



# DMI NEWSETTE

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July - September 2015

## DMI AREA CONFERENCES HELD

Two major DMI events took place during the past six months – the Mindanao Area Conference in Tagum City on April 17-19, 2015 and the Visayas Area Conference in Iloilo City on July 18, 2015. Both conferences had record turn-outs of delegates.

### VISAYAS AREA CONFERENCE



*The guests from the International Board in a group photo with Archbishop Angel Lagdameo (at center). From left: Sisters Carmen Baquilid, Cathy Pineda, Cora Afuang, VIR-Luzon, Perla Arguelles, past Int'l Regent, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Msgr. Meliton Oso, IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, Sisters Gloria Caminero, Pureza Guzman and Jean Velarde, past IR.*

### MINDANAO AREA CONFERENCE



*The 894 delegates of the Mindanao Area Conference fill the RDR Gym in Tagum City as they wait for the opening ceremony of the conference.*

**M**sgr. Meliton B. Oso, Social Action director of the Archdiocese of Jaro keynoted the 2015 Visayas Area Conference held at the Royal Garden Hall, Iloilo City on July 18, 2015.

Some 400 participants from DMI circles all over the Visayas were touched and disturbed by the video presentation that accompanied Msgr. Oso's keynote address which depicted how the poor live and showed statistics on the poverty situation in the country. Delving on the conference theme "Strengthening DMI Missions with Mercy and

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**I**t was a record turn-out of 894 DMI sisters who attended the Mindanao Area Conference last April 17-19, 2015 at the Rodolfo del Rosario (RDR) Gym in Tagum City, Davao del Norte.

Represented at the conference were Regions XII, XIII and XIV consisting of the following dioceses:

Region XII – Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro (Gingoog, Misamis Oriental and Camiguin) Diocese of Butuan (Agusan del Sur and Agusan del Norte), Diocese of Malaybalay (Bukidnon, Wa-o and Lanao

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# MEMORIAL MASS HELD ON MSGR. TANTOCO'S 1ST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

By Sis. Cora T. Afuang, Vice-IR-Luzon

**A** memorial mass on the occasion of the 1st death anniversary of Msgr. Francisco Tantoco, Jr., departed DMI international chaplain, was celebrated by International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz at the Arzobispado de Manila in Intramuros on August 26, 2015.

The mass was attended by about a hundred DMI sisters led by International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan and Past IR Sis. Mila Villanueva. Members of the International Board VIR-Luzon & Region V RR Sis. Cora Afuang, Mission Chairpersons Sisters Carmen Baquilid of Pro-Life and Cathy Pineda of Youth Welfare and a number of diocesan regents and vicarial regents of Region V were also in attendance together with relatives and close associates of Msgr. Tantoco.

In his homily, Fr. Jerome extolled the virtues of the late Msgr. Tantoco, specifically his fidelity, service, discernment and humility. Fr. Jerome himself talked from first-hand experience having served as DMI assistant chaplain during Msgr. Tantoco's term as DMI chaplain. Those who had worked closely with Msgr. Tantoco could only nod in agreement.

The afternoon affair was capped by a simple merienda hosted by the DMI and Msgr. Tantoco's relatives.



*Sisters Rebbie Pacanan, Mila Villanueva, Cora Afuang and Carmen Baquilid with DMI sisters during the memorial mass for Msgr. Tantoco.*



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*From the International Regent*

## MESSAGE



Greetings of peace, love and joy to all DMI sisters far and near.

The third quarter ended with the month of September which heralds the coming Christmas season. The past months were busy months for the association as there were plenty of activities which required the presence of the International Regent. With the grace of God and through the intercession of our patroness, the Immaculate Conception, everything went well including the perfect scheduling of activities in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao.

On July 12-16, 2015, I traveled to Cebu upon invitation of Region X Representative Sis. Gloria Caminero where there was a Dental Mission in Bgy. Tabunok, Cebu City and the Regional Board meeting of Region X and a joint meeting of three circles in Argao, Carcar and Sibunga. Highlighting the visit was a pilgrimage to the shrine of the miraculous Virgin of Fatima in Simala. It was pure bliss when we felt the miraculous hands of Our Lady of Fatima. The shepherding visit was aimed to inspire our DMI sisters and to revive some inactive circles.

The next trip was to Iloilo City for the Visayas Area Conference on July 17-18. This was convened by Sis. Pureza Guzman, Vice-International Regent for the Visayas and Region IX RR. The attendance was overwhelming and upon return to their respective circles, I know they will be inspired to undertake the DMI missions with more zeal and fervor.

On July 21, the IR also attended the planning and consultative meeting in Davao City in preparation for the 20th Biennial Convention. It was a productive discussion on some areas of concern by all the stakeholders headed by Region XIII Representative Sis. Laura Cespon, the host RR.

