



DMII Donates Houses for Yolanda Victims

By Sis. Ruby Macario,
SMI Luzon Coordinator

*I*t was an early Christmas for seven families, victims of Super-typhoon 'Yolanda', when they received houses donated by the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International during the turn-over ceremonies held in Barangay Pepita, Alang-alang, Leyte on October 4, 2015.

The beneficiaries were the families of Mercedes Badidles, Jason Buena, Arnel Badidles, Roger Buena, Lodessa Jamora, Adelita Mita and Yolando Millano.

During the turn-over rites, the DMII was represented by its officers and Board and mission chairpersons headed by International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and International Regent Sis. Rebecca Pacanan. The group arrived in Leyte on October 2 for the 3rd Quarter Board Meeting and the Region XI Assembly held on October 3 in Tacloban City.

The DMI contingent was welcomed by Fr. Al Criz Badana, director of the Diocese of Palo Relief & Rehabilitation Unit (RRU-Caritas Palo), Mr. Ronald Abao, RRU program manager, Mr. Reynaldo Bernido, RRU Meal/HR officer and Ms. Rosalinda Gatella, chairwoman of Bgy. Pepita.

turn to page 2



The DMI contingent led by DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and Int'l Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan is welcomed by RRU-Caritas Palo led by its director, Fr. Al Criz Badana.



LUZON AREA CONFERENCE

- OCTOBER 24-25, 2015

Story on page 5

JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY LAUNCHED AT THE VATICAN

Pope Francis and Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI walked through the Holy Door on December 8, 2015 to signal the start of the Jubilee Year of Mercy.

The Holy Door is located at the right of the main entrance of St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City. It is decorated with 16 bronze panels depicting the redemption of man's sin through mercy. More than a million pilgrims are expected to pass through the Holy Door symbolizing the pilgrimage of life's journey and the sacrifices man endures in life.

"Mercy trumps moralizing in the Catholic Church," Pope Francis has declared. To emphasize the leitmotif of his papacy: Show the merciful and welcoming side of a Catholic Church more often known for moralizing and casting judgment.



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From the International Regent

MESSAGE



Christmas euphoria is now over and we now face the challenges of the new year. The year 2016 has been declared by the CBCP as the “Year of the Eucharist and the Family” while His Holiness Pope Francis declared 2016 as the “Jubilee Year of Mercy”. Thus all our activities for the year shall revolve around these declarations.

The fourth quarter of 2015 was very fulfilling since all the regions were successful in holding the remaining regional assemblies and conferences scheduled during the period. Region XI under the stewardship of RR Sis. Leni Larrazabal was the first to hold its regional assembly on October 3, 2015. The Region, together with the Tower of Ivory Circle, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Tacloban City hosted the 3rd Quarter Meeting of the International Board on October 2. The turn-over ceremony and blessing of seven permanent houses donated by the DMII to Yolanda victims in Barangay Pepita, Alangalang, Leyte took place on October 4.

The IR had a hectic schedule in October. After the three-pronged activities in Region XI in Tacloban City, her home base, she proceeded to Mati, Davao del Norte for the Region XIII Assembly, headed by RR Sis. Laura Cespon. Then she attended the Laiko Convention in Cebu City on October 23-24 as representative of the DMII, then flew to Manila on October 25 to catch the second day of the Luzon Area Conference in Dagupan City. The conference was organized by VIR Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang with Region II headed by RR Sis. Virgie Terrado as conference host.

Because of over-fatigue and preparation for the arrival of the Third World Eye Care Society of Canada, the IR missed the Region XII Assembly organized by RR Sis. Annie Ty and SMI Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Lelis Pimentel in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur on November 7. She also missed RR Sis. Pureza Guzman’s Region XI Assembly in Bacolod City on November 14 and RR Sis. Alma Cagampang’s Region III Assembly in Tarlac City on November 21. The Tower of Ivory Circle coordinated with the Third World Eye Care Society-Canada for an Eye Care Mission in Tacloban City and Tanauan, Leyte on November 13-25, 2015 where close to 6,000 patients received free eye examination and free eyeglasses and medicines. The IR was the overall coordinator and in-charge of the 20-man team of doctors and 40 volunteer workers of this humanitarian project. The last of the regional assemblies for the year that the IR attended was the Region XIV Assembly headed by RR Sis. Angie Baes in Iligan City on November 28.

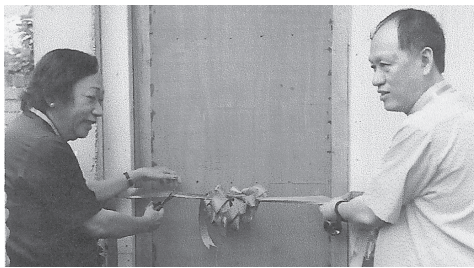
The 4th Quarter Meeting and Christmas Get-together of the International Board on Dec. 12-13 at the Bayview Park Hotel wrapped up our activities for 2015. The zumba party and parlor games provided by the Christmas Program Committee composed of Sisters Ruby Macario, Cathy Pineda and Edna Mae Landicho were effective energizers for a much-needed R & R break. The group enjoyed the activity and the spirit of Christmas was felt all around.

