



# DMI NEWSETTE

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## DMII CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH NATIONWIDE

By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,  
International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers

After more than two years of restricted movements around the country due to the pandemic, DMII circles all over the country were once again able to fully celebrate International Women's Month in March, 2022.

Public awareness of the month-long celebration was done through tarpaulins put up in parish church courtyards and other public places with the year's

theme: "Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow". The theme was aligned to that of the United Nations Women Organization's call for empowerment. The tarp's design, while similar to that of the UNWO's, featured Filipino women, DMI sisters at that. Chosen models were sisters from the Diocese of Pasig led by the Upliftment of Women Workers Diocesan Chair Sis. Marissa Robles who advocates community vegetable gardening and is an officer of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines at the Manggahan Elementary School in Pasig City.

The tarp's design of "*Ang Mga Babae sa Gulayan*" is symbolic of the typical Filipino women who provide food for the family and additional income for the family's sustenance.

The DMI circles in all the regions, from Regions I to XIV, put up the tarps in their respective church patios and public areas all over the country through the efforts of the area coordinators of the Upliftment of Women Workers (UWW) Mission – Sisters Apolonia Misleng for Luzon, Nida Catubao for Visayas and Shirley Corvera for Mindanao, along with the Regional Representatives, Diocesan Regents and Diocesan UWW chairs.

Various projects and activities were also undertaken on the circle



*Sisters Iuminada Sioson and Reden Lumanog receive Awards of Recognition for raising generations of DMIs and SMIs.*



WE CELEBRATE WOMEN ALL AROUND  
THE GLOBE FOR THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN CONTINUING  
TO RAISE THE BAR IN FORGING WOMENS EQUALITY

#Women's Month Celebration

WE SALUTE YOU!



Capt. Maxine A. Yongoyong  
Pilot



Twinkle P. Monera  
Avionics



Renita E. Mondano  
Van For Hire Driver



Maribeth Ostria  
Tricycle Driver

*Achievers in fields formerly dominated by men were recognized by the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of the Diocese of Imus.*

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## **Synodality, a Conversion from *Kamanlalakbay* to *Mamalakaya***



Our Beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

We have just concluded our Diocesan Pre-synodal meeting as well as the Metropolitan and the National ones. We have noted with joy the very fruitful responses of the people of God in the consultations as they shared their experiences in being part of the church as members of the one COMMUNION of faith.

One thing that is striking is the openness and readiness of the different sectors of our faithful to share their hopes and dreams, their fears and frustrations in PARTICIPATION of the Synodal process. They desire to be listened to, heard and be felt. Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has called shepherds to spend time with the flock, especially the sheep who look at themselves as outcast or the least in society.

In Luke 10:1-13, Jesus sent his 72 disciples ahead of Him to the towns he would go to, and He gave them power to cure every disease and cast out demons. When they returned, they reported that they had done so many wonderful things in His name. Jesus said to them, "However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

As DMIs, we are being sent by Jesus to heal the broken hearted, the dejected of society, the abused, the forgotten, the young seeking guidance, and every person who needs the healing touch of God.

The power has been given to us through our organization, our structured way of doing so that our activities may be felt even more strongly and have impact in the lives of other people.

The gifts that we bear come from Jesus - the listening ear, the sympathetic eyes, the kind words that we speak, the gentle, persevering hand, and the faith, above all, that is in our hearts. But the greatest Gift that we share is Jesus Himself who is in us. Thus we participate in the very MISSION of Jesus - when by our love, we extend the embrace of Jesus to those who have not felt the love of God.

What kind of difference do we make in the lives of other people? The answer is eternal. If by our loving words and works, people will see Jesus, then the difference we would have made will last forever.

As the National Synodal Consultation concludes: "...we call on us all to make synodality our way of life by cultivating a "culture of encounter," and to create spaces of conversations and dialogue towards our interior movement of conversion from kamanlalakbay (fellow pilgrims) to mamalakaya (fishers of people)."

May our journey to the Father continue to be full of life, happiness and peace with Jesus and Mary in the Holy Spirit. Amen.

With fervent prayers and sincere love,

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



## **WE ARE INSTRUMENTS OF HER PROMISE**



Greetings of peace, love and joy, my dear DMI sisters!

We are now in the second quarter of our different endeavors. Everyone is busy with the activities and projects of our DMI missions in our dioceses and parishes as well as running our daily household chores as wife and mother in our homes. The Covid 19 pandemic is still upon us, but life must go on, the danger of infection notwithstanding.

As the month of March is dedicated to St. Joseph, the celebration of the Catholic Church continues thru May, the Month of Mary, which we dedicate to our Blessed Mother and honor her with the Flores de Mayo, as it is the time of year when flowers are in full bloom. With the daily offering of flowers at her altar, we, her daughters, affirm our deep devotion to her, our inspiration and guide, as disciples of Jesus, her Son.

At the present time, we are in the midst of different tribulations threatening our very existence – the threat to world peace by the Russia-Ukraine conflict and other flash points in different parts of the world and the difficult economic times and looming food crisis that cause stresses and strains in our daily life.

The Catholic Church, too, is faced with difficult challenges – the number of practicing faithful has shrunk, religious vocations have dwindled resulting to closure of some monasteries, seminaries and churches and an acute shortage of priests to minister to the Catholic faithful.

In these uncertainties of our time, our Mother Mary has promised in Fatima during her apparitions in 1917, that “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.”

It is through us that our Blessed Mother’s promise can be fulfilled. How? By doing what are asked of us to do – love and devotion to her Immaculate Heart as her true daughters, emulating her virtues and being Mary-like, praying the Holy Rosary daily and promoting it to others which she had asked in all her apparitions, and praying and promoting the Five First Saturday Devotion in reparation for the sins committed against her Immaculate Heart and considered an end-times devotion.

With this awesome promise, let us be encouraged and continue to be inspired to face life’s realities despite whatever situation we are in today. With our Blessed Mother’s guidance, there is HOPE.

The whole month of June is dedicated to the Most Sacred Heart Jesus. Devotion to His Sacred Heart consists of going to confession and receiving Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays of the month. Let us encourage others to join us in this devotion.

By enkindling in others the love for Jesus and Mary, the conversion of individual hearts will lead to the Triumph of her Immaculate Heart. Our Blessed Mother uses us as instruments for the fulfillment of her promise.

Let us continue in this mission, through our sacrifices, of bringing more souls to Christ.

In Jesus through Mary,

A stylized, handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Assuncion'.

SIS. ASSUNCION B. NARAGA  
International Regent

## ***DMI International Celebrates... from page 1***

level mostly on International Women's Day on March 8 but also on other days of March.

In Region I., the Our Lady of Grace Circle in the Diocese of Laoag transformed a dump site into a mini-park inside the parish grounds of San Nicolas de Tolentino Church in Laoag City. (Please see related story on page 7. ) The Diocese of Baguio's St. Vincent Ferrer Circle conducted a "Clean and Green Project" at the San Pablo Seminary.

Many circles adopted urban and vegetable gardening as a response to food shortages during the pandemic and a 'looming' food crisis on account of economic difficulties that the country and the rest of the world are experiencing now.

Health and wellness via zumba sessions and medical missions were also popular activities by many circles. In Region IV (Diocese of Malolos) , the Holy Child of Parada Circle even gave out Health Cards to mothers who are solo parents together with a pack of groceries.

