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VISAYAS, MINDANAO HOLD AREA CONFERENCES

August was a hectic month for the DMI sisters of Visayas and Mindanao as well as the DMII International Board as the very successful Visayas and Mindanao Area Conferences were held just three weeks apart of each other.

VISAYAS AREA CONFERENCE AUGUST 3-4, 2019

*By Sis. Carmen Baquilid,
Region XI Correspondent*

The Tower of Ivory Circle of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Tacloban City hosted the Visayas Area Conference on Aug. 3-4, 2019. The conference was held at the DepEd Leyte Division Gymnasium in Candahug, Palo, Leyte, attended by delegates from Region IX (Capiz, Aklan, Iloilo, Bacolod and San Carlos), Region X (Cebu, Bohol and Dumaguete) and Region XI (Leyte, Samar and Biliran).

On August 2, an optional tour of Balangiga, Eastern Samar was conducted. The historic Balangiga bells brought to the United States as war booty a century ago had been returned and are now at the St. Laurence Deacon and Martyr Church. The delegates who came early were able to join the tour and experience the more

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Archbishop John Du and Fr. Jerome Cruz with the present and past DMII International Officers & Board and Regional Officers of the Visayas.

MINDANAO AREA CONFERENCE AUGUST 23-24, 2019

*By Sis. Ellen Velasco, Diocesan Scribe,
Archdiocese of Zamboanga*

The Archdiocese of Zamboanga and Prelature of Isabela de Basilan hosted the Mindanao Area Conference last August 23-24, 2019 at the Astoria Regency Hotel & Convention Center in Zamboanga City. A total of 818 DMI sisters from Regions XII, XIII and XIV attended the Conference.

The conference opening salvo was a Fellowship Night on August 23. Dubbed "An Evening of Culture", the delegates came in the traditional costumes of their respective regions.

It was a very colorful night with a contest among the participating dioceses showcasing their customs, traditions and costumes through dance. The Diocese

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IVR-Mindanao Sis. Tess Miranda gives a plaque of appreciation to Sen. Villar (3rd and 4th from left, respectively). Flanking them are Past IR Sis. Lyding Ramirez, IR Sis. Ruby Macario, DR Sis. Marilyn de Asis and Conference Co-Chair Sis. Angie Baes.

Message



We are about to close the celebration of the Year of the Youth and to open the new celebration of the Year for Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue in preparation for the 500 Year celebration of Christianity in the Philippines. Our questions will be: Have we achieved our objective of devoting greater attention to the youth ministry even as we recognize the youth's necessary contribution to the growth and continuity of our association as DMII? Has our Squirettes of Mary Immaculate experienced a surge in enthusiasm and in membership?

The Year of Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue should provide us the necessary perspective that we are not alone. For Christ, the unity of all is an objective of the ministry. Pope Francis has repeatedly given the example of the initiatives to bridge any gap among Christian denominations with the ecumenical spirit and among diverse religions with the quest for the common good. The focus of ecumenism is to highlight the points of unity and to come to an understanding of the diversity that exists. It works at the possible eradication of divisions and the emphasis among religions on the universal side of efforts for world peace and human development.

As a Catholic Marian organization, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate has to be conscious of our Church's efforts at dialogue, to erase the biases that we have against other Christian denominations and religions, and to promote understanding and unity in the mission of proclaiming the will of God here on earth.

But first, we have to start with our own organization, among our circles and members. We cannot preach unity if we are not united. This unity is brought about by having the one Holy Spirit of God in us and among us.

I will conclude this message with an exhortation for Christmas. Jesus, the Son of God, became Man for the salvation of ALL peoples. The great joy of Christmas is to recognize the powerful love of God through Jesus Christ who unites all humankind to Himself. This can only be achieved if we have Jesus in our hearts like Mary so we can be like Jesus to others, act like Jesus and love like Jesus.

Advanced Happy Holidays!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Jeronimo Ma. J. Cruz'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

FR. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ
International Chaplain

From the International Regent

Message



Greetings, my fellow daughters of our blessed Mary Immaculate!

I am so happy to be addressing you in these months of Mama Mary – when we celebrate her birth in September and when we dedicate October to the Most Holy Rosary.

Especially now that there are a lot of things happening around us, let us take time to call on our beloved Mother for guidance and strength.

Now more than ever should we manifest our being proliferers and protect the very foundation of our society. When moral values are challenged by issues that confront a person's identity, dignity and conscience, we DMIs should stand our guard and be firm with our beliefs.

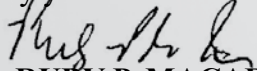
We are tasked to protect the prisoners' families and their victims. Thanks to media that certain questionable deals in our jail system have been exposed. We take care of the prisoners' families, yes, but let us not forget our obligation to be watchful of actions that will obstruct justice where justice is due, especially, for the victims of crimes.

Sometimes we are just so busy that we tend to forget our obligation as a daughter of Mary Immaculate. Let us continue to revisit our missions and make sure that they provide the avenue to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters.

Throughout the year, your chairpersons have issued a list of projects that they have discerned would impact a greater part of society, especially women workers and the youth. Continue to be guided by them and not be complacent in assessing if we are on the right track and if we are doing them fast enough.

My challenge to you today: turn your plans and programs into action. Build your relationships, communicate constantly and never lose that sense of urgency and enthusiasm. Serve with love and kindness. Especially in these months of her birth and the Most Holy Rosary, look up to Mama Mary for hope and inspiration. No mother would lead her child astray. No matter where our path would lead us, we always go back to our Mother.

Sincerely yours in Christ and Mary,


SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO
International Regent



Visayas Area Conference... from page 1

than three hours travel. They were warmly welcomed by the Dept. of Tourism in coordination with the Local Government Unit of Balangiga and the parishioners.

