



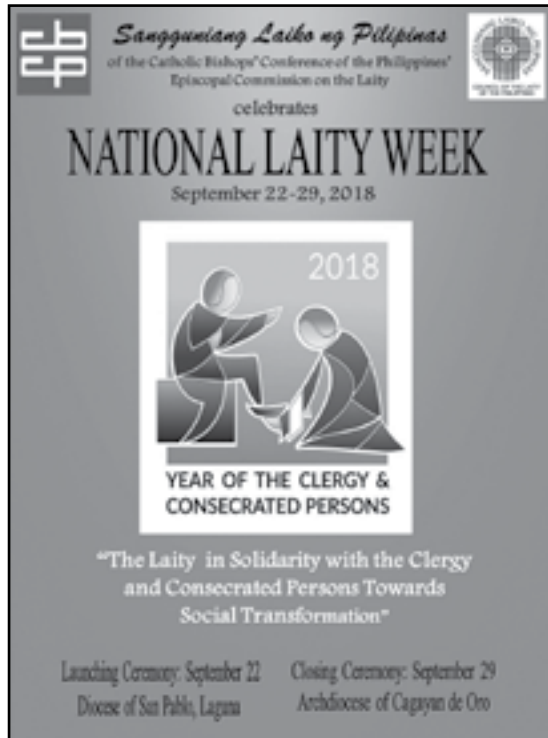
# DMII NEWSETTE

vol. XXXV no. 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

July - September 2018

## NATIONAL LAITY WEEK CELEBRATED



The *Sangguniang Laiko ng Pilipinas* celebrated National Laity Week 2018 last September 22 to 29. The Week's theme was "The Laity in Solidarity with the Clergy and Consecrated Persons towards Social Transformation" in keeping with the CBCP's theme for the year.

The *Sanggunian*, currently headed by its president, Ms. Ma Julita Wasan, Ph.D., is composed of national lay organizations of which the Daughters of Mary Immaculate is a member. Chairing this year's celebration was Mr. Rouquel Ponte. Most Rev. Broderick Pabillo, DD is the chairman of the CBCP Episcopal Commission on the Laity.

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## 2019-20 DMII INT'L OFFICERS, BOARD TO BE INSTALLED

International Regent-elect Sis. Ruby Macario will lead the 2019-2020 DMII Officers and Board of Trustees composed of regional representatives (RRs) who will be installed into office on November 30, 2018. Venue is the Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila at the CCP Complex on Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

The other officers to be inducted are Sisters Milde Tong - International Vice-Regent (IVR) - Luzon, Yolly Dagandan - IVR-Visayas, Tess Miranda - IVR -Mindanao, Marlin Abratique - international secretary and Region I RR, and Sis. Isabel Ticzon - international treasurer and Region VI RR. Composing the Board of Trustees are Sisters Hilaria Hipolito - Region II, Joann Dizon - Region III, Aida de la Cruz - Region IV, Fely Dollentas - Region VII, Zeny Sto. Tomas - Region VIII, Emma Victoria - Region IX, Asuncion Naraga - Region X, Luz Binoya - Region XIII and Nemie Gudiel - Region XIV. The other inductees

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Sis. Ruby Macario



Sis. Lelies Pimentel

## Regions IV, VI and VII Hold Regional Assemblies

-Stories Inside-

### *National Laity Week... from page 1*

The National Laity Week was launched on Sept. 22 in the Diocese of San Pablo (Laguna) and the closing event on Sept. 29 was held in the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro.

DMI circles all over the country participated in the week-long activities held in their respective parishes in support of the National Laity Week celebration. They also displayed tarpaulins and posters announcing the event in the courtyards and bulletin boards of their respective parish churches.



*A DMII tarpaulin in support of the National Laity Week celebration.*

### *2019-20 DMII Int'l Officers... from page 1*

are diocesan regents, vicarial regents, Mission International Chairpersons and area coordinators, Special Committee Chairpersons, DMI Newsette Editor, International Auditor and International Advocate.

DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz will be the installing officer.

The evening's program includes the turn-over ceremony with incumbent IR Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel's valedictory address and Sis. Ruby's acceptance speech.

The program will start with the enthronement of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary followed by a Eucharistic celebration.

Ms. Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel is the guest speaker. Ms. Pimentel is a gifted composer and lyricist. She owns the distinction of being wife and mother, respectively, to two Senate Presidents:- Senator Nene Pimentel and Senator Koko Pimentel. A number of singers will provide musical entertainment during the evening.



### *Daughters of Mary Immaculate International*

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Website: [www.dmiinternational.org](http://www.dmiinternational.org)

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*From the International Regent*



## *A call to serve*

Dear Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

In his book “The Day that Changed my Life”, Francis Fernandez, author of the best-selling 7-volume series “In Conversation with God”, tells of the Swiss artist Holman Hunt who painted a work of art representing Jesus in a garden at twilight. In His left hand, He raises a lamp that illuminates the scene. With the right, He knocks at a dark and heavy door with no handle. When the painting was first exhibited, a visitor noticed that the artist missed out on this detail. “It is not a mistake,” said the artist. “In this painting, the door represents the human heart. It can only be opened from the inside.”

Our hearts are like this. If we do not open our heart, our Lord does not force entry and does not move further. He simply leaves.

As daughters of Mary Immaculate, we must answer Jesus’ call immediately. Let us not let the opportunity pass, for the Master “knocks only once”.

There are now 12,000 of us DMI members. Are you proud to be one of them? If you are, embrace the life of humility and service not only for our sisters but for everyone. Let us be credible witnesses to Jesus through Mary.

In spite of so many unfavorable conditions, personal and around us, we are here to answer the calling of Christ. Unlike the other calls to service - education, governance, etc., a life of service to God is more permanent. Our International Chaplain Father Jerome once said, “God does not choose who will serve. Anybody can be called.”

You and I have responded to Christ’s calling through our Blessed Mother Mary. Like the door without a handle, let our response to Jesus’ call be from within our hearts, ready to serve with humility and love. And diverse as we are, let the virtues of unity, friendship charity, humility and sanctity bind us together in our great sisterhood, the DMII.

Yours in Christ through Mary,

**ROSALINDA C. PIMENTEL**

International Regent

# MATER PURISSIMA CIRCLE HOSTS REGION VII ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Isabelle Renee G. Daria, Regent,  
Vicariate of the Immaculate Conception*

The Regional Assembly of Region VII was held at the Basilica Pastoral Center of the Immaculate Conception Parish in Batangas City on June 23, 2018. It was hosted by the Mater Purissima Circle. The assembly theme was “Working with the Clergy and Consecrated Persons in Spreading the Word of God”.

Over 300 DMI sisters represented the circles coming from the Dioceses of Lucena, Gumaca (Quezon), Boac (Marinduque), the Vicariates of San Jose (Occ. Mindoro) and Calapan (Or. Mindoro) and the Archdiocese of Lipa (Batangas).

Gracing the occasion were some International Officers and Board headed by International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel and International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz. With them were IVR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario and International Mission Chairpersons Sisters Cora Afuang of Pro-Life, Edna May Landicho of Morality in Media, Milde Tong of Upliftment of Women Workers and Cathy Pineda of Youth Welfare (SMI). Sisters Myrna Zapanta and Sonia Mayo, past IRs from Region VII also graced the Assembly.

Past International Treasurer and Past International Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers Sis. Linda Castillo was the assembly’s prime mover.

His Eminence Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales, Archbishop Emeritus of Manila, was Eucharistic celebration presider assisted by Msgr. Rafael Orondo, Archdiocesan Chaplain of the Archdiocese of Lipa.

The assembly started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother followed by the entrance of colors and the parade of circles.