Many circles also sponsored webinars and talks with such themes as -

"Gender Equality Today for a Sustainable Tomorrow" by the Sto. Nino de Molino Circle of the Diocese of Imus (Region V), and in Region VIII by the Our Lady of Fatima jointly with the Sta. Maria Goretti and the Little Flower Circles of the Diocese of Caceres;

Gender Sensitivity and Violence Against Women by the Our Lady of Fatima Circle in Region VII;

Women's Rights by the Mater Admirabilis Circle of the Diocese of Urdaneta (Region II);

Symposium on Women's Rights and Laws by the Queen of Divine Grace Circle, Diocese of Agusan del Sur (Region XII);

In Region V, Eco-Gardening and The Role of Women in Community Nutrition by the Diocese of Manila and The Role of Women in the Church by the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle, Diocese of Imus. In addition, livelihood projects on food preparation, handicrafts as well as education on Woman Empowerment were conducted by the Our Lady of the Rose and Divine Love Circles of the Diocese of Manila. The circles supported indigent girls to ensure that they grow up empowered and provided a good future.

Region XIV meanwhile, conducted an Archdiocesan-wide webinar on "Women : Providing Healing and Promoting Hope". The sisters also participated actively in their LGU's celebration of International Women's Month.

Awards of Recognition were likewise given to dedicated DMI sisters who raised generations of DMIs and SMIs in their family, notably Sis. Iuminada Sioson of the Divina Pastora Circle, Diocese of Cabanatuan in Region II and Sis. Reden Lumanog of the Immaculate Conception Circle, Diocese of Iba in Region III.

In Region V, the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle, Diocese of Imus celebrated and recognized women achievers in fields where "the bar was raised and stereotypes broken to forge women equality". These achievers include Capt. Maxine Yongoyong, a pilot; Twinkle Monera an avionics personnel; Renita Mondano, a van-for-hire driver and Maribeth Ostria, a tricycle driver.

Fund-raising and donation drives were also held to fund the projects not only of the Upliftment of Women Workers Mission but for the other DMI Missions as well. For Upliftment of Women Workers, the funds raised were used to finance small and start-up businesses of DMI beneficiaries.

The successful nationwide celebration of International Women's Month underscored the importance of empowered women which the country urgently needs in these hard economic times. "Every woman's success should be an inspiration to another." We're strongest when we cheer each other on. A toast to the great women that the DMI sisters are!



***The Miraculous Medal Circle in Binan City, Diocese of San Pablo put up a DMII tarpaulin, one of many by circles all over the country to celebrate International Women's Month.***



# REGION XII HOLDS FIRST F2F REGIONAL ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Sheila Peji, Region XII Representative*

After more than two years of “hibernation” due to the pandemic, the Regional Assembly of Region XII took place on May 29, 2022 at Casa El Marie Private Beach House in Nasipit, Agusan del Norte. Delegates came from Bukidnon, Cagayan de Oro, Gingoog, Butuan, Tandag, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Agusan del Sur composed of diocesan regents, heads of the DMI Missions, and vicarial and circle officers numbering close to a hundred. The Diocese of Butuan headed by Diocesan Regent (DR) Sis. Susan Honculada hosted the assembly.

Diocesan Secretary Sis. Ofelia Rodela who was program host welcomed the participants followed by the traditional DMI opening ceremony. Sis. Lota Gamboa, past DR of Bukidnon, declared the opening of the assembly on behalf of the Region XII RR. Sis. Susan Honculada delivered her opening message, thanking the delegates for their presence in this long-awaited face-to-face event. Sis. Ofelia then acknowledged the presence of the different dioceses and circles headed by their respective diocesan regents. - Sis. Edith Joromat of Bukidnon, Elnora Abuel of Cagayan de Oro, Susan Seit of Gingoog, Marlyn Araz of Tandag (Surigao del Sur), Luz Almeda of Surigao (S. del Norte) and Alice Millana of Agusan del Norte.

The DRs present rendered their reports on the mission accomplishments and other activities of the circles under their dioceses during the pandemic.

Region XII Representative Sis. Sheila Peji then gave her inspirational message as well as updates and information on future activities emanating from the DMII International Board as well as those within the region.

The vicarial and circle regents received the DMI pins of their positions from their respective Diocesan Regents. RR Sis. Sheila in turn gave the DR pins to the diocesan regents. An open forum followed.

The regional assembly ended with a Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Celso Laluna, pastor of St. Michael the Archangel Parish. In his homily, he acknowledged the DMIs in their very active apostolate in their parish even during the height of the pandemic with their continuous devotion and spearheading of Marian activities in the church. He encouraged his audience to forge ahead with their Missions with passion and dedication to the Blessed Mother Mary who is their model and guide. He exhorted them to be Mary-like in their attitudes towards others, especially in relation with their families.

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*The presidential table during the assembly*

The biggest take-away of this conference was the happy smiles and gratefulness of the Region XII sisters for being able to see each other again, face-to-face, after two years of virtual meetings and communications, and feel more strongly the presence of Mama Mary in their midst.



*Vicarial and circle regents receive their DMI pins from their DRs.*



*The Diocesan Regents who headed their respective delegates to the assembly.*



*Fr. Celso Laluna celebrates Mass before the end of the assembly.*

Sis. Maria “Jiji” Shapiro, vice-regent of the Holy Name of Jesus Circle of Long Island, New York met up with some members of the DMII International Board during her vacation in the Philippines in April-May, 2022. In photo during their lunch on April 25 are (from left) Sisters Sally Estrada, DMII Newsette editor, Mila Vilanueva, head of Foreign Membership Committee and Past International Regent, Jiji Shapiro, Juliet Cruz, International Auditor for Membership and Josie Halog, Office Secretary.

## VICE-REGENT OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS CIRCLE IN NEW YORK VISITS DMII-MANILA





# MINI-PARK FROM A DUMPSITE

By Sis. Eufemia L. Resurreccion, Vicarial Regent,  
Archdiocese of Nueva Segovia

Rev. Fr. Danilo Devaras and Rev. Fr. Richmond Carl Balicoco, the newly-appointed moderator and member of the Team Ministry, respectively of the Diocesan Shrine and Parish of San Nicolas de Tolentino. San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte went around the vicinity of the church a day after their arrival. They noted with praise some parts of the church surroundings as well as those that need improvement such as the northern part below the bell tower where there was a massive pile of trash almost the height of the gate. The Eucharistic Lay Ministers of the church were tasked to remove the trash.

Two months later, the Our Lady of Grace Circle headed by Regent Sis. Lenie Pumaras Datoc and Vicarial Regent Sis. Eufemia Resurreccion with the help of the Knights of Columbus headed by Grand Knight Nanding Raquel were delegated to address the same problem.

Seeking the assistance of the municipal government through Environment and Natural Resources Officer Ms. Marilyn Tolentino, Operation Linis was launched. On January 13, 2022, the clean-up drive was started with the help of other government offices – the PNP, BFP personnel and volunteers from the San Nicolas de Tolentino Parish. The clean-up continued for nine consecutive Saturdays by the Parish Youth Council, altar boys and others.

The dumpsite has now become a mini-park with benevolent donors, parishioners and friends donating truck loads of gravel and cemented garden sets in time for the celebration of International Women's Month. The project is also an activity of the circle's Pro-Life Mission on care for the environment.

