

DMI Newsette

To Jesus through Mary

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REGIONS IV, V HOLD REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES



The circle regents of the Vicariate of the Immaculate Conception, assembly host, from left: Sisters Noli Solano, Lucy Bernardo, Tess de Guzman, Cora Ileta and Lilia Venturina with Diocesan Regent Sis. Fely Gallardo, Region IVRR Sis. Violy Luna, Int'l Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, DMI Int'l Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and Vicarial Regent Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia.



International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva carries the image of the Blessed Mother for the Enthronement and Consecration Ceremony at the opening of the Assembly.



Assembly delegates join an action song led by Sis. Ruby Macario, Int'l Chairperson for Youth Welfare.



The Eucharistic celebration officiated by Bishop Rey Evangelista of the Diocese of Imus with DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz.

REGION IV ASSEMBLY

September 27, 2014

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2015-2016 International Board to be Installed Nov. 30, 2014

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SMI's Sunshiny Summer 2015

By Sis. Ruby Macario, Int'l Chairperson for Youth Welfare

Preparations are underway for the 15th Biennial Convention of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate. Slated for May 16-18, 2015, the convention will be held in D'Leonor Island Resort, Davao City. Registration will not be more than P3,000 per delegate covering the following: 3 days/2 nights accommodation, food (2 breakfasts, 2 am snacks, 1 lunch, 2 pm snacks and 2 dinners) and conference kit. Exciting indoor and outdoor activities await the participants. A memo-circular will be released soon.

***Squirettes, let's prepare for
another memorable sunshiny summer.
And start checking out those YELLOW gears in your closets.
See you in Davao!!!***



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From the International Regent

MESSAGE



My dear DMI Sisters,

September is a nostalgic month for me. First, because it is the birth month of our Blessed Virgin Mary. Second, it is the start of the 'BER' months that lead to one of the most anticipated times of the year, Christmas, to celebrate the coming of our Savior, a new beginning, and a time to remember all who are near and dear to us.

In our organization, this is the time of the year when, in frenzy, we try to finish whatever projects remain to be completed. The last quarter of the year becomes a whirl of activities - vicarial and diocesan meetings, regional assemblies and parish preparations for major events in the Liturgical Calendar, the birthday of Mama Mary in September, the celebration of Christ the King in November and preparations for the Advent Season leading to CHRISTMAS. These are exciting days indeed!

In the International Office, we have also been busy trying to finish our plans and programs for the year. First and foremost of these is our housing for 'Yolanda' victims. During the Board meeting last August 16, 2014, your International Board had approved the donation of ten (10) permanent houses, costing P110,000 each, to be situated in Palo, Leyte in coordination with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' housing program. The target date for the turn-over of our donation to the CBCP is November 30, 2014. I ask each DMI sister who has not yet done her act of charity for the Season to please do so now. If we all give at least P100 each, we will surely make our targeted amount.

November 30 shall likewise be the date when the incoming International Officers and Board to serve in 2015-2016 shall be installed into office. Your incoming International Regent, Sis. Rebbie Pacanan from Tacloban, Leyte (Region XI) shall lead the inductees, including the Regional Representatives from the 14 regions, diocesan regents and vicarial regents. We, the outgoing officers, look forward to seeing you in this important occasion.

For all your untiring efforts and your generous financial support to anyone and everyone who needs your help, THANK YOU very much, Sisters! You are all true daughters of Mary Immaculate. Let us continue to bring out the goodness in us by emulating the virtues of our Blessed Mother - Her profound humility, Her lively faith, Her blind obedience, Her continual prayer, Her universal mortification, Her undaunted purity, Her ardent charity, Her heroic patience, Her angelic sweetness and Her divine wisdom. If at the end of the day, we can look at ourselves in the mirror and say, I have lived at least two of the Blessed Mother's virtues, then we know we can live at peace with ourselves and with all those we know and we love.

Once again, THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SISTERS!

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

2015-2016 International Officers and Board to be Installed Nov. 30, 2014

The new set of DMII Officers and Board of Trustees to serve beginning January 1, 2015 until December 31, 2016 will be formally installed on November 30, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Malate, Manila. The incoming officers headed by International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacananof Tacloban City, Leyte were elected during the 19th Biennial Convention in Bohol on April 25-26, 2014.

This forthcoming event was firmed up during the 3rd Quarterly Meeting of the International Board at R & R Resort in Los Banos, Laguna last August



The day-long Board meeting at the resort's Conference Room.

16. The incoming members of the Board were invited to the meeting for a turn-over of pending projects and activities. The occasion also gave the new Board the opportunity to know each other better and to bond as a team.

International Regent
Sis. Mila Villanueva

presided at the meeting with the incumbent Regional Representatives and Mission Chairs rendering reports on their on-going and pending projects and activities that need to be continued.

International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz gave a short lecture on leadership,

underscoring the need for a strong Formation Program. He also talked about the Christian leadership virtues of Mama Mary as well as the CBCP's Pastoral Exhortation on the Year of the Laity leading to the celebration of the 500th year of Christianity in the Philippines in 2021.

It had been a long day for the meeting participants, so they took a dip in the pool after dinner. Non-swimmers sat by the poolside trading funny stories that evoked laughter from everyone. A well-deserved R & R indeed!



Enjoying a dip in the pool, a well-deserved R & R.



A formal pose by part of the group the following morning.

Region IV Assembly

"A September To Remember . . ."

By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia, Vicarial Regent, Vicariate of the Immaculate Conception

The DMIs of Region IV had their Regional Assembly on Sept. 27, 2014 with the theme "Proclaim Jesus' Words, Emulate Mary's Virtues, Make DMI a Way of Life". Some 350 delegates and their guests merrily gathered at the Hiyas Convention Center in Malolos, Bulacan. Guests during the event were from the International Board - Sis. Sally Estrada, DMI Newsette editor, Sis. Ruby Macario - Chair on Youth Welfare (SMI), Sis. Helen de Leon - Pro-life Chair, and International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, guest of honor. Also gracing the event were DMI International Chaplain Fr.