A welcome message from Batangas City Mayor Beverly Rose Dimacuja was read by Mr. Ed Borbon. Sis. Linda Castillo acknowledged the presence of the International Board members followed by the opening remarks of Region VII Representative Sis. Fely Dollentas.

In her inspirational message, IR Sis Lelies shared the story of a priest who was denied entry to heaven because he was a priest only by name and attire. Being



*The image of the Blessed Mother is carried to the altar for the enthronement ceremony.*



*The parade of Circles*

a DMI means commitment and action. “Discipleship is the responsibility not only by the clergy and consecrated persons but of all. It is not just a call but a commitment,” she said. IVR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario expounded on the true essence of the National theme “Embracing a Life of Humble Service and Credible Witnessing to Jesus through Mary”. Pictures of martyrs were shown with short narratives on their lives.

Cardinal Rosales as keynote speaker talked about his childhood and as a young priest and the challenges he went through.

International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, in his message, said “God did not promise us a rose garden. As Jesus said, if you want to follow me, take up your cross daily. Be *tunay*, not *huwad na DMI*.”

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# VICARIATE OF SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA HOSTS REGION VI ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Fortunata Aquino,  
Region VI Correspondent*

On July 7, 2018, the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua hosted the 2018 Region VI Assembly of the Diocese of San Pablo (Laguna). The assembly was held at the Central 2, Calamba City with the theme “Embracing a Life of Humble Service and Credible Witnessing to Jesus through Mary” attended by 204 DMI sisters.



*Enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

The activity started with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary headed by International Regent Sis. Rosalinda “Lelies” Pimentel. This was followed by the Eucharistic Celebration with Rev. Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul, diocesan spiritual director, as presider. Fr. Fadul’s homily focused on the assembly theme stressing humble service and credible witnessing by following Christ through Mary. He challenged the DMI sisters to be humble at all times.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Isabel Ticzon welcomed the guests from the International Board and assembly delegates after which Region VI Representative/ International Treasurer Sis. Elvie Arambulo delivered her opening remarks in which she encouraged the DMI sisters to deepen their devotion to the Blessed Mother.

International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario said the DMII, at 40 years old, need the credible witnessing of its members especially now when our faith is being challenged. She suggested

chapters and verses in the Bible that can help strengthen their faith. “The role of the DMI is to proclaim the Good News and be evangelizers through the DMII missions and thrusts. Let our actions speak our faith” she said.

International Regent Sis. Lelies in her inspirational message said that the DMI is a calling in which one has to

make a choice. Being a DMI is a sacred vow and one should wear the DMI uniform with love, dignity and devotion. She advised the sisters to live simply and be Mary-like. She asked them to reflect on their present situation and with the grave concerns of the world today, to be active agents of transformation. This is the challenge that 12,000 women in the country composing the DMII need to face head-on.

The message of International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz delved on the assembly theme in which he emphasized credible witnessing. DMIs must be conscious about the image they create – to become *huwaran* (original), not *huwad* (fake).

The International Mission Chairpersons presented their respective mission programs: Sis. Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Sis. Ruby Macario for Sis. Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media, Sis. Milde Tong for Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Lydia Ordonez for

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*Eucharistic Celebration with Fr. Eugene Fadul as celebrant.*



*Fr. Jerome Cruz and IR Sis. Lelies give their inspirational messages.*





## *Vicariate of San Antonio... from page 5*



*Sis. Ruby Macario presents programs for Morality in Media on behalf of Int'l Chair Sis. Edna May Landicho.*

Sis. Luz Binoya for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare. Workshops on the missions followed to provide a clear picture of how each thrust is carried out by the circles in the region. The mission chairs later presented the outputs of the workshops

The Region awarded two DMI sisters – Sis. Alice Capiral and Sis. Lita Canonizado, both Past Region VI RR and IVR-Luzon for their invaluable service and dedication to the organization. The award for Sis. Lita who was not able to attend the assembly was received by Theresian Circle Regent Sis. Remedios Abilay.



*A Mission workshop in progress.*



*The participants of the Region VI Assembly*

Sis. Iluminada Lagunda, regent of the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua gave the closing remarks. The activity ended with the retirement of the flags and recessional.

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## *Mater Purissima... from page 4*



*His Eminence Gaudencia Cardinal Rosales, keynote speaker*



*DMII International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz delivers his inspirational message.*



*Cardinal Rosales (seated at center and his Mass concelebrants Fr. Oscar Dimaapi and Region VII Spiritual Adviser Msgr. Rafael Oriomdo (flanking him) with guests from the International Board. Seated from left: Sisters Ruby Macario and Lelies Pimentel, Past IRs Sisters Sonia Mayo and Myrna Zapanta and Sis. Edna May Landicho. Standing: Sisters Biennah Villanueva, Cora Afuang, Milde Tong, Fely Dollentas, Linda Castillo and Cathy Pineda.*

The International Mission Chairpersons – Sis. Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Sis. Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media, Sis. Milde Tong for Upliftment of Women Workers and Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare – presented their mission programs followed by workshops aimed at sharing participants' experiences in pursuing their mission and coming up with shared action plans and commitment for the next DMI term (2019-20).

Intermission numbers by the Holy Cross Circle of Bauan and the prize-winning entry of Region VII in the Regional Contest held in Baguio City during the 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention added color to the day-long event.

# REGION IV ASSEMBLY: A COMMITMENT TO LIVE MAMA MARY'S LOVE, COMPASSION AND CARE

By Sis. Emelita de la Pena,  
Region IV Correspondent

The Regional Assembly of Region IV – Diocese of Malolos was held on August 25, 2028 at the Hiyas Convention Center in historic Malolos City. The theme of the assembly was “Living Mary’s Love, Compassion and Care through DMII’s Presence and Mission”.

The occasion was graced by the presence of International Regent, Sis. Rosalinda “Lelies” Pimentel, International Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario, Pro-Life International Chairperson Sis. Cora Afuang and International Chairperson for Youth Welfare Sis. Cathy Pineda. His Excellency Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, DD, the new Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Malolos together with DMI International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz celebrated the Holy Eucharist.

In his homily, Bishop Ongtioco narrated the beginnings of the DMII – from its establishment by Fr. George J. Willman in 1951 as Daughters of Isabella until 1978, when His Eminence Jaime Cardinal Sin changed the name to become the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, as it is today. The good Bishop expressed his appreciation for the involvement of the organization in relevant thrusts, citing all the five DMI missions.

A short brainstorming session was held for each mission by the circle chairs and in consultation with their respective International Chairpersons discussed their projects for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of 2018. The exercise was aimed at generating creative ideas on their proposed projects to serve best their intended beneficiaries and parishioners through effective management and monitoring.

The results of the brainstorming session were then reported by the International Chairpersons – Sis. Cora Afuang for Pro-Life and Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare. Substituting for the International Chairs of the other missions who were not able to come were Diocesan Chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers Sis. Marilyn San Diego (for Sis. Milde Tong), Diocesan



*Bishop Honesto Ongtioco, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Malolos and Fr. Jerome Cruz, DMII Int'l Chaplain, mass celebrants, receive plaques of appreciation from Sisters Aida de la Cruz, Diocesan Regent, Lelies Pimentel, Int'l Regent, and Theresa Curia, Int'l Secretary and Region IV RR.*

Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Sis. Lucy Bernardo (for Sis. Luz Binoya), and Diocesan Regent Sis. Aida de ka Cruz for Morality in Media (substituting for Int'l Chair Sis. Edna May Landicho and Diocesan Chair Sis. Bebot Cui).

International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel in her keynote address encouraged all DMI sisters to emulate our Patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary and always practice the virtues of Unity, Friendship, Charity, Humility and Sanctity with the Blessed Mother as model and guide.

