



DMI NEWSETTE

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July - September 2016

Moving Soon

DMII ACQUIRES NEW MARY'S HOUSE

The headquarters of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International will soon be moving to a new location, from Kathleen Place on Fernando Street, Pasay City and its temporary office at the Fr. George J. Willman Center of the Knights of Columbus in Intramuros, Manila.

Located at the corner of N. Lopez Avenue and St. Andrew Street, Lopez Village in Sucat, Paranaque City, the property, soon to be named Mary's House, is a 2-story structure with a loft at the 2nd floor. The total floor area is 200 square meters and will house the DMI Office, a conference room for Board meetings and bedrooms for use of DMI sisters coming to Manila on DMI business.

From the north, the new Mary's House may be accessed through Roxas Blvd. and Ninoy Aquino Ave or the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and Skyway from C-5 Road or EDSA. Coming from the south, one can use SLEX. It is just a few minutes drive from the airport when traffic around the airport terminals is light. (Traffic is expected to be lighter when the NAIA Expressway is completed later this year.)

The property costs P5.4 million paid in cash from the proceeds of the sale of the Kathleen Place townhouse.

The new Mary's House is scheduled to be inaugurated and blessed later this year.



The facade of the new Mary's House



Interior of Mary's House that will house the DMI office, the conference room and bedrooms at the 2nd floor.



2017-18 INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS AND BOARD TO BE INSTALLED IN DAVAO CITY

The installation of the 2017-18 International Officers and Board is slated to be held at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City on December 3, 2016. It is the first to be held out-of-town, the past installations having been held in Metro Manila.

Incoming International Regent Sis. Rosalinda “Lelis” Pimentel, past Region XII RR and present SMI coordinator for Mindanao, heads the list of inductees. Also to be installed are the mission international chairpersons and diocesan regents.

The installation rites will be preceded by a Eucharistic celebration. The evening’s motif is Filipiniana. The fourth quarter Board meeting is scheduled in the morning of the same day.



Daughters of Mary Immaculate International

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

Tel. No. 833-1203

Website: www.dmiinternational.org

Executive Officers

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

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

DMI Newsette Editorial Board

Sis. Salvacion T. Estrada - Editor

Contributors

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid | Sis. Edna May O. Landicho |
| Sis. Gloria Caminero | Sis. Magdalena Larrazabal |
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| Sis. Agueda Fely G. Gallardo | Sis. Virginia Terrado |
| Sis. Leticia A. Gano | Sis. Teresita L. Viola |

MESSAGE



My dear DMI Sisters:

Greetings of peace, love and joy to you!

With all humility and bound by the provisions of the amended DMII Rules and Regulations ratified by the members during the 20th Biennial Convention in Davao City last April, I bowed down to accept and assume the position left by our late International Regent, Sis. Rebbie Pacanan last May 16, 2016.

The 3rd quarter of 2016 started with the International Board Meeting held at the Cherry Blossoms Hotel on July 13, 2016. The remaining work calendared for the period July to December were dealt with and acted upon. Among the concerns discussed by the Board were the purchase of the property to house the DMI Office, and in connection thereto, the passing of a resolution granting the International Regent the authority to sign the deed of sale, the printing of the Amended DMII Rules & Regulations and the SMI Handbook, the encoding and printing of the proposed membership ID, the status of the ten houses that the DMII had pledged to donate to victims of Super typhoon Yolanda, the installation of the International Officers and Board for the term 2017-2018 and other matters pertinent to the organization's operation.

Soon we will have a new Mary's House in Paranaque City, thanks to the team headed by Past International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva who painstakingly searched for the most practical and ideal property that we DMIs can call our very own.

As for our pledged donation of houses for Yolanda victims, we have thus far completed and turned over seven houses in Alangalang, Leyte to seven families. The funds for these houses came from donations of eleven Ecclesiastical Regions, Regions IX, XI and XIII having requested for exemption as they were the most adversely affected by the typhoon. To complete our commitment of ten houses, (three more need to be put up), the International Board has issued an appeal to the three exempted regions to contribute their share as a thanksgiving for having survived and already recovered from the calamity.

The past three months kept the Luzon Area under the leadership of Vice- IR Sis. Cora Afuang quite busy conducting their regional assemblies – Region VI in Laguna on July 23, 2016, Region IV in Bulacan on August 27, Region V in Pasig City, Metro Manila on September 3 and Region II in Cabanatuan City on September 10.

Worthy of recognition are the efforts made by the Regional Representatives, Diocesan Regents, Vicarial Regents and Circle Regents to ensure the success of their regional assemblies. May the fruits of these assemblies inspire us to continue fulfilling our missions with passion, zeal and dedication.

Yours in Christ through Mary,

SIS. PUREZA MONTECLARO GUZMAN
International Regent

REGION II ASSEMBLY – AN ‘SRO’ EVENT

What was earlier expected as a regional assembly of 400 delegates at most swelled to 645 DMI sisters registering for the Region II Assembly on Sept. 10, 2016. This created a bit of a problem for the assembly host, the Diocese of Cabanatuan. From the original venue at the Maria Assumpta Seminary, Diocesan Regent Sis. Mila Casares and her committee had to look, within very short notice, for a bigger venue that finally brought them to the new St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral, a massive and solid structure in Lakewood Subdivision that is still under construction. At the time of the event, only the cathedral basement called the Crypta was suitable to seat 645 people. The Region II Assembly was held there.