The mini-park is expected to be completed before the celebration of the feast day of their patron saint, St. Nicholas de Tolentino.



*The DMI sisters at work clearing the dumpsite.*



*The dumpsite as it is now – a mini-park within the church courtyard.*

# SAN JOSE CIRCLE MADE ACTIVE AGAIN, ASSISTS IN CITY GOVERNMENT'S COVID 19 VAXX FOR KIDS

By Sis. Evangeline Ruanto, Circle Scribe

The Covid 19 cases have started to taper down after a surge early this year and the DMIs of San Jose Circle of the Diocese of San Jose (NE) gradually started to emerge from the lockdown that the pandemic imposed for more than two years.

On April 6, 2022, as the Holy Week approached, members of the circle visited churches within the diocese for their *visita iglesia* and Stations of the Cross. The churches they visited were: the Shrine of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Bantug, Science City of Munoz, San Sebastian Parish Church also in Munoz, Parroquia Santuario de San Jeronimo in Baloc, Sto. Domingo, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish Church in Guimba, St. John the Evangelist Parish Church also in Guimba, Holy Face of Jesus Church in Nampicuan

and San Roque Parish Church in Cuyapo.

The following day, they joined the Stations of the Cross at the Violago Compound after which a short meeting was held presided by Circle Regent Sis. Jo Carino.

Although mostly stay-at-homes and attending masses online during the pandemic, the sisters continued with their obligation of making monthly cash donations to the “Balik-Handog “ program of the Katedral ni Apo San Jose.

On May 13, the sisters assisted in the city government's Covid 19 Kids' Vaccination by providing food for the health workers of the City Health Office and staff of City Mayor Mario Salvador and entertainment for the children.



*The San Jose Circle sisters who participated in the Kids' Vaccination activity.*



*The children await their turn to be vaccinated at Walter Mart, the vaccination center in San Jose City.*



## MIRACULOUS MEDAL CIRCLE'S PRO-LIFE ADVOCACY: CLEAN AND GREEN ENVIRONMENT

The Miraculous Medal Circle headed by Regent Sis. Marlene Tandoc and Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Ofelia Celi conducted a clean-up drive around Alimango Subd., Bgy. Arellano, Dagupan City as part of their pro-life advocacy for a clean and green environment. Activities included cutting of grass and overgrown plants along fences and posts and collection of litters and debris like candy wrappers, used facemasks and plastic bottles from streets and sidewalks. The objective is to inspire the homeowners and community to become environmentally responsible citizens and to care for our Mother Earth.

The sisters also planted vegetables and fruit trees along uncemented side streets and vacant lots for consumption of families in the area. Planted were camote tops, gabi, kangkong, malunggay and banana plants

Pro-Life Committee member Sis. Rhodora Mendoza also took the initiative of having the damaged drainage cover in the area repaired to prevent accidents and improve the drainage system. As a responsible citizen, she also reports leaking waterlines and busted lamps for appropriate action by the responsible LGU unit in the community.



*Before: Garbage was dumped along the streets of Alimango Subd.*



*A view of a littered street after the clean-up*

## COMMUNITY PANTRY FOR BGY. ARELLANO

A community pantry was set up by Sis Rhorora Mendoza and her family for residents of Bgy. Arellano in Dagupan City to help some families needing assistance for their basic needs. Groceries such as noodles, eggs, rice and frozen foods as well as health necessities such as Vitamin C, alcohol and soap had been distributed to beneficiaries – garbage collectors, PWDs and house helpers. Photo shows the relief goods ready for distribution.



# STO. NINO CIRCLE CELEBRATES MOTHER'S DAY

The Sto. Nino Circle in Kapitan Pepe, Cabanatuan City celebrated Mother's Day on May 7, 2022, a day ahead of the actual celebration. Spearheading the activity was Circle Regent Sis. Teresa Sarengo.

The day's activity started with a thanksgiving Mass officiated by Fr. Noel "Jetts" Jetajobe followed by a fellowship breakfast and short program. Sis. Teresa gifted all mothers present with cupcakes and balloons to commemorate the special day.

A tribute to the Blessed Mother as Mother of All Nations came next with the recitation of the 2000 Hail Marys and offering of flowers and candles on her altar.

On May 8, Sunday, the DMI sisters distributed chocolates to all the mothers who attended the Mass officiated by Fr. Jetts during which he blessed all of them. The sisters also visited the sick DMI members and cheered them up with cupcakes and balloons.



*Fr. Noel Jetajobe blesses all mothers attending the Holy Mass on Mother's Day.*



*The DMI sisters distribute chocolates to mothers after the Mass.*

## STO. NINO CIRCLE DONATES FOOD PACKS FOR PPCRV VOLUNTEERS ON NATIONAL ELECTION DAY



*By Sis. Teresa Sarengo,  
Circle Regent*

The DMI sisters brought food packs for the PPCRV Team and volunteers of their parish serving in Barangay Vijandre, Bgy. Zulueta, Bgy. Bonifacio and Bgy. Kapitan Pepe during the national election on May 9, 2022. A circle member, Sis. Edith Sioson was a member of the PPCRV Team.



# DIOCESE OF BALANGA ADOPTS 9-MONTH NOVENA FOR UNBORN CHILDREN

*By Sis. Thelma Manansala, Diocesan Regent*

**T**he DMI circles of the Diocese of Balanga (Region III) adopted a 9-month novena for unborn babies as a Pro-Life activity.

A grand launching took place on March 19, 2022 coinciding with their celebration of March for Life. The launch took place in Abucay, Bataan spearheaded by the St. Dominic of Guzman Circle and in Samal, Bataan by the St. Catherine of Sienna Circle.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Donnie Enero. pastor of Abucay Parish. marked the opening of the launch followed by a motorcade with the participating vehicles carrying tarpaulins announcing the program and others promoting the DMI Pro-Life Mission.

The day's activity ended with a floral offering, lighting of candles and prayers before the Tomb of the Unborn in the church courtyard and a short program during which Diocesan Regent Sis. Thelma Manansala explained the objective of the novena – saving unborn children from abortion and miscarriage and for parents to take good care of them.

Pamphlets containing the novena prayers to be recited daily with the Holy Rosary and a certificate of adoption were distributed to the attendees.

On the same day (March 19), DMIs from the parishes of St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Michael the Archangel and Sto. Rosario

initiated the grand launch of the 9-month novena simultaneously with their Walk for Life. Announcements of the activity were made during livestreamed masses of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish prior to the foot parade.

Parade participants carried placards and banners promoting our Pro-Life Mission as well as the 9-Month Novena for the Unborn.

Other DMI sisters in the Diocese of Balanga such as those from the St. Joseph, St. Catherine of Alexandria and Sto. Cristo Circles offered masses, prayers, flowers and candles at the Tomb of the Unborn in their respective parish courtyards. Sisters of St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle also visited other Tombs of the Unborn within the Diocese, including the patron saint of the unborn, St. John Paul II.