IVR for Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario delivered an inspirational message.

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*DMI sisters of Region IV act out the DMI Hymn being sung by the assembly delegates.*

# BAGUIO DMIs JOIN DIOCESE OF BAGUIO-BENGUET WALK FOR LIFE

*By Sis. Marlin Abratique,  
Vicarial Regent, Diocese of Baguio*

**S**treams of green filled the streets of Baguio on April 28, 2018 as pro-life groups in the city reinforced the Church's stand against threats to life and family.

In solidarity with the Diocese of Baguio-Benguet, all the DMI circles of Baguio supported the week-long pro-life program that culminated in a Walk for Life on April 28. The participating circles were the St. Joseph the Worker, Our Lady of Atonement, St. Vincent Ferrer and St. Aloysius Gonzaga Circles. The sisters joined some 3,000 others who were clad in green attire symbolizing life. Many held



*The delegation of the DMIs carrying their circle banners.*

advocacy statements in defense of family and life.

The march started from different points in the city, the St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Pacdal, the Our Lady of Atonement Cathedral in Central Business District, St. Vincent Ferrer Parish in Naguilian Road and Don Bosco Parish in Trancoville. The marchers converged at the University of Baguio Gymnasium in the heart of Baguio.

The Walk for Life culminated with a Eucharistic celebration with Bishop Victor Bendico, D.D. of the Diocese of Baguio-Benguet as main presider concelebrated by priests of the diocese.

Among the key issues opposed by the Baguio pro-lifers are the pending divorce bill in Congress, euthanasia, abortion, population control and homosexual marriage.

A week prior to the march, the pro-life organizations in Baguio spearheaded a forum on the teachings of the Catholic Church in addressing the pressing issues that threaten life and family. Venue of the forum was the Maryheights Seminary in Bakakeng, Baguio City. Participating church-based groups exchanged thoughts and ideas in support of the Walk for Life.



*A delegation of young men composed of students and seminarians who joined the Walk.*



# CANONICAL CORONATION OF THE IMAGE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

**A**ugust 22, 2018 was a momentous occasion for the Catholic community of Pangasinan – the Canonical Coronation of the image of Mary Help of Christians.

The event was held at the St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in Dagupan City and was presided by the Papal Nuncio Archbishop Gabriele Caccia. More than 8,000 devotees celebrated the event with around 300 priests in attendance.

The image of the Child Jesus in the arms of Mother Mary was crowned by Archbishop Socrates Villegas of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan while the Papal

Nuncio crowned the image of the Blessed Mother.

The image of Mary Help of Christians is the second image in Pangasinan to be canonically crowned, the first being the image of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary in Manaoag 92 years ago. Mary, the Mother of Jesus has always been a central figure of the Catholic faith, bringing faith and hope to everyone who prays for her aid.

The image is currently enshrined for veneration at the Mary Help of Christians Theology Seminary in Brgy. Palapad, San Fabian, Pangasinan.



*Papal Nuncio Archbishop Gabriele Caccia was main celebrant in the Eucharistic celebration held during the coronation rites.*



*The Papal Nuncio crowns the image of the Blessed Mother . . .*



*... while Archbishop Socrates Villegas crowns the image of the Infant Jesus in her arms.*

## POSTER- and SLOGAN-MAKING CONTEST HELD

**F**resh from the success of the Canonical Coronation of Mary Help of Christians in the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, the Mary Miraculous Medal DMI Circle and SMI Circlette conducted a Poster- and Slogan-Making Contest amongst students of the Dagupan City National High School.

During the contest, ten students submitted their artworks from which the board of judges selected the top three winning entries. Winning the top prize was the entry of Canna Victoria, a Special Program for the Arts (SPA) student. John Ivan Pedrosop; placed second and Mary Talam, third place. An SMI member entered the contest and was given an

Award of Excellence for her meritorious contribution to a DMII project.

The circle's Morality in Media Committee got the SMI circlette involved in the project to enable its members to further understand the woman Mary is and to use the knowledge to further emulate her as a woman of God.

The title of Mary as the Help of Christians recognizes her undoubted loyalty and love for the group of people who thoroughly believe in Jesus, her Son. This further drives home the message

*Poster and Slogan... from page 9*



*The winners receive their awards from the board of judges and contest sponsors.*

that Mary constantly imparts to us – to live a life of penance and deeply integrate prayer in our day-to-day life. Moreover, she represents what mothers are to their children – a safe haven to whom they can run

to when they feel alone, scared and overwhelmed with life's problems. Mary is truly a mother not only to Christ but to all Christians! - Francine Beatriz Pradez, SMI President



*Region IV Assembly... from page 7*



*The Region IV past and present officers and the International Board with Fr. Jerome and Bishop Ongtioco. Seated from left: Past RR Sis. Fely Gallardo, DR Sis. Aida dela Cruz, RR Sis. Thess Curia, Pro-Life Int'l Chairperson Sis. Cora Afuang, IR Sis. Lelies, Past District Deputy Sis. Neneng Nicolas, Past RR Sis. Piling San Juan, IVR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario and Int'l Chair for Youth Welfare Sis. Cathy Pineda.*

Intermission numbers helped enliven the assembly sessions -the soulful song numbers by Jericho Labilles and Mona Chilette Martinez and the "Harana" by the Camerata, a small chamber orchestra and choir from the Barasoain Church. The Filipino folk songs rendered by



*The DMII International Officers and Board with the Camerata, a world-class choir who provided liturgical music during the Eucharistic celebration and serenaded the delegates during the lunch break.*

the group kept the DMI sisters in admiration and awe.

Plaques of appreciation were awarded to the assembly speakers and guests by Region IV RR & International Secretary Sis. Ma. Theresa Curia and Region IV officers. Program hosts were Sisters Gay Melene Paitim and Brigida Abela.

# BLESSED QUEEN AND MOTHER CIRCLE SUPPORTS PARISH THROUGH FUND-RAISING

By Sis. Sylvia Manlongat,  
Past Circle Regent

The Holy Family Parish, home to the Blessed Queen and Mother Circle, is the beneficiary of its fund-raising activities. Last May 5, 2018, the parish held its Santacruzán 2018 featuring the winners of a popularity contest the circle launched with a search for Reyna Esperanza, Reyna Caridad and Reyna Elena with her Constantino. The contest winners were earlier honored with a festive Coronation Night. The circle was able to raise more than P100,000 this year.

In 2017, the funds that the circle raised enabled the parish church to acquire two giant electric fans for

use by parishioners during Masses and other activities. Sis. Nenita Jose, circle regent also donated a complete modern-designed Stations of the Cross.

Rev. Fr. Genaro Jujune Herramia, parish priest, is grateful for the support that the circle is extending to the Holy Family Parish.



*DMI sisters of the Blessed Queen and Mother Circle pose with the winners of the 2018 popularity contest. At right is Fr. Genaro Herramia.*

## PHOTO



## NEWS

# DAGUPAN CITY MAYFLOWER FESTIVAL



Sis. Marlene Tandoc of the Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Circle chaired the celebration of the Dagupan City Mayflower Festival and Santacruzán 2018. She was assisted by Circle Regent Sis. Socorro Ramos. Thirteen sagalas from 15 clustered religious groups vied for Reyna Elena through a fund drive that saw DMII candidate Sis. Agnes Ramirez winning the title. The fund raised is for the benefit of the Catechetical Instruction Ministry. Sis. Agnes assisted Msgr. Alvin Platon, pastor of the St. John the Evangelist Cathedral in crowning Mother Mary last May 26, 2018. The Festival culminated with a Eucharistic celebration presided by Auxillary Bishop Elmer Mangalino assisted by Msgr. Platon and Rev. Frs. Rosal and Hebron. Sis. Aurora Fernandez hosted a dinner after the event. In the photo are shown Sis. Agnes with Sisters Socorro Ramos, Circle Treasurer Sis. Tess, KC Joseph Ramirez, husband of Sis. Agnes, Region II RR Sis. Virgie Terrado and Vicarial Regent Sis. Aileen Santos.