The assembly started with a Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Isidro Puyat, pastor of Jaen Parish and also the spiritual director of the DMI Diocese of Cabanatuan. In his homily, he said that discipleship is about following Jesus, just as the Blessed Mother did. “Let the Lord guide us in our serving Him; holiness stems from the holiness of God” was his message.

During the opening ceremonies, Past Region II RR Sis. Rita Caballero acknowledged the assembly delegates from the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan and the Dioceses of Baler, Cabanatuan, La Union, San Jose (N.E.) and Urdaneta. She cited the Divina Pastora Circle for having the biggest circle delegation of 46 sisters. DR Sis. Mila Casares officially welcomed the participants.

The International Board was represented by Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang, Region II RR Sis. Virgie

Terrado, International Mission Chairpersons Sisters Edna Mae Landicho for Morality in Media, Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers and Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare, SMI Luzon Coordinator Sis. Ruby Macario and Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada.

Rev. Fr. Baltazar Ronato of the Order of Carmelites who is director of Bulong ng Simoy Spirituality Center in Dipaculao, Aurora was the keynote speaker. He was introduced by Sis. Mila Diasanta, regent of the Diocese of Baler.

Fr. Bal’s topic was “The Eucharist and Marriage in the Jubilee Year of Mercy”. He explained the relationship between the Holy Eucharist and marriage and family life thus: Christ intended these two sacraments to be related as condition and consequence. The Eucharist nourishes marriage and family life and deepens its union with Christ. The Eucharist is a representation of Christ’s sacrifice of love for the Church, sealed with His blood on the Cross. The Eucharist is the source of strength for couples who know without exception that committed love requires a spirit of self-sacrifice, freely and joyfully given. The Eucharist, symbol of God’s unfailing love, is also the symbol of unfailing love of Christian marriage. It also provides the strength and the grace to nourish the marriage.

Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist to give those who believe in Him the power they need to remain alive in His grace. For married Catholics and their families, this means the light and strength they must constantly receive if they are to live out the sublime directives of the Holy Spirit for Christian believers. The



The registration of delegates started early.



Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang and Region II RR Sis. Virgie Terrado (partly hidden) place the image of the Blessed Mother on the altar.

Holy Eucharist must remain the mainstay of Catholic families' lives, most especially at the present time. The psychological pressures from the world, the flesh and the devil are too strong to cope with by themselves.

The Holy Family, Fr. Bal said, is the model of all Christian families, becoming "Holy" due to the overwhelming mercy of God. If mercy is the fundamental reality of the Holy Family, it is also the fundamental reality of all families. Families are nothing less than schools of mercy. Marriages survive only through the spouses showing continual mercy to each other, constantly forgiving, not holding grudges, not keeping score. When children are born, then family life isn't only a school of mercy. It also becomes a school of sanctity. Nothing teaches selfless mercy more than coping with the chaos and destruction that children bring into the life of a married couple, and nothing teaches the meaning and the cost of love more either. He exhorted his audience to thank God for the gift of the greatest school of mercy, the family with its renewed faith in the Holy Eucharist.

Fr. Bal's final message to the DMI was: "Reconsider your apostolate to save the family."



Fr. Isidro Puyat, Mass celebrant (at center) with DR Sis. Mila Casares and guests from the International Board Sisters Sally Estrada, Cathy Pineda, Ruby Macario, Cora Afuang, Edna Mae Landicho and Juliet Cruz.



Inspirational message from VIR-Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang

VIR Sis. Cora Afuang gave an inspirational message and talked about the salient provisions of the Amended DMII Rules and Regulations ratified by the members during the 20th DMI Biennial Convention.

The International Mission Chairpersons' reports followed: Sis. Ruby Macario for Pro-Life on behalf of Chairperson Sis. Carmen Baquilid, Sis. Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Edna Mae Landicho for Morality in Media and Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare. Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada talked about the DMI Newsette and the other communication tools that may be utilized to promote the organization to its publics. That the DMI sisters in blue are most effective in promoting the organization, as "walking billboards", was given extra emphasis. "The image and perception that DMI sisters create are what the public perceives the organization to be."

A welcome respite from the session was the Zumba Challenge that brought the delegates to their feet, the lively music that filled the hall too tempting to pass up.

In closing, Region II RR Sis. Virgie Terrado thanked the assembly hosts and delegates for a very successful regional assembly.



Rev. Fr. Baltazar Ronate, O. Carm., assembly guest speaker, receives token gifts from Sisters Mila Casares, Virgie Terrado and Cora Afuang.



Audience participation during the Zumba Challenge.

HISTORIC MALOLOS HOSTS REGION IV ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia, Regent,
Diocese of Malolos*

The Regional Assembly of the Diocese of Malolos (Region IV) was held at the Hiyas Convention Center in historic Malolos City on August 27, 2016.

The assembly delegates numbering close to 200 sisters represented the 24 circles in the nine vicariates of the Diocese comprising the whole of Bulacan Province.

Incoming Diocesan Regent Sis. Aida de la Cruz welcomed the delegates and guests from the International Board led by Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang, Region IV Representative Sis. Fely Gallardo and International Chairperson for Morality in Media Sis. Edna Mae Landicho. The past Region IV RRs were also present.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Theresa Curia rendered a report on the activities and accomplishments of Region IV during her term. (She is the incoming Region IV Representative for 2017-18.)