It had been a very fruitful 2015 for the DMII with all the activities – the National Officers’ Meeting in May, the Quarterly Board Meetings, the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Area Conferences and the Regional Assemblies in the 14 regions – having been very successful. Congratulations, dear sisters, for a job well done.

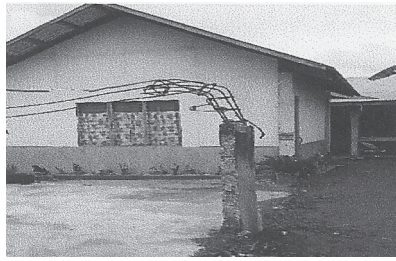
May the incoming year be more meaningful, bountiful and blissful with Mama Mary as our guide and intercessor and the Lord Almighty as our strength and protector. HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE!

SIS. REBECCA CONGE-PACANAN
International Regent

DMII Donates... from page 1



Ceremonial ribbon-cutting by IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan and Fr. Jerome Cruz.



One of the permanent homes the DMII donated to seven 'Yolanda' victims in Alang-alang, Leyte.

In his welcome remarks, Fr. Al Criz said that Caritas Palo was established after Supertyphoon Yolanda. It was a reactive and emergency response and became the relief organization of the Diocese supported by the CBCP's National Secretariat for Social Action (NASSA) especially in the training of the support team. The program involves (1) shelter, (2) livelihood and (3) wash or hygiene promotion, in line with the call of Pope Francis to preserve nature and help in rehabilitation efforts. He also explained that the program is long-term to help communities rebuild life.

DRR (disaster response and rehabilitation) is part of the resiliency aspect of the shelter program. The initial design is a 2-bedroom unit with toilet and bath to give families at least their basic requirements. Unlike temporary shelters that other NGOs provide, the DMI houses are permanent with concrete and steel roofing which help solve at least one problem of the family. The organization opted for on-site housing because of the difficulty of finding available lots and transporting the materials to far-off areas.

Fr. Al Criz said that that DMII's donation is a great

and most welcome help. Caritas Palo is building eight houses in Bgy. Pepita, seven of which are financed by the DMII. The system that it follows is participative, where the community undergoes a process of assessment to avoid duplication and evaluate priorities. The community confirms the truthfulness of the data and the barangay officials are there to

reconfirm the information. The process is effective in reaching out to families who need help the most. Other victims of 'Yolanda' who have the capacity to bounce back no longer become their priority. Fr Al Criz asked for continuous prayers as they go about their work.

Fr. Jerome Cruz, in his message on behalf of the DMII, said that in the beginning the organization had some difficulty determining where to course its help, and thanked NASSA for the chance to reach out directly to the typhoon victims. Three more units are expected to be donated with additional funds coming from DMI sisters who have yet to turn over their individual donation of P100. He acknowledged the initiative of the past DMII Board (2013-14) led by Past International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva to launch a fund campaign for providing shelters to typhoon victims and to set up a calamity fund for future emergencies. The campaign was launched during the first quarter of 2014.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony in one of the units by Fr. Jerome and Sis. Rebbie Pacanan accompanied the formal turn-over of the houses. Certificates of Turn-over were then handed to the family-beneficiaries.



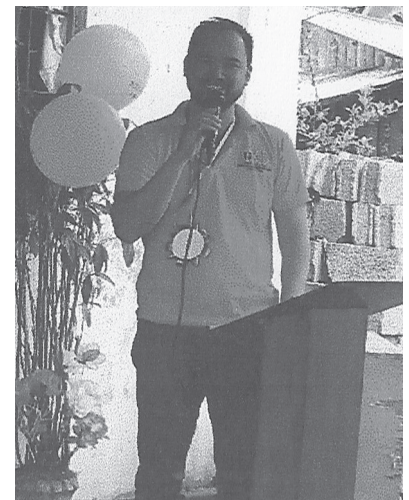
The housing beneficiaries. from left to right: Mercedes Badidles, Jason Buena, Arnel Badidless, Roger Buena, Lodessa Jamora, Adelita Mita and Yolando Milano



Welcome streamer announcing the turn-over of the houses



Concrete marker posted on a housing unit



Fr. Al Criz: "... assistance from the DMI is most welcome."

