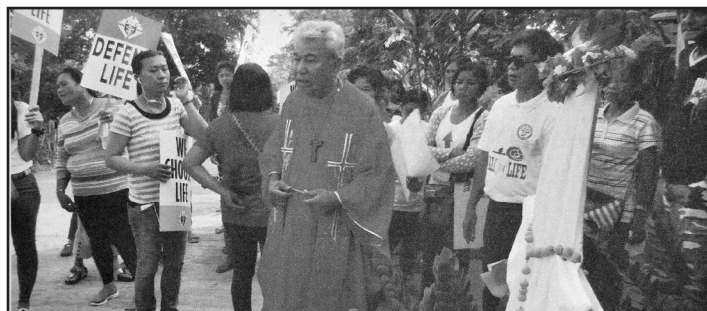
At early dawn, the four-kilometer walk took off after a short prayer led by Rev. Fr. Jerry Bongcawil, parish priest, at the St. Joseph Chapel in Bgy. Pag-asa. He then led the sacrificial walk, mostly uphill, heading to the Tala Parish Church. Each step of the participants was made in memory of the sufferings of the Redeemer and advocates the value of human life.

Fr. Jerry, who is also DMI and KC chaplain, led the participants in reflecting on each of the 14 stations of the Cross located at various points with reading of the Gospel. Meditation focused on the essence of life and an invocation for its intention ended each station.

Capping the activity was a Eucharistic celebration at the Tala Church. In his homily, Fr. Jerry challenged and urged every DMI and KC member to protect and respect life at all times. Circle Regent Sis. Dolores Magpantay and KC Grand Knight Bro. Ramon Navoa thanked everyone who joined the activity which ended with a simple breakfast.



Fr. Jerry Bongcawil, pastor of St. Josephine Bakhita Parish leads the DMI sisters and other parishioners in the Walk for Life and Way of the Cross.



A short pause for prayer and reflection at a station of the Cross.

From the Diocese of Antipolo (Region V)

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS CIRCLE GOES ON EDUCATIONAL TOUR



The DMI sisters of the St. Paul of the Cross Circle of Marikina City took time out from their DMI mission activities and went on an educational tour of the Malacanang Museum. It was the first time for many of the sisters to see the renovated museum. They found the experience both interesting and culturally enriching as it afforded them a glimpse of Philippine history, particularly

with the various artifacts, memorabilia some interesting trivia and stories about Philippine presidents – from Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo down to Simeon Benigno Aquino III – so much to see, to learn and to admire. It was truly a tour worth the while for every Filipino.

An added bonus to the tour was the

the official residence and workplace of the presidents of the Republic of the Philippines.

The guided tour brought the group back in time

“mini-presscon” with Communications Secretary Sonny Coloma himself. The sisters were led to the room where press conferences are normally held, and feeling like real media people, they asked him questions about current national issues which he gamely answered. The audience with Secretary Coloma which the group felt privileged to have was arranged by Circle Regent Sis. Mercy Ong.

After a quick lunch at Ocean Park, the group proceeded to the Manila Cathedral to get their Pilgrim's Passport preparatory to a pilgrimage to Jubilee Churches in the Archdiocese of Manila. It was another day well spent for the DMIs of St. Paul of the Cross Circle.

From the Diocese of San Pablo (Region VI)

DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE BOARD GOES ON VISITA IGLESIA

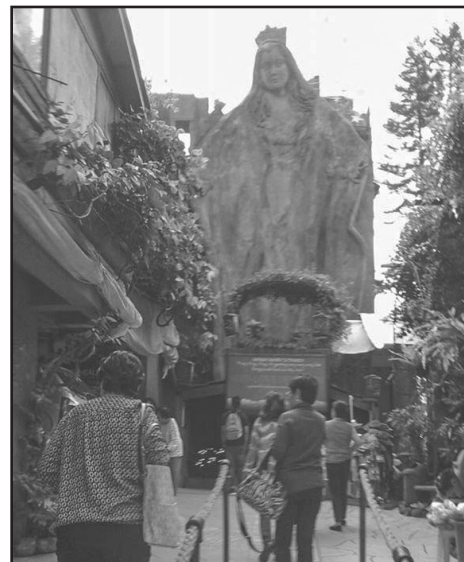
*By Sis. Rosemarie Rabajante,
Diocesan Secretary*

The Executive Board of the Diocese of San Pablo (Region VI) headed by International Treasurer and Region VI Representative Sis. Elvie Arambulo visited seven churches in Tagaytay City and Nasugbu, Batangas on Feb. 20, 2016 for their *Visita Iglesia* in observance of the Lenten Season.