## **ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CIRCLE CONDUCTS 'ALALAY SA BUNTIS' – YEAR 6 . . . AND COUNTING**

*By Sis. Leonora de Guzman,  
Diocesan Regent*

**T**he DMI sisters of St. Raphael the Archangel Circle once again shared their time and resources to carry out its '*Alalay sa Buntis*' Project last May 31, 2018. Now on its sixth year, 40 mothers were this year's

beneficiaries of the activity who were chosen among the most needy pregnant women. The Rural Health Unit (RHU)-9 based in San Rafael helped identify them.

Ms. Joana Marie, RN, MSN was the resource speaker. Highlights of her lecture were: the importance of medical consultation for the mother to monitor the development of her pregnancy, the necessity to eat nutritious food and take supplements and the advantages of breastfeeding, Responsible parenthood and Natural Family Planning were also discussed. A short quiz was given to the participants after the lecture to ensure that they understood and were able to absorb the topics discussed.

Kits containing essentials needed before and after childbirth were distributed to the participants which



*Ms. Joana Marie, RN, MSN, lecturer, with circle officers.*

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## **QUEEN OF FLOWERS CIRCLE HOLDS 2018 TEAM-BUILDING WORKSHOP**

*By Sis. Sheryll Cruz*

**Q**ueen of Flowers Circle of the Diocese of Malolos held its Team-Building Workshop at Casa Corazon Pavilion, Cupang, Pandi, Bulacan last April 9, 2018. Past Region IV Representative Sis. Piling San Juan headed the group and provided light moments with her many inspirational messages and anecdotes. Past regents who attended the workshop shared their experiences, wisdom and insights gained in the performance of their duties during their respective terms.

The workshop reinvigorated the circle members' spirit as they actively participated in the group dynamics and games in the day-long activity. Food and drinks were generously shared by the participants in the true DMI spirit of sisterhood and friendship.



*The Team-Building Workshop in session.*

# HOLY MARY CIRCLE UNDERTAKES PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES

By Sis. Josie de la Torre,  
Vicarial Regent, Vicariate of Sta. Maria 1



*A Pap Smear procedure is being done on one of the project beneficiaries.*

**T**wenty women of reproductive age were beneficiaries of the “Free Pap Smear” Project of the Holy Mary Circle of the Vicariate of Sta. Maria 1, Diocese of Malolos last May 21, 2018. Venue of the activity was the Rural Health Unit of Sta. Maria, Bulacan.

Pro-Life Mission Chair Sis. Catalina Halili and Circle Regent Sis. Edith Santiago led the activity with the help of other circle members. Rural Health Unit’s Dr. Beth Feliciano and Public Health Nurse Josefina de la Torre provided their services free of charge. Dra. Feliciano was assisted by the RHU staff, the midwife and barangay health worker. Holy Mary Circle shouldered the cost of Pap Smear.

Earlier, officers and members of the circle played foster parents to youth participants in Days in the Diocese (DID) held on May 18 – 20, 2018. The foster parents took care of the board and lodging of the youth participants for three days and two nights. They likewise oriented them about the parish and its activities. DID is a learning experience for the youth as part of their spiritual formation.

## INA NG GRASYA NG DIYOS CIRCLE’S OPERATION HEALTH ALERT

By Sis. Mely de la Pena, Region IV Correspondent

**T**he *Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos* Circle of the Diocese of Malolos regularly conducts Operation Health Alert with its project partner, the King of Kings Laboratory and Diagnostic Center. This year’s project was held recently at the Social Hall of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish Multi-Purpose Bldg. at the Meralco Village in Lias, Marilao, Bulacan. The project was spearheaded by the circle’s Pro-Life Committee headed by Sis. Luz Yuan.

A package of laboratory tests for a basic fee of only P250 includes EKG, FBS, total cholesterol, CBC, SGPT, urinalysis, BUN and uric acid. Other tests are available at nominal fees. An Executive Package costs only P1,000.



*The Operation Health Alert in progress.*

Fatima parishioners and indigent patients from nearby barangays availed of the packaged health

Some 125 patients composed of Our Lady of

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# UPDATES FROM THE DIOCESE OF ANTIPOLO

*By Sis. Cora T. Afuang,  
Pro-Life International Chairperson*

The circles in the Diocese of Antipolo were kept busy during the months of August and September doing projects and activities for the DMI Mission thrusts.

**A – SEMINAR ON MENTAL HEALTH.** On August 19, 2018, a seminar for the Squirettes of Mary was organized to tackle a very timely topic on mental health titled “Say No to Sakit Isip, Say Yes to Lusog Isip”. The seminar was an interactive session with Mr. Rolando de los Reyes II, a practicing guidance counselor from UP-Diliman. As expected, the DMIs and SMIs who attended the session took the opportunity to air their concerns about their families, friends and school and listened intently to the advice of the lecturer. The 30 SMIs from the Diocese of Antipolo were joined by some Squirettes from the Diocese of Pasig. The successful seminar was organized by Sis. Flor Abilagoyo, diocesan SMI counselor.

**B – LECTURE ON SAFE MOTHERHOOD.** On August 23, a diocesan activity on “Safe Motherhood” was spearheaded by Diocesan Pro-Life Head Sis. Cora Justo. The seminar was conducted by Dra. May del Rosario, resident doctor of the Marikina Health Center and was attended by 39 expectant mothers. Some 18 DMI sisters from seven circles of the Diocese lent their support to the activity. The lecture taught the participants how to take care of themselves both before and after childbirth. The



lecture was made livelier with the freebies given by Dra. Del Rosario such as baby kits and certificate for free ultrasound. In addition, free

bone screening was made available not only for the participants but also for the DMI sisters present during the lecture.

**C – PERSONALITY AND SKILLS UPGRADING SEMINAR.** On September 1, 2018, the St. Paul of the Cross Circle invited house helpers and some barangay street sweepers of Brgy. Concepcion Dos in Marikina to attend a seminar on “Personality and Skills Upgrading”. Initiated by Sis. Loida Solidun, chair of the circle’s Upliftment of Women Workers Committee, the seminar was attended by 25 street sweepers and house helpers and 10 DMI circle members. Proper Table Setting, Table Manners, Telephone and Cellphone Etiquette, Dress Sense as well as Positive Attitude and Values were among the topics discussed by Sis. Cora Afuang, the resource speaker.



**D – TREE-PLANTING ACTIVITY.** On the early morning of Sept. 6, 2018, a group of DMI sisters from the St. Paul of the Cross Circle motored to the Marikina River Park and had a unique tree-planting activity. The morning started with a Tree Planting Liturgy led by some sisters of the Good Shepherd Congregation who were invited to the occasion. After the prayers, the participants walked to their assigned areas and planted young narra trees courtesy of the DENR. It was fun to see the sisters wearing their dark glasses, sunvisors and hats while carrying shovels, kneeling or stooping to plant the tree seedlings and as always, posing for their photo-ops. A closing prayer of thanksgiving ended the activity. Sisters Susan Ong and Marites Uy, past and present Pro-Life chairpersons, respectively



coordinated the entire project. The circle thanked the staff of the Marikina River Park Authority for their assistance and the Good Shepherd sisters for adding a spiritual dimension to the activity.



### ***St. Raphael... from page 12***

they thankfully received. Tokens of appreciation were also given to the resource speaker and the RHU staff. Serving of simple snacks closed the activity.