The Visayas Area Conference formally opened on the morning of August 3. International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario who earlier visited the host circle during one of its meetings to discuss the conference program and other arrangements with IVR-Visayas Sis. Yolly Dagandan and the circle officers and International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz headed the delegation from the International Board. Also gracing the occasion were International Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya and the International Mission Chairpersons – Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Cathy Pineda for Morality in Media, and Solema Eugenio for Upliftment of Women Workers, the Regional Representatives Sis. Emma Victoria of Region IX, and Asuncion Naraga of Region X. Past International Regents Sisters Perla Arguelles and Pureza Guzman, Past IVR-Visayas Sis. Glo Caminero, Past RRs Sisters Magdalena Larrazabal, Perla Malazarte and Alicia Tugonon and Past Mission Chairpersons Sis. Mary Ann Jabines and Carmen Baquilid.

The traditional ceremonies of the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary started the conference program with the International Board and regional officers leading the processional march. This was followed by the Parade of Colors and the Parade of Circles.

Most Rev. John Du of the Archdiocese of Palo was the main celebrant during the Eucharistic celebration,



Unveiling of the Plaque of Apostolic Blessing from Pope Francis by Archbishop Du, Fr. Jerome and Sis. Ruby Macario.

with Fr. Jerome Cruz and Msgr. Benedicto Catilogo, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish as concelebrants. In his homily Archbishop Du expounded on the conference theme “DMII @ 40: Growing in Age Wisdom and Favor Before God and Man in the Year of the Youth”. He said that the theme is a call for all to participate actively in promoting fellowship and belongingness among members of the parish.



Sisters Merinnisa Ligaya, Ruby Macario and Yolly Dagandan before the historic Balangiga bells at the St. Laurence Deacon and Martyr Parish Church.



A surprise dance number by the International Officers and Board



“Sayawit” during Fellowship Night

After the Mass, the Plaque of Apostolic Blessing awarded to the DMII by Pope Francis was unveiled for all to see.

The conference guest speaker was Rev. Fr. Virgilio Manaog, rector of St. John the Evangelist School of Theology in Palo who was introduced by Tower of Ivory Circle Regent Sis. Nida Catubao. In his talk, Fr. Manaog challenged the DMI sisters to be humble at all times, reminding them that everything is God’s blessing and that they should be agents of transformation in the parish and the community.

IR Sis. Ruby in her talk during the afternoon session expressed her appreciation for the active participation and involvement of more DMI circles in the Visayas. She reminded the DMI sisters that their actions should reflect their faith, living out their duties and responsibilities as role models in their families, work places and the community. She also reminded her audience to practice at all times the DMI virtues of unity, friendship, charity, humility and sanctity as true daughters of Mary Immaculate.

The Mission Chairpersons shared their respective meaningful suggestions, ideas and program of activities that may be undertaken by the circles in pursuance of the DMI Missions and Thrusts.

An open forum followed moderated by Pro-Life Chair Sis. Cora Afuang.

Before the afternoon session ended, a surprise dance number was presented by the International Officers and Board to the delight of the conference delegates.

The evening fellowship with the delegates donning their Filipiniana attire featured “Sayawit” (or Sayaw-Awit), a dance competition among the participating regions. The grand prize of P15,000 went to Region IX. Sis. Pureza Guzman stood out as the “Super Star of the Night”.

A Holy Mass officiated by Bishop Rex Ramirez of the Diocese of Naval and Fr. Jerome ended the conference on August 4. The Tower of Ivory SMI Circlelette served as choir during the Mass.

The conference formally ended with the recessional after Conference Chairperson Sis. Yolly Dagandan’s closing remarks in which she thanked all the delegates for making the Visayas Area Conference a highly successful event.



The Conference recessional

TREE-PLANTING AT AC FARM

By Sis. Cora Afuang,
Int'l Mission Chairperson-Pro-Life

After a restful night at the end of the Visayas Area Conference, it was R & R Day for the members of the DMII International Board and the hard-working host committee, the Tower of Ivory Circle.

Early in the morning of the following day, a hearty breakfast was hosted by IVR-Visayas Sis. Yolly Dagandan at her residence. We motored later to Canmamutong, Palo, Leyte, some 5 kilometers away from the conference venue, to visit the AC Farm of Sis. Carmen Baquilid, accepting her long-standing invitation that we visit the place.

The sprawling farm is planted to numerous fruit-bearing trees, flowers, etc., a symbol of nature's serenity, a get-away place where visitors come away physically, emotionally and spiritually healed and refreshed. The husband and daughter of Sis. Carmen were on hand to welcome us.

The first order of the day was the blessing of the Our Lady of Fatima shrine centrally located in the farm. An image of Sr. Sto. Nino also stands near the farm entrance.

Then came the feast – of native delicacies and the rich cuisine of Leyte Province, including a whole *lechon*, fruits grown on the farm and bottomless *buko* juice.

After the feast came the merriment – there were karaoke singing and dancing, both by the guests and the hosts. Sisters Tita Gonzales and Toytoy Balagapo danced the curacha, and later cha-cha and jazz! Sis. Edna Purillo became an instant dance tutor teaching the guests the curacha and other native dances.

Imbued with the DMI Pro-Life Mission, the DMI sisters then did some tree-planting on a vacant space of the farm. Seedlings of narra, dao and mahogany trees were provided by the PEMRO in Candahug, Palo, Leyte for their tree-planting activity.

The space is now called the DMI Pocket Forest which the guests from Manila intend to visit again, say a year from now, to see how big the trees have grown and be refreshed anew away from the madding urban crowd.

(Editor's Note: Part of this article was contributed by Sis. Carmen Baquilid, Region XI Newsette Correspondent.)



A festive atmosphere at AC Farm



Getting ready for tree-planting



The image of the Blessed Mother is placed on the altar by IR Sis. Ruby Macario and Past IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel during the opening ceremony.

of Iligan romped away with the grand prize, with the Diocese of Mati as 1st runner-up and the Archdiocese of Zamboanga, 2nd runner-up.