Former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr., who after his retirement from the Supreme Court was designated by Pres. Benigno Aquino III as permanent Philippine ambassador to the United Nations, was the assembly's guest of honor. Keynoting the assembly, his talk centered on the assembly theme "The Holy Eucharist: Life of Every Family, United with Mama Mary".

The Chief Justice first noted that we have chosen the best name for the organization, Mama Mary being truly international, having appeared in various parts of the

world.

He said that in the daily celebration of the Holy Eucharist, our mere presence makes us united with Mama Mary, as in all things where Jesus is, His mother will always be present.

The Chief Justice also talked about the 51st International Eucharistic Congress held in Cebu in January, 2016 with the theme "Christ in You, Our Hope of Glory". The Holy Eucharist, he said, pertains to Christ Himself. In the message of Pope Francis, the Holy Eucharist offers the opportunity to experience and comprehend the Eucharist as a transformative encounter with the Lord. As DMIs, we have to live Christ. We have to internationalize our family by increasing our membership. We must also be real agents of change and transformation, going beyond our homes and making our work truly international. We must live the lives of being true "daughters of Mary". He ended with a quote from St. Francis: "It is in giving that we receive and it is in dying that we regain eternal life."



Sr. Pinky Barrientos, FSP speaks on social media.



VIR Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang and Region IV RR Sis. Fely Gallardo carry the image of the Blessed Mother during the enthronement ceremony.



Sisters Fely Gallardo and Theresa Curia hand token gifts to Sis. Pinky.

Sr. Pinky Barrientos, FSP, of the Congregation of the Daughters of St. Paul, was the other guest speaker who spoke on “The Role of Social Media in Evangelization”. The Daughters of St. Paul is an international congregation of sisters who use modern media of communications for evangelization.

According to Sis. Pinky, the Facebook has been reported as having the third largest population, next to China (1.4 billion) and India (1.3 billion). Facebook’s latest statistics, however, shows there are now 1.7 billion Facebook users, surpassing the population of China and India.

Citing more statistics, she said that more than 50% of the world’s population is under age 30. More people own android phones and other mobile devices. College students spend an average of 3.5 hours on social media daily. The Philippines is tagged as the Social Media Capital of the World.

Sis. Pinky underscored the constructive and destructive effects of social media and said that it is up to us to decide how the DMII can make use of social media to spread the Gospel, promoting good works and

God’s Words. She suggested that DMI members who are active in social media may be tapped to promote the organization, engage the members and evangelize. An FB fan page may be created as a start. She warned that while social networks can facilitate and promote the good of society, they can also cause division and unfair attacks on other people. To show how powerful words can be, Sis. Pinky showed a video of how a girl was able to change a blind beggar’s day by simply changing the words in a card/poster. (This video can be viewed on You Tube by typing “The power of words – a Girl change a blind man Day.”)

A Eucharistic celebration presided by Msgr. Albert Suatengco, DMI diocesan spiritual adviser, started the afternoon session.

Vice-International Regent for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang provided updates on goings-on in the National Organization and Sis. Edna Mae Landicho on the DMI mission, Morality in Media.

In her closing remarks, Vicarial Regent Sis. Lucy Bernardo thanked the delegates and guests for a most successful regional assembly.



Assembly keynote speaker, former Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr. speaking before the delegates.



Chief Justice Davide is shown receiving a plaque of appreciation from (from left) Sisters Cora Afuang, Theresa Curia and Fely Gallardo. At right is Sis. Cora Raymundo, program host.



Guest speakers Sis. Pinky Barrientos, FSP, and Hon. Hilario Davide, Jr. (seated at center) are flanked by Past RRs Sisters Flor Barcial and Tesy Villarino, incumbent RR Sis. Fely Gallardo, incoming RR Sis. Theresa Curia and Past RRs Sisters Piling San Juan and Violy Luna. At the back are the diocesan mission chairpersons and vicarial regents of Region IV.

REGION V ASSEMBLY HELD SEPTEMBER 3

The Bayanihan Center on Pioneer Street, Bgy. Kapitolyo in Pasig City was the venue of this year's regional assembly of Region V last Sept. 3, 2016. All the dioceses comprising Region V – the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Imus, Kalookan, Manila, Novaliches, Paranaque and Pasig – and the Vicariate of Palawan were represented at the assembly by 475 delegates.

The assembly opened promptly at 8:00 A.M. with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother's image followed by the traditional DMI opening ceremonies and the Parade of Circles.

Program host, Sis. Rose Enriquez of Mater Dei Circle, Diocese of Novaliches provided a background on the assembly theme: "The Eucharist and the Family in the Jubilee Year of Mercy".

Sis. Lina Reyes, diocesan regent of the Diocese of Pasig, officially welcomed the delegates led by their respective diocesan regents – Sis. Elena Malto – Antipolo, Sis. Lydia Ordonez – Cubao, Sis. Emelie Ramos – Imus, Sis. Cathy Pineda – Kalookan, Sis. Jean Castaneda – Manila, Sis. Edna Mae Landicho – Novaliches, Sis. Sol Eugenio – Paranaque, Sis. Lina Reyes – Pasig - and Vicarial Regent Sis. Nitz Austria of Palawan. Receiving special citation was the Diocese of Paranaque for having the biggest delegation of 107 sisters.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz followed. In his

homily, Fr. Jerome said that everything is God's grace, blessings that come from His goodness that one should not boast that he deserves. Rather, he should accept them with humility. Humility comes from the humility of God Who is the source of all good things. Mary's greatness lies in her humility which is the foundation of all virtues.