*The foot parade by DMI sisters of St. Catherine of Sienna Circle.*



*Fr. Donnie Enero, parish priest of St. Dominic of Guzman Parish, leads a special Prayer for the Unborn during the launch.*



*Praying and offering flowers and candles before the Tomb of the Unborn.*

# DIOCESE OF MALOLOS HOLDS ANNUAL REGIONAL OFFICERS MEETING

By Sis. Tess Labilles, International Secretary & Region IV Representative

The Diocese of Malolos held its DMI Officers Annual Meeting last April 8, 2022 at the conference room of La Purisima Parish in Sta. Maria, Bulacan. The meeting, with the theme “The DMII Journeting Together in Synodality and Discernment with Mama Mary” was attended by 54 dedicated members from the vicariates of Region IV.

The conference started at 2:00 p.m. with the solemn enthronement and consecration of the Blessed

Virgin Mary. Msgr. Albert Suatengco, Region IV spiritual adviser, gave a short but insightful message about synodality and discernment. Past International Secretary and Region IV Representative Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia discussed the duties and responsibilities of vicarial and circle regents.

The Regional Mission Chairpersons – Sis. Renata Cui for Pro-Life, Sis. Apolonia Mislang for Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Eveline Bautista for Morality in Media, Sis. Corazon Raymundo for Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims and Sis. Brigida Abela for Youth Welfare/SMI – presented their annual plans for 2022 and gave updates regarding their current activities.

Region IV RR Sis. Teresita Labilles designated the working committees to prepare for their upcoming Regional Assembly. To be held on August 13, 2022, the participants welcomed the news of meeting their sisters face-to-face after two years of the pandemic.

Sis. Apolonia Mislang who is also Upliftment of Women Workers Coordinator for Luzon led the closing prayer.



*Sis. Tess Labilles carries the image of the Blessed Mother followed by Sis. Tess Curia with the candles.*



*The meeting participants in a formal pose with Region IV DMI Spiritual Director Msgr. Albert Suatengco.*



# REGION V LENTEN RECOLLECTION: A TIME OF HOPE

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan, International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers and Past Region V Correspondent*

On March 19, 2022, the Risen Christ Circle of the Diocese of Paranaque organized a Lenten Recollection via Zoom for Region V and interested DMI sisters from the other regions. Spearheading the activity was IVR-Luzon and Region V Representative Sis. Milde Tong and Past Int'l Chairperson for Morality in Media (MIM) Sis. Sonia Manlapig a past circle regent and currently MIM chairperson of Risen Christ Circle.

Sis. Milde welcomed the participants followed by an inspirational message by International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga. Sis. Sionee asked the participants to observe the gift of silence during the Lenten Season, just like St. Joseph. So each one can fully contemplate on the Word of God. She also invited everyone to join Pope Francis as he consecrates Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 25 to achieve world peace.

Sis. Sonia introduced the guest speaker, Bro. Vic Pestano, a much-sought-after speaker and Catholic lay evangelist. Currently, Bro. Vic is a member of the Council of Advisers of the Oasis of Love Catholic Renewal Community and a former formator of the Basilica of the Black Nazarene in Quiapo and Minor Basilica and National Shrine of St. Lorenzo Ruiz in Binondo, both in Manila.

In his talk, Bro. Vic cites Lent as a season that happens in spring. This is symbolic because it follows winter which spells “lack of life”. Lent, like spring, is a time for us to change for the better as we are reminded of a new life because of God’s unconditional love by allowing Jesus Christ to die on the Cross so that we may be saved.

With this, we can view our observance of the Lenten Season as a time of Hope. And with hope comes expectation or fulfillment of something positive.. We are reminded that trials are for good because they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character. And brings about HOPE in God. If we hope in God, we will never be disappointed. Before we can have hope, though, one must have faith, then hope and love, in that order.



*Bro. Vic Pestano, recollection speaker*

As Hebrews 11:1 cites: “Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see.” When we put our faith in God, He becomes our Hope. Isaiah 40:31 mentions that “. . . those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint . . .”

Hope is developed when we:

1. **Seek the Heart of God** in prayer and spend time in His Words. In so doing, we are able to trust in His promises.
2. Hope requires that we **be patient in waiting** and while doing so,
3. **Listen to the wisdom of others** who made it through tough times.
4. It also helps that we **recall what God has done for us in the past and realize that He always has a plan and is in control.** From here we realize that “God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love Him,”
5. Then, we can **expect the turn-around . . .** the answer to our prayers.

In ending his talk, Bro. Vic cited Romans 15:13: “May the God of hope fill you all with the joy and peace as you trust Him, so that you may overflow with HOPE by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Photo



NEWS

## STO. NINO DE MOLINO SMI CIRCLETTE JOINS PARISH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

By Sis. Catherine Longcob, past regent,  
Sto. Nino de Molino Circle



The Squirettes of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circlette participated in the Stations of the Cross of the Sto. Nino de Molino Parish in Bacoor City. The involvement of the youth in this Holy Week devotion forms part of their spiritual formation and helps them grow in their faith life.

Squirette Alex Sandra Emelo carried the cross from the fifth to the sixth station and read the reflection after the Gospel reading. The Stations of the Cross, a part of the Catholic sacrificial rituals and traditions during Holy Week, traces Jesus's footsteps on His way to Calvary to be crucified for our redemption.

From the Diocese of San Pablo – Region VI

## DMII DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO CELEBRATES FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

By Sis. Nina Cadiz,  
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

The four vicariates of the Diocese of San Pablo (Region VI) held simultaneous activities to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes last February 11, 2022. The main activity, a food drive, was spearheaded by Diocesan Pro-Life Mission Coordinator Sis. Carolina Santillana. The beneficiaries were the health workers/frontliners and patients of various hospitals in Laguna.

The Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua distributed food packs to the frontliners of Laguna Medical Center (Provincial Hospital) in Sta. Cruz, Laguna while the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist distributed food packs to 107 patients and 27 health workers of J.P. Rizal District Hospital in Calamba City. The third vicariate, the Vicariate of St. Paul the First Hermit held a drive for food donations for the patients, health workers and church personnel and volunteers in Majayjay, Laguna. The Vicariate of St. Polycarp, the fourth vicariate, distributed cinnamon rolls and C2 drinks to the frontliners of Ospital ng Cabuyao and some 50 Pacita Astrodome frontliners who were treated to *pancit*, *pan de sal* and juice.



*Simultaneous activities of the four vicariates in the Diocese of San Pablo to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.*



# MOTHER OF LIFE CIRCLE SPONSORS LIVESTREAMED MASSES IN LOS BANOS

By Sis. Nina Cadiz

The Mother of Life Circle of Los Banos, Laguna, Diocese of San Pablo has extended continuous support for regular livestreamed Masses to be held for the benefit of the parishioners of the San Antonio de Padua Parish especially the elderly, the sick and those with co-morbidities who are made to stay at home as a result particularly of the pandemic restrictions.

Rev. Fr. Doy Bariring, pastor of San Antonio de Padua Parish, thankfully received the circle's initial donation from Regent Sis. Edith Eusebio and Morality in Media Chair Sis. Filomena de Leon starting February, 2021 until December. The monthly donation has been extended to 2022. The P1,000 monthly donation helps defray expenses for holding of the online masses.



Mother of Life Circle Regent Sis. Edith Eusebio and Treasurer Sis. Amy Rodriguez turn over the circle's donation to Sisters Gigi Mercado and Leng Eusebio, parish secretaries.