Jerome Cruz and Region Chaplain Msgr. Alberto Suatengco.

Sis.Ma. Theresa G. Curia, regent of the host vicariate, the Vicariate of the Immaculate Conception informed the group that the theme originated from the recently-concluded 19th Biennial Convention in Bohol. The expectations of the delegates and their guests were heightened as she provided a preview of the day's program. She also acknowledged the contributions of the circles under her vicariate who worked very hard to make the event a big success. Heading the circles are Regent Sisters

Baby Miguel of Mt. Carmel, Noli Solano of Rosarian, Lucy Bernardo of Immaculate Conception, Cora Iletto of Inmaculada Concepcion and Tess de Guzman of San Isidro Labrador.

The event was also significant in relevance to the first National Chaplain of the Daughters of Isabella, now known as Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, Fr. George J. Willmann, S.J. Father George advocated the dignity of the laity as a man of the Kingdom of God, and of gospel values teaching the people to serve other people, uplift their lives through prayer and be



Guest of honor, IR Sis. Mila Villanueva was keynote speaker.

saved from material poverty, and to minister to the needs of the Church and our families and growth of organizations.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Fely Gallardo welcomed the delegates and in her message said, "We

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A group photo of Region IV Assembly delegates

thank Jesus for giving us His Mother to be our Mother, too. The theme of the assembly reminds us that as DMIs, we become evangelizers. 'As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you.' (John 20:21)" She then admonished the delegates to be true daughters of Mary, committed to service, obedient to the will of God, proclaiming His Words and emulating the virtues of our Mother.

Region IV Representative Sis. Violy Luna conveyed the benefit of members working together and cooperating towards the success of the circle. She encouraged the sisters to strengthen their support and participation in all the circle's activities.

A lively presentation that compares the quality of past and present entertainment was showcased by Sis. Ruby Macario. International Chairperson for Youth Welfare. She enlightened the group on the value of

supervising and guiding the youth as they grow in a rapidly changing world. She also introduced the SMI March, a composition of her son, that was first sung during the SMI Luzon Area Conference last March, 2014. Capping her presentation was her signature action song "I Have a Dream" with the delegates gamely joining in the dance.

International Chairperson for Pro-Life Sis. Helen de Leon, a medical doctor, introduced herself as a widow, mother of four and grandmother to seven wonderful kids. She said that she is grateful to God for giving her a great life, in spite of all the trials. In her words: "It's all in the attitude to enjoy life. One sunset may mean one less day of my life, but one more sunrise means God has given me one more day of life to praise and glorify Him." Quoting Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, she described what life really is and how to live it well. "LIFE is LIFE, FIGHT for

it!" Life is a gift with countless beautiful promises and opportunities to offer; we must therefore fight for it. And as God's hands, we must do our part to heal the wounds of the afflicted, care for the poor, give hope to the helpless, reach out to the weary, clothe the naked, and most of all, spread love. If love fails, war, chaos, abortion, divorce, greed and even abuse of Mother Nature transpire. Now that the Reproductive Health Law has been passed, Pro-lifers must move on and continue to defend life from conception to natural death. Pro-life is a work in progress and a life-long commitment.

Sis. Sally Estrada, DMI Newsette editor, informed the group as to how our official publication helps promote the organization and its missions, showcasing the projects and activities of the DMI that could inspire not just the membership but the communities it serves.



Int'l Chairperson for Youth Welfare Sis. Ruby Macario performs her signature dance, "I Have a Dream".

She also pointed out that the DMII already has a most effective communication tool even before the Newsette was born: "They are the DMI sisters in blue, meaning you and I, who are **walking billboards**, proclaiming the DMI vision and its missions and thrusts. The image and perception we DMI sisters create is what the public perceives our



Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada was awarded a plaque of recognition after her presentation.



Pro-life Int'l Chairperson Sis. Helen de Leon (2nd from right) receives a plaque of recognition from Sis. Violy Luna assisted by Sisters Thess Curia and Fely Gallardo.

organization to be." She quoted Fr. Wilmer Tria of Ateneo de Naga, a guest speaker during the past Luzon Area Conference who said, "Your womanhood is intertwined with your devotion to Mary. As a DMI, you are dedicating your life to her. This devotion is the source of your energy, the fuel that makes you move and perform your apostolic work with passion." Summing up the messages of resource speakers in DMI conferences during the observance of the Year of Faith last year, Sis. Sally said, "Live out your being Christians at home and at work. Our faith is not for ourselves alone but must be shared. Be proclaimers and witnesses of your faith through action." "Becoming a light requires that one be a better adult first. Nurture yourself. Take care of your health. Find time for leisure and recreation, and still more time for spiritual development." She also shared that it is the attitude and the inner purpose of one's heart that could define one's happiness and suggested ways one can lead a happy life. Giving and sharing being one of them, she challenged her audience

to start small at first: SAVE ONE, SHELTER ONE, COMFORT ONE, LOVE ONE . . . because two thousand years ago, HOPE BEGAN WITH ONLY ONE.

The afternoon session started with a concelebrated Mass by DMI Diocesan Spiritual Director Msgr. Albert Suatengco and International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz. Preceding the Eucharistic celebration was a message from Fr. Jerome who recounted his personal encounter with Father Willmann and later invited everyone to say the Prayer for the Cause of Fr. George Willmann, S.J. He also requested the DMI sisters to report any favors they receive through his intercession which is a requirement for his beatification.

International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, who was the guest of honor, spoke on Mary's Ten Evangelical Virtues and how DMI sisters may practice them in their daily lives. These virtues are: 1. Purity - When Mary received the news that she will give birth to the Messiah, she accepted it wholeheartedly, trusting in the Lord completely.

"We must spend more time with God through prayers and fasting in order to have a pure heart."