Past VIR for Luzon and Region VI RR Sis. Lita Canonizado and Diocesan Regent Sis Loreta Santos also helped arrange the *visita*. A Way of the Cross accompanied the visit reflecting on the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection, two stations of the Cross in each church.



The Executive Board of Region VI who joined the Visita Iglesia.



The pilgrims arrive at Tierra de Maria in Tagaytay City.



SMI HOLDS 1ST DIOCESAN SPORTSFEST

The 1st SMI Diocesan Sportsfest of the Diocese of San Pablo (Region VI) was held last May 7, 2016 at the Laguna Sports Complex in Sta. Cruz, Laguna. The event was attended by Squirettes from 12 circlettes – San Lorenzo Ruiz, Sto. Rosario, St. Polycarp, St. John the Baptist, St. Therese, Our Mother of Life, St. Augustine, San Antonio de Padua, Our Lady of Salvation, San Sebastian the Martyr, Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Bartholomew – with the theme: “SMI Youth Sports for Vigor and a Healthy Life”.

Guest speaker at the sportsfest was Sis. Ruby Macario, outgoing SMI coordinator for Luzon. Diocesan Regent Sis. Loreta Santos welcomed the participants and guests which included Youth Welfare National Chairperson Sis. Cathy Pineda.

The activity aimed to unify the region's SMI circlettes and build camaraderie among SMIs, develop sportsmanship, and enhance leadership skills. It was a friendly competition with winning placing second only to the participants' love for the game itself.

Sportsfest over-all champion was the San Lorenzo Ruiz Circlette of San Pedro, Laguna winning the top spot in five of the 6 games, thus becoming the over-all champion for the season. All-out support for the champion team was given by SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Marlyn Ronquillo, Circlette President Freitz Lois Antonio and DMI Circle Vice-Regent Sis. Sonia Ardiente.

Region VI Representative Sis. Elvie Arambulo's closing remarks officially ended the activity.



San Lorenzo Ruiz SMI Circlette, the over-all champion of the Sportsfest.

LITTLE FLOWER CIRCLE NEWS UPDATES



Sisters Conching Ibarrientos, Lydia Oliveros, Irene Blanquera, Mela Baquiron, Azon Bernales, Fe Cresencio and Amy Fariza while interviewing the jail detainee they visited.

Visitation of Prisoner's Family. The Little Flower Circle of San Antonio de Padua Parish, Iriga City visited the family of a prisoner detained at the BJMP District Jail in March, 2016. The activity was initiated by the circle's Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims headed by Sis. Irene Virginia Blanquera.

The activity started with a letter-request to the jail warden for them to visit a prisoner which he readily approved. The visit was made on March 13, 2016 during which Sis. Irene and her group gave spiritual counseling to the prisoner and left with him a rosary and Novena to St. Anthony of Padua. He in turn gave permission for the DMI sisters to visit his family.

The visit to the family came next. The sisters brought groceries and personal articles for use of the wife and their three children. The family also received spiritual counseling and words of encouragement during the visit.



Media Education for School Children

Grade 5 pupils of San Francisco Elementary School in Iriga City were the participants in a lecture cum story-telling session that the Morality in Media Committee of Little Flower Circle conducted last March 16, 2016, Sis. Eleanor Nieves, committee chair, headed the group.

The children were given pointers on the effects of media on people's lives and what radio and TV programs and reading materials are appropriate for them. Story-telling that teaches good values was also part of their Media Education Program. Circle Regent Sis. Sol Vargas and Grade V Teacher-Adviser Ms. Serena Bardaje extended their full support to the activity.



Sis. Esther Villar while conducting the story-telling session.

ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA SPONSORS APFV SCHOLARS



The candidates for scholarship are being interviewed by the DMI sisters.

The DMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga under the leadership of Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra are offering scholarships to dependents of prisoners for School Year 2016-17 in pursuance of the DMI mission, Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims (APFV).

Diocesan APFV Chairperson Sis. Lourdes Locson

coordinated with the San Ramon Penal Farm in Zamboanga City through Diocesan Secretary Sis. Marilyn de Asis to locate prospective scholars who are ready for college. The scholars may select from a list of short courses such as housekeeping, food and beverage, bar tending, dressmaking, cosmetology, welding, driving, etc. that will enable them to be gainfully employed immediately after graduation.

The contact officer of San Ramon referred seven names of prospective scholars; however, only two were able to come for interview as most live in distant places such as Dipolog, Zamboanga del Norte, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. The two who qualified have chosen to take up Bar Tending starting June, 2016.