Fr. Jerome, who was also the inspirational speaker, was introduced by Youth Welfare International Chairperson Sis. Cathy Pineda. He started by posing a question to his audience: How do you distinguish a DMI sister without her uniform? He then said that the distinction is shown by how the DMI sisters love one another, just like Jesus' disciples. Mary is the best disciple of Jesus whose virtues the DMIs must emulate. "Know Mary through the Sacred Scriptures," he exhorted.

Mary's significance is through Jesus; she is His reflected light as the moon is to the sun. Citing Carlo Carretto in his book "I Francis" about St. Francis of Assisi, Fr. Jerome said that inspirations move us to think and act in a particular way; doing what God wants and living it out make us sons and daughters of God. A listening heart and great humility are hallmarks of Mary's character.

The missions and thrusts of the DMI are the expression of our charism, of God's compassion and mercy. Given the present time and circumstance, he said that Pro-life and Assistance to Prisoners' Families



The communion line during the Eucharistic celebration.



DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz was inspirational speaker.

and their Victims are the thrusts that the DMI must vigorously pursue, not in a selective way and outside of our comfort zones.

The lunch hour had the delegates entertained by the beautiful music that violinist Merjohn Lagaya made, the requests from several sisters for selfies with him notwithstanding. Mr. Lagaya is a member of the famous Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra.

Dr. Gaines Marie Rosario, the afternoon's guest speaker was introduced by SMI Luzon Coordinator Sis. Ruby Macario. A dentist by profession, Dra. Gaines is the head of Layforce, the formation arm of the Archdiocese of Manila at the San Carlos Seminary. As head of the Commission on Laity Formation, she serves as resource person and facilitator in recollections, retreats and other formation programs of various sectors such as parishes, government offices, schools and the youth.

Expounding on the assembly theme, she said that

the Novena Year that the Catholic Church is observing, beginning with the Year of Faith, followed by the Year of the Poor, then the Jubilee Year of Mercy, is a year of grace.

Jesus as the Bearer of Light is the source of graces – to reconcile, to respond and to renew.

Reconciliation springs from a stirring inside (*habag*, not just *awa*) born out of love. Indifference, not hatred, is the opposite of love.

The grace to respond as a family is best expressed through the Mass which is both a thanksgiving and a sacrifice (**M** - memory of the heart which is essential to our faith experience, **A** – accompaniment or enjoying the company of Jesus, **S** – sacrifice, and **S** – send-off to a mission.) The Mass is never completed unless lived out.

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The International Board with Fr. Jerome. From left: Sisters Ruby Macario, Cora Afuang, Past IR Mila Villanueva, Juliet Cruz, Sally Estrada and Cathy Pineda. Not in photo: Sis. Edna Mae Landicho.



Sis. Rose Enriquez, program host.



Violinist Merjohn Lagaya plays beautiful music during the lunch hour.



Assembly delegates dance to lively music during an ice breaker that started the afternoon session.

Region V Assembly Held... from page 9

“Sunday is not just Family Day but first and foremost the Lord’s Day,” she emphasized. The grace to renew our hearts of love is through the Blessed Mother.

In ending, Dra. Gaines said that the laity is the seedbed of vocation. The DMIs as wives and mothers have a most important role in the family’s keeping the faith alive and living it out.



Dr. Gaines Marie Rosario, guest speaker, receives a token of appreciation from Sis. Cora Afuang.

Vice-International Regent for Luzon and Region V RR Sis. Cora Afuang presided over the closing ceremonies. In her closing message, she thanked the DMI sisters of Region V for their support and cooperation during her stint as Region V representative. She likewise asked them to extend the same support to the incoming Region V RR Sis. Ruby Macario who will also serve as the 2017-18 VIR for Luzon. She gave special mention to the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle for sending the biggest circle delegation of 37 members.



Sis. Cora Afuang delivers the closing message.

VICARIATE OF ST. POLYCARP HOSTS REGION VI ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Hermie Palacios, Financial
Secretary, Sto. Rosario Circle*

The regional assembly of Region VI, Diocese of San Pablo (Laguna) was held on July 23, 2016 with the theme: “The Holy Eucharist: Life of Every Family United with Mama Mary”. The assembly was held at the Pacita Astrodome, Pacita Complex in San Pedro City.

The Vicariate of St. Polycarp headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Fe Aquinde was the assembly host. Composing the vicariate are the Sto. Rosario, San Lorenzo Ruiz, St. Polycarp and Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Circles.

The assembly delegates from the different circles in the Diocese of San Pablo started arriving at the venue as early as 6:00 A.M. As they arrived and registered, they were served breakfast consisting of *arroz caldo*, *puto* and coffee.

Preceding the Eucharistic celebration were the opening ceremonies and welcome remarks by Sis. Fe Aquinde during which she acknowledged the circles participating in the assembly.

Mass celebrant was Msgr. Jerry Bitoon, vicar general of the Diocese of San Pablo. In his homily, he exhorted the DMI sisters to live their lives in truth. How? Through sincerity and truthfulness in speaking and reporting, seeking the truth and adhering to it and living according to its demands, bearing witness to the truth both in one’s public and private lives, respecting the truth with discretion to charity. Information must be for the common good; it must always be the truth.