From Region VII

## REGION VII DMIs PURSUE DMI MISSIONS

By Sis. Agnes Arada, Region VII Representative

Region VII Representative Sis. Agnes Arada sent a complete report on the mission activities of dioceses and circles in Region VII which is summarized as follows:

### PRO-LIFE

#### DIOCESE OF GUMACA



Good Shepherd Circle of Lopez, Quezon – Distribution of food packs and hygiene kits headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Bernadeth Chan and Fr. Jayvee Olaya, parish priest.

#### ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA



Holy Cross Circle of Bauan, Batangas – Mass and prayers for the unborn during Pro-Life Month

turn to page 16

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA



*Our Lady of Peace Circle of Nasugbu, Batangas – Free circumcision given to 120 boys on April 24, 2022. The activity was headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Rosalie Dastas.*

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA



*Our Lady of Peace DMI Circle and SMI Circlette held a feeding program for 50 children at Sitio Makati, Bgy. XI, Poblacion, Nasugbu, Batangas.*

DIOCESE OF LUCENA



*St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle – Distribution of food packs in partnership with the BDO Foundation. Circle Regent Sis. Rosalie Batocabe headed the activity.*

VICARIATE OF SAN JOSE (Mindoro Occ.)



*Mina de Oro Circle of San Jose City, Occidental Mindoro – Gift-giving to parish priests in the area during the celebration of Clergy Day spearheaded by Vicarial Regent Sis. Victoria Ungria and Circle Regent Sis. Maribel Tan.*

VICARIATE OF SAN JOSE (Mindoro Occ.)



*Nuestra Senora del Pilar Circle of Mamburao, Occ. Mindoro - Blessing of the Tomb of the Unborn and Aborted Children led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Clarinda Lorenzo and Circle Regent Sis. Milagros Abad.*



## MORALITY IN MEDIA (MIM)

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA



*Our Lady of Fatima, Bolo, Bauan, Batangas – Voters' education was the mission's main activity with a slogan contest on "How not to waste your vote". The winning entry was printed on tarpaulins and displayed in 23 public areas within the parish. Circle Regent Sis. Annie Paglinawan and MIM Chairperson Sis. Agnes Ilagan spearheaded the project.*



*Our Lady of Peace Circle of Nasugbu, Batangas – A Socio-Pastoral Apostolate on voters' education was undertaken via a tarpaulin "Sampung Utos sa Tamang Pagboto" and a special prayer "Batanguenong Panalangin Para sa Halalan 2022". Vicarial Regent Sis. Rosalie Dastas, Circle Regent Sis. Vissia de Guzman and MIM Chairperson Sis. Perla Navarro headed the project.*



*Holy Cross of Bauan Circle – Tarpaulins printed with the slogan "Bumoto Ayon sa Konsensya Para sa Kapakanan ng Pamilya at ng Bayan" were displayed in public places within the parish. Circle Regent Sis. Josie Castillo and MIM Chairperson Sis. Malou Magboo were on top of the project.*

## ASSISTANCE TO PRISONER'S FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS (APFV)



*Holy Cross Circle of Bauan Batangas – Extended financial assistance to families of PDLs. Heading the circle's APFV Mission are Sisters Norma Gonda and Lita Obispo.*

## YOUTH WELFARE/SQUIRETTES OF MARY

ARCHDIOCESE OF LIPA



*The Our Lady of Peace Circlette of Nasubu, Batangas held an on-the-spot Easter Egg Painting Contest at the church basement on April 16, 2022 with assistance from their Tita DMIs. Children aged 8 to 12 years old who joined the contest were given 15 eggs each and water color to create various designs. The contestant who submitted the best entry selected by the contestants themselves won the prize. A special award was given to the contestant who finished painting the most number of eggs.*

# OBSERVANCE OF HOLY WEEK IN REGION VII

By Sis. Agnes Arada, Region VII Representative

**VISITA IGLESIA** was the most popular activity undertaken by many circles in Region VII. Here are the photos of DMI sisters who went to different churches for their *visita iglesia*.



Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Circle of Lopez, Quezon, Diocese of Gumaca – *The DMI sisters with their families visited churches in the Diocese of Imus (Cavite) on March 19, 2022.*



Our Lady of Peace Circle, Nasugbu, Batangas, Archdiocese of Lipa – *Headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Rosalie Dastas and Circle Regent Sis. Vissia de Guzman, the sisters visited the parish churches in their province and met with Fr. Gami Balita, Fr. Dondon Beredo, Msgr Ruben Dimaculangan and Fr. Armando Lubis.*



Holy Cross of Bauan Circle, Archdiocese of Lipa – *Pilgrimage to KAMAY NI HESUS in Lukban, Quezon.*



Our Lady of Fatima Circle, Bauan, Batangas, Archdiocese of Lipa – *Visita Iglesia jointly with parish catechists of Bolo headed by SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Gemma Gonda.*



St. Martin of Tours Circle of Taal, Batangas, Arch. of Lipa – *Visita Iglesia headed by Circle Regent Sis. Beniaselda Hernandez.*



Aquinas Circle of Sto. Tomas, Batangas, Arch. of Lipa – *The visita iglesia headed by Regent Sis. Rose Turica.*



## NEW DIOCESAN REGENT TAKES OVER DIOCESE OF MALAYBALAY, 1ST QUARTER DIOCESAN MEETING HELD

Sis. Sol Simbulan

Sis. Editha Joromat has taken over the helm of the Diocese of Malaybalay (Bukidnon) from Immediate Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Herminia Kee at a symbolic turn-over ceremony during the First Quarter Diocesan Meeting held on March 26, 2022. In attendance were the diocesan officers,, past diocesan regents, alternate regional representative, vicarial regents, circle regents and vice-regents and the chairpersons and vice-chairs of the DMI Missions.

The diocese was created in 1988 with eight vicariates. Dedicated DMI sisters had led the Diocese through its 34 years beginning with the late Sis. Corita Hilario who was district deputy from 1990 to 2001, then became diocesan regent in 2001 with the renaming of the position to diocesan regent until 2003. Sis. Lellis Ching served as DR from 2003 to 2005, followed by Sis. Erlinda Chico from 2005 to 2007 when she became the Mindanao Area Representative (RR). From 2007 onward, the following served as

DR: Sis. Lita Gamboa – 2009-2012; Sis. Zenaida Roberto – 2012-2014; Sis. Aida Taga – 2014; Sis. Herminia Kee – 2015-2020.

On March 8, 2020, Sis. Nerissa Estores of Wao, Lanao del Sur was elected as the first DR outside of Bukidnon. :(Leadership in the diocese had shifted from Valencia City to Malaybalay City and Manolo Fortich, all in Bukidnon.) However, because of the pandemic lockdowns, Sis. Nerissa was not able to perform her duties as DR. With the resumption of most diocesan activities under Alert Level I in 2022, the DMI sisters of Wao requested for a Bukidnon-based DR due to distance and other concerns.

Sis. Edith Joromat has now formally taken over as DR of the Diocese of Malaybalay.

Under her leadership, the diocesan officers are now ready to resume DMI activities under a new normal environment.