2. Prudence - When Mary was told there was a threat to her Son's life and decided to flee, she cooperated with God's plans indicating her wisdom and prudence. "We must always trust God for He will take care of us. But let us not forget to first do our part." 3. Humility - "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say." Mary accepted God's will with humility. "Being humble is lowering oneself in relation to others. We must acknowledge our weaknesses, sinfulness and mistakes for no one is perfect but God." 4. Faithfulness - Just like Mary, we must trust God and believe in Him completely just as Mary did during the Wedding at Cana. We must remain steadfast in the face of adversity, for nothing is impossible with God. 5. Devotion - "As Catholics, we are encouraged to live rich devotional lives, attending Mass, praying the Rosary, frequenting the Adoration Room. We must put God's Word to practice. 6. Obedience - Mary submitted her life wholly to God, forsaking

her own plans and in spite of the pain, offering Jesus to be crucified for man's redemption. Following her example, we, too, must submit ourselves to God's will and obey His Ten Commandments. 7. Poverty - Joseph and Mary were poor, Jesus being born in a stable and living ever so humbly while raising Him in Nazareth. This virtue must make us aware of the need to help others, "teaching them how to fish", to get them out of poverty and uplift their lives. 8. Patience - Mary calmly suffered and patiently resigned herself to God's will, giving birth to Jesus in a manger, looking for her lost Son for three days and witnessing His suffering before being nailed to the Cross. Today's stressful world requires of us endless patience while performing our day-to-day tasks. 9. Mercy - Mary was never distant from those in need and had an open heart, such as when she visited her cousin Elizabeth and stayed with her while she herself was heavy with child. We, too, must be open-hearted, always ready to help others. 10. Sorrow - Mary's life had been filled with sorrow

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Region V Assembly Held at 'Resort Campus'

The place immediately catches one's attention. The lush gardens that border the quadrangle and open spaces within the complex of buildings with their uniquely-designed roofs are a sight to behold, a balm for tired spirits.

It is in this setting that this year's assembly of Region V took place last August 30, 2014. The place: the Lyceum of the Philippines University - Cavite Campus on

Governor's Drive, Gen. Trias, Cavite, "the only resort campus" in the Philippines.

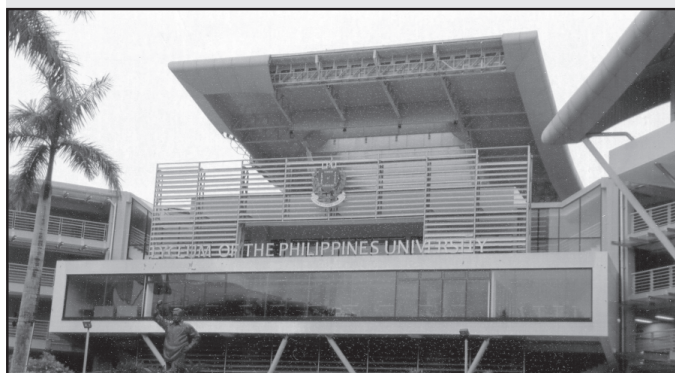
More than 500 delegates coming from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Imus, Novaliches, Kalookan, Manila and Paranaque attended the regional assembly.

After the opening ceremonies highlighted by the Enthronement and Consecration of the Blessed Mother's image,

Diocesan Regent Sis. Inday Ramos of the Diocese of Imus, the host diocese, welcomed the delegates and congratulated the groups that sent the biggest delegations - the Diocese of Antipolo with 138 delegates, the Diocese of Imus with 98 delegates and the Diocese of Paranaque with 85 delegates. On the circle level, the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle had the biggest delegation of 51

sisters, St. Paul of the Cross Circle, 33 sisters and Sto. Nino de Molino Circle, 21 sisters. (Incidentally, the Sto. Nino Circle donated the rosaries the members themselves made that were in the delegates' kits.) Sis. Inday also explained the conference theme, "Faithful Warriors of Jesus and Mary in the Year of the Laity".

Guest speakers during the morning session were the couple Atty. Pol and Nena



Venue of the Region V Assembly - the Lyceum of the Philippines University - Cavite Campus.



The entrance of colors



Atty. Pol and Nena Repotente, guest speakers, receive a plaque of appreciation from IR Sis. Mila Villanueva and Region V Representative Sis. Cora Afuang.



Garry Repotente is welcomed by DMI sisters as he enters the hall with his father.

The Parade of Circles



Diocese of Cubao



Diocese of Imus



Diocese of Kalookan



Diocese of Manila



Diocese of Novaliches



Diocese of Paranaque

Repotente, formators of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Diocese of Cubao. From Sis. Zeny Cruzada, vicarial regent, Diocese of Imus, who introduced them, we learned that the Repotentes had been National Coordinator for the Philippines of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter, then later as the Movement's Asian Coordinators and

members of the ASEAN Council. Both are trained facilitators and professors of Mary Hill School of Theology in Taytay, Rizal whose guiding rule is "to be where God sends them", never ceasing to listen to His Words and sharing the learnings gained with others, wherever and whenever they are called.

Their lives are one of witnessing to the faith. "All of us have a mission", they said. "Tragedies in life should not end in tragedy but must lead to redemption. Offer your sufferings and become co-redemptors." While working in the DMI missions, they said that one must ACCOMPANY others, e.g., walk with prisoners and victims, etc.

The first requirement is to stay with Jesus and remain committed to Him. DMIs must be apostles of mercy and compassion. "Our mission should come from our relationship with God," they concluded.

At the end of their talk, the Repotentes introduced their only son, Garry, a special child, a gift from God who has brought them immense joy.

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Region V Assembly Held at 'Resort Campus' ...Cont'd. From Page 9

The afternoon session started with a message from International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva who rendered a report (her valedictory) on the projects and accomplishments of the International Board during her term. Sis. Mila noted the growing recognition that the DMII receives from the CBCP, the latest being an invitation to participate in the Symposium on Saints and Heroes which formed part of the observance of the Year of the Laity. The organization was represented by 100 DMI sisters headed by International Secretary and Region V RR Sis. Cora Afuang. She also urged the sisters to continue assisting victims of Super typhoon 'Yolanda' through DMI's donation of houses to be built in Palo, Leyte and setting up of a Calamity Fund to be utilized for any forthcoming emergency.