Zamboanga City Mayor Isabel Climaco-Salazar graced the event to welcome the delegates to her city. She said “everything happens for a purpose”. The delegates’ coming to Zamboanga is part of God’s plan to bear witness to the beautiful story of each of them. She ended her message by inviting everybody to give glory to God and dance with her.

The program for Day 2 (Aug. 24) started at 8:00 a.m. with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary led by the DMII International Board and Area and Regional Officers. This was followed by the Entrance of Colors and Parade of Circles.

International Vice-Regent for Mindanao and Region XII RR Sis. Tess Miranda gave the welcome address.

A message from International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario came next. She said that everything starts with a plan and a vision, and in all the conferences and conventions of the DMII, Mary is always present. Mary connects us to our vision. She guides us and directs us to our plans. Our vision wants to connect us to Basic Ecclesial Communities of our parishes through our Five Missions. She emphasized the importance of nurturing relationships among us as family and as sisters and daughters of Mary Immaculate. A true DMI,



Past International Officers Sisters Beth Salmon, Miriam Angot and IR Sis. Lyding Ramirez lead the flower offerors.



Zamboanga City Mayor Isabel Climaco-Salazar welcomes the delegates to her city.

she concluded, lives by the Word of God and a model for everyone, especially the youth.

The conference guest of honor and speaker was Sen. Cynthia Villar who underscored the important role of women today. She is happy to note that our organization continues to grow. Also known as Ms. Hanepbuhay, she runs the Villar-SIPAG Foundation with the goal of promoting and providing livelihood opportunities, especially for women. The Foundation teaches new skills and to use them to attain a certain level of financial independence to help augment family income and be able to send their children to school. The Villar family puts up different projects nationwide to improve the financial capability of people.

Rev. Fr. Joselito Delos Reyes from Sto. Rosario Parish in Isabela, Basilan. keynoted the conference. He is also the director of the Biblical Apostolate in Basilan. He stressed the significance of the conference theme

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Mindanao Area Conference... from page 7

“DMII @ 40: Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor Before God and Man . . . in the year of the Youth”. He said that God should take precedence and should take supremacy over all that we do. The Word of God is made alive through Jesus Christ, born of the Virgin Mary through the Holy Spirit. Jesus is the Word of God. The Word of God should be the umbrella of all the pastoral activities of the Church. We should be a community of disciples nourished by the Word of God, witnessing to the Gospel, with Mary, Mother of the Word and Mediatrix of all Graces, as model.

Fr. De los Reyes exhorted his audience to take hold of the Bible, read a page a day, study and meditate on what it says, believe in it, teach it and finally put into practice what they believe.

The reports of the International Mission Chairpersons followed.

Morality in Media Chairperson Sis. Cathy Pineda presented her plans and programs for the Mission in 2019-20 for implementation by the circles. She also presented a summary of activities implemented from January to June, 2019.

Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Cora Afuang talked about the stand of the Church on pro-life issues. She also presented her plans and programs for Pro-Life, giving emphasis to the advocacies of the DMII on Pro-Life in support of the stand of the Catholic Church.

A Eucharistic celebration by Most Rev. Romulo de la Cruz, archbishop of Zamboanga and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Moises Cuevas, former DMII archdiocesan spiritual director and Rev. Fr. Rey Narisma of Westmincom followed the lively open forum. At the end of the Mass, the vicarial regents and circle regents took their Oath of Office bringing the Mindanao Area Conference to a close.



The Parade of Circles



The DMII International Officers & Board with Archbishop Romulo de la Cruz, Fr. Moises Cuevas and Fr. Rey Narisma.



Sen Cynthia Villar, guest of honor and speaker



Cultural dances performed during Fellowship Night. At left is the presentation of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. At right is the entry of the Diocese of Iligan which won the grand prize.



Fr. Joselito Delos Reyes, keynote speaker

REGION V ASSEMBLY HELD JULY 14 AT PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN

By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
Region V Newsette Correspondent



The image of the Blessed Virgin Mary is placed on the altar during the enthronement and consecration ceremony. Shown at left are Sisters Juliet Cruz, Ruby Macario, Milde Tong and Fr. Jerome Cruz.

On July 14, 2019, DMI sisters from dioceses comprising Region V held their regional assembly at the events room of the Philippine Columbian Club in Paco, Manila. Close to 500 delegates from the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Kalookan, Imus, Manila, Novaliches, Paranaque, Pasig and the Vicariate of Palawan attended the assembly.

The program started promptly at 8:30 a.m. with the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary led by International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario, International Vice-Regent for Luzon and Region V RR Sis. Milde Tong and other officers. This was followed by the Parade of Colors under the supervision of Sis. Beth Bongon and the presentation of participating circles.

The program proper started with a welcome address by International Auditor for Membership Sis. Juliet Cruz.



Fr. Jerome's homily during the Eucharistic celebration

The rapping of the gavel by Sis. Milde signaled the start of the day's program. A Holy Mass officiated by Fr. Jerome immediately followed.

The assembly keynote speaker was Fr. John Francis Frederick K. Manlapig, pastor of the Holy Eucharist Parish of Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City. Taking off from the assembly theme "DMII @ 40: Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor Before God and Man, in the Year of the Youth", Fr. Jeff said that 40 is a significant number in the Bible symbolizing "testing" (the Israelites journeyed 40 days to get

to the Promised Land), "trial" (Jonah preached for 40 days for the people of Nineveh to repent) and "maturity" (Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert to prepare for His ministry). He likewise reminded the DMI sisters that with their 40 years of service to the Lord, they should remain humble and courageous as they continue to pursue their missions as well as to persevere in prayer and love.

The next speaker was Ms. Michelle Cruz-Villar, a past SMI National President who is currently spokesperson for Asia-Pacific of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. Ms. Mitch holds a degree in Mass Communications, magna cum laude, from the University of the Phils. - Diliman and was for a time a broadcast journalist of GMA Network doing such documentaries as The Reporter's Notebook and other news programs. She is one of the four accomplished

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Keynote speaker Fr. Jeff Manlapig (2nd from left) receives a token of appreciation from Sis. Milde, Fr. Jerome and Sis. Ruby.