*The officers of the Diocese of Malaybalay during their First Quarter Diocesan Meeting.*

### *Obeservance of Holy Week... from page 18*



*Nuestra Sra, del Pilar Circle of Mamburao, Vacariate of San Jose (Occidental Mindoro) – Pilgrimage to seven churches from Batangas to Tagaytay headed by Regent Sis. Milagros Abad on April 2-3, 2022. They also attended a Lenten recollection by Fr. Art Orense.*



*Mina de Oro Circle of San Jose City, Vicariate of San Jose – Visita Iglesia headed by Circle Regent Sis. Maribel Tan.*

# MORNING STAR CIRCLE CONDUCTS FEEDING PROGRAM

Last April 12, 2022, the DMI sisters of the Morning Star Circle conducted a Feeding Program through Project Bethlehem of their parish. Beneficiaries were children from indigent families in their community. Before the actual feeding session, the children received instruction on the importance of cleanliness and hygiene, their nails were trimmed, they were told to clean themselves and given a change of clothes from the pre-loved clothes that the sisters collected from donors.

The DMI sisters who assisted in the activity were Diocesan Regent Sis. Edith Joromat, and

Sisters Malou Daniot, Lita Gamboa, Connie Partosa, Zeny Lagura, Lina Amoncio, Marilyn Bandiola, Salve Dedicatoria, Cindy Daniot, Dennie Arado and Rosemarie Suarez.

The Feeding Program is one of the circle's activities for the Pro-Life Mission. Those already done were the necrological services for departed DMIs and KCs, Mass and prayers for the unborn and aborted babies, raising funds for the surgery of a DMI sister costing P62,000 and donation of P12,000 to victims of Typhoon Odette.



*Sisters of the Morning Circle who conducted the Feeding Program.*



*The children are served food through Project Bethlehem participated by the Morning Star Circle sisters.*



## REGION XII CIRCLES' ACTIVITY ROUND-UP

### 1. 2000 Hail Mary Devotion to celebrate Mary's Month in the Diocese of Tandag



*Immaculate Conception Circle of Tandag City on May 7, 2022*



*Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Circle of Gamut, Tago, Surigao del Sur*





*La Purisima Circle of Cantilan, Surigao del Sur hosted by APFV Chair Sis. Melody Urbiztondo on March 25, anniversary of the launching of the 2000 Hail Mary devotion and on April 2, hosted by Sis. Jeanette Palang-Zayas.*

## 2. Lenten Recollection in observance of Holy Week



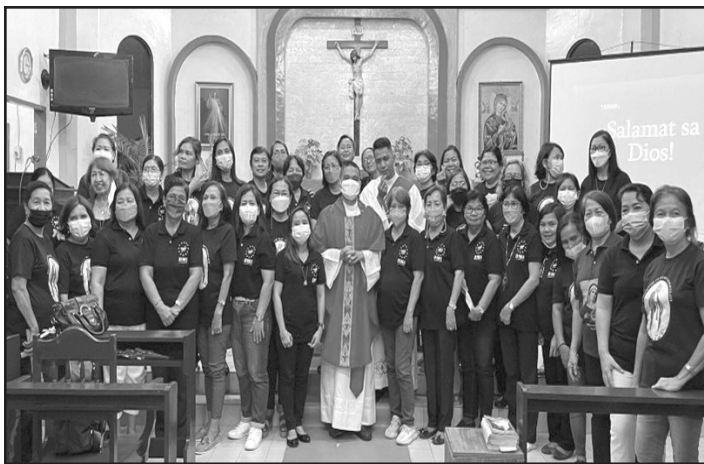
*Diocese of Cagayan de Oro with the theme “Spiritual Kenosis and Appreciating the Giver from the Gift” with Fr. Max Ceballos, SSJV as recollection speaker. It was held at the Chali Resort & Conference Center in Cugman, CDO. He is shown with DR Sis. Elnora Abuel and some DMI sisters from the Ark of the Covenant, Virgin Most Merciful, Queen of Peace and House of Gold Circles*



*Diocese of Tandag’s Immaculate Conception Circle attended the Lenten Recollection for all mandated organizations in the San Nicolas de Tolentino Cathedral on April 9, 2022 with Tandag Bishop Raul Dael as speaker.*

*Diocese of Butuan’s Divine Grace and Holy Mary Virgin of Virgins Circles of St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Nasipit Agusan del Norte on April 10 at the Honculada Beach House with Fr. Renato Abbu as recollection master. Frs. Celso Laluna and Francima Mutia were also present. Earlier, on April 8, Fr. Abbu was also speaker during the Butuan Sisters’ Recollection at the MSC Mission House.*





*Diocese of Surigao – Lenten journey and Reflection on the Seven Words of Mary in the Scripture by circles in Surigao City.*



*Blessed Mother Circle of Bislig City, Diocese of Tandag joined the recollection at St. Vincent Parish in coordination with the Parish United Religious Organization.*

### 3. Other circle activities



*St. Francis Xavier Circle of Agusan del Sur helped in the preparations for Holy Week in the parish church. The sisters took charge of decorating the “carosa” of the Santo Entiero for the Good Friday procession.*



*Jesus Christ the King and Savior Circle of Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur distributed gifts to senior citizens on Easter Sunday led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Alicia Mellana.*



*Divine Grace Circle of St. Joseph the Worker Parish sponsored workshops on curtain-sewing and lumpia-making.*



*The Perpetual Help Circle of Gingoog City shared the Ten Secrets of Happiness by Pope Francis during a meeting of the circle.*



# MOTHER CIRCLE IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA MARKS ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,  
Diocesan Regent

The Nuestra Señora del Pilar de Zaragoza Circle of the Metropolitan Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Zamboanga City celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary on April 19, 2022. The theme of the celebration was "Strengthening Through Faith and Uplifting our Hearts with Mama Mary, the Key to Unity, Friendship, Charity and Sanctity".

Organized on April 19, 1982, the circle is the mother circle of all DMI circles in the Archdiocese and the Prelature of Isabela de Basilan. Its charter regent is Sis. Trinidad Gatchalian who invited a DMI team from Butuan City to organize the first DMI circle in Zamboanga City initially with 25 charter members.

The circle has since given birth to other DMI circles that at present total 34 in the Archdiocese and in Basilan. During its first three or four years, the following circles were organized

\*Our Lady of Purification Circle, Sta. Maria Parish in Zamboanga City with Sis. Luz Magdalo as charter regent

\*St. Ignatius de Loyola Circle in Tetuan Parish

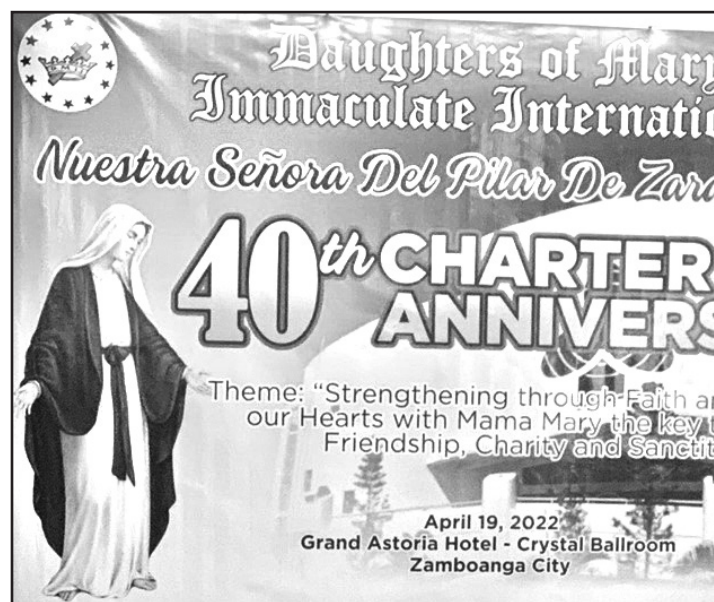
\*Sta. Isabel Circle of Isabela City, Basilan

\*Ma. Claret Circle of Claret Parish

\*Our Lady of Ransom Circle of Mercedes Parish

\*Heart of Mary Circle of Lamitan City, Basilan

Citing the Parable of the Seed, it indeed fell on fertile ground!