The assembly's second guest speaker was Fr. Larry Faraon, O.P.,

manager and program host of Radio Veritas. He was introduced by Sis. Biannah Villanueva, regent of the Medalla Milagrosa Circle, Diocese of Cubao.

"Today, the Church is beset by external and internal challenges," Fr. Faraon declared. Threats come from all sides, but he told his audience to take courage, for the Cross, the symbol of God's redemption of Man, will finally conquer the world. Unity is the greatest gift of the Catholic Church. Wherever in the world one goes, the same liturgy is observed by all Catholic churches.

The Year of the Laity which the Catholic Church observes this year has for its theme "Called to be Heroes, Saints and Martyrs". The theme challenges the Filipino spirit of godliness and faith. The great challenge is for purification of the spirit and faith renewal, even of the clergy. "You are called to be warriors on all



Resource speaker Fr. Larry Faraon (2nd from left) is awarded a plaque of appreciation after his presentation.

fronts. Go forth, armed with FAITH as your weapon" was Fr. Faraon's final message.

The concelebrated Mass by Bishop Rey Evangelista of the Diocese of Imus and DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz was the last part of the day's program. In his homily, Bishop Evangelista exhorted the DMI members to go out to the community, not just to serve but also to evangelize.

Sis. Cora Afuang in her closing remarks thanked the organizing committee of the assembly for the

support, composed of officers of the dioceses comprising Region V headed by their diocesan regents - DR Sis. Rita Lucena of the Diocese of Antipolo, Sis. Lydia Ordonez of Cubao, Sis. Inday Ramos of Imus, Sis. Sylvia San Pedro of Kalookan, Sis. Jean Castaneda of Manila, Sis. Pitz Torres of Novaliches, and Sis. Sol Eugenio of Paranaque. She also thanked the Assembly delegates for their active participation during the sessions.



Sis. Cora Afuang's closing message officially closed the assembly.



The program emcees - Sisters Sol Eugenio and Kaye Cudal.



Bishop Rey Evangelista, Sis. Cora Afuang and Fr. Jerome Cruz carry the Blessed Mother's image during the recessional, with assembly delegates' candles lighting their way.

New DMI Circle Organized in Laguna

By Sis. Lydia Ordonez, Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Cubao

A new circle has just been organized in the City of San Pedro in Laguna. Named San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle of San Lorenzo Ruiz Parish in Pacita 2A, it was officially organized in July, 2014 when its charter members were exemplified by the Exemplification Team of the Diocese of Cubao, and its charter officers, installed into office by Diocesan Regent Sis. Lydia Ordonez. Sis. Lydia initiated the formation of the circle in coordination with the Knights of Columbus.

The Circle, consisting of 30 charter members, is

led by Sis. Emilie C. Bagulbagul as its charter regent. After the long conferral ceremonies, Rev. Fr. Eugene Fadul, DMI spiritual director of the Diocese of San Pablo, delivered a spiritual message while Sis. Ruby Macario, national chairperson for Youth Welfare, gave an inspirational message.

Rev. Fr. Romulo Ponte, pastor of San Lorenzo Parish, thanked the DMI for the organization of a circle in his parish.

The circle members with Fathers Eugene Fadul and Romulo Ponte.



The newly-exemplified members of San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle.



Region V Assembly Held at 'Resort Campus' ...Cont'd. From Page 10

The glow from candles held by all the delegates lighted the entire hall and the path of Mama Mary as her image was carried by Bishop Evangelista, Fr. Jerome and Sis. Cora to the rear of the hall during the

recessional, followed by Sis. Inday Ramos and the regents of the circles of the Diocese of Imus. The choir of the Diocese of Cubao led the singing of *Aba Ginoong Maria* at the start of the recessional, followed

by "One Little Candle" sung by all the delegates to bid Mama Mary farewell.

The assembly formally closed with the retirement of colors. Program emcees were Sis. Kaye Cudal of the Mary Mother of the

Church Circle and Diocesan Regent Sis. Sol Eugenio of the Diocese of Paranaque.

Diocese of Cubao Holds Media Seminar



Media resource person Mr. Jaime Leornas speaks before the seminar participants.

Last August 23, 2014, a four-hour seminar entitled "The Dangers of Internet" was held at the Penafrancia Hall of Mt. Carmel Parish in New Manila, Quezon City. Main speaker was Mr. Jaime Leornas, country director of Family Life International - Philippines (Family and Life Philippines).

One hundred participants composed of DMI sisters, Squirettes of Mary and youth from the parishes of the Diocese of Cubao listened intently as Mr. Leornas and his assistant, Mr. Jomar Evangelista, tackled media's role in bringing to people's immediate attention events like tornadoes in the US,

tsunamis in Japan and storm surge in Tacloban, to name a few. He compared the games that children used to play in the past (larong kalye, i.e., connected to the soil) which enhanced empathy, sympathy and the senses (touch, smell, hearing, sight) as compared to the computer games that they now play (DOTA, Tekken, Counter Strike and the like) and the effects of these to values and relationships.

Participants were shown how their exposure to computer games could alter their behavior and what to post or not in social networks. They were

cautioned about the music that they listen to, advertisements and games that are violent and/or attack chastity and the integrity of marriage and the home. In closing, the youth were assured of the love of their parents and their family, from whom they can always seek support and consolation.

The event was sponsored by the DMI Diocese of Cubao led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Lydia Ordonez, with assistance from the Regina Mundi Circle led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Vilma Valera and Morality in Media Chairperson Sis. Rose Castro.

"A September To Remember . . ." ...Cont'd. From Page 7

but her strength lies in being able to bear her sufferings with quiet dignity. We must do likewise, offering our sorrow for God's greater glory.

It was with sadness that Sis. Mila ended her

message, as her term as International Regent will end very soon. After thanking the DMI sisters for their support and cooperation, she invited them to join her in singing "Try to Remember", a song composed by Tom

Jones that aptly described how she felt.

Plaques of recognition were awarded to the Assembly guests by Sis. Violy Luna, assisted by Sisters Fely Gallardo and Theresa Curia. The plaques with the image

of the Blessed Mother were specially crafted in honor of Fr. George Willmann, S.J., the first Philippine Chaplain of the Daughters of Isabella, now the DMII.