LUZON AREA CONFERENCE

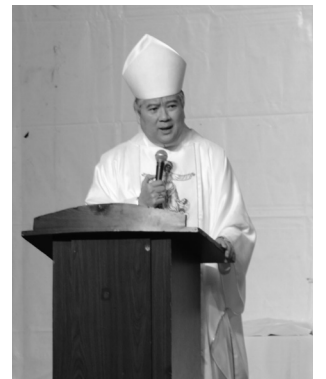
A HUGE SUCCESS DESPITE 'LANDO'



The image of the Blessed Mother is placed on the altar by VIR-Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang and Int'l Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz during the enthronement ceremony.



Mass celebrants were Archbishop Socrates Villegas and Fr. Jerome.



Archbishop Villegas was conference keynote speaker.

It was a circuitous route that delegates to the Luzon Area Conference took to Dagupan City, venue of this year's conference, which took place last October 24-25, 2015. Some streets in towns leading to the venue were still flooded, an aftermath of Typhoon 'Lando' which cut through and lingered in Northern and Central Luzon dumping so much rain just a few days before the event.

Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang and Region II RR Sis. Virgie Terrado, conference host, apprehensive about the storm's adverse effect on attendance, issued an appeal to the Luzon RRs via text messages for the delegates to come, assuring them that the venue had not been affected by the floods.

Come October 23, 2015. The delegates started arriving and on the morning of Oct. 24 quickly filled the huge CSI Stadia in Lucao District. The 800 pre-registered delegates came with about a hundred more being added to the total list of conference registrants. Call it faith in Mama Mary and commitment to the DMI.

The Luzon Area Conference started promptly at 8:00 a.m. with the opening ceremonies and Sis. Virgie Terrado warmly welcoming the conference delegates and expounding a bit on the conference theme, "DMII: Evangelizing

with Mercy and Compassion in the Year of the Poor".

Most Rev. Socrates Villegas DD, archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan and incumbent president of the CBCP was the main presider in the Eucharistic celebration assisted by DMI Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz. Archbishop Soc was also the conference keynote speaker. He started his message with a question: "Where are the poor?" "Jesus is the Face of the Poor," he said. Because no one has endured the level of poverty that Jesus experienced.

Answering the question he posed

earlier, Archbishop Soc said that people who do not know how to love and without compassion are the real poor while one with the greatest mercy and compassion is the richest. Evangelization begins with mercy and compassion.

"The DMI's duty is to beautify society by bringing Christ to the community, by bringing them the love of God," he declared. The Archbishop ended his homily by exhorting his listeners to look for the sectors needing the Church's attention: the youth, the poor (on account of the poverty of affluence), and the hurting Catholics,

turn to page 6



The International Board with Archbishop Villegas (at center). From left: Sisters Sally Estrada, Ruby Macario, Lyding Ramirez (past IR), Edna Mae Landicho, Elvie Arambulo, Fr. Jerome, Virgie Terrado, Fely Gallardo, Cora Afuang, Cathy Pineda, Juliet Cruz, Letty Gano and Myrna Zapanta (past IR).

those who have gone out of the Church, may tampo.

Rev. Fr. Allan T. Abuan was the morning's second speaker. He is the National Training Officer of the Family Life Ministry (Family and Marital Counseling), Marriage Encounter Foundation of the Philippines and pastor of St.

Fr. Abuan's talk centered on what the DMI stands for: D – as disciples of Christ, DMIs must know the Master and have the heart and mind of Jesus; M – Mary's Response, Mary always replies YES, so must a DMI; and I – Being Involved or accompanying. One must be able to give and to live a life of simplicity. "Live simply so that others may simply live." "Be givers and forgivers" was his

The afternoon session started with a talk by Fr. Jerome Cruz which focused on Rediscovering and Revisiting the Identity of the DMI. Citing the organization's objectives, he said that the DMIs are meant to be lay persons who bring light to the nation and to society. Being daughters of Mary, the DMIs have a great responsibility of

turn to page 7



Conference Chairperson Sis. Virgie Terrado, Region II Representative welcomes the delegates in her opening remarks.



Fr. Allan Abuan, guest speaker during the morning session.



Sis. Cora Afuang reports on updates from the International Board.



Intermission number was provided by the Cuerdas de Mangaldan



Dinner guests of Archbishop Villegas at the Archbishop's Palace were some members of the International Board, past and present, led by Fr. Jerome, from left: Sisters Lydia Ordonez, Edna Mae Landicho, Lyding Ramirez, Myrna Zapanta, Juliet Cruz, Sally Estrada and Lita Canonizado.



IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan (3rd from right) with some delegates during the recessional.

Luzon Area ... from page 6

giving witness to the community. How? First, by heeding God's call to be holy. Second, by heeding the call to serve because holiness cannot be achieved without service. And third, by being like Mary, serving with Jesus and by continuous faithful following of Jesus.