*A tarpaulin at the Grand Astoria Hotel ballroom greets the guests during the anniversary celebration.*

The present Region XIV Representative, Sis. Pnky Saavedra has close ties with the mother circle as her mother, the late Sis. Teresita "Chit" Bustamante was a member of the circle before she, together with Sis. Linda Brillantes transferred to St. Joseph Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Circle when it was organized on February 26, 1994.

A solemn ceremony, the enthronement of the image of the Blessed Mother, started the anniversary celebration led by Circle Regent Sis. Estee Grace Tan and the past regents of the circle who offered flowers and candles at her altar.

A charter member, Sis. Tita Penaflor has until now remained very active in various activities of the DMII.

The event was made even more enjoyable with the raffle prizes and give-aways that the attendees brought home after the celebration.



*The DMI sisters prepare for the enthronement ceremony. Circle Regent Sis. Estee Grace Tan carries the image of the Blessed Mother Mary.*

# REGION XIV LENTEN RECOLLECTION: PRO-LIFE AND THE BIBLE

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis



The Lenten Recollection of Region XIV was held on **Laetare** Sunday which this year fell on March 27, 2022. The recollection theme was “Pro-Life and the Bible” with Rev. Fr. Elmer Sumile as recollection speaker. Diocesan Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Ellen Velasco spearheaded the activity.

**Laetare** Sunday is the fourth Sunday of Lent when the Church expresses Hope and Joy in the midst

of our Lenten fasts and penance. The color pink or rose symbolizes **Laetare** Sunday which indicates a glimpse of the joy that awaits us at Easter just before the somber days of Passiontide.

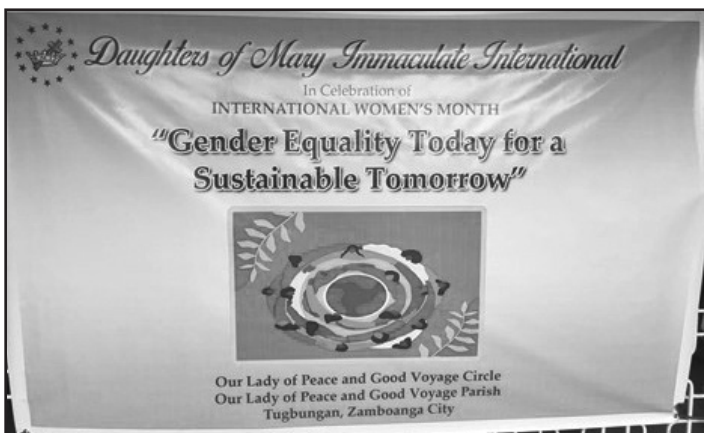
The recollection conducted online had as participants DMIs from the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Isabela de Basilan and also from the other regions notably Region I led by Pro-Life International Chairperson Sis. Marlin Abratique who gave her full support to the activity.

Fr. Sumile cited ten Bible verses related to pro-life. The 60 participants were later divided into seven groups and made to reflect on the question: “How is God glorified in our lives through Mission, Participation and Communion?” which is asked of participants in the ongoing Synodal Process being held in parishes all over the country with the DMII as participant.

Even throughout the pandemic, communication with the Lord and our Blessed Mother Mary has remained constant through our virtual supplications and prayers.



## REGION XIV's UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS COMMITTEE SPEARHEADS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION



*A circle poster announcing the celebration of International Women's Month*

The main activity of DMI circles in Region XIV in March, 2022 was the celebration of International Women's Month carried out through their Upliftment of Women Workers (UWW) Committee.

On March 8, International Women's Day, the DMI sisters attended a webinar with the theme “Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope” with Ms. Kristine Carpo Perez as resource speaker. DMI sisters from Regions V and VI also participated in the webinar with International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers Committee Sis. Lorie Manalansan as special guest.

Ms. Kristine underscored the very important role of women in society that can be summed up in the question: “What would the world be like without women?” The interactive webinar had

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# MORALITY IN MEDIA AND THE SYNODAL PROCESS

The past months saw the DMIs of Region XIV deeply immersed, along with their other DMI sisters all over the country, in the Synodal Process in their parishes in preparation for the 2023 Synod called by Pope Francis to take place in Rome during which the inputs gathered from parishes all over the world will be considered in the deliberations of the Holy See to determine the Catholic Church's direction in her Synodal Journey.

The DMII's Morality in Media Mission played an active part during the synodal consultation meetings such as inviting the parish BECs' participation in the meetings and taking on the role of facilitator or participant and helping identify the real purpose of the synodal process, the mission, sharing responsibility for the common mission, dialogue in church activity, ecumenism, discussing and deciding and finally, the participants acting in Synodality,

During the Synodal activity, the DMIs in some instances had been able to accomplish three of the DMI Missions - Pro-

Life, Morality in Media and Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims. One instance was when a participant emotionally shared her family situation: her father is in prison, Hearing this, the DMIs present immediately responded by visiting her family and extending assistance for the family's needs. The sisters also provided food during the consultation meetings. Young participants in the Synodal consultations have also become very aware of their role in the Church.

The other significant activities of the DMIs on the circle level include the installation of DMI markers at the church courtyard or in a public area, distribution of religious pamphlets to learners of Sta. Barbara Elementary School and the First Communion of pupils of Boalan Elementary School. Public awareness of what the DMII does is done through write-ups in local newspapers such as Zamboanga Today in its column "Mila at Large" and the San Isidro Labrador Circle's regular program aired on Radio Station DXVP.



*A group discussion during a synodal consultation meeting with a DMI sister as facilitator.*



*First Communion of pupils of Boalan Elementary School*



## *Region XIV's Upliftment... from page 24*

participants being asked to write about how they feel about being a woman which they submitted to a chatbox and read by Ms. Kristine before the close of the session.

The circles of Region XIV also highlighted some UWW Mission activities such as training and demos in various skills such as baking, cooking, arts and crafts, etc. Tarpaulins carrying the celebration theme from the National Office were also put up in church patios and other public areas in their parishes. Tree-planting was also undertaken by some circles to commemorate the event.



*Resource speaker Ms. Kristine Carpo Perez (at center) with DMI Sisters Pinky Saavedra, RR, Susan Cardenas, VR of Eastern Vicariate, Mila Espinosa, UWW chairperson and Marilyn de Asis, DR.*

# SAN ISIDRO LABRADOR CIRCLE CELEBRATES ITS 26TH CHARTER ANNIVERSARY

**A**pril 26, 1996 is very memorable for members of the San Isidro Labrador Circle in Talon-Talon Parish, Zamboanga City when the circle received its charter from the Nuestra Senora del Pilar de Zaragoza Circle, its mother circle. Its organization was initiated by the late Sis. Gloria Torres, deputy regent of the mother circle and Sis. Tita Penaflor.