Region I RR Makes Surprise Visit

The surprise visit by Region I Representative Sis. Leticia Gano to Baguio City last June 18, 2014 provided an opportunity for the DMI sisters of Baguio to be updated on goings-on in the National organization and to discuss concerns by the local circles on current issues affecting them.

The meeting was held at a coffee shop on Session Road. Representing the

three circles in Baguio were their key officers led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Marlin Abratique and Regent Sisters Zeny Obidoza of St. Vincent Ferrer Circle, Nora Arellano of St. Joseph the Worker Circle and Agnes Montoya of Our Lady of Atonement Circle. Notes on the programs, projects and activities of the Baguio circles were exchanged during the meeting.



Sis. Leticia Gano (seated 5th from left) with DMI sisters of Baguio.

Joint Exemplification, Diocesan Assembly Held

The long conferral ceremony was well attended with over a hundred DMI sisters from the three circles in attendance. They were warmly welcomed by Rev. Fr. Manny Panayo, pastor of Baguio Cathedral.

A series of meetings conducted by Vicarial Regent Sis. Marlin Abratique of the Diocese of Baguio with the regents of three DMI circles in Baguio City – St. Vincent Ferrer, St. Joseph the Worker and Our Lady of Atonement Circles paved the way for the joint exemplification of new members on August 2, 2014. The

activity was held at the Penafrancia Hall of the Baguio Cathedral.

The long conferral ceremony was well attended with over a hundred DMI sisters from the three circles in attendance. They were warmly welcomed by Rev. Fr. Manny Panayo, pastor of Baguio Cathedral.

The event became a two-in-one gathering as Sis. Marlin took advantage of the special occasion for an impromptu diocesan assembly which was capped by a fellowship during which the DMI sisters enjoyed singing and dancing. Because of the success of the event, more assemblies are planned to be held in the future.

Sta. Cecilia Circle's "Gift Of Love"



February 15, 2014 was a special day for senior citizens of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Guimba, Nueva Ecija when the DMI sisters of Sta. Cecilia Circle gave them their "Gift of Love" a day after Valentine's Day. The get-together was held at the DMI Building where the elderly guests were treated to a sumptuous merienda and enjoyed the dancing and contests with prizes given to the winners. Each received a "gift of love", packages loaded with groceries and other goods to bring home. Vicarial Regent Sis. Aida Paguio and Circle Regent Sis. Remedios Antonio led the gift distribution.

St. Christopher Circle Launches Community Clean-Up

The St. Christopher Circle of Licab, Nueva Ecija headed by Regent Sis. Baby Jose launched last February a community clean-up drive. The first to respond to the drive was Barangay San Cristobal through its Barangay Captain. Five months into the the drive, the circle members happily reported that their effort is bearing fruit as more residents of the community become aware of the benefits of a clean surrounding and have maintained cleanliness of their own yards. Photo shows the DMI sisters with a barangay official inspecting an area that needs to be cleaned.



St. Joseph Circle Fetes Elderly Residents of Rizal, N.E.



The St. Joseph Circle of Rizal, Nueva Ecija feted the senior citizens of St. Joseph the Husband Parish as part of its first quarter pro-life activity. The event was held at Rosalinda's Plantation Resort in Bgy. Sta. Ana in Rizal town. It was a day of fun for the circle's guests as they sang, danced and joined the games that the DMI sisters prepared for them. Food was aplenty. They were also conducted on a tour of the resort and given gift packages to take home to their families. Funds for the activity came from donations by the circle members and generous friends. Photo shows some senior citizens and DMI sisters by the poolside of the resort.

From the Diocese of Paranaque

MMCC's "Tulong Mo, Biyaya Sa Pag-Aaral Ko" Project



The Mary Mother of the Church Circle of BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City distributed assorted school supplies to more than a hundred elementary school-children in the developing communities surrounding the village. Diocesan Regent Sis. Sol Eugenio of the Diocese of Paranaque (at right) assists DMI sisters in sorting and putting together the school supplies prior to distribution.

Sacred Relics of St. John Paul II and St. John XXIII Venerated

The sacred relics of St. John Paul II and St. John XXIII, the recently-canonized popes of the Catholic Church were put up for veneration at the Mary Immaculate Parish Church in Moonwalk-Las Pinas, the famous Nature Church, last May 31 and June 1, 2014. DMI sisters of the Diocese of Paranaque held a prayer vigil during the visit.



From Marilao, Bulacan

Ina ng Grasya Ng Diyos Circle Visits Tahanang Mapagpala



The DMI sisters of the *Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos* Circle of Marilao, Bulacan visited the wards of *Tahanang Mapagpala* of Immaculada Concepcion Foundation, Inc., a home for the elderly. The wards are women aged over 60 years old who have no one to take care of them. Founded by the Senate Spouses Foundation, Inc., the home is funded by donations from the Provincial Government, NGOs, religious groups and private benefactors. The circle donated P5,000 to help in the upkeep of the home. Sr. Ma. Fatima Seranillos, SDS, is the executive director of *Tahanang Mapagpala*.

News Briefs from Our Lady Of Fatima (Bacood) Circle



Media symposium speaker Bro. Rene Perez received a plaque of appreciation from the Our Lady of Fatima Circle.

It was a busy first quarter of 2014 for the Our Lady of Fatima Circle of Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila. Regent Sis. Elenita Jimenez reported a number of activities, among which are:

*A PLANNING MEETING was held on January 11, 2014 to

draw up the projects and activities of the circle for 2014 in pursuance of the DMI missions.

*An INVESTITURE CEREMONY for ten new members of the SMI Our Lady of Fatima Circlette and the induction of circlette



The newly-installed officers of the Circle

officers were held on Feb. 23 attended by DMI sisters and family members of the Squirettes.

*Circle members attend the Formation Seminar conducted by Fr. Ed Coroza, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish every 3rd Sunday of the month.