Upon return to Manila from Davao, the IR proceeded to Agoo, La Union for the Region II Assembly spearheaded by Region II Representative Sis. Virgie Terrado and hosted by the Diocese of San Fernando with Diocesan Regent Sis. Agnes Lauron. From far north, we then traveled to Pili, Camarines Sur for the assembly of Region VIII (Bicol). The vicariate in Pili headed by Sis. Bem Plaza hosted the event. Region VIII Representative Sis. Terry Viola was indisposed that time and was not able to attend but the assembly had to go on as scheduled and everything went well.

Lastly, may I take this opportunity to thank all the gracious hosts for the warm hospitality and gestures of concern during our sojourn in the places we visited for the love of service to Mama Mary.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY. GOD BLESS.

**SIS. REBECCA CONGE-PACANAN**  
International Regent

*Visayas Area..... from page 1*

Compassion to the Poor”, he firmly challenged the DMIs to embrace this responsibility by serving the poor and the needy and adopt DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman’s advocacy to keep the poor healthy and keep them in school. How? Through feeding and scholarship programs. A concrete way of caring for the poor and alleviating poverty is through education/scholarship. “Healthy children are happy and perform well in school,” he said

Guests from the International Board were present at the conference. International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan gave inspirational messages related to the conference theme. Vice-IR for the Visayas Sis. Pureza Guzman updated the conference delegates on goings-on in the Board focusing on the board resolutions which were ratified during the National Officers’ Meeting on May 10, 2015 in Manila. Mission Chairpersons Sis. Carmen Baquilid for Pro-life, Sis. Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare (SMI) and Region X RR Sis. Gloria Caminero (vice Chairperson Sis. Mary Annie Jabines) for Assistance to Prisoners’ Families & their Victims presented the programs

of their respective missions. Everyone turned emotional listening to the passionate testimonies of a successful small entrepreneur and an ex-prisoner.

A Eucharistic celebration by Most Rev. Angel M. Lagdameo, D.D., archbishop of Jaro closed the day’s session.

The Fellowship Night was a colorful event with its Hawaiian motif. The DMI sisters, with leis around their necks and flowers on their hair outdid each other as they vied for the prizes at stake: for the best Hawaiian dance presentation won by sisters from Bacolod City (1st place), Kalibo (2nd place) and Roxas City (3rd place). The best interpretative dance was won by Kalibo (1st place), Bacolod City (2nd place) and Roxas City (3rd place). A sister from Roxas City won the title DMI Hawaiian Sweetheart.

The delegates thanked the Diocese of Jaro, the event host, headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Mila Porral for the very successful, memorable and enjoyable event.

*By Sis. Rosario M. Villalon  
(Regent, St. Joseph Husband of Mary Circle)*



*The presidential table during the Visayas Area Conference*



*Msgr. Meliton B. Oso, keynote speaker.*



*The DMI sisters in their colorful Hawaiian costumes during Fellowship Night.*



*The Parade of Circles during the Mindanao Area Conference opening.*



*IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan and VIR-Mindanao Sis. Annie Ty with conference delegates.*

del Sur), Diocese of Surigao (Surigao del Norte) and Diocese of Tandag (Surigao del Sur).

Region XIII – Archdiocese of Davao (Davao City), Diocese of Marbel ( South Cotabato and General Santos City), Diocese of Digos (Davao del Sur), Diocese of Mati (Davao Oriental) and Diocese of Tagum (Davao del Norte and Compostela Valley).

Region XIV – Archdiocese of Ozamis (Misamis Occidental and Oroquieta City), Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela (Basilan), Diocese of Dipolog (Dapitan, Dipolog and Zamboanga del Sur) and Diocese of Iligan (Iligan City and Lanao del Norte).

Day 1, April 17, started with the arrival and registration of delegates at the Heroben Hometel in Tagum City. DMI International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz then held a brief conference with the International Officers present, the Mindanao-based Regional Representatives, and diocesan and vicarial regents.

The conference proper started on Day 2 with the enthronement and floral offering to the Blessed Mother by International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, Past IR Sis. Lydia Ramirez, Vice-IR for Mindanao and Region XII RR Sis. Annie Ty, Region XIII RR

Sis. Laura Cespon, Region XIV RR Sis. Angela Baes, Past Region XII RR and SMI Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel and the diocesan and vicarial regents. A moving prayer by Sis. Erlinda Loria accompanied the ceremony. Past VIR for Mindanao Sis. Cecille Apura then presented the conference delegates after the Parade of Circles.

Sis. Lucia Magalona, diocesan regent of Tagum, the host diocese, greeted the delegates followed by the welcome message by Sis. Annie Ty. In her inspirational message, IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan commended the DMIs of Mindanao for their commitment and devotion to the Blessed Mother and urged them to remain steadfast in their faith. She also encouraged DMI circles to entice more ladies to join the organization.

The first guest speaker, Rev. Fr. Marlon Lacal, O.Carm. whose topic was “Mary and Self-Transformation” moved his audience to tears as he related his revival to life after lying in coma for nine days. A devotee of the Blessed Mother, Father Lacal attributed his “second life” to her intercession. He urged the DMI sisters to remain steadfast in their faith in God and believe in the power of the Blessed Mother’s intercession.