Sis. Elvie Arambulo, international treasurer and Region VI representative, gave an inspirational message

and update on goings-on in the National organization.

The assembly guest speaker was Fr. David Reyes, pastor of St. Joseph Patriarch Church of San Pedro City and former secretary of the bishop of the Diocese of San Pablo, who talked authoritatively on media and how they affect, positively or negatively, people's lives especially at the present time when all have adopted and immersed their lives in modern technology in various ways – print, TV, cell phones and other forms of social media. He said that people are missing out on family and personal interactions and how easily people can use the media to destroy reputations or make up stories as if they were the truth. The delegates found the talk very informative and enlightening.



The Executive Board of Region VI with Fr. Jerry Bitoon, vicar general of the Diocese of San Pablo. From left, seated: Sisters Lita Canonizado Lorie Santos, Elvie Arambulo, Ms. Divina Tee Tayao, former San Pedro City councilor, and Sis. Fe Aquinde. Standing: Sisters Tess Banzon, Rose Rabajante, Isabel Ticzon and Luming Lagunda.

Intermission numbers were provided by the San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle and the Sts. Peter and Paul Circle whose dance presentations were well-applauded. The Sts. Peter and Paul Circle of Siniloan, Laguna received a special citation for sending the biggest delegation of 21 DMI sisters to the assembly, the delegates receiving a rosary bracelet each as token gift.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Lorie Santos, in her closing remarks, urged the delegates to attend future assemblies as these activities give them the opportunity to meet other sisters from the other circles. They also serve as venues to meet personally and know the members of the Executive Board and the different regents in the Diocese. She also announced that the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist will host the next regional assembly, the date and venue to be announced later.



Rev. Fr. David Reyes, pastor of St. Joseph the Patriarch Parish, guest speaker.



Participants in the Region VI Assembly



The San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle provided the intermission number during the program, an Indonesian Dance called "Belibes".

NEWS

SAN JOSE CIRCLE, San Jose City



BUCHI AND TURON-MAKING. The San Jose Circle conducts livelihood projects as part of its Upliftment of Women Workers Program. Conducted recently was a cooking demo on how to prepare buchi and turon aimed at providing additional income for the family of participants.



TREE-PLANTING. The DMI sisters of San Jose Circle of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija headed by Regent Sis. Leticia Manalo went tree-planting recently. The tree seedlings came from the Junior Campo Nursery. This environmental activity, the circle's pro-life project, served as a breather from everyday stress and bonding time for the participants.

ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCLE, Licab, Nueva Ecija



DIALOGUE WITH BARANGAY OFFICIALS. DMI sisters of St. Christopher Circle maintain regular dialogues with officials of barangays in Licab, Nueva Ecija to launch projects for the DMI thrusts such as cleanliness, environment protection, etc. The sisters led by Regent Sis. Remedios Jose are shown above during their meeting with Barangay Captain Arnold Capinding of Poblacion Norte who assured them of his support.

STA. CECILIA CIRCLE, Guimba, Nueva Ecija



SPECIAL TREAT FOR LOLAS. A socialization program for the elderly was held on Feb. 15, 2016 by Sta. Cecilia Circle at the DMI Building in Guimba, Nueva Ecija. Nine lolas needing attention and care were treated by the DMI sisters to an afternoon program which ended in distribution of gifts after serving them merienda. The circle is headed by Regent Sis. Leonida Pagatpatan.

ST. JAMES CIRCLE, Lupao, Nueva Ecija



MAY FESTIVITIES IN HONOR OF MAMA MARY. The St. James Circle headed by Regent Sis. Yolanda Imbien took the lead in the May festivities of the Parish of St. James the Great. Starting with floral offering and children's catechism, the month-long festivity culminated in the Flores de Maria on May 28. The sisters also led the residents of San Antonio Este and Poblacion East and South in praying the Rosary.

ST. JOSEPH CIRCLE, Rizal, Nueva Ecija



SENIORS' DAY. Senior citizens, many of them women, were the recipients of gifts and the sisters' undivided attention during the salu-salo that the St. Joseph Circle of St. Joseph the Husband Parish tendered for them recently. The activity was held at the Bicos Gym in Rizal, Nueva Ecija. Regent of St. Joseph Circle is Sis. Sofia Mangapis.

From the Diocese of Malolos

INA NG GRASYA NG DIYOS CIRCLE REACHES OUT TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES, INDIGENT CHILDREN

*By Sis. Mila Reyes, Chairperson, Pro-life,
Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle*

On May 31, 2016, members of the Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle of Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Marilao, Bulacan went to the Marilao Municipal Jail to visit six inmates and to inquire about their families. Composing the group were members of the Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims headed by Chairperson Sis. Tessie Teodoro. Circle Regent Sis. Eve Bautista was with the group. They were given the names and addresses of the inmates' families who they visited at their homes in Poblacion I and II, Abangan, Marilao on June 10. The families gratefully accepted the bags of groceries the sisters brought and thanked them for the attention that had been given to them.

Meanwhile, the Pro-Life Committee headed by Chairperson Sis. Mila Reyes set up a soup kitchen at the SVD Compound in Bgy. Lias during which 50 children were given lugaw and taught how to pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be and the prayer before meal. The children were then given extra lugaw which they happily brought home to their families. The DMI sisters who participated in the activity were even happier seeing the smiles in the children's faces and knowing that they had been able to help even in a small way.