*A MEDIA AWARENESS SYMPOSIUM was conducted by the Circle on March 12, 2014 at Elpidio Quirino High School attended by some 200 fourth year students. Resource speaker was Bro. Rene Perez, a lay coordinator

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Memorial of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The Church celebrated the memorial of the Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary last September 12, 2014. This memorial had not been celebrated annually in the past.

As for the origin of this memorial, the Internet has this write up about the occasion:

"The Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary is an optional memorial celebrated in the Liturgical Calendar of the Catholic

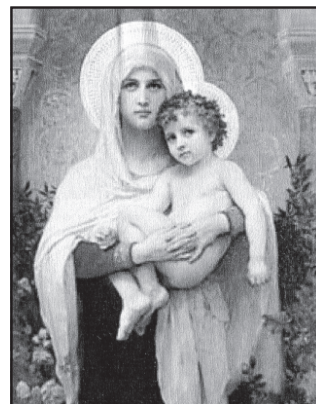
Church on September 12.

"It was removed from the Church calendar by Annibale Bugnini, Secretary to the Commission for Liturgical Reform during Vatican II, but restored by Pope John Paul II in 2002, along with the Holy Name of Jesus, the celebration of which, on the other hand, is held on varying dates but mostly in January.

"The objective of the feast is to commemorate all the privileges bestowed upon Mary by God and all the

graces received through her intercession and mediation.

"It was celebrated in Spain in 1513. From there, the feast spread to all of Spain and to the Kingdom of Naples. It was associated with the 1683 defeat of the Muslim army outside Vienna. The Polish king, John Sobieski arrived at Vienna with his army on the octave of the Nativity of Mary. He entrusted his force to Mary and the Turks were routed. Pope Innocent XI declared the



Most Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary as celebration for the Universal Church as a memorial of victory."

Two 'Lost' Circles Found

Sis. Inday Ramos, diocesan regent of the Diocese of Imus, started the search for two 'lost' DMI circles during her term as vicarial regent in 2013.

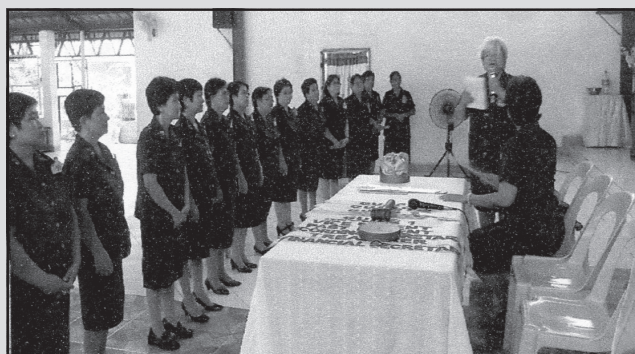
An opportunity came during the inauguration of the Divine Mercy Church in Biluso, Silang, Cavite when Sis. Inday met Sis. Lumen Salinas who gave her the contact numbers of some DMIs of Indang. An initial meeting was set by Sis. Inday and Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Virgie Inigo with the original members of St. Vincent Ferrer Circle. The group decided to form a new circle.

Thus, five months after the initial meeting, the Immaculate Conception Circle of Lumampong was formally organized. The

new set of officers headed by Sis. Belen Gatdula as regent was installed last July 27, 2014.

The circle was represented by ten sisters during the Region V Assembly held on August 30 at the LPU-Cavite Campus.

Then, too, as early as April, 2013, there had been talks about reactivating the Nuestra Senora de Candelaria Circle in Silang, Cavite. The move was initiated by then Diocesan Regent Sis. Jing Velasco, Vicarial Regent Sis. Inday Ramos and some officers of the Sto. Nino de Molina Circle. During the meeting, three from the original circle, Sisters Anly Merced, Pat Marayag and Zeny Macaraeg pledged to help in the reactivation effort. They went house-to-house recruiting new members.



The officers of the Immaculate Conception Circle of Indang during their installation.



The officers and members of Our Lady of Candelaria Circle of Silang.

Finally, on August 25, 2014, the officers of Our Lady of Candelaria Circle of Silang headed by Regent Sis. Genie Asuncion were installed with 23 initial members composing the circle.

During the Region V

Assembly, the circle made its presence felt with its members serving as choir during the Eucharistic celebration.

The Diocese of Imus welcomes back its two 'lost' circles.

News Briefs from Our Lady Of Fatima (Bacood) Circle ...Cont'd. From Page 16

of the Commission on Family and Life of the Archdiocese of Manila. At the end of the symposium. Ms. Eva Chan, the school's guidance counselor, presented a plaque of

appreciation to Mr. Perez saying that the participating students who are graduating are very lucky for having been provided a very valuable 'pabaon' by the school. The activity was

spearheaded by the Circle's Morality in Media Committee headed by Sis. Marlene Lopez.

*A PILGRIMAGE was made by the DMI sisters to Monasterio de Tarlac

on March 22 where they were given a chance to touch the relic of the Holy Cross authenticated by a papal zeal as the cross discovered by St. Helena in Jerusalem.

From the Archdiocese of Jaro (Iloilo)

DMI Archdiocese of Jaro In Action



Fr. Joenick Terretorio, guest speaker



Archbishop Angel Lagdameo of the Archdiocese of Jaro



Sis. Teresita Hontiveros was moderator of the open forum.

8th Msgr. Jose Buenaflor Memorial Media Forum

The annual Msgr. Jose Buenaflor Memorial Media Forum took place on March 13, 2014 at the Archbishop's Palace in Iloilo City. This year's theme was "The Laity in the Media" for the purpose of assessing the role of Iloilo's Catholic laity in mass media. Fr. Joenick Terretorio, JCD, director of the Jaro Archdiocesan Commission on the Laity,

discussed the forum theme. Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, in his inspirational message, relived the spirit of Msgr. Pepe Buenaflor, founder of Katekista sa Kahanginan (KSKA) through the media. Close to a hundred participants from various sectors attended the forum which the DMI Archdiocese of Jaro helped organize with the KSKA.