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The special guests during Fellowship Night. From left: Diocesan Regent of Tagum and Conference Chair Sis. Lucia Magalona, Past VIR-Mindanao Sis. Cecille Apura, Past IR Sis. Lyding Ramirez, SMI Mindanao Coordinator Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel, Fr. Jerome Cruz, IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, VIR-Mindanao Sis. Annie Ty and Region XIV RR Sis. Angie Baes.

A concelebrated Mass by Fr. Jerome and Rev. Fathers Nestor Bonghanoy and Allan Alindajao, DMI diocesan chaplains, closed the morning session.

Fr. Jerome opened the afternoon program with a talk on the conference theme: "Empower the Poor; Be Brave; DMI Cares" "It is difficult to be brave without no one to rely on," he said. But the DMIs should not be afraid, because *mayroon kayong kinakapitan*, the Holy Spirit, he continued. He ended with the message: Be brave in performing your mission, renew friendship and unity with others, specially with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Most Rev. Bishop Wilfredo D. Manlapaz, D.D., SthD, Bishop of the Diocese of Tagum, was the keynote speaker during the conference. His talk centered on "Revisiting the Teachings of the

Second Plenary Council of the Philippines Regarding the Church of the Poor". According to him, the Church of the poor is one where the poor are helped, not by dole-outs but by helping them learn how to help themselves. Further, the church of the poor stands for the rights of the poor even if they receive the ire of the rich.

The poor should be given priority for active participation in the life of the church. To realize this, the Bishop challenged the DMIs to help catechize the poor so they may become active participants in the church.

"The most alarming concern of the church today is poverty, not material wealth, but the poverty of vocation," Bishop Manlapaz said. There is scarcity of individuals taking up the priestly vocation. He then urged the DMIs to include the prayer for vocation in their daily prayers "for the harvest is rich but the laborers are scarce."

An open forum followed with Sis. Laura Cespon as moderator. The comments and reactions of conference delegates were heartwarming citing the messages of the guest speakers, the venue and accommodations by the host diocese and the warm hospitality of the Tagumenos.

The session ended with a bidding for the next venue of the Mindanao Area Conference in 2017. It was awarded to Region XII to be hosted by the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro and the Dioceses of Butuan, Malaybalay, Tandag and Surigao..

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A certificate of appreciation is awarded to Fr. Marlon Lacal, a guest speaker.



Special guest during the fellowship dinner was Tagum City Mayor Allan Rellon shown being awarded a certificate of appreciation.

## REGIONAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN SAN PABLO CITY

This year's assembly of Region VI (Diocese of San Pablo/Laguna) was held on June 29, 2015 at Auravel Grande Hotel & Resort in San Pablo City. The regional assembly theme was "Banal na Birheng Maria Huwaran ng DMI sa Awa at Pang-unawa sa Dukha at Nangangailangan".

The day's program started with the traditional Parade of Circles and floral offering to Mama Mary headed by International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, Region VI Representative Sis. Elvie Arambulo, Past VIR for Luzon & Region VI RR Sis. Lita Canonizado. Diocesan Regent Sis. Loreta Santos, Vicarial Regents Sisters Vicky Adora, Luming Lagunda and Isabel Ticzon followed by the regents of the 16 circles present.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Lorie Santos officially welcomed the 245 delegates. A Long Conferral ceremony for 34 new DMI sisters in the Diocese was then performed by the Exemplification Team of the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua headed by VR Sis. Luming Lagunda.

IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, the assembly guest speaker, was introduced by Sis. Lita Canonizado. Sis. Rebbie stressed the importance of being a good DMI by following the organization's Rules & Regulations as embodied in the DMI Constitution & By-laws and applying the five DMI virtues: Humility, obedience, friendship, charity and sanctity.

Highlighting the day's program was the Eucharistic celebration officiated by Most Rev. Buenaventura Famadico, bishop of the Diocese of San Pablo, and Rev. Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul, SthL, DMI diocesan spiritual director. Bishop Famadico in his homily thanked the delegates for fulfilling their commitment to Mama Mary and the support the DMII has continued to give to the Diocese.



*The officers of Region VI (top photo) welcome International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan (5th from left) before the assembly opening. Bottom photo: Seated at the presidential table are Past Int'l Secretary and Region VI Representative Sis. Lita Canonizado, IR Sis. Rebbie and International Treasurer and Region VI RR Sis. Arambulo.*

VR Sis. Vicky Adora of St. John the Baptist opened the afternoon session with her talk on Upliftment of Women Workers and how Region VI

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pursues this DMI mission. She discussed how the local government gives support to their projects by providing technical and financial assistance mostly in agriculture and fisheries. Backyard gardening is a popular activity among housewives.