Assembly guest speakers Ms. Michelle Cruz-Villar...



... and Sis. Rita Dayrit



IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde presents a token gift to IR Sis. Ruby Macario.

daughters of Sis. Lulu Cruz of the Risen Christ Circle of Paranaque who were also National SMI Officers during their time, a testimony of the kind of training that the SMI provides to young girls.

Ms. Mitch talked on “Media Effects on Children’s Social and Moral Development”. She said that media has evolved through time – from TV sets and radios being the chief source of information for most senior DMIs to the wide array of gadgets available to millennials. She also cautioned parents to be updated and in tune with the times in a world we can describe as VUCA (volatile with a lot of uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity). “Always know the truth,” she urged her audience. “It’s only God Who is the Source of Truth,” she continued.

As a final reminder, Ms. Mitch advised the participants when using social media to THINK before they click – to be sure that what we post is the Truth and that it is Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary and Kind. Opinions and comments must be dealt with tolerance.

Sis. Rita Dayrit, president of Pro-Life Philippines Foundation and Past Regent of the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Circle of Merville Park, Paranaque City, was the morning’s last speaker. Her talk titled “Beautiful Pearl”

(this is what her name means) gave various tips on the finer points of being a woman and a DMI. On these she spoke with authority, being a professional image consultant.

“We are judged by what people see and as such must *“be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober”* (Titus 2)”.

Sis. Rita also gave tips on dining etiquette “since Filipinos love to eat” including how to conduct oneself during cocktails, handling bread plates and knives, placement of table napkins, no bags and cellphones on the table while dining and no discussions about medical conditions.

She also reminded her audience: “We are judged by what we say. As promoters of family and life, civility should abound in our homes and this is the first of our missions”. Her final message: DMIs should stay fit and fab by eating healthy and walking confidently.”

Lunch followed during which group photos were taken of delegates from each Diocese with the National Officers. A dance number (a cha-cha exhibition) from Region V’s Diocesan Regents, Sis. Josie Halog of the National Office and Sis. Milde Tong served as a lively take-off point for the afternoon program.



Dance intermission number by the Assembly Organizing Committee

The International Mission Chairpersons’ reports took most of the afternoon session. They gave updates regarding their current and planned activities.

Sis. Cora Afuang of Pro-Life talked about the changes happening in our society that are contrary to the teachings of the Catholic Church. She also announced a forthcoming

project, a Festival of Twins, to be scheduled on December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception at the Riverbank Center for NCR and adjoining regions. She encouraged other regions to hold the same project in their respective places.

Sis. Cathy Pineda of Morality in Media talked about the effects of Social Media and how the Mission's future projects could be tied up with Youth Welfare-SMI activities to promote awareness on how they can use gadgets productively.

Sis. Sol Eugenio of Upliftment of Women Workers urged her listeners to be familiar with the salient provisions of the Magna Carta of Women which spell out in detail the rights of women under the law and how to be empowered. She also mentioned her plans for the Mission. Sis. Lorie Manalansan, mission coordinator for Luzon, gave updates on the projects being undertaken in Luzon. She challenged the delegates to ensure that the mission's objectives are met by checking if their beneficiaries are able to make full use of the training and skills they gained from the demo-seminars to help augment their family incomes.

Sis. Biannah Villanueva of Youth Welfare reiterated a line from Fr. Jeff's keynote speech: that the youth is not the future, but the present. She also talked about the status of the youth today and how we and the Church respond as discussed during the "2018 Synod on Young People". She ended her presentation with a video of SMI activities.

In her message, IVR Luzon and Region V RR Sis. Milde Tong gave an inspiring talk about the challenges that face DMIs today as we continue to grow in age and wisdom, and how these challenges can be addressed.

International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario gave a recap of significant DMII milestones and activities through the years via a video presentation, showing that truly, our organization continues to grow in wisdom and age. She was later joined by the Mission Chairpersons and Sis. Josie Halog in a dance number to the tune of "Yesterday Once More"

The closing remarks by Regional Secretary Sis. Sylvia San Pedro and the closing ceremony brought the day's plenary to a fitting close.

At 5 p.m., the Fellowship Program began. Its chief feature was a DMI Hymn Choral Competition participated by the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao, Imus Kalookan, Manila, Paranaque and Pasig.

Adjudged winners by a Board of Judges composed of IR Sis. Ruby, Fr. Jerome and two guest judges, Mr. Roland Raymond Roldan and Ms. Luningning Aballe San Jose who are voice coaches of ABS-CBN, were: Diocese of Imus – 3rd place, Diocese of Pasig - 2nd place and the Dioceses of Manila and Kalookan tying for 1st place.

The day's celebration ended with ballroom dancing for the rest of the evening.



International Missions Chairpersons Sisters Cathy Pineda, Biannah Villanueva, Cora Afuang and Sol Eugenio (2nd to 5th from left) receive tokens of appreciation from Sisters Milde and Ruby.



ABS-CBN Voice Coaches Mr. Roland Raymond Roldan and Ms. Luningning Aballe San Jose, Choral Competition guest board of judges, with Sis. Milde.



And it's a tie for first place by the Diocese of Kalookan . . .



. . . and the Diocese of Manila

ARCHDIOCESE OF LINGAYEN-DAGUPAN HOSTS REGION II ASSEMBLY

By Sis. Aileen Santos,
Region II Correspondent

The six dioceses of Region II held their Regional Assembly last July 20, 2019 at City De Luxe Restaurant in Dagupan City hosted by the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan. Delegates from the Dioceses of Cabanatuan, San Jose (NE), San Fernando (La Union) Vicariate of Infanta-Aurora and the host diocese attended the assembly with the theme “DMII @ 40: Growing in Age, Wisdom and Favor Before God and Man in the Year of the Youth”. This is the theme adopted by the DMII Board for all regional assemblies and area conferences this year.