Archdiocese Sponsors Medical-Dental Mission



Diocesan Regent Sis. Emma Victoria and other DMI sisters get ready to receive patients.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Emma Victoria of the Archdiocese of Jaro led DMI sisters from 18 circles of the Archdiocese in the conduct of a Medical-Dental Mission in Jaro District and Miagao, Iloilo. Around 56 volunteer doctors provided quality medical and dental services to 1,472 patients. The 821 Battalion 31



Volunteer doctors and dentists providing free medical and dental services during the Mission.

Division of the Philippine Army also provided free haircuts and body massage in Miagao. The activity, according to Sis. Emma, was also a way of curing not only the physical but also the spiritual ailments of mission beneficiaries through Mama Mary.

From the Archdiocese of Ozamis

Calabayan Studes Receive Immaculada Concepcion De Ozamis Circle's Post-Holiday Treat

By Sis. Gloria T. Aleman, Circle Scribe

Students of Calabayan Elementary School in Ozamis City, Misamis Occidental received gifts distributed by the DMI sisters of Immaculada Concepcion de Ozamis Circle last

January 14, 2014. Supporting the activity were Canadians Doris Sandra Ruff who donated part of the goods distributed including toys, school supplies and clothes and the couple Charlie and Marlene Lough who donated the food served.

Capping the day's activity was the showing of a documentary film on Planet Earth at the Calabayan National High School aimed at making the children aware of the urgent need to preserve Mother Earth.

The post-holiday treat was the Immaculada

Concepcion de Ozamis Circle's start-up activity for the year 2014 which sees the continuation of a truly remarkable year (2013) with plans and programs already calendared for another busy year for the DMI sisters.

From the Archdiocese of Iaro (Iloilo)

Diocesan Family Day Held

A Diocesan Family Day was held at the Soriano Beach Resort in Oton, Iloilo on May 18, 2014, replacing the annual sportsfests of the past years. Eighteen circles of the Archdiocese were represented by 195 DMI sisters. The St. Joseph - Pototan Circle led by Circle Regent Sis. Trinidad Capunihan hosted the activity. Rev. Fr. Luis Clavel, director of the Archdiocesan Youth Commission was a special guest. The host circle prepared entertainment numbers among which was the Zumba exercise which the attendees enjoyed - twisting, wiggling, and swinging - until they were able to shed off their inhibition. The circles also performed song and dance numbers. Winners of parlor games and contests went home with prizes awarded to them by DR Sis. Emma Victoria.



From Ormoc City, Leyte

Sts. Peter & Paul Circle's "Food for The Body And Soul"

The DMI sisters of Sts. Peter & Paul Circle of Ormoc City held their annual get-together cum recollection on May 11, 2014 at the Malazarte vacation house in Balugo, Albueva, Leyte.

The activity was part of the circle's formation program which also gave the DMI sisters the opportunity to bond and enjoy each other's company.

Rev. Fr. Ding Lopez, a Carmelite priest, gave a Biblico-Theological Reflection in which he emphasized the essentials of gratefulness. He said that regardless of life's circumstances, one must maintain a certain degree of gratefulness because "everything under the sun has meaning and purpose". He also said that being grateful

needs not be expressed only during moments of joy but also during unfavorable conditions of life. The PowerPoint presentation he used during the talk made his reflections even more meaningful for the participants.

A sumptuous lunch ended the activity. Region XI Representative Sis. Perla Malazarte thanked Fr. Lopez as well as the 30 DMI sisters present for partaking of the day's "food for the body and soul".

The Sts. Peter & Paul Circle officers headed by Regent Sis. Carolina Quezon during their installation last January 2014. With them are Fr. Urbina, DMI spiritual director, and Region XI RR Sis. Perla Malazarte.



The DMI sisters of Sts. Peter and Paul Circle listen intently to Fr. Ding Lopez while giving his reflection on the essentials of gratefulness.



Region XI Turns Over Funds To National Office



Region XI Representative Sis. Perla Malazarte turned over part of the Region's net income from its Regional Assembly held in Tacloban City last October, 2013 to the DMI National Office. Sis. Perla is shown in photo handing the check to International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva during the International Board meeting on February 15, 2014.

Sto. Rosario De Oroquieta Circle Celebrates Nutrition Month

The Sto. Rosario de Oroquieta Circle of Oroquieta City and WINGS (Women in Government Service) jointly sponsored activities during the annual observance of Nutrition Month. Coordinating the activities was Sis. Ida Talictic, vicarial regent of the parishes of Clarin, Tudfula, Jimenez and Panaon in Misamis Occidental who also heads WINGS.

A supplementary feeding program dubbed as "Kalamidad Paghandaan, Gutom

at Malnutrisyon Agapan" capped the Nutrition Month celebration. The activity was held on July 18, 2014 benefiting 60 children aged 5 to 12 years who are elementary school pupils of Bgy. Dolipos Bajo, Oroquieta City. This barangay was chosen as program recipient upon recommendation of the City Health Office which it identifies as having the most number of malnourished children.

The day's program consisted of lectures

to the parents on proper nutrition and proper food handling and preparation. A group from the Philippine National Police of Oroquieta City also gave a lecture on prohibited drugs and the dangers of drug abuse, one of Oroquieta City's unsolved problems. Among the participants in the lecture were 20 mothers, a father and teachers of the school.

Lunch was served to the participants who later received gift packages consisting of sachets of milk,

chocolate drinks, fruit juices and other food items. The activity was part of Sto. Rosario Circle's pro-life program. With Sis. Ida were Sisters Benedicta Abuhon, Nora Alcala, Abrilita Besonia, Rose Cabigon, Antonia Maghanoy, Helen Saldivar, Ethel Villa, Gloria Villamin, Virgie Villamin, Ida Labadan, Tomasita Lumantas, Leonila Lamparas, Virginia Encabo and Maricon Saceda.

A supplementary feeding program dubbed as "Kalamidad Paghandaan, Gutom at Malnutrisyon Agapan" capped the Nutrition Month celebration.



The DMI sisters and WINGS members who attended the activity.