Region VI RR Sis. Elvie Arambulo in her message expressed her heartfelt gratitude to all those who participated in the event and to Sis. Rebbie who came all the way from Tacloban City to be with the DMI sisters of Region VI. She also reminded them to look around their community/parish for opportunities to help the less fortunate, to assist their parish priest

in the religious activities of their parish and actively take part in the circle's activities.

A dance presentation was presented by sisters from the San Sebastian the Martyr, Theresian and Mother of Life Circles.

The closing remarks by Sis. Isabel Ticzon and the singing of the DMI Hymn led by Sis. Ameth Lim brought the assembly to a close. Souvenir photos were then taken of the delegates with Sis. Rebbie and Bishop Famadico

Hosts for the day-long program were Regent Sisters Adora Abe and Emma Abrigo.



*A durian party was a special treat to guests from the International Board.*

The evening fellowship featured a glittering Filipiniana Night with the DMI ladies changing into colorful native attires. Circles vied for prizes at stake for the best dance presentation.

The presence of Mayor Allan Rellon, the young, brilliant and genial executive of Tagum City added much significance to the event. He greeted the delegates as fellow Tagumenos, all the conference delegates having been declared as adopted daughters of Tagum. He also thanked the DMI sisters for their prayers and petitions for the poor as well

as in helping stimulate spirituality thereby promoting peace in their respective communities.

The conference ended on the morning of April 19 with a Eucharistic celebration by Bishop Manlapaz at the cathedral. Packed lunches were distributed to the delegates for the city tour which brought the conference to a close. Teary-eyed DMIs bade each other good-bye as they vowed to see each other again at the 20th Biennial Convention in May, 2016 and the next Mindanao Area Conference in 2017.



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## **ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA CIRCLE SPONSORS MASS WEDDING**

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**N**ine couples in Sta. Josefina Bakhita Parish in Tala, Orion, Bataan exchanged marriage vows during a mass wedding sponsored by the St. Josephine Bakhita Circle jointly with the Knights of Columbus on Feb. 14, 2015. At the helm of the sponsoring organizations are Circle Regent Sis. Dolores Magpantay and KC Grand Knight Bro. Aurelio Flores, Jr.

The wedding ceremony and nuptial mass were officiated by Fr. Jerry Bongcawil, pastor, and Fr. Joel Raymundo, asst. pastor of Sta. Josefina Parish. Extending support to the project were Past Diocesan Regent Sis Eleanor Magpantay, FN Roy Arroyo and DMI Chaplain Fr. Bongcawil.



*A couple, one of nine who participated in the mass wedding, poses with their wedding sponsor.*

After the Mass, a KC-DMI Valentine's Party was held which also became the couples' wedding reception. A sumptuous dinner and wine were served with a wedding cake as centerpiece.

Fr. Bongcawil expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the DMI and the KC for making the event possible, a first in their parish.



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## **LIVING ROSARY HELD ON MAMA MARY'S BIRTHDAY**

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**T**he St. Peter of Verona Circle of Hermosa, Bataan, Diocese of Balanga headed by Regent Sis. Ligaya P. Cruz held a Living Rosary as part of the celebration of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sept. 8, 2015. The circle also spearheaded the 9-day novena from August 30 to September 7 culminating in a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Msgr. Mario Perez, parish priest.

The Living Rosary preceded the Mass participated in by members of religious organizations of the parish. The DMIs prepared a giant rosary with blue and white balloons serving as beads which was released after the closing prayer that they led. The mass goers applauded as the balloons were released.

The Marian devotees of the parish offered flowers to the Blessed Mother after the Mass.



*The giant rosary with blue and white balloons as beads that the DMI sisters prepared was released to the sky after the Living Rosary.*

## QUEEN OF FLOWERS CIRCLE CELEBRATES PEARL ANNIVERSARY

*J*ardin Preciosa in Bocaue, Bulacan was the venue of the Pearl Anniversary celebration of the Queen of Flowers Circle last July 14, 2015. The event's motif being "Kulturang Pilipino", the DMI sisters and their guests came in their Filipiniana attires..

The afternoon's program started with a Holy Mass celebrated by Msgr. Albert Suatengco, DMI diocesan spiritual director. The guest speaker was Ex-Congresswoman and DMI Past International Board Member Sis. Reylynda Nicolas.

The circle's guest list included Region IV Representative Sis. Fely Gallardo, Diocesan Regent Sis. Tess Curia, Past RRs & International Secretaries Sisters Prising Hermogenes and Tesy Villarino, Past RRs Sisters Violy Luna and Flor Barcial and Vicarial Regent Sis. Marilyn San Diego.

Adopting the theme of the celebration "Great Triumphs Are Born Out of Great Troubles", the sisters looked back on the past 30 years, recalling the many trials and challenges that the circle had been able to hurdle and the numerous successes that had been achieved through their efforts and the help

By Sis. Paz delos Reyes, Circle Recording Secretary  
and intercession of the Blessed Mother.