The opening ceremony started with the enthronement and consecration of the image of

the Blessed Virgin Mary accompanied during the processional by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario. Leading the procession were International Vice-Regent for Luzon and Region V RR Sis. Milde Tong and Region II RR Sis. Hilaria Hipolito who carried floral bouquets followed by Mission Chairpersons Sisters Cora Afuang of Pro-Life and Cathy Pineda of Morality in Media who carried candles for her altar. The region’s diocesan regents carrying roses and vicarial regents, votive candles placed their offerings on the altar, symbols of the DMIs’ carrying on with Jesus’s Mission here on earth guided by Mother Mary. As they passed by, the delegates waved their hankies as a welcome gesture typical of Marian devotees.

The enthronement ceremony was followed by the Parade of Colors. Thirty-six circles represented by their respective regents carrying their circle banners paraded next.

A Eucharistic celebration presided by Most Rev. Archbishop Socrates Villegas and concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Oscar Roque, DMI archdiocesan spiritual adviser, opened the day’s assembly session. Fr. Soc, as he is fondly called, was also the keynote speaker.

Our color-coded name tags caught his attention. He said “We are not our names, not our



International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario escorts the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary during the enthronement ceremony as assembly delegates wave their hankies as the procession passes by.



IVR for Luzon Sis. Milde Tong and Region II RR Sis. Hilaria Hipolito carry bouquets of flowers . . .



. . . while International Mission Chairs Sisters Cathy Pineda and Cora Afuang carry the lighted candles for the altar.

professions, not what we do, not what we have, not what other people say, neither our mistake, not our sin, not our success, nor the good that we do. We are to whom we belong – to Jesus Christ. Remain faithful to Him for He is always faithful to us. Love our country, preserve the dignity of DMII. For this reason, when we sing the National Anthem as well as when we say the DMII prayer, it must be from the heart. With our whole soul and mind.”

This was a relevant coincidence why the DMI Hymn was chosen as the contest piece in the Choral Competition among the dioceses. So that we may learn it in our hearts and in our minds. The Diocese of Cabanatuan won first place with the Diocese of San Jose as runner-up. IR Sis. Ruby Macario, Prof. Meynardo Lansangan, a UST Conservatory graduate and Sis. Alma, a

choir master composed the Board of Judges.

It was a fun-filled occasion with guests from the DMII Board entertaining us with their ballroom dancing, the Queen of the Faithful Circle’s youthful dance with their colorful umbrellas, the DMI sisters of the Dioceses of Cabanatuan and San Jose who swayed their hips in their high-heeled shoes and Prof. Mey Lansangan who played the violin and flute while everyone was enjoying the sumptuous lunch.

The words of the day were “Be a witness of the virtues of Mama Mary – of friendship, charity, humility and chastity.”

The assembly hosts led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Aileen Santos thanked all the delegates for their lively participation in the assembly.



Most Rev. Archbishop Socrates Villegas with concelebrant Rev. Fr. Oscar Roque during the Eucharistic celebration.



Delegates of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan, the assembly host, during the Parade of Circles.



Diocesan Regent Sis. Aileen Santos and Treasurer Sis. Shiela Quinto with program hosts Sisters Vivian Jallorina and Ofelia Celi.



The Diocese of Cabanatuan, first place winner in the DMII Hymn Choral competition.

HIYAS CONVENTION CENTER VENUE OF REGION IV ASSEMBLY

*By Sis. Mely de la Pena,
Region IV Correspondent*

Region IV, Diocese of Malolos, held its Regional Assembly at the Hiyas Convention Center in Malolos City on August 31, 2019. The occasion was well-attended with 318 delegates who attended the whole-day assembly program. The Diocese of Malolos has 749 active DMI members aged 19 years up to age 80 and above.

Guests from the International Board graced the assembly headed by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario and Past IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel. Also present were Int'l Vice-Regent for Luzon Sis. Milde Tong, Region IV Representative Sis. Aida de la Cruz and the International Mission Chairs.

The assembly guests and delegates were warmly welcomed by the Pinalagdan Melodeon Ensemble of Pinalagdan Elementary School of Paombong, Bulacan. The band has been adopted by the Our Lady

of Consolation & Cinture Circle through its various projects. The band members come from depressed areas of the community who need financial assistance. The children regaled the guests with their beautiful rendition of the Mabuhay March and contemporary songs using various musical instruments.

The day's program opened with the usual enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother. Msgr. Albert Suatengco, DMI diocesan spiritual director, officiated the Eucharistic celebration. Little schoolchildren in their colorful uniform from the St. Martin of Tours Day Care School operated by the Queen of Flowers Circle of Bocaue, Bulacan gave a soulful rendition of "I See You, Lord".

Ms. Marita Rucio, a professor at the Far Eastern University and the Immaculate Conception Seminary in Tabe, Guiginto, Bulacan was the keynote speaker. She shared her thoughts on the assembly theme saying that to grow in age, wisdom and favor is a grace from God as God blesses us even if we are undeserving. Like Mother Mary, a DMI should be a model of grace, radical in thinking, always ready and available to God's call, courageous and a source of comfort and joy to others, spreading the grace of love and compassion. Her final message: A DMI should be an exemplar of faith.



The image of the Blessed Mother is carried to the altar by Past IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel and IR Sis. Ruby Macario.



Region IV RR Sis. Aida de ka Cruz and Youth Welfare Int'l Chairperson Sis. Biennah Villanueva carry lighted candles followed by IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde Tong with a bouquet of flowers for the altar.

International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario revisited the vision and missions of the DMII underscoring the various Mission thrusts and their continued relevance to the community's needs while Past IR Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel gave a brief insight on her being a DMI which she said is a gift and grace from God. It is a discipleship meant for brave souls. A short message was likewise delivered by IVR-Luzon Sis. Milde Tong in which she extolled the qualities of a DMI.