*Participants during the ‘Alalay sa Buntis’ Project.*

### ***Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos... from page 13***

services. The latter, numbering 12 patients, were given free services upon the circle’s recommendation.

The King of Kings medical staff consisted of medical technologists headed by Jasmin Mendoza and Dr. Susan Abesamis, an optometrist. When the lab results were released, Dr. Amor de Castro was sent to provide free consultation and advice and those needing treatment were given prescriptions and referrals.

Sis. Eve Bautista, circle regent is a member of the 3-man Social Service Commission of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish. Lending support and assistance during the activity were Sisters Mely de la Pena, regent of the Vicariate of St. Martin of Tours, Mila Reyes, past vicarial regent, Tesy Villarino, past Region IV RR and International Secretary, other circle officers and Squirettes of Mary members.

# DIOCESAN MORALITY IN MEDIA SYMPOSIUM HELD

The Risen Christ Circle played host to a Morality in Media symposium entitled “A Multidisciplinary Dialogue on Digital and Interpersonal Communication” last June 9, 2018 at the Holy Eucharist Parish Church in Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City.

The symposium resource speaker was Ms. Doreen Yu, editor of the Star Week Magazine who is popularly known in the Philippine Star Publications offices as “Singkit”.

Ms. Yu said that morality cannot be mandated or legislated but an individual sets the standard for himself. Directed to her many young audience (Diocese of Paranaque circles brought their SMIs along.), she delved on social media and cautioned them about posting on Facebook materials such as indecent photos that are passed on, causing, in one case, the expulsion from school of a student who posted the photos.

“Gadget is amoral, but its user may be moral or immoral. Social media create ‘citizen journalists’ through their blogs which have no given rules,” Ms Yu continued.

Fake news is as old as time, the very first one happening in the Garden of Eden when the serpent tempted Eve with false information. Many times, readers encounter “koryente” news even in broadsheets. She told her audience to be clear about things and develop an absolute sense of right and wrong, to turn to their parents and teachers for guidance and advice. Morality is the responsibility of media consumers. At present, cybersecurity is a most crucial concern in social media.

A lively exchange of information and views between the speaker and her audience necessitated the extension of the symposium to close to noontime in spite of the heavy downpour outside brought by Habagat.

Sis. Linda Chincuanco, Risen Christ Circle regent and Sis. Helen Balmores, past circle regent and diocesan chairperson for Morality in Media, saw to the smooth flow of the morning program. Diocesan Regent Sis. Juliet Cruz welcomed the participants and Past International Chairperson for Morality in Media Sis. Sonia Manlapig in her closing remarks thanked them for coming.



*Symposium guest speaker Ms. Doreen Yu (seated at left) with DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada. Standing, from left: Sisters Helen Balmores, diocesan Morality in Media chairperson, Linda Chincuanco, regent, Risen Christ Circle and Myrna Trinidad, DMII Board international advocate.*



*Ms. Doreen Yu with officers and members of the Risen Christ DMI Circle and SMI Circlette.*

# MISSION UPDATE FROM OUR LADY OF THE LILIES CIRCLE

The Our Lady of the Lilies Circle of Our Lady of the Abandoned Parish in Soldiers' Hills, Muntinlupa City conducted a workshop-demonstration on how to prepare dishwashing liquid soap last August 4, 2018 at the barangay hall of Brgy. Putatan. The workshop, part of the livelihood program sponsored by the circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee chaired by

Sis. Vita Zaldivia was in coordination with the officials of Brgy. Putatan represented by Sis. Babes Jose.

The lecturer, Mr. Rolly Arevalo, showed the participants, composed of utility workers, kasambahays and street sweepers how to prepare the liquid soap at a much cheaper cost. Certificates of participation were later distributed to the workshop participants.



*Mr. Rolly Arevalo demonstrates to participants how to prepare the liquid soap.*



*Workshop participants in a group photo with the DMI sisters after the activity.*

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*From the Diocese of Imus (Region V)*

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## DIOCESE OF IMUS WELCOMES A NEW DMI CIRCLE

*By Sis. Veronica Bambilla,*

*Chairperson, Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle Membership Committee*

Last July 8, 2018, DMI sisters of Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of the Diocese of Imus, unperturbed by the heavy rains and floods brought by Typhoon Henry, welcomed to the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International 13 members of a new circle named Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle at the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Parish in Camella Springville Heights, Molino 7, Bacoor City, Cavite. Fifteen were initially recruited but two were not able to attend the short conferral ceremony because of the inclement weather.

A diocesan long conferral ceremony is scheduled to be held in November and the new circle promised to complete the required



*The officers and members of the Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle with the DMI sisters from the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle, their mother circle.*

25 members to become a full-fledged DMI circle by then.

As its mother circle, the officers and members of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle guided the

new sisters in the election of their officers who were then installed into office. Inspirational messages were given by Rev. Fr. Catets Laureta, parish priest and Vicarial Regent Sis. Zeny Cruzada.



# STO. NINO DE MOLINO CIRCLE SPONSORS URBAN GARDENING SEMINAR

By Sis. Lydia Lincolioc,  
Past Regent & Pro-Life Committee Chair

The Pro-Life Committee of Sto. Nino de Molino Circle conducted an Urban Gardening Seminar last April 12, 2018 at Brgy. Magdalo, Ecopark Phase 8 in Imus, Cavite.

The seminar guest speaker was Mr. Roberto R. Marges, agriculturist of the Imus Agriculture Service Office. He said that the enthusiasm and active participation of the seminar participants was overwhelming. Attending the seminar were the circle members, members of the Parish Pastoral Council and parishioners of Pag-asa Subdivision, Senior Citizens' Group, and members of the Pag-asa Multi-Purpose Cooperative and Woodland Homeowners Association.

The objective of the seminar is to initiate steps for the protection and care of the environment, find alternative ways of growing plants in limited spaces in an urban setting and to minimize poverty and malnutrition as well as garbage. Among the topics discussed were the types and benefits of urban gardening, the advantages and disadvantages, planning for urban gardening, principles involved in caring for plants and how to prepare organic fertilizers and pesticides.

The speaker also emphasized that aside from pots, containers that may be considered garbage and thrown away such as old tires, plastic bottles and jars and sacks may be used. The participants were also shown how to prepare organic fertilizer from molasses, brown sugar, peelings of fruits and vegetables and internal organs of fish. These are stored in containers and left to ferment



*Seminar participants apply the technology they learned from the resource speaker.*

for a week to be used as plant fertilizers.

The seminar was highly successful with the participants launching a three-month implementation of the program. The Pro-Life Committee of the Sto. Nino de Molino Circle will then visit the houses of participants to assess the benefits derived from the seminar.



## PHOTO NEWS

**KUMPIL.** A Squirette of Mary of the Sto. Nino de Molina Circlette received the sacrament of confirmation last January 21, 2018 during the feast of Pit Senor Sto. Nino de Molino in Bacoar City. DMI Sister Jocelyn Fria assisted during the rites performed by Archbishop Rey Evangelista of the Diocese of Imus who appreciated the DMII in fulfilling its mission of looking after youth welfare. - Sis. Catherine Longcob, Circle Regent





# PALAWAN CIRCLES CELEBRATE THE BIRTHDAY OF MAMA MARY

By Sis. Nitz Austria,  
Vicarial Regent

September 8, 2018 was a much-awaited event for the Marian devotees, especially DMI members, whose love and affection for the Blessed Virgin Mary is amazing. It was the day commemorating the birth of Maria Bambinella or Infant Mary.