The DMI sisters' visit to families of prisoners in Poblacion I and II in Bgy. Abangan.



The DMI sisters tend to their soup kitchen in Bgy. Lias.

From the Diocese of Culao

REGINA MUNDI CIRCLE'S OUTREACH AT BGY. DAMAYANG LAGI

The Regina Mundi Circle of the National Shrine of Mt. Carmel in Quezon City held a Feeding and Gift-Giving Project in Barangay Damayang Lagi in celebration of the parish fiesta on July 16, 2016. Beneficiaries of the project were 85 indigent children of Blocks 1 to 5 of the barangay along E. Rodriguez Avenue.

Vicarial Regent Sis. Vilma Valera of the Vicariate of the Holy Family was at the helm of the activity, ably assisted by members of the circle headed by Regent Sis. Rose Castro and Vice- Regent Sis. Lydia

Agitan. The Medicard Foundation , Inc. co-sponsored the project. The gifts distributed to the children were donated by Nestle Philippines, Universal Robina Corp. and Rogemson Company. The Medicard Foundation also donated blue and purple caps given to the children during the activity. A repeat of the Feeding and Gift-Giving Project took place on July 30 at a small chapel in the barangay.

The project will be a yearly activity of the Regina Mundi Circle "in the spirit of sharing God's blessings" according to Sis. Vilma.



The beneficiaries of the Feeding and Gift-Giving Project of Regina Mundi Circle. At the back are the DMI sisters and staff of Medicard Foundation, project co-sponsor.



Vicarial Regent Sis. Vilma Valera (at left) initiated the project.



From the Diocese of Paranaque



Twenty-seven new members coming from circles in the Diocese of Paranaque were exemplified during the long conferral ceremonies at the St. Andrew Cathedral in Paranaque City in May, 2016. The majority of the recruits are from the Our Lady of Mercy and Compassion Circle of Muntinlupa City. Diocesan Regent Sis. Sol Eugenio presided over the Long Conferral ceremony.

DIOCESAN EXEMPLIFICATION HELD



DIOCESE OF PARANAQUE HAS NEW CIRCLE

A new circle has just been organized in the Diocese of Paranaque.

The Our Lady of Mercy and Compassion Circle is based in the *Ina ng Awa* Parish in Muntinlupa City. With 22 sisters as its charter members, the circle is the 16th in the Diocese under the Vicariate of Sta. Rita de Cascia.

Installation of the charter officers of the new circle took place last July 3, 2016. It is headed by Charter Regent Sis. Lucila Zamora, a medical practitioner.

Installing officer was Diocesan Regent Sis. Sol Eugenio assisted by Vicarial Regent Sis. Babes Jose. Rev. Fr. Joe Soler, pastor of *Ina ng Awa* Parish, handed the officers' charges (certificates of duties and responsibilities) as they were sworn into office.

The charter members of the Our Lady of Mercy and Compassion Circle who were welcomed into the organization after their exemplification in May, 2016 expressed their commitment to carry out programs and projects for the DMI missions and thrusts.



The officers and members of Our Lady of Mercy and Compassion Circle with Diocesan Regent Sis. Sol Eugenio (at center) and Vicarial Regent Sis. Babes Jose (4th from left).



Fr. Joe Soler hands the officer's charge to an inductee as Sisters Sol Eugenio and Babes Jose look on.

DMIs SERVE AS PPCRV VOLUNTEERS

The DMI sisters of Mary Mother of the Church Circle of BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City served as PPCRV volunteers during the National Elections held last May 9, 2016.



DMIs ATTEND COOKERY AND PASTRY- MAKING SEMINAR

A group of DMI sisters from the Mary Mother of the Church Circle attended a Cookery and Pastry-Making Seminar conducted by TESDA at West Gate Alabang. The skills they learned will be passed on to beneficiaries of the Circle's livelihood projects to be started soon.



AWARD-WINNING THERESIAN CIRCLE IN ACTION

By Sis. Fortunata B. Aquino, Circle Scribe

During the past two years, the Theresian Circle of Los Banos, Laguna garnered two major awards proving its very active involvement both in the parish and the community.

With Circle Regent Sis. Norma F. Eusebio at the helm, the circle received the Gold Star Circle Award during the 20th DMI Biennial Convention in Davao City in April for exemplary performance in carrying out the missions and thrusts of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International. The award is given once every two years. Earlier on (December 13, 2015), it was awarded the 2015 FST-LBI Community Service Award by the Foundation for St. Therese Los Banos, Inc. for its various activities which created positive impact on victims of social injustice, particularly the youth and the elderly.

The circle's achievements to deserve the awards were not easy to come by requiring perseverance, political will and the commitment of circle members under the inspiring leadership of their Regent.

Sis. Norma concurrently serves as Diocesan Chairperson for Pro-Life. In 2015, her son, Dr. Artemus F. Eusebio dedicated his lying-in clinic, Dr. Tem's 24 Oras Paanakan as the *Sentro ng Programang Pro-Life*

ng DMII Region VI – Diocese of San Pablo formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement signed between Dr. Tem and the DMI Diocese of San Pablo on August 15, 2015. Two pamphlets were put out - “Family Planning: *Sa Konsepto ng Simbahang Katoliko*” and “Mothers of Mary Movement: Caring for Pregnant Women the DMII Way” designed to guide the DMI sisters in implementing the *Sentro's* program.