The International Mission Chairpersons talked about the projects and activities that their respective thrusts have accomplished during the first three quarters of the year and provided guidelines for the action plans and programs for the remaining part of 2019.

Plaques of appreciation were awarded to the assembly speakers as well as to the hosts of the Region IV Assembly.



Pupils of the St. Martin of Tours Day Care School join the DMI sisters in an action song.



Guests from the International Board and the assembly hosts receive plaques of appreciation and token gifts for a successful regional assembly.



Ms. Marita Rucio, assembly guest speaker.



Intermission number by the Queen of Flowers and Our Lady of Consolation & Cinture Circles.

From the Diocese of Baguio (Region I)

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CIRCLE'S OUTREACH PROJECT

*By Sis. Brigida Cecilia Abratique,
Region I RR and Regional Correspondent*

The residents of the DSWD Haven 07159 in Baguio City were the beneficiaries of the St. Joseph the Worker Circle's Outreach Project in early September. The DMI sisters brought gifts and food that they shared with the residents.

It was a heartwarming experience for the DMIs as the residents thankfully received the gifts, some even teary-

eyed. But more than the material things they received, the encouraging words, the tight hugs and other affectionate gestures from the sisters gave them a reassuring feeling that they are cared for and loved by God.



The St. Joseph the Worker Circle members brought gifts and food for the Haven's residents.



A resident finds comfort in a DMI sister's warm embrace.



From the Diocese of Balanga (Region III)

ST. JOSEPH CIRCLE SPONSORS "ALAY SA KABATAAN" PROJECT

By Sis. Marilyn Cadatal, Circle Regent

The St. Joseph Circle of Balanga, Bataan in coordination with the Knights of Columbus Council No. 3887 distributed school kits to indigent Grade 1 pupils of Bani Elementary School last May 28, 2019.

Dubbed "Alay sa Kabataan", the circle raised funds for the project through a Family Day Raffle held last May 19, 2019 at the function hall of the Canyon Residences attended by DMI and KC members and their families. The project beneficiaries were identified with the assistance of Ms. Jennifer Vicedo, school principal.



The children thank their benefactors as they receive their kits.



The DMI and KC members get ready for the distribution of school kits to Grade 1 pupils of Bani Elem. School.

Photo



NEWS

FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE CANONICAL CORONATION OF THE IMAGE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

By Sis. Aileen Santos,
Region II Correspondent



The DMIs of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan joined the celebration of the First Anniversary of the Canonical Coronation of the Image of Mary Help of Christians last August 22, 2019 in Dagupan City. A procession was held as part of the celebration.

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NEST-MAKING AND MAT-WEAVING DEMO SEMINARS

The Holy Family Circle conducted demo-seminars on Nest-Making and Mat-weaving attended by women of Palamig, Dagupan City to help augment their family income.



VISIT TO FEMALE DETAINEES OF BJMP - BONUAN



The Miraculous Medal Circle visited the female inmates in Bonuan BJMP in Dagupan City last August 24, 2019. Confessions and a Holy Mass celebrated by Fr. Joseph Laforteza preceded the short program and merienda that the DMI sisters provided. With them was Sr. Analie.

ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS CIRCLE HOLDS UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS SYMPOSIUM

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
Region V Correspondent*

The St. Paul of the Cross Circle headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Mercy Ong held a Symposium for househelpers last August 22, 2019 at the Senior Citizens' Center in Concepcion Dos, Marikina City.

The symposium topics were "The Power of Prayer" and "The Right Attitude of Kasambahays". Sis. Mia Santos, a trainor in the parish, discussed the first topic while DMII Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Cora Afuang discussed the second topic.

In her talk, Sis. Mia held an interactive discussion with the audience and gave her insights on the importance of prayer in our lives. Sis. Cora for her part discussed the importance of Christian values and having the "right attitude" or *magandang ugali* that kasambahays should possess in carrying out their tasks.



The symposium participants



The St. Paul of the Cross Circle members with resource speaker Ms. Mia Santos.



REGINA MUNDI CIRCLE CONDUCTS MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION

The Regina Mundi Circle of Mt. Carmel Parish, Quezon City held a Medical/Dental/Optical Outreach Project in coordination with the Medicaard Foundation and the Social Services Development Ministry and BEC of the Basilica of Mt. Carmel last July 26, 2019.

Beneficiaries of the project were the indigent children and adults of Barangay Damayang Lagi located at the 11th and 13th Streets in New Manila. Treated were 350 beneficiaries for medical consult while 192 individuals were given free reading glasses and 44 availed of free dental services.

Circle Regent Sis. Vilma Valera spearheaded the project. She is a very active member and benefactor of the Medicaard Foundation, Inc. The outreach project is an annual activity of Regina Mundi Circle.



The Regina Mundi Circle Outreach Project Team gets ready to receive patients. At left is Circle Regent Sis. Vilma Valera.



The Regina Mundi Circle DMIs with project partners and volunteers.

HOSPICE CARE PROJECT OF OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CIRCLE

*By Sis. Genie Perlas, Morality in Media Chairperson,
Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle*

For more than a year now, The Pro-Life Committee of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of the Diocese of Imus has been sponsoring the hospice care of Mr. Magtanggol Espinosa, a resident of Gardenia Valley, Molino, Bacoor City, Cavite. He has been bedridden for the past two years due to a stroke.

At first, the Committee focused on uplifting his emotional and spiritual well-being but eventually also extended financial help for his daily maintenance needs. Recently, the DMI sisters were able to provide a physical therapist twice a week through a specially-allocated circle fund and pledges from generous members. Significant progress is being accomplished: he can now move his body, arms and legs and can walk a few steps with the help of a walker and support from the therapist.

The latest good news: Mr. Espinosa is now able to walk on his own with a cane and minimal

support from his therapist. While they continue to support his hospice care, the DMI sisters do not stop praying for his full recovery.



The Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle DMIs visit Mr. Magtanggol Espinosa.

***Alkansya ni Maria* Fund-Raising Project**

*By Sis. Lily Agnes Picardo, Vice-Regent,
Mother of Perpetual Help Circle*

DMI sisters from Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle, the baby sister of Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of the Diocese of Imus, launched a project called *Alkansiya ni Maria*. The project's objective was to help raise funds for the completion of their parish church. The target was to raise P100,000.

DMI sisters, headed by Circle Regent Sis. Meloida Oliman, stationed themselves at the main entrance of the church every Sunday morning and evening Mass to issue tin cans to mass goers and accept from them cans that are already full. Money from the cans are then counted and the total donation for the day announced during masses

the following Sunday. From the project which was launched last February 17, 2019, a total amount of P105,759.50 was turned over to Fr. Carlito Laureta, parish priest, last August 4, 2019.



The DMI sisters of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle with Fr. Carlito Laureta during the turn-over of their donation.

DIOCESE OF IMUS HOLDS SMI SPORTS FEST

By Sis. Genie Perlas

Last May 5, 2019, the Diocese of Imus conducted Sports Festival 2019 attended by 52 Squirettes from the Sto. Nino de Molino, Nuestra Senora de la Merced, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Our Lady Queen of Peace Circlettes. The sports fest was spearheaded by Sis. Inday Ramos, diocesan chairperson for Youth Welfare and the circles' SMI Lady Counselors. Also present were 38 DMI officers and members headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Jing Velasco.

Preceding the fest were a Holy Mass at the Sto. Nino de Molino Church and a short parade around the Bgy. Mariano

Espeleta 2 basketball court in Bahayang Pag-asa, Imus, Cavite. Cheering presentations by the participating circlettes during the opening ceremony set the event off to a good start. The Squirettes participated in various games such as *patintero*, dodge ball, hula hoop, skipping rope, banana relay and others. It was a day full of fun, laughter and camaraderie, forgetting for a while their gadgets and in the process learning the value of sportsmanship.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary Circlette emerged as overall champion of the sportsfest.



Participants in the Sports Fest with their Tita DMIs



DIOCESE OF PARAÑAQUE HAS NEW DMI CIRCLE

A new DMI circle has just been organized at the San Roque de Alabang Parish in Muntinlupa City. Named Our Lady of Assumption Circle, its charter officers were formally installed last June 29, 2019 after having been elected following the exemplification of its charter members.



The officers and members of the Our Lady of Assumption Circle with Fr. Rustico Cruz, parish priest, Diocesan Regent Sis. Linda Pacursa and Vicarial Regent Sis. Babes Jose.

“BAYANIHAN @ 63” RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE’S FUND-RAISER

The Risen Christ Circle of Holy Eucharist Parish in Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City sponsored a special performance by the Bayanihan Dance Co. last August 15, 2019 as its fund-raiser for 2019.

Dubbed “Bayanihan @ 63” (the dance company turned 63 years old this year), the Nicanor Abelardo Hall, the main theater of the Cultural Center of the Phils., had an SRO audience composed mostly of parishioners of the Holy Eucharist Parish and their guests who came in full force to watch the Bayanihan Dance Co. performance with its all-new ensemble featuring not only the country’s folk dances but also the culture, music and arts of its indigenous peoples.

The sponsorship of the Bayanihan performance was arranged by Circle Regent Sis. Linda Chincuanco who was herself a Bayanihan dancer years back and a member of the faculty of the Philippine Women’s University for many years. The circle’s Ways and Means Committee chaired by Sis. Mathy

Ramos spearheaded the activity.

The night’s special guests included some members of the DMII International Board headed by International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario and Fr. Jeff Manlapig, pastor of Holy Eucharist Parish.



Circle Regent Sis. Linda Chincuanco (3rd from left) with some members of Risen Christ Circle’s Ways & Means Committee.



The Risen Christ Circle members with some Bayanihan dancers after their performance.

OUR LADY OF BEAUTIFUL LOVE CIRCLE PURSUES DMI MISSION THRUSTS

TSINELAS-GIVING PROJECT. The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of Our Lady of Beautiful Love Circle of Merville, Paranaque City sponsored a *Tsinelas-Giving Project* benefiting some 1,000 women and children from the mission areas of the parish – Sitios Wella, Manggahan, Tuyuan, Cubic and Malaya. The Commission on Service to Human Promotion of Our Lady of Beautiful Love Parish was a project partner with generous parishioners donating funds for the project. The help of Sitio Coordinators ensured an orderly distribution of the slippers.



The DMI sisters with the beneficiaries of the Tsinelas-Giving Project.

*By Sis. Trina Gamboa-Roces,
Circle Scribe*

“KASIPAGAN” SEMINAR FOCUSES ON VALUES EDUCATION. The Circle’s Pro-Life Committee chaired by Sis. Rita Dayrit, who is also president of the Pro-Life Phils. Foundation spearheaded a Values Education Seminar focusing on “Kasipagan” attended by elementary school pupils in mission areas of the Parish. Resource speaker was Ms. Andrea Gomez, a catechist on values education who conducted the seminar through songs, lecture and interactive discussions.



Participants in the “Kasipagan” Values Education Seminar



The 2019-20 officers of the Our Lady of Beautiful Love Circle headed by Regent Sis. Marylyn Si Tapay during their installation last March 5, 2019.

MISSION ACTIVITIES OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO

The DMIs of the Diocese of San Pablo regularly undertake projects and activities for the DMI Missions and Thrusts to serve their respective parish communities. Here's a report on some of the activities undertaken by the circles in the Diocese.