On that cold morning, a *manianita* started the celebration with the participants holding lighted candles, followed by the dawn rosary and floral offering while they sang Happy Birthday and some Marian songs.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Pepito Rollo, rector of the Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish with Rev. Frs. Salvador Saturnino, Eugene Elivera, Elbert Dionaldo and Edmund Herher as concelebrants.



Image of Maria Bambinella

Concluding the celebration was an agape prepared by the different barangay chapels and religious organizations. The St. Bernadette Circle of the Vicariate of Puerto Princesa spearheaded the activity.

## PHOTO NEWS

### SOLEMNITY OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP, OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL COMMEMORATED



The St. Bernadette Circle officers and members participated actively in the celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on July 16, 2018 and of Our Mother of Perpetual Help on July 22 highlighted by a procession.



The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and image of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel are readied for the procession.

## TEAM-BUILDING WORKSHOP BY SMI CIRCLETTES AT ECOPARK



Squirettes of the Mater Dei and Our Lady of Fatima Circlettes pose for a group photo at Ecopark before the start of their Team-Building Workshop on June 30, 2018.



*Tower-Building, a group dynamics exercise, teaches the SMIs the values of cooperation, interdependence, strategies and leadership in a team.*



*From Region VIII (Bicol Region)*

## REGION VIII OFFICERS CLOSELY MONITOR DMI DIOCESES AND CIRCLES IN BICOL

*By Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas,  
Region VIII Representative*

A close monitoring of activities of DMI dioceses and circles is being undertaken by the officers of Region VIII (Bicol). The purposes of the monitoring activity are: to ensure that activities are progressing in the direction as planned, to detect the strengths and weaknesses of strategies used in implementing the project, what went right and what went wrong, and to help provide information for decision-making with regards to implementing a project so as to ensure the realization of objectives and instituting corrective action.



During monitoring, the DMI vision, mission

and goals are revisited as well as the action program required of the mission projects and the roles of project participants. Pointers on how to conduct successful and productive meetings are also taken up.

At present, the regional officers have finished monitoring 2 dioceses and 20 circles needing to be revived. The activity is still on-going. The monitoring task force headed by the Regional Representative includes diocesan and vicarial regents in the region.



# DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO PURSUES DMI MISSION THRUSTS

## PHOTO NEWS

By Sis. Fortunata Aquino,  
Region VI Correspondent



**MOU ON CARE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT SIGNED BETWEEN DMI DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO AND SAN PABLO TOURISM OFFICE.** The Diocese of San Pablo through Sis. Norma Eusebio, diocesan Pro-life coordinator, initiated the project. Sis. Isabel Ticzon, diocesan regent, represented the DMI and Ms. Josefina Andal of the San Pablo City Solid Waste and Management Office represented the San Pablo City LGU. The Memo of Understanding is titled “Partners for Pro-Life Program on Care for the Environment”. The City Government assigned a portion of Sampalok Lake for the clean-up, provided equipment and tools for the project and provided maintenance personnel and physical assistance during the clean-up. The project started on April 20, 2018 participated by 45 DMI sisters and the LGU maintenance personnel.



**MORALITY IN MEDIA SYMPOSIUM.** Ms. Hannah Torregoza, journalist of The Manila Bulletin Today, was the resource speaker during the symposium spearheaded by the Vicariate of St. Polycarp last June 2, 2018 on the topic “Understanding Media Process and the Resurgence of Fake News”. Earlier on April 16, 2018 the Theresian Circle of Los Banos, Laguna also conducted a seminar on “The Limits of Social Media: Fake News vs. Journalism” at the South Hill School with Dr. Crispin Maslog as guest speaker. The symposium was attended by 44 junior and senior high school students.



**PRO-LIFE SYMPOSIUM HELD.** The Vicariate of St. Polycarp sponsored a pro-life symposium at the St. Mary’s Hall, Sto. Rosario Parish, Pacita Complex I in San Pedro City with Ms. Michelle Protomartir-Tapang, an advocate of Mother Earth Movement and environmentalist, as resource speaker. She spoke on “Caring for the Environment: Native Trees and Public Health Infrastructure”. Vicarial Regent Sis. Fe Aquinde spearheaded the activity.



**UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS COMMITTEE DONATION.** *The Theresian Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee in collaboration with the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources turned over a smoke house and utensils to the couple Edgardo and Jeniffer McColl whom they have chosen to receive the fish smoking technology that they now utilize in their smoked boneless bangus business. On April 21, 2018 the circle also conducted lessons on beading for the DMI and SMI members.*

**LENTEN RECOLLECTION FOR PRISON PROBATIONERS, PAROLEES AND PARDONEES.** *The Diocese of San Pablo through the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Iluminada Lagunda sponsored a Lenten Recollection among the probationers, parolees and pardonees of the 4<sup>th</sup> District of Laguna (Sta. Cruz, Liliw and Nagcarlan). Sis. Adora Abe, diocesan chair of Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Sis. Trinidad Juanillo, APFV vicaral chair coordinated the activity with Probation and Parole Officers Aries Navarro, Gerard de Mesa and Roseville Violante. Fr. Dennis Maglasang, pastor of San Sebastian the Martyr Parish expounded on the theme "Sagip-Buhay at Pagbabalik-loob sa Panahon ng Pagninilay" Sisters Isabel Ticzon, diocesan regent and Loreta Santos, past diocesan regent and other DMI members also attended the activity.*



**SMI SPORTSFEST.** *The 3<sup>rd</sup> SMI Diocesan Sportsfest was held on June 12, 2018 at the Sta. Rosa Multi-Purpose Hall in Sta. Rosa City with the theme "SMI Youth in Sports : The Lord is my Inspiration and Mama Mary is my Devotion". The heavy rains brought by Habagat did not deter the Squirettes of 15 circlettes in the Diocese from holding the event. Region VI officers led by Regional Representative Sis. Elvie Arambulo who delivered an inspirational message and Diocesan Regent Sis. Isabel Ticzon who welcomed the participants led Tita DMIs who attended the Sportsfest. Champion for the fourth straight year was the San Lorenzo Ruiz Circlette with the Sts. Peter & Paul Circlette as runner-up. Competing in the Cheer Dancing competition were the Theresian, San Lorenzo Ruiz, St. John the Baptist, Our Lady of Miraculous Medal and St. Polycarp Circlettes.*

# UPDATES FROM ST. GEMMA GALGANI CIRCLE

By Sis, Lorna Embalzado,  
Circle Regent



## PHOTO NEWS

The St. Gemma Galgani Circle is an active group supporting the activities of its home parish, the St. Joseph the Patriarch Parish in Mabolo, Cebu City. In succeeding photos are a few of the circle's activities for the DMII Missions and parish involvement.

*A joint DMI-KC Medical Mission was held on June 17, 2018 at the K of C Hall in Mabolo, Cebu City.*



*The officers and members of St. Gemma Galgani circle on pilgrimage to the Shrine of Msgr. Teofilo Camomot who is a candidate for sainthood in Villadolid, Carcar, Cebu on March 17, 2018.*



*A delegation attended the 21<sup>st</sup> Biennial Convention in Baguio City on May 18-20 and took the chance to visit the Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Shrine in Manaoag, Pangasinan*



# SMI TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLETTE UNDERTAKES BEACH CLEAN-UP

By Sis. Carmen P. Baquilid,  
Regional Mission Coordinator

The SMI Tower of Ivory Circlette conducted a one-kilometer clean-up project along San Jose Beach in Tacloban City in pursuance of the DMI's Pro-Life Mission.

A portion of the beach most badly destroyed by Supertyphoon 'Yolanda' was the object of the clean-up. It was filled with garbage, mostly driftwood, that remained uncollected over the years. Many residents use the beach to bathe and to eat, throwing their refuse, both biodegradable and non-biodegradable just anywhere.