During the period, the Theresian Circle was also able to organize the Theresian Squirettes of Mary Immaculate Circlette and a new DMI circle, the St. Augustine Circle of St. Augustine Parish in Bay, Laguna. These were achieved through the unceasing efforts of Circle Regent Norma, with help from Sisters Alice Aragones and Teresita Banzon and the circle members.

Theresian Circle's calendar was full of activities to carry out the DMI thrusts:

For Pro-Life, it extended medical assistance to pregnant women and indigents in Los Banos and nearby communities. A seminar on Adolescence Reproductive Health was conducted at Tuntungin-Putho National High School attended by 125 Grade 10 students. The resource speaker was Dr. Teri Marie

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The officers and members of Theresian Circle pose with their pastors holding the two awards they won during the term of Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio.

VICARIATE OF ST. POLYCARP'S PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY DOORS OF MERCY

By Sis. Isabel Aloc, Regent, Sto. Rosario Circle

On July 16, 2016, 36 DMI sisters from the Vicariate of St. Polycarp, Diocese of San Pablo plus two sisters from Manila went on a pilgrimage visiting five churches designated as Holy Doors of Mercy in observance of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

Organized by Vicarial Regent Sis. Fe Aquinde, the pilgrims come from St. Polycarp Circle headed by Regent Sis. Mina Luna, San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle headed by Regent Sis. Emy Bagulbagul and Sto. Rosario Circle headed by Sis. Isabel Aloc.

The day-long pilgrimage started as early as 4:00 AM when the pilgrims boarded the bus provided by San Pedro City Mayor Baby Cataquiz. First stop was the Manila Cathedral for their Pilgrim's Passport, introductory prayers and Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Kali Pietre Llamado, vice-rector of the Manila Cathedral.

The other four churches the group visited were the Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Pasay City, the National Shrine of the Sacred Heart in Makati City, the Archdiocesan Shrine of Divine Mercy in Mandaluyong City and the Santuario de Sto. Cristo in San Juan City.

Aside from the plenary indulgence that the pilgrims earned, they were reminded that the stamped Pilgrim's Passport will become

significant if they will continue responding to the call for mercy and compassion that Pope Francis invoked: "May pilgrimage be an impetus to conversion. By crossing the threshold of the Holy Door, we will find the strength to embrace God's mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us."



The Vicariate of St. Polycarp pilgrims before the altar of a Holy Door of Mercy Church they visited.

Award Winning... from page 16

Laude on Dec. 7, 2015.

For Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, the circle conducts catechism to families of prisoners and sponsors a Eucharistic celebration every first Sunday of the quarter and feeding and gift distribution to victims at the Crisis Center in Calauan, Laguna.

The Circle's Morality in Media Committee sponsored a seminar on Morality in Social Media for students of Colegio de Los Banos with Fr. Eugene Fadul Adefuin, DMI spiritual director, as resource speaker.

For Upliftment of Women Workers, a Fish Processing Demonstration was held in coordination with BFAR attended by women from Bgy. Mayondon in Los Banos and members of the circle. A Baking Class was also conducted with Ms. Adrienne Umali as resource person. The organized group of Mayondon eventually became the Block Rosary Group that a Theresian Circle member and one from the Catholic Women's League of San Antonio de Padua Parish helped organize.

The DMIs of Theresian Circle continue to participate actively in parish activities of the St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish in College, Los Banos, oftentimes taking the lead in projects and activities of the parish.

TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE PURSUES DMI THRUSTS

By Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid,
International Chairperson for Pro-Life

Inspired by the Gold Star Circle award it received during the 20th DMI Biennial Convention last April, and the motivation provided by the late IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, the Tower of Ivory Circle (Sis. Rebbie's home circle) of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Tacloban City is implementing various projects and activities jointly with some government and non-government organizations to benefit the marginalized sector in pursuance of the DMI missions and thrusts. The following were undertaken during the second quarter:

Media Networking. The Circle, through its efforts, was given a 30-minute free air time by PRTV 12/DYBR on April 30, 2016 during which the sisters presented the circle's projects and activities for the 5 DMI thrusts, its current programs and projects as well as those started in the past and still on-going.

Learning and Teaching. The Circle recommended and was granted scholarship for two DMI sisters for a short-term vocational course on dressmaking by the Asian Development Foundation (ADF). Upon graduation, the two DMI scholars will then echo the training to 15 individuals, preferably laundry workers and household helpers in the community where they live. The scholars were given a brand-new sewing machine each on their graduation day.

Training for Livelihood. Livelihood training was provided to 15 BEC beneficiaries to fulfill the circle's commitment to train persons needing help. Upon the circle's representation, the City Government of Tacloban through the City Cooperative Office donated 15 brand-

new sewing machines for the use of the trainees. The Rotary Club of Kandaya in Tacloban donated fabrics as raw materials for use by the trainees.. They are under the supervision of the two ADF graduates. The sewers get orders from customers and receive payment for the articles they make.

Pay-It-Forward Volunteers. A group pf volunteers from Manila came to Tacloban on June 6, 2016 upon the invitation of the Tower of Ivory Circle. The volunteers offered a special feeding assistance program for school children aged 5 to 12 years old. Aside from the feeding program, 100 children received school bags and school supplies.

Traditional games were played by the children during the feeding session. While the children were enjoying the games, special attention was also given to families of prisoners and their victims whose needs the DMI sisters also looked into.