Plaques of appreciation were awarded to the circle's past regents for their invaluable contribution to the growth and success of the Queen of Flowers Circle.



*Ex-Congresswoman and Past DMI Board Member Sis. Reylynda Nicolas (at left) receives a plaque of appreciation from Sis. Piling San Juan, Region IV Representative and DMI Board member (2005-2008). Msgr. Albert Suatengco, DMI diocesan chaplain stands at center.*

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## FROM POPE FRANCIS ABOUT THE FILIPINOS

*I* was moved by their gestures, they were not formal gestures that followed protocol, they were genuine gestures that came from the heart. Faith, love, family, the future, in that gesture fathers made of lifting their children so the Pope could bless them. They lifted their children up, a gesture **YOU DON'T SEE IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD**. It was as if they were saying: this here is my treasure, this is my future, this is what makes working and suffering worth it. A unique gesture that came from the heart.



## DMIs DIALOGUE WITH MTRCB CHAIR

A contingent of DMIs from the Diocese of Antipolo trooped to the office of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board in Quezon City for an audience with the current MTRCB Chairman, Atty. Eugenio “Toto” Villaruel.

What was initially planned as a simple courtesy call turned out to be a very productive and enlightening session with Chairman Villaruel. He gave the DMIs a short but comprehensive outline of what the MTRCB is doing now in line with the mandate given to his office.

A noteworthy project the office has launched is the “Matalinong Panonood Para sa Pamilya at Lipunan nina Juan at Juana”. The MTRCB team composed of its Board Members goes around conducting fora and information campaigns in different provinces in the Philippines. The team explains the fundamental roles of

parents in their children’s choice of movies and TV programs. The use and importance of classification ratings is also discussed in the seminar. According to Chairman Villaruel, through the seminar, people are empowered with regards to their responsibilities to discern the right kind of media. Parents realize the importance of ratings in protecting children from

being influenced by what they see in films and television.

The courtesy call was arranged by Sis. Mercy Ong, diocesan chairperson for Morality in Media and by Sis. Lou Biason, Morality in Media chairperson of St. Paul of the Cross Circle. Five circles from the diocese were represented during the meeting.



*The DMI delegation from the Diocese of Antipolo with MTRCB Chairman Atty. Eugenio Villaruel.*

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The second thing that struck me a great deal was their genuine enthusiasm, their joy, their happiness, their ability to celebrate. Even in the rain. Mothers who brought their sick children . . . so many disabled children, disabilities you really notice, they didn’t hide their children; they brought them so they could be blessed: this is my child, it’s like this but it’s mine. All mothers do this but it was the way in which it was done that struck me . . . A maternal and paternal gesture. A people who know how to suffer and are able to get back on their feet and get on with life.

*(These words were quoted from Pope Francis while talking with the media on the flight from Manila back to Rome, Jan. 19, 2015.)*



*Pope Francis kisses a child as he arrives to lead an open-air Mass at Rizal Park in Manila*

## NEWS BRIEFS FROM MINA DE ORO CIRCLE

### Mina de Oro Circle Exemplifies

#### 10 New Members

The Mina de Oro Circle of San Jose, Mindoro Occidental exemplified ten new members during the long conferral ceremony held at the new chamber of the DMI last August 22, 2015. Congresswoman Josephine Ramirez Sato is one of the circle's newly exemplified members. The ceremony was conducted by the circle's exemplification team before some 40 DMI sisters present.



*The newly exemplified members of the Mina de Oro Circle.*



*The Mina de Oro Circle officers and members*

### SMI Officer's Induction

A new set of officers of the SMI Mina de Oro Circlette was inducted on August 23, 2015 during the DMI's 4th Sunday fraternal Mass. The mass was officiated by Msgr. Carlito Dimaano, parish priest and DMI spiritual adviser. The DMI business meeting and breakfast followed afterwards.



### International Eucharistic

#### Congress Icon's Visit

The visit of the icon of the International Eucharistic Congress on July 22, 2015 was a special occasion for Mindoreños. The visit, made in preparation for the International Eucharistic Congress to be held in Cebu in January, 2016 may be considered a milestone for the Vicariate of San Jose, Mindoro Occidental. On hand to welcome the icon were different religious organizations, pamayanan, youth, parish pastoral councils, PFC, politicians and the laity. A two-day vigil was held prior to the transfer of the icon to Sablayan, Mindoro Oriental.



*Members of the Mina de Oro Circle welcome the icon of the International Eucharistic Congress*

### Circle Scholar for Seven Years

Student Hazel Sebastian is Mina de Oro Circle's scholar for seven years now, starting from high school. She is a sophomore student at the Occidental Mindoro State College where she is taking up Development Communications. The circle provides Hazel with free board and lodging and monthly allowance. She joins the circle's meeting every 4th Sunday of the month to share her thoughts and aspirations.