The SMIs were assisted in the project by the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office which extended technical assistance on solid waste management. Sisters Carmen Baquilid, Leny Basilan and Edna Apurillo made the collaboration possible. The SMIs learned the techniques on the implementation of the 3 Rs (Reuse, Reduce and Recycle) of solid waste from the CENRO technicians. With the knowledge gained, the SMIs showed the people not only to keep the beach clean but also how to manage their solid waste.



*The SMIs and their Tita DMIs in action.*



## PHOTO NEWS

**SQUIRETTES ATTEND SMI VISAYAS AREA COONFERENCE.** Twelve Squirettes of Mary represented the Tower of Ivory Circlette during the SMI Visayas Area Conference in Iloilo last May 27-28, 2018. They were accompanied by four DMI sisters from the Tower of Ivory Circle led by Sis. Leny Basilan, Region XI SMI Lady Counselor.

# NEW CIRCLE ORGANIZED IN AGUSAN DEL SUR

By Sis. Sheila Peji,  
Region XII Correspondent

Thirty candidates for DMI membership of a new circle in Agusan del Sur were exemplified during a Long Conferral ceremony held last June 19, 2018. The new circle has been named the Immaculate Conception – Veruela Circle.

Following the exemplification was the election of circle officers who were later installed into office. The circle's charter regent is Sis. Rosie Pareja.

Rev. Fr. Or^ney, pastor of the circle's home parish, and Past International Vice-Regent for Mindanao Sis Eden Paredes extended their full support to the Immaculate Conception - Veruela Circle, being present during the Long Conferral ceremony up to the installation of its charter officers.



*Fr. Or^ney (seated at center) with the newly-installed officers of the Immaculate Conception – Veruela Circle. To his left is Past IVR-Mindanao Sis. Eden Paredes.*



*The Long Conferral ceremony for the 30 new circle members.*



## PHOTO NEWS

**SMI SUMMER CAMP.** The Divine Grace Circle of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish hosted a Summer Camp attended by 25 Squirettes of Mary members in Agusan del Sur. Present during the two-day activity were Diocesan Regent Sis. Sheila Peji and Vicarial Regent Sis. Catherine Oclarit. The objective of the summer camp was to develop young girls for Christian living and Christian life.





# A DAY WITH THE 'MAMANWAS'

By Sis. Lolina Ebuna,  
Mystical Rose Circle Newsette Editor

In celebration of the glorious Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Mystical Rose Circle of Surigao City, Diocese of Surigao initiated a 3-in-1 outreach program for the Indigenous People (IP) 'Mamanwa' community in Mabuhay, Sison, Surigao del Norte last April 1, 2018.

The 'Mamanwa' community of Mabuhay consists of 100 young and adult IPs. They are one of the underprivileged communities in the locality and believed to be the oldest settlement of indigenous people in the province.

A short opening program started the day's activity. Present were Barangay Chairman Julie Dangate, IP Teacher Minda Hubasan and IP Tribal Leader Cris Yubos. Circle Regent Sis. Luz Almada headed the DMI circle delegation. Following the program were a medical mission, feeding program and distribution of used clothing (ukay-ukay).

Composing the medical mission team were Dr. Luz Ruth Almada, Ms. Sahlee Almada, a registered nurse and Sis. Concepcion Clavera, a registered medical technologist. Circle

members were on hand to assist in all of the activities. Lending support to the medical mission were the Jaycees (JCI) of Surigao, Inc. and other generous donors who donated medicines and vitamins for the beneficiary community.

The DMI sisters also prepared food for the community and gave a short orientation on hygiene and sanitation such as washing of hands before eating and proper waste disposal. The 'Mamanwas' were also taught the prayer before meals.



*The medical mission in progress*



*The DMI sisters and medical volunteers with the 'Mamanwas'.*

## REGION XIII CONDUCTS OFFICERS' MEETING

By Sis. Nenita Barroso,  
Region XIII Correspondent

The officers of Region XIII headed by Regional Representative Sis. Laura Cespon conducted their quarterly meeting at General Santos City and met with the officers of the Diocese of Marbel and regents of circles in the diocese.

The preparations being made by the Diocese of Marbel as host of the Region XIII Assembly at the SMX Convention Center in Davao City on October 13, 2018 was part of the meeting agenda. Certain Board resolutions ratified by DMI members during the 21st Biennial Convention in Baguio City in May were discussed and clarified before they are cascaded down for correct dissemination to the circles in the Region. Presentations and updates were made by the regional mission coordinators on projects and activities being undertaken on the circle level.



Region XIII Representative Sis. Laura Cespon presides during the regional meeting.



From the Archdiocese of Ozamis (Region XIV)

## PILLARS OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AND COMMUNITY REPS DIALOGUE WITH PRISONERS

The Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle of Del Carmen Barangay Annex, Ozamis City represented the community during the dialogue by the pillars of the Criminal Justice System – the Public Attorneys Office, Dept. of Justice and the Judiciary – with prisoners during the celebration of the National Correctional Consciousness Week. The dialogue was held at the BJMP Ozamis City Jail.

The objective of the dialogue was to bring to the prisoners the message that the government and community have a common interest in their reformation and securing them speedy justice. (“The wheel of justice should not be delayed.”)

Concerns were raised by the prisoners regarding the status of their cases and the representatives of government explained the processes involved requiring their cooperation. They also raised problems in accommodation and their wellness. Diocesan Regent Sis. Miriam Angot, a judge by profession, conducted



The pillars of the Criminal Justice System and DMI sisters who attended the dialogue. Seated 5<sup>th</sup> from left is Diocesan Regent Sis. Miriam Angot of the Archdiocese of Ozamis.

an inspection and directed the BJMP to communicate with judges handling the cases of inmates, especially those requiring medical attention.

The presence and support of the DMI sisters during the dialogue showed and assured the inmates of God’s endless love for them.

# "CHRISTMAS IN FEBRUARY" FOR BADJAO FAMILIES

By Sis. Rosafe Quinon,  
SMI Lady Counselor, Sto. Rosario de Oroquieta Circle

The SMIs of the Sto. Rosario de Oroquieta Circlette distributed food packs to Badjao families in Oroquieta City last Feb. 25, 2018. Dubbed "Christmas in February", the joint activity of the DMIs and SMIs was the second such outreach activity at the Holy Rosary Parish.

This year's beneficiaries were the Badjao families who are semi-permanent residents of the city. The first "Christmas in February" outreach in 2017 benefited the

elementary pupils of Senote Crossing Elementary School.

During the outreach the Squirettes were able to see for themselves how Badjao families live in their houses on stilts, being very careful walking on the footbridge leading to their houses on the water. They were exposed to the stark reality of how it is to live in poverty and the realization of the need to be "good neighbors" to others. The Badjaos in turn happily and thankfully accepted the food boxes. It truly was Christmas in February!



The Squirettes with their Tita DMIs prepare the food that they will distribute to the Badjao families.



The Squirettes with the Badjaos



From the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan

## NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA

By Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Diocesan Regent and  
Sis. Ellenor Velasco, Diocesan Scribe



### PHOTO NEWS

**MAMA MARY'S CIRCLE VISITS.**  
The pilgrim image of Mama Mary is brought to the different circles of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga and stays with each circle for 14 days. The objective is to inspire DMI families to keep in mind the Word of God, to make reparation for sins and pray the rosary for peace. These visits are timed with circle visitations being conducted by the diocesan officers. The activity is year-round.