On the air over PRTV 12/DYRB in Tacloban.



The Tower of Ivory Circle receives the Gold Star Circle Award during the 20th Biennial Convention in Davao City.



Learning sewing as a livelihood project.

SMIs HOLD SPORTS FEST

A Sports Fest was held by SMI circletters of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga last May 3, 2016 at the St. Joseph School in Zamboanga City. Fifteen SMI circlettes represented by 132 Squirettes and their respective SMI Lady Counselors and DMI Regents attended the activity.

The diocesan sports fest was sponsored by Our Lady of Grace Circlette of the St. Joseph Spouse of the Virgin Mary Circle with the theme “Sportsmanship in the Spirit of Unity and Camaradeie”.

Highlighting the event was the selection of Miss SMI of the Year which a Squirette from the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Circlette won.



COASTAL CLEAN-UP

The diocesan officers of the SMI headed by Squirette Ysabelle Miguel, president, and some 60 Squirettes from nine SMI circlettes in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga conducted a coastal clean-up last May 22, 2016.

The SMIs were accompanied by Diocesan Lady Counselor Sis. Maria Bella “Darling” Tandoc, Vicarial Regents Sisters Grace Gonzales and Chuchie Go and the SMI Lady Counselors of the circlettes present. The gloomy morning did not deter the group, the participants arriving as early as 6:00 AM.



SMI DIOCESAN LENTEN RECOLLECTION

The SMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga held a Lenten Recollection last March 6, 2016 at the Zamboanga Doctors' Hospital Multipurpose Hall in Zamboanga City. Recollection master was Sister Jane Galang, clinical counseling psychologist. The recollection was attended by 87 Squirettes from eight circlettes and 20 DMI sisters.



St. Teresa of Calcutta – DISPENSER OF GOD'S TENDER MERCY

By Sis. Luz Estrella A. Gendrao, Past Regent,
Risen Christ Circle



As the Jubilee Year of Mercy nears its end, a small powerful woman of God was canonized as a saint. Mother Teresa of Calcutta, an Albanian Catholic missionary nun is now known as St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Pope Francis officiated the canonization rites witnessed by 120,000 Catholic faithful at St. Peter's Square in Vatican City after a solemn Eucharistic celebration on September 4, 2016. A tapestry with the image of Mother Teresa in her blue-hemmed white sari hung on the wall of St. Peter's Basilica.

Pope Francis described her as "Dispenser of Divine Mercy".

Born Agnes Gonxha (meaning Rosebud) Bojoxhiu on August 26, 1910 to Nicolai and Drane Bojoxhiu in Skopje, capital of the Republic of Macedonia, she was the youngest of three children. She lost her father at age 8 and it was her mother who molded her character and her inclination to missionary work. She felt the call of God at the age of 12. At age 18, she left Skopje to join the Sisters of Loreto, an Irish order, which runs the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ireland noted for its missionary work in India. She was sent to India after her training in Dublin.

Agnes Gonxhia officially became Mother Teresa when she took her vow on May 24, 1931. She was a teacher of history and geography at St. Mary's High School in Calcutta and became the school's principal in 1944.

Mother Teresa's passion for social service grew when she saw how the poor lived in the slums outside of her convent. This started her lifetime work of serving the "poorest of the poor". Soon voluntary supporters worked with her. Her life's mission started when she established the first home for the dying, the Home of the Pure Heart (Nirmal Hriday) in

Calcutta in 1952. The Home ensured the people in the slums and those "lying in the streets to die like angels", to die with dignity. Mother Teresa's work in the beginning was loaded with difficulties but she was able to overcome them armed with her great love and trust in God and great love for the needy.

The Missionaries of Charity (MoC) was established in 1963 and a contemplative branch in 1976. More services were gradually added such as rescuing children, caring for lepers and aid to victims of natural disasters. Mother Teresa even traveled to the war zone areas of Ethiopia and visited victims of radiation in Chernobyl. She returned to her homeland in 1991 to open the Missionaries of Charity Brothers Home in Tirana, Albania.

During her lifetime, Mother Teresa was not free from controversies and criticisms such as her view of suffering which brings one closer to Jesus and her stance on contraception and abortion. In spite of these, she was able to move and inspire servants of the Lord in different parts of the world.

For her works of mercy, Mother Teresa received awards and recognition from heads of state and various organizations around the world, notably the Nobel Prize for Peace in 1979, the Bharat Tana (Jewel of India) Award, the highest civilian honor in India, in 1980, the Order of Merit from Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain in 1983 and the US Congressional Award in 1997.

Mother Teresa died at the Mother House in Calcutta on Sept. 5, 1997 at the age of 87 years. She was given a state funeral attended by international dignitaries such as US First Lady Hillary Clinton on Sept. 13, 1997. She was declared blessed by Pope John Paul II on October 19, 2003.

As a requirement for sainthood, testimonies about miraculous cures attributed to her intervention were put on record. Here are some: the healing of Marcillo Andriano, a Brazilian engineer, from viral brain infection, the healing from cancerous tumor of Monica Basra, an Indian tribal woman who applied a locket with Mother Teresa's picture on her abdomen while praying, a French woman in the US who fully recovered from a road accident that broke several of her ribs, and a Palestinian girl whose cancer was gone when St. Teresa appeared in her dream.

St. Teresa of Calcutta is a modern-day saint, a champion for the cause of the poor and a MODEL OF MERCY.