Sis. Rose Bulawin, chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers has offered her home for the scholar from Dipolog where she will stay for the duration of her schooling in Zamboanga City.

Funds for the Scholarship Program come from the fund-raising project conducted jointly by the Rotary Club of Zamboanga City North and the DMI Archdiocese of Zamboanga.



SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR CIRCLE ADOPTS ASINAN COMMUNITY

The month of May marked the launching of a project by the San Isidro Labrador Circle of Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City during the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage on May 29, 2016.

The Asinan Community, a basic ecclesial community (BEC) of Fatima Chapel in San Isidro Labrador Parish will be the beneficiary of the Circle's forthcoming projects and activities for the five DMI missions. The community is one of those severely affected by the Zamboanga Siege in September, 2013. Most of the parents have no definite work and depend mostly on what they can gather on the seashore. There is no school nearby and the children have to walk on a narrow bridge to reach the main road going to school everyday.

On the day of the launch, the San Isidro Labrador Circle led by Regent Sis Letty Orabe Grejalvo, Vicarial Regent Sis. Grace Gonzales and Diocesan Secretary Sis. Marilyn de Asis arranged for a Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Jeff Taib, parish priest, who also baptized 15 children, three of whom are siblings. Prior to catechism, the parents of the 3 children admitted not being aware of the importance of baptism in their life. The DMI sisters later served food to those present. The children were also encouraged to join the Flores de Mayo on May 31 and were given school supplies for



The DMI sisters during the fiesta celebration marking the launch of mission projects for the Asinan Community.

the coming schoolyear and a rosary each with guide on how to pray the Holy Rosary daily.

The projects that the Circle has lined up for the Asinan Community include a demonstration on how to prepare camias and cucumber juice and a talk to pregnant mothers about the benefits of breast-feeding by the Pro-Life Committee on June 19, and projects by the Upliftment of Women Committee in July-August, the Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims in September and October, Morality in Media Committee in November and Youth Welfare (SMI) Committee in December.

From the Archdiocese of Lipa (Region VII)

MATER PURISSIMA CIRCLE PRAYS FOR PEACEFUL, CLEAN ELECTIONS

Last May 7, 2016, two days before the National Elections, the Mater Purissima Circle of Batangas City prayed 2,000 Hail Marys for clean, honest and peaceful elections.

Members of the DMI circle and SMI circlette, joined by participants from different barangays, came at their scheduled time and took turns in prayer, starting at 4:00 AM and ending at 5:00 PM.

The 2,000 Hail Marys took place at the residence of Sis. Isabelle Renee Daria, Mater Purissima Circle regent.



Mater Purissima DMI Circle and SMI Circlette members take their turn in praying the 2000 Hail Marys.

Special Feature

REAL AND AUTHENTIC LOVE

*By Sis. Erlinda Gloria, Sagrada Familia Circle,
Diocese of Cubao*

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, the legendary icon and epitome of authentic love, spelled out in an often-quoted message: “It is not how much we do, but how much love we put into doing. It is not how much we give, but how much love we give into giving.”

Authentic love as exemplified by her, was anchored on love of God that springs from a pure heart, all-loving, all-giving, a selfless love that transcends oneself for the greater good done in simple and humble ways. The message is echoed and reechoed by Pope Francis in his message of mercy and compassion to those who have less in life, to victims of violence and injustice, disasters, misfortunes, and to the poor in spirit, as he reaches out to people and touches people’s lives all over the world.

Authentic love is doing acts of kindness, denying if not dying

to oneself, giving up comforts and luxuries to fill the need of a starving family in the neighborhood even only for a day; one witnesses authentic love from a lady who goes out of her way to give a lift to an elderly couple who struggle to walk home from church; one can feel the love of someone who shares time and offers a shoulder to cry on and to listen to somebody’s burden, brokenness and helplessness with an open heart, thus showing God’s love, mercy and hope to move on.

Doing good to others is showing God to the world, not expecting any material reward, fame, honor and serves above one’s personal interest and well-being, unheralded, unsung and offering good deeds to others for His honor and glory.

Authentic love is being a blessing to others and God’s vessel in bringing out the good in a person to be the best

that he can become with his capacity for greatness as God’s creature.

“Authentic love is treating others with dignity and respect, accepting them for what they are, regardless of their status, without discrimination, prejudice and bias; understanding and forgiving one’s mistakes and human frailties and loving the unlovable.”

One can be an instrument of the Lord in sowing the seed of authentic love in one’s heart, an instrument of change and compassion that will make people around blessings to one another.

Authentic love can do “miracles” that will turn the human heart, the home, the parish, the community, country and the whole world into God’s little kingdom, a world everyone longs to see and to have.