Upon the request of Fr. Louino Alejandro, their parish priest, the anniversary celebration was held earlier, on April 24, Feast of the Divine Mercy with the circle providing food for the First Communicants attending the Mass that Sunday. It was also the circle's schedule for sponsoring the Mass which they do every month..

During the Mass, 130 First Communicants with ages ranging from nine to 39 years old received communion for the first time after making their first confession. They were prepared for these Sacraments by undergoing training from parish catechists. The circle served them and their parents breakfast after the Mass.. The parents, proud of their children's achievement (some parents had two or three children receiving communion for the first time) happily thanked the DMI sisters for the breakfast consisting of arroz caldo, torta and bottled water.

The anniversary celebration also served as a pro-life project of the circle.



*The First Communicants and their parents during the Mass*



*The DMI sisters get ready to serve breakfast to the First Communicants and their parents.*

## SOCIAL GRACES, TWINNING WITH MAMA MARY: An SMI Webinar

*By Sis. Chodee Amoranto,  
Youth Welfare/SMI Coordinator for Luzon*



*Online announcement of the webinar*

**T**he Youth Welfare/Squirettes of Mary Immaculate Mission Team headed by International Chairperson Sis. Cathy Pineda sponsored an SMI webinar entitled "Social Graces, Twinning with Mary" last May 22, 2022 with more than 400 Squirettes and Tita DMIs in attendance.

The resource speaker was Sis. Alma Cid of the Theresian Circle in Los Banos, Diocese of San Pablo. Sis. Alma is a former facilitator of the Personality Development Lecture Series at the Letran Colleges in Calamba, Laguna and in her younger days was also a Squirette of Mary.

During the webinar, Sis. Alma gave pointers on social graces and how these relate to the virtues of our Blessed Mother. She titled her talk as "Twinning" with Mary since Mama Mary is our role model and we must emulate her image as true Daughters and Squirettes of Mary. Lending to us some objectives of her Personality Development Seminars, Sis. Alma gave tips on how to strengthen our confidence in



terms of our appearance, behavior and communication with others.

During the first part of the webinar, Sis. Alma talked about appearance and good grooming habits while the second part dealt with behavior and communication skills both within the home and in public. These skills, she said, enhance our individual image and eliminate discourteous behavior. She emphasized the importance of social graces, especially the ability to establish a conversation that puts people at ease.

Basic table manners, telephone courtesy and virtual meeting etiquette were also discussed.

There were ice-breaker games during the talk handled by Squirette Mary Joy Ancheta, SMI National VP for Luzon. Simple token prizes were awarded to the winners courtesy of Tita DMIs in the SMI Team. The winners received their prizes via Gcash.

Special awards were given to the following:

1. Biggest delegation (DMI and SMI combined – Diocesan level - Diocese of San Pablo, Region VI – 146 pax – P1,000 GCash
2. Biggest Delegation – Circlette Level (SMIs only) Mary Immaculate Circlette, Levitown, Diocese of Patanaque, Region V - 28 SMIs – P500 Gcash
3. 5 pax winners in the game "Your Face Seems Familiar" -P50 each Gcash
4. 5 pax winners in the game "Zoom Bring Me" - P50 each Gcash

This webinar on Social Graces/Personality Development is relevant and of great interest to everyone regardless of age, the pandemic notwithstanding..It gave us insights and useful tips to live by in our day-to-day dealings with everyone not only in our homes but especially outside in our schools, offices, church and the community. It also enhances our ability to live in harmony with one another according to the teachings of Jesus Christ with His Mother Mary as our inspiration and guide.

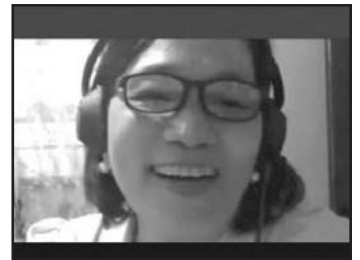
For the Squirettes, it is an important part of their formation program to prepare them for their future position of leadership in the community. The learnings they gained will help them develop winnable personalities to succeed in their future endeavors.

Sis. Alma's parting word: "If you want to twin with Mary, be conscious and always remember to behave properly."

It was indeed a simple, yet impactful activity for the webinar participants that afternoon.



*Sis. Alma Cid,  
resource speaker*



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

## A Morality in Media Webinar

# HOW NOT TO WASTE YOUR VOTE: BOTO MO, ALAGAAN MO

*By Sis. Biannah Villanueva,  
International Chairperson for Morality in Media*

Launching this year's Morality in Media (MIM) Mission was a webinar entitled "How Not to Waste Your Vote: *Boto Mo, Alagaan Mo*" This national activity was aimed at achieving the mission objective "To network with other media organizations tasked with similar objectives for more effective result." In collaboration with the Our Lady of Fatima – Bacood Circle of the Diocese of Manila, the MIM Mission Team conducted the webinar on

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*Screenshot of the speaker with some webinar participants.*

February 16, 2022 via Zoom with 489 attendees from dioceses in 12 regions of the country.

The afternoon's host was Co-Chairperson for Pilgrimages & Spiritual Formation Committee Sis. Rose Enriquez of the Mater Dei Circle, Diocese of Novaliches. The day's activity started with an opening prayer and prayer of consecration to the Blessed Mother led by MIM Coordinator for Visayas Sis. Ging Manulat. Singing of the National Anthem, Pledge to the Flag and singing of the DMI Hymn was led by MIM Coordinator for Luzon Sis. Evelyn Alcantara.

MIM International Chairperson Sis. Biannah of the Medalla Milagrosa Circle, Diocese of Cubao explained the purpose of the webinar: how to educate the DMI sisters on how to manifest their faith through their votes this coming election. She also thanked the webinar organizers as well as the attendees and lastly, International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga for her inspirational message despite limited resources in Bohol due to the devastation left by Typhoon Odette in the province.

Sis. Virginia Mendoza, MIM chairperson of the Our Lady of Fatima – Bacood Circle introduced the webinar resource speaker, Ms. Rowena Carranza-

Paraan, ABS-CBN News Head, *Bayan Mo*, *Ipatrol Mo*. Ms. Weng shared critical information on Election History, Basic Principles of Election, Election Laws, Do's and Don'ts in Campaigning, Campaign Finance, Propaganda Materials, Surveys and Online Campaigning. Ms. Weng also gave tips on how we can protect our votes. She encouraged everyone to monitor and report wrongdoings during the campaign season, fight misinformation, study election issues and share these learnings to loved ones. Most importantly, she urged the attendees to vote for candidates based on their platforms and social media. The Q & A session showed the attendees' desire to learn more.

After the presentation of an Award of Appreciation to Ms. Weng by Sis. Biannah, the webinar ended with the closing remarks by Sis. Leah Molina, Regent of the Diocese of Manila and the closing prayer led by St. Lorely Agustin, vicarial regent of the Vicariate of Nuestra Senora de Guia, Diocese of Cubao.

The webinar equipped DMI sisters with the capability to speak up and promote moral voting during the election. This brings to life Archbishop Soc Villegas' declaration: "*Kung ikaw ay maka-Diyos, dapat ikaw ay maka-bayan.*" In this way, the DMI sisters are given courage to stand up and courageously speak up for what's right for the benefit of coming generations.



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