*By Sis. Fortunata Aquino,
Region VI Correspondent*

PRO-LIFE

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP. The St. John the Baptist Circle led by Regent Sis. Remedios de la Pena spearheaded the clean-up of Pasilio 8, Barangay IV in Calamba City in coordination with Councilor Joseph Emergo. Vicarial Regent Sis. Norma Eusebio, Diocesan Pro-Life Coordinator Sis. Carolina Santillana, Vicarial Coordinator Sis. Liza Quidayan, Mother of Life Circle Regent Sis. Editha Euseio and Region VI Newsette Correspondent Sis. Fortunata Aquino attended the activity. The Regent's grandchildren also helped



VICARIATE OF SAN ANTONIO DE PADUA'S "KALINGA SA PAMILYA"

MAY 25, 2019. The vicariate, composed of Sts. Peter & Paul, La Resurreccion, San Antonio de Padua, Our Lady of Salvation, and San Sebastian the Martyr Circles conducted "Kalinga sa Pamilya" at the Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Siniloan, Laguna. Ten families, composed of 25 persons were beneficiaries of the project. Diocesan Regent Sis. Luming Lagunda and Past DR Sis. Lorie Santos were in attendance. Fr. Luis Tolentino, parish priest, gave an inspirational message.



MORALITY IN MEDIA

"HOLDING ON TO MY VALUES" SEMINAR BY THERESIAN CIRCLE. The Theresian Circle held this media seminar last August 1, 2019 at the Tuntungin Putho Integrated High School with Prof. Katherine del Rosario of the College of Human Ecology of UP-Los Banos as resource speaker. During the seminar, the student-participants learned the importance of virtues and values and the family's role in the transfer of these values to the children in preparation for adult life.



UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS

FISH PROCESSING SEMINAR FOR A WOMEN'S GROUP. The Vicariate of St. John the Baptist, spearheaded by the Mother of Life Circle and Regent Editha Eusebio partnered with the Bureau of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources (BFAR) Region IV-A for a Fish Processing Seminar for the members of the Samahan ng mga Kababaihan ng Bgy. Mayondon for Education, Livelihood and

Yield (SKBMFELY) at BFAR. The participants were trained to prepare and cook kikiam, nuggets, burger patty, embotido, fish surimi and fish balls. They were also taught good management practices. The resource persons were Mesdames Marilou Mosqueda, Erica Lopez, Shaira May, and Goli Cruz and Mr. Joseph Ryan Lugian.



ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS

MEDICAL-DENTAL MISSION BY THERESIAN CIRCLE. The Theresian Circle headed by APFV Chair Sis. Angelita Umali conducted a medical-dental mission at the Crisis Center for Women and Children in Calauan, Laguna last June 2, 2019. The Mother of Life and St. Augustine Circles also joined the activity. Volunteers during the mission were Drs Liza Quidayan and Jane Ciceron who gave the children tips on medical and oral care as well as proper hygiene and good grooming. A Holy Mass and simple get-together followed. The outreach was repeated last Sept. 1, 2019.



NEW DMI CIRCLE ORGANIZED IN NASUGBU, BATANGAS

Thirty-six new DMIs were exemplified as charter members of the St. Raphael the Archangel Circle at the St. Raphael the Archangel Parish Hall last August 18, 2019.

The new circle was born through the efforts of Our Lady of Peace Circle of St. Francis Xavier Parish,

Nasugbu, Batangas.

The circle's charter officers were also installed after the charter members' exemplification. Gracing the event were IR Sis. Ruby Macario and Region VII RR Sis. Fely Dollentas.

*By Sis. Sally Dastas, Regent,
Our Lady of Peace Circle*



The charter members of St. Raphael the Archangel Circle with the officers of their mother circle, Our Lady of Peace Circle and IR Sis. Ruby Macario, Region VII RR Sis. Fely Dollentas and their parish priest.

Photo



NEWS

OUR LADY OF PEACE CIRCLE PROVIDES FREE DENTAL SERVICES TO STUDENTS

Seventy-one senior high school students of Lumbangan, Nasugbu, Batangas availed of free dental services extended by four volunteer dentists last July 30, 2019. The dental outreach was initiated by the Our Lady of Peace Circle assisted by its Squirettes. Some members of the schools' faculty were also present.



DMII SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF PDLs CONTINUE.

The children attend public schools but are given allowance for their miscellaneous needs such as PTA contribution, school supplies and projects, uniform, transportation, food, etc. The assistance given to these children, though modest, has been a great help to their families ensuring them that they will eventually finish their education.



The activity is an annual affair put up by the Regional Service Providers Council officers and members including the DMII. The DMII also donated 50 monobloc chairs to the facility for use during the interfaith services of the PDLs.



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SNAPSHOTS FROM THE STO. NINO DE KALIBO CIRCLE

These self-captioned photo collages show the various projects and activities spearheaded/undertaken by the Sto. Nino de Kalibo Circle of the Cathedral Parish of St. John the Baptist in Kalibo, Aklan under the leadership of Regent Sis. Judith Legaspi. - From Sis. Melissa Manulat, Youth Welfare Coordinator for the Visayas



LIVELIHOOD TRAINING FOR PDLs. The Our Lady of Candles Circle sponsored a rosary-making project at BJMP Ungka last June 17, 2019. Eighteen PDLs joined the project.

On hand to teach them rosary-making were Sr. Letty Villalobos and Sr. Edralin Bonilla of the Missionaries of St. Therese and Sr. Amparo of St. Paul's.

An earlier training on rag-making which was started three years ago had benefited PDLs who continue to make rags as source of livelihood after being released from the facility.

The Circle will organize the trainees as a group and will be given capital and assisted in the marketing of their products. A weekly catechesis and faith-sharing is a spiritual component of the project.



LIVELIHOOD TRAINING FOR FEMALE MEMBERS OF PDLs' FAMILIES. The Our Lady of Candles Circle also organizes skills training for female members of PDLs' families and scholars of MKK

The rosary-making training started with an orientation last May 4, 2019 and hands-on demo began on June 5 at the Jaro Cathedral Convent. Sr. Letty Villalobos and Sr. Edralin Bonilla are the trainers while materials are provided by the DMI sisters. Those who are able to make quality products will be provided capital so they can work at home and earn extra income for the family.



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