## NEW CIRCLE ORGANIZED IN IRIGA CITY

May 17, 2015 saw the formal organization of a new circle in Region VIII (Bicol). The charter officers of Our Lady of Fatima Circle of Our Lady of Fatima Shrine and Parish in San Isidro, Iriga City were formally installed by DMI sisters from the Little Flower Circle of San Antonio de Padua Parish who initiated the formation of the new circle.



*The charter officers of Our Lady of Fatima Circle being installed into office by Fr. Cezar Bongon.*

Rev. Fr. Cezar Bongon, rector and pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Shrine and Parish is the circle's spiritual director. He took active part in the installation of the circle's charter officers. The circle has 23 members led by Charter Regent Sis. Letty Bame.



*The charter officers and members of Our Lady of Fatima Circle with Fr. Bongon.*

On April 15, 2015, the officers of the Little Flowers Circle led by Regent Sis. Nala Boquiron who sponsored the new circle were themselves installed into office by Sis. Lilay Alde, regional chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners Families & their Victims, Sis. Evelyn Bernales, vicarial regent and Sis. Nina Damot, past regent. Rev. Fr. Dioscoro Ibanita, pastor of San Antonio de Padua Parish graced the occasion.



*The officers of Little Flower Circle who initiated the formation of the new circle in Iriga City.*



## ORMOC CITY CIRCLE CELEBRATES CLERGY DAY 2015

By Sis. Carol N. Quezon, Regent, Sts. Peter & Paul Circle

This year's celebration of Clergy Day by the Sts. Peter & Paul Circle of Ormoc City last August 23, 2015, the feast day of St. John Mary Vianney, the patron of priests, was uniquely different.

The yearly activity honors the priests in the Vicariate of Ormoc City and the priests from the Augustinian and Carmelite Orders based in Biasong, Merida and Milagro, Leyte and in Ormoc City. The event traditionally would consist of a luncheon or dinner, a musical program showcasing the talents of the DMI sisters and the priest-honorees and gift-giving.

In keeping with the message of Pope Francis of mercy and compassion for the poor, this year's special guests of the circle, aside from the priest-honorees, were 41 individuals identified as among the poorest of the poor who partook of the sumptuous food prepared by the DMI sisters. The theme of the occasion was "Ang Simbahan sa Kabus nga Nagsunod kang Maria, ang Suluguon sa Ginoo" derived from the theme for the Year of the Poor of the Archdiocese of Maasin. All in all, the *salò-salò* was attended by the seven priests of the Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, three nuns, the 41 special guests, 30 DMI sisters and the SPP Parish staff.

To show their appreciation, three of the special guests



*The priest-honorees with the DMI sisters of Sts. Peter & Paul Circle.*



*A DMI sister prepares the gifts to be given to the honorees.*

participated in the program. Teodorico Roche, a blind guitarist, sang his own composition, "Ang Tawong Kabus" while a single mom volunteered to sing a Visayan song. Lucas Corman, a CSWD scholar who is in Grade 5 of a special class in the City Central School gave an

impromptu speech saying that age (he is 34 years old) is not a hindrance to education.

Inspiring messages were given by Region XI Representative Sis. Leni Larrazabal, SPP Circle Regent Sis. Carol Quezon and DMI Spiritual Director Fr. Goni Petillos.

## TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE LAUNCHES TWO FLAGSHIP PROJECTS

On July 5, 2015, the Tower of Ivory Circle of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Tacloban City launched two pro-life flagship projects in partnership with the DENR and the local government unit. These are the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) and Mangrove Reforestation and Tree Planting (MRTP). MRF calls for the residents to adopt storage facilities to segregate solid waste with the objective of reusing, reducing and recycling them. MRTP is for the purpose of mangrove reforestation to protect the land from storm surges during typhoons and to preserve the fish sanctuaries in its seas as well as to provide habitats for wildlife.

In the case of MRF, the circle coordinates with the environment officer of the local government unit in implementing the project in its coverage area, attends barangay sessions for coordination of project activities, holds MRF Management Training for Barangay Officials, holds regular meetings at least once a month to discuss the status of the project and conducts spot-checks on the project area and reports to the barangay chairman.

For MRTP, the circle coordinates with the DENR on its mangrove reforestation and tree-planting activities and suggests inclusion of priority areas not included in the DENR coverage even outside of DMI's assigned area. For DENR's regular projects, the circle asks for the agency's approval and the planting materials needed. Outside of DENR's priority coverage, the

By Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid, International Chairperson for Pro-Life circle implements the project in coordination with the concerned LGU.

The Tower of Ivory Circle's involvement in the MRTP project started with the celebration by the DENR Region 8 of Philippine Arbor Day on June 25, 2015. Among the DMI sisters who participated in the activity were Pro-Life International Chairperson Sis. Carmen Baquilid, Regent Sis. Edna Apurillo and Circle Scribe Sis. Teresita Acidre. Rev. Msgr. Benedicto Catilogo, DMI circle chaplain, gave his full support to this pro-life project.