**CIRCLE FUND-RAISING.** *The Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle of Guiuan conducted a fund-raising activity on May 27, 2018 to support the circle's projects and activities for the DMI missions.*



**PRO-LIFE/MORALITY IN MEDIA PROJECTS.** *The Our Lady of Ranson Circle conducted activities for Pro-Life and Morality in Media last June 11, 2018.*



**DIOCESAN SMI RECOLLECTION.** *The SMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga attended a diocesan recollection and a seminar on the Virtues of Mama Mary last March 26, 2018 at the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish sponsored by the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage DMI Circle and SMI Circlette. The speaker was Fr. Marciano Villagrancia assisted by Mr. John Caballes.*



**SMI's AS FLORES DE MAYO CATECHISTS.** *The SMIs of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga taught catechism to children in various parishes in Zamboanga City during the month-long celebration of Flores de Mayo last May, 2018. The children were prepared for their first communion and given school supplies during the culminating activity of the Flores de Mayo celebration.*

## **OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP CIRCLE CELEBRATES 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE CENACLE OF THE MARIAN MOVEMENT OF FR. DON STEFFANO GOBBI**

*By Sis. Bebeth Durano,  
DMI Newsette Coordinator, Diocese of Iligan*

**A**midst the ISIS threat in Iligan City, the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Circle of the Redemptorist Church, Diocese of Iligan celebrated the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the Cenacle of the Marian Movement of Fr. Don Steffano Gobbi. The movement was launched during the DMII Mindanao Conference held in Dipolog City in May, 1997.

Inspired by Mama Mary, then Circle Regent and Cenacle Group Coordinator Sis. Bebeth Durano started the Cenacle at the home of Sis. Rosalinda Pontoy on June 7, 1997. Every Saturday, the group meets to transfer Mama Mary's icon to homes and pray with the family the Holy Rosary, the Divine Mercy, Consecration Prayers and Prayer for Priests.

Additional groups have since been organized. There are now seven Cenacle groups bearing the icons of the Mother of Perpetual Help and images of Our Lady Mary Mediatrix of all Grace as they move from house to house. The members are DMI sisters, brother Knights and associates. The seventh group started last June 23, 2018. The Cenacle group leaders are: Group 1 – Sis. Josefina Soldevillo, Group 2 – Past Regent Sis. Estelita Acub, Group 3 – Past Regent Sis. Josefina Gaite, Group 4 – Vicarial Regent Sis. Bebeth Durano with Regent Sis. Lorena Salabao, Group 5 – SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Cecilia Presidente, Group 6 – Ma. Julieta Bonto, an associate, and Group 7 – Sis. Rebecca Pangan. Past



*The Cenacle groups sing Marian songs to honor the Blessed Mother.*

KC Grand Knight Calix Tan donated two icons of Our Mother of Perpetual Help during the first Cenacle. Testimonies of God's grace through Mama Mary and Jesus were shared. Healing and answered prayers are part of the groups' appreciated gifts.

The anniversary celebration, coinciding with the Solemnity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, started with a procession of the icons and images of Mama Mary around the Redemptorist Church in Bgy. San Miguel and back to the K of C Hall where the day's activity took place. Marian songs were sung by the Cenacle groups and Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Cristeta Lumbo crowned the image of the Blessed Mother. Fr. Bem McKerri was Mass celebrant. Regent Sis. Lorena Salabao led the Praise and Worship in the afternoon.

### **DIOCESE OF ILIGAN SMIs ATTEND ORIENTATION SEMINAR**

**A**n orientation seminar was conducted at Our Lady of Fatima Parish for old members and recruits of SMI circlettes in the Diocese of Iligan. The activity was attended by 40 SMIs with their Lady Counselors and some DMI sisters from the different circles in the Diocese led by their Regents. The speakers were Diocesan Regent Sis. Floripes Santos, Past DR Sis. Cristeta Lumbo and Vicarial Regent Sis. Bebeth Carissa Durano. The SMI activity was coordinated by Vicarial Regent Sis. Daylinda Alfanta.



*The SMIs attending the orientation seminar.*

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In celebration of the organization’s 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the DMI circles of the Diocese of Iligan joined the nationwide Walk and Dance for Mama Mary. The activity started with a Mass at the St. Michael’s Cathedral attended by five circles – the Our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Mary Help of Christians, St. Mary’s and Morning Star Circles.

Simultaneously, the Queen of Angels in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte held a similar activity starting with a Mass at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish Church.

The participants walked to the public plaza and went zumba dancing. Snacks were later shared by all.



*The participating DMI circles in a group photo before the Walk.*



*On the Nativity of Our Blessed Mother – A Reflection*

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*By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia,  
International Secretary*

How fast time flies! It seems only yesterday when I wrote on the meaning of the birth of the Mother of Jesus. September 8 is the day dedicated by the Church to her birth, exactly nine months after we commemorate her Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8.

Her Immaculate Conception is a fitting tribute of the Church for a woman who was destined to be the mother of the Savior of the world. No greater title can be bestowed on any woman and on any human being than to have collaborated in the project of saving the world. I wonder if she thought about the fame she would have from generation to generation. But one thing I am sure of, it did not make her feel she was above any one of us. Rather I can imagine her humbly but bravely accepting from the Holy Spirit the role which was given her. She must have foreseen the immense responsibility given to her, but instead of being daunted by fear and false



humility, she bravely accepted with full and generous commitment the mission and task that was given to her. She was aware that the apostles would look up to her for guidance and for modeling of what it means to be

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a disciple of Jesus. I think she must have felt that she needed to leave a lasting legacy on humankind and on the Church. Indeed Mary has left us a blueprint on how a faithful daughter of the Church could and would be.

## **Mary's Legacy**

Mary taught us to be holy, to be faithful to the Lord, to be compassionate companion in the faith of our fellow travelers. She listened to God in her heart, and she was faithful to the emotions that she felt. She did not know how things would develop in details, but she trusted in the leading of the Holy Spirit and followed, obeyed in faith.

We cannot imitate her in her being a mother of Jesus, but we can surely learn from her how to be an apostle, how to listen to God's Word, how to pray and live our daily life in service, in love, and in being responsible for building our Church.

Mary's legacy of service, dedication and lay discipleship is something that she leaves behind for all of us to follow. All that Mary taught us in her life becomes her legacy to all of humankind. Legacy is what we leave behind for others to learn and emulate.

Here are some of the lessons from Mary which the next generation can benefit from:

- She was a parent and a disciple. Whatever our status, we can follow the Lord.
- She was a woman. Whatever our gender, we have a room in the Church and in the world of service and sacrifice.
- She lived and worked with the apostles. We are called to work in a community, in groups, with friends and companions.
- Yet she was prayerful and lived in personal communication with the Spirit. We need our personal "alone-time with the Lord". We must find time for silence and intimacy with God, to

ponder things in our heart.

- She heard her mission from the Spirit. Each of us must discover and live out our mission in life.

It just occurs to me that we shall give Mary a great honor as a DMI if we can humbly say that we try to be aware of the legacy of discipleship that Mary has left behind. Similarly, we can also ask ourselves if our present generation of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International leaders can sincerely tell Mama Mary that we are making sure that our members are becoming disciples of the Lord like her.

Perhaps it is also honorable to check what concrete plans we have implemented during our term of office which we can turn over to the next set of officers. What brand of discipleship do we learn from Mary and which we can then pass on to the next generations? What will be our legacy as DMI leaders that those who will follow us can say they learned from us? What will they remember from us, and be grateful for? What is it that they will want to emulate in us and will continue to do? What creative things can they do for others that they will claim we inspired them to do?

Mama Mary, our lives as human beings have become worth living because of what we saw in you. Individually, we have become hopeful and secure in God's love because we try to follow you. Like you, may we be able to lead others towards Jesus. And when the voyage is over, please stand on the shore and show Jesus at last to us.

You are blessed among women. Holy Mary, pray for us.