The children-beneficiaries of the feeding program presented an entertainment number as their way of thanking the DMI sisters.

DMII Welcomes New Archbishop Of Zamboanga

By Sis. Angie L. Baes, Diocesan Regent, Archdiocese of Zamboanga

Most Rev. Romulo Tolentino De la Cruz, the new Archbishop of Zamboanga, was welcomed by the DMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Basilan and the Knights of Columbus at the Crystal Ballroom of the Grand Astoria Hotel last June 4, 2014.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Angie Baes welcomed the Archbishop during the luncheon and introduced the

organization, its vision and mission, its history as well as the projects and activities of the 25 DMI circles and 18 Squirettes of Mary circlettes in the Archdiocese. Proof of the DMIs' commitment and dedication to Mama Mary was the six Gold Star and four Silver Circle Awards that the Archdiocese received during the 19th DMI Biennial Convention in Bohol last April.

The Archbishop happily noted the formation of more circles not only in Zamboanga City but

also in Basilan City, Lamitan, Ipil-Sibugay, Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, Loon, Bohol and in Macau.

Msgr. Crisologo Manongas who served as administrator of the Archdiocese in the absence of an archbishop introduced Archbishop De la Cruz. He was bishop of San Jose de Antique and then of the Diocese of Kidapawan prior to his new assignment.

In his speech, Archbishop De la Cruz talked about his ministry and the many

challenges that he had hurdled. He also said that he is grateful for the achievements of the past and the active presence of the DMII and the KC in the Archdiocese who have pledged to give him their full support.

Bro. Victor Liozo, chairman of Caballero de Colon de Zamboanga and Faithful Navigator of Nstra. Senora Virgen del Pilar Assembly No. 1993 was over-all coordinator of the event.

Proof of the DMIs' commitment and dedication to Mama Mary was the six Gold Star and four Silver Circle Awards that the Archdiocese received during the 19th DMI Biennial Convention in Bohol last April.



Archbishop Romulo T. De la Cruz with DMI Diocesan Regent Sis. Angie Baes.



The head table during the welcome luncheon for Archbishop De la Cruz

San Isidro Labrador Circle Conducts Feeding Program, Stress Management Seminar

By Sis. Lourdes Locson, Vicarial Regent

The San Isidro Labrador Circle of Talon-Talon, Zamboanga City conducted a Feeding Program benefiting 100 Severely Waste-Listed students of Talon-Talon National High School last August 1, 2014 after the First Friday Mass at the school. The students are from

Grades 7 to 10.

Before the actual distribution of nutritious macaroni soup, Sis. Marilyn de Asis, RGC, a retired guidance director, gave a lecture on Effective Study Skills to the program participants. Questions were asked during the lecture to



Sis. Marilyn de Asis lectures on Effective Study Skills to students.

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New Circle Organized in Zamboanga City

By Sis. Monina Siasico, Vicarial Regent, Divine Mercy Circle

The Divine Mercy Circle of Divisoria, Zamboanga City has just given birth to a new circle in Bgy. Sangali, 25 kilometers from the city proper. This came about after more than a year of hard work by the mother circle headed by Past Regent Sis. Baby Tan and

Regent Vely Pelayo. Nineteen ladies, the circle's charter members, were exemplified by the Exemplification Team of Our Lady of Purification Circle of Sta. Maria, Zamboanga City headed by Sis. Mila Navato.

The charter officers of the new circle, named Our Lady of the Pillar Circle,

were installed after the long conferral ceremony on June 14, 2014. Sis. Catherine Siason-Felix, a public high school teacher, is the charter regent.

In his inspirational message, Fr. Matt Ca-ay, pastor of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish where the circle is located, welcomed the DMII in his parish and

said that the organization will "help him steer his banca" toward greater participation of the laity in parish evangelization. The Our Lady of the Pillar Circle is the 24th DMI circle in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga.

A Requiem for Sis. Alice Amadure

By Sis. Cora Afuang, Int'l Secretary & Region V Representative

During the Region V Assembly held last August 30, 2014 in Cavite, a bubbly lady was among the 98 delegates from the Diocese of Imus. She was SIS. ALICE AMADURE,

financial secretary of the Our Lady of Candelaria Circle. A retired public school teacher, she was very proud to wear her new Class A DMI uniform. She was very active in her circle's activities as was her wont in the other organizations she was part of in her parish and community.

And so, all her sisters in the circle, friends and family members were shocked to hear the news of her untimely and tragic death. Sis. Alice was accidentally

run over by her own car, by the family driver in the early afternoon of September 4, 2014 in Trece Martires City, a neighboring town of Silang where she resides.

During the necrological services organized by the Diocese of Imus attended by DMI sisters from the Diocese of Antipolo - Sisters Rita Lucena, Ver Lawas and this writer, and representatives from the circles in her Diocese - Our Lady of Candelaria, Sto. Nino de Molino, Our Lady Queen of Peace and Immaculate Conception of Lumampong - it was evident from messages of friends and relatives who spoke that Sis. Alice was well-loved due to her compassionate, kind, generous and helpful nature. The sisters in her circle were one in saying that she would



be a big loss to Our Lady of Candelaria Circle; but then again, they believe that she will be the guiding spirit who will inspire them to firm up their commitment and to work as one at such a critical time that the circle has just been reactivated after a hiatus of more than two years.

Sis. Alice left behind her grieving husband, SK Gualberto Amadure. She was 66 years old.

San Isidro Labrador Circle Conducts Feeding Program...Cont'd. From Page 23

check on their attentiveness. Those who were able to answer correctly were given simple tokens such as school supplies.

On August 10, Sis. Marilyn conducted another lecture, this time on "The Effective Ways to Manage Stress" before circle members and SMI members.

The one-hour sharing focused on the 8-8-8 principle in managing stress. The participants in turn shared the daily stresses in their lives which affect their routine activities both in school and at home.

At the end of the lecture, the participants commented that

they should have known the Triple 8 Principle way before to avoid the many stresses that had affected them.

Both the Circle's Feeding Program and Stress Management Seminar were part of its Pro-Life activities.