*DENR foresters monitor the tree-planting activity.*



*The officers and members of the Tower of Ivory Circle and WOW Beauty-Brains Association during the mangrove tree-planting activity in Barugohay North, Carigara, Leyte.*



*Asst. DENR Region 8 Director Neil Ferreras (center) with DMI officers. Sis. Carmen Baquilid stands at left.*

## OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE'S DAY WITH *BAKASYONISTAS*

By Sis. Dolores Donalin C. Vadil, Past Regent



*"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brethren you do it to Me. For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink: I was a stranger and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me . . ."*

These passages from the Bible (Matthew 25:35-45) echoed throughout the hallway of the Ma-a City Jail in Davao City on the morning of May 30, 2015 as one of the female detainees who acted as emcee read them to us. The occasion was the visitation made by DMI sisters of Our Lady of Fatima Circle at the facility to distribute school bags containing school supplies and books, food packs,

and slippers. Merienda was also served to the female detainees and some 125 children.

The morning started with fun and games participated in by the kids and the inmates who prefer to be called *bakasyonistas*.

The scorching heat did not deter us to pursue our mission to give assistance to the prisoners' families as well as our apostolate to visit those in prison.

The smile on the faces of the children as they received our gifts was unforgettable. Then, too, no words can describe the inner joy we felt seeing the happy faces of the innocent children, the joy of giving without expecting something in return. Their smile was more than enough . . .



*"Bakasyonistas" with their children during the distribution of gifts by the DMI sisters of Our Lady of Fatima Circle*

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*"Aging is a celebration of NEW LIFE, NEW BEGINNINGS! That is why it is a time devoted to GRATITUDE FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS that come from the many bonus years in the palm of the hand of a loyal and loving God!"*

(From the book "A Celebration of New Beginnings" by Sr. Ma. Lourdes S. Verzosa, DC)

## DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY HELD JULY 5, 2015

The San Antonio de Padua Circle of Lanuza, Surigao del Sur hosted the diocesan assembly of the Diocese of Tandag at the Surf Camp in Lanuza. The theme of the assembly was "DMII: Evangelizing with Mercy and Compassion in the Year of the Poor".

The day-long affair started with the enthronement of the Blessed Virgin Mary and followed by a Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Nestor O. Climaco, DCT, parish priest. A Parade of Circles signaled the start of the conference session during which the 160 delegates

from 15 circles were presented by Diocesan Regent Sis. Tess Miranda. Mayor Salvacion Azarcon officially welcomed the DMI sisters to Lanuza. Inspirational messages were also given by Vice-IR for Mindanao & Region XII Representative Sis. Annie Ty and SMI Coordinator for Mindanao & Past RR Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel.

Some circles provided entertainment numbers. Prizes were then awarded to the most entertaining presentation, the early bird prize to the circle which arrived first and

the circle with the most number of delegates. A lively zumba dance ended the assembly with the delegates feeling re-energized not only by the physical exercise but by the inputs provided by the day's speakers.

Not long after the assembly, sisters of the Immaculate Conception Circle held a tree-planting activity in Bgy. Awasian, Tandag City as part of their Pro-Life project. Project partners were the Tandag Water District personnel headed by Sis. Annie Ty, manager.



Officers of the Diocese of Tandag in a group picture with Sis. Annie Ty, VIR-Mindanao and Region XII Representative.



Tree-planting by sisters of the Immaculate Conception Circle in Bgy. Awasian, Tandag City.

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*"A sacrifice to be real must cost, must hurt, must empty ourselves. The fruit of silence is prayer, the fruit of prayer is faith, The fruit of faith is love, the fruit of love is service, The fruit of service is PEACE."*

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta



## **ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICERS VISIT LAMITAN CITY**

July 19, 2015 was a very significant day for the DMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan. Four very important events happened on that day when officers of the Archdiocese made their annual visit to Basilan. The four events, unfolding one after the other were: the pilgrimage of the Blessed Virgin Mary from Zamboanga City to Basilan, the circle visitation of the Archdiocesan officers to the Heart of Mary Circle in Lamitan City, the installation of a new vicarial regent for the Prelature of Basilan and the induction of officers and members of the Squirettes of Mary Heart of Mary Circlette.

The visiting Archdiocesan officers were Region XIV Representative Sis. Angela Baes, Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Diocesan Secretary Sis. Marilyn de Asis, Diocesan Treasurer Sis. Mila Navato, Diocesan Auditor Sis. Monina Siasico, Past International Treasurer Sis. Beth Salmon, Diocesan Mission Chairpersons Sisters Mila Fernandez for Pro-life, Rose Bulawin for Upliftment of Women Workers and Ma. Bella Tandoc for Youth Welfare, and Chairperson on Ceremonials Sis. Tita Penaflor.

During the visit, the image of the Blessed Virgin was brought to Lamitan City from Zamboanga City and stayed there for three

weeks, giving the DMI sisters the chance to welcome the image to their homes.

Sis. Rebecca Ortega, a 3-time regent of the Heart of Mary Circle was installed as vicarial regent of the Prelature of Isabela de Basilan. Three circles comprise the vicariate: the Heart of Mary Circle of Lamitan, Sta. Isabel Circle of Isabela City and Holy Rosary Circle of Begang. The Heart of Mary Circle has 42 active members with the oldest being 81 years old. Almost all the members were present during the visit.

The annual visit by the Archdiocesan officers is a much-anticipated event in Basilan as it gives the local DMIs the opportunity to bond with their sisters within and outside their vicariate thus strengthening their commitment to the organization and its missions. The Squirettes of Mary actively participated in various activities of the day-long program.

With the addition of a vicariate in Basilan, the Archdiocesan officers hope to have more DMI circles and SMI circlettes organized in Basilan.



*The image of the Blessed Mother is met by members of the Heart of Mary Circle at the pier in Lamitan City.*



*Sis. Rebecca Ortega, past regent of the Heart of Mary Circle is installed into office as vicarial regent of Basilan.*



*Squirettes of the Heart of Mary Circlette.*



*The officers and members of the Heart of Mary Circle.*



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## UPDATES FROM HEART OF MARY CIRCLE

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During the visit of the Archdiocesan officers, the Heart of Mary Circle of St. Peter's Parish in Lamitan City reported several activities in pursuance of the DMI missions.

Headed by Regent Sis. Merit M. Paddit, the chairpersons and members of the different missions and thrusts conducted the following activities in different barangays:

The Pro-life Committee sponsored a forum for senior citizens of Barangay Limo-ok on their rights and privileges. Sis. Baby Jamiro, the current president of the Federation of Senior Citizens of Lamitan, lectured on R.A. 9994, the Expanded Senior Citizen Act of 2010. The active participation of attendees during the open forum moderated by circle members was proof of the success of the activity.

Sis. Nenie Bizon, chairperson of the Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and her members visited and gave assistance to Cheryl Manuel and her children, Sherlyn Faith and Eser Aleyn in their home. Early last month, the committee also visited the inmates at the Lamitan Police Station.

The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee assisted mothers-to-be during their pre-natal check-up at the Limo-ok Health Center and gave a lecture on the benefits of breast-feeding.

The Heart of Mary Circle also takes active part in various parish activities such as decorating the altar and washing the priest's vestments on a weekly basis. It also gives regular financial assistance to fund parish programs.



*Sis. Baby Jamiro conducts a lecture on the Expanded Senior Citizen Act of 2010 during a forum the Pro-Life Committee conducted for senior citizens of Bgy. Limo-ok.*



*Members of the Upliftment of Women Workers Committee assist Sis. Virgie Cadano, head of the Limo-ok Barangay Health Center during the pre-natal check-up of expectant mothers and check-up of infants.*

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### DMII 20TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

April 23 – 24, 2016 (Saturday & Sunday)

**SMX CONVENTION CENTER, SM LANANG PREMIER  
J.P. LAUREL AVENUE, BAJADA, DAVAO CITY**

Convention Theme:

**“THE HOLY EUCHARIST:  
LIFE OF EVERY FAMILY UNITED WITH MAMA MARY”**

**Dear Sisters, let's start preparing for this grand event. See you there!**

## DMIs ATTEND TV MASS

The eight dioceses comprising Region V take turns in attending the 6:00 A.M. TV Mass of the Healing Eucharist Ministry every 4th Sunday of the month over ABS-CBN. Last August 23, 2015, it was the turn of the Dioceses of Antipolo and Pasig. Some 40 DMI sisters came and participated in the Mass officiated by Fr. Glenn Paul Gomez, SVD.

Started in 2014, the activity is aimed at giving the DMII a broader exposure as a Church-mandated organization. The mass goers led by Region V Representative Sis. Cora Afuang are shown in photo with Fr. Glenn after the mass.



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**from The Archdiocese of Lipa**

## ST. MARTIN OF TOURS CIRCLE CONDUCTS PRO-LIFE/MEDIA SYMPO

The St. Martin of Tours Circle of Taal, Batangas sponsored recently a back-to-back symposium on Pro-life and Morality in Media for senior high school students of Rizal College of Taal and their parents. Resource speaker was Atty. Girlie Noche, a dedicated pro-lifer who pointed out the anti-life provisions of the Reproductive Health Law. Photo at left: Atty. Noche as she speaks before symposium participants. At right, the guest speaker with the officers of St. Martin of Tours Circle.



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**from the Diocese of San Jose (N.E.)**

## SAN JOSE CIRCLE VISITS TAHANANG DAMAYANG KRISTIYANO CENTER

The DMI sisters of San Jose Circle of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija visited the elderly and children being taken cared of at the Tahanang Damayang Kristiyano Center and donated milk, medicines, used clothing and toys and toiletries as a pro-life project. The goods distributed were donations from members and friends of the circle.