Sis. Cora Afuang then provided updates on goings-on in the National Organization and forthcoming DMI events such as the 20th Biennial Convention in Davao City in April, 2016.

The day's activities ended with a dinner and a glittering Filipiniana Night. A regional folk dance contest was the night's centerpiece with Region IV (Diocese of Malolos) winning first place with their presentation of a wedding

ritual in Bulacan. The best Filipino attire was won by Sis. Marissa Ebor of Region I.

Workshops on the five DMI missions followed the Holy Mass officiated by Fr. Jerome on Day 2 of the conference (Oct. 25). Workshop facilitators were Sis. Ruby Macario for Pro-life, Sis. Edna Mae Landicho for Morality in Media, Sis. Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Lydia Ordonez for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare. For lack of time, reports on the workshop outputs will be submitted later to the National Office to be transmitted to the Mission Chairs.

It was a Question & Answer format that IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan adopted during the International Regent's Time.

(She arrived earlier from Cebu where she attended the Laiko Convention on October 24 representing the DMII.) She reminded the delegates to submit their proposed amendments to the DMI Constitution and By-laws which the International Board is currently reviewing.

During the closing ceremonies and reccessional, some delegates turned emotional as they bade good-bye to the Blessed Mother as her image was being carried to the back of the hall by Fr. Jerome assisted by Sisters Rebbie, Cora and Virgie.

Emcees during the 2-day conference were Sisters Agnes Laron, diocesan regent of San Fernando (La Union) and Mila Diasanta, vicarial regent of Baler, Prelature of Infanta.



The Folk Dance Contest Board of Judges – Sis. Lyding Ramirez, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Sis. Elvie Arambulo and Professors Childe Libertad and Joan Orbillo, president and vice-president, respectively, of the Philippine Folk Dance Society of Region I.



Runner-up was the presentation of Region V.



The presentation of Region IV won first place.

Upcoming EVENTS

20TH DMI BIENNIAL CONVENTION

APRIL 23-24, 2016

The SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang Premier in Davao City will be the venue of the 20th DMI Biennial Convention on April 23-24, 2016 with the theme “The Holy Eucharist: Life of Every Family United with Mama Mary”.

Sis. Laura Cespon, representative of Region XIII, host of the convention, announced the following details during the 4th Quarter meeting of the International Board held at the Bayview Park Hotel on December 12, 2015:

Convention Program:

April 22, 2016 (Friday) – Arrival of delegates and distribution of conference kits thru Regional Representatives and Diocesan Regents from 3:00 to 5:00 PM

April 23 (Saturday) – Opening Ceremonies at 8:00 AM followed by a Concelebrated Mass and message of the conference keynote speaker.

Business Meeting at 1:00 PM and election of 2017-18 DMII officers.

Dinner and Fellowship Night at 7:00 PM featuring a dance contest by region; the night's motif is United Nations.

April 24 (Sunday) – Eucharistic celebration at 8:00 AM, Mission Reports, Star Circle Awards and bidding for the 21st Biennial Convention.
Conference close at 2:00 PM

Conference Fee:

October 1 to December 15, 2015	- P2,800
Dec. 15, 2015 to March 31, 2016	- 3,000
On-site Registration	- 4,000
Circle Assessment Fee	- P500/circle

For more details, please contact:

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The 20th DMI Biennial Convention is one event DMIs should not miss. Register now!



The lobby of the SMX Convention Center, SM Lanang Premier



Part of the SMX Convention hall

Upcoming EVENTS

SMI LUZON AREA CONFERENCE

JUNE 4-5, 2016

The Squirettes of Mary in Luzon have a forthcoming big event to get excited about: the 2nd SMI Luzon Area Conference to be held at the Bali Village Hotel & Spa in Tagaytay City.

The theme of the conference is “The Eucharist and Family in the Jubilee Year of Mercy”. The conference fee is P2,800 to cover 1night/2days accommodation, food (1 breakfast, 1 dinner and 2 snacks) and conference kit.

Attires to prepare: SMI Type A uniform for the conference opening, cowboy attire in blue for the dinner party, Type B uniform for Day 2 and an

official T-shirt to be provided in the kit.

Pre-registration is required; deadline is on April 18, 2016.

Sisters Cathy Pineda, national chairperson for Youth Welfare and Ruby Macario, SMI Luzon Coordinator and the conference organizing committee are working very hard to ensure that the delegates have a fruitful trip and a truly fun event to remember.

So, young ladies, there’s still plenty of time to save up and prepare for this event. COME!



The swimming pool area of the Bali Village Hotel & Spa



One of the cottages where SMI delegates will be billeted

REGION IV ASSEMBLY HELD IN HISTORIC MALOLOS

By Sis. Thess Curia,
Regent, Diocese of Malolos

Region IV comprising the whole of Bulacan Province prides itself to be able to hold its Regional Assembly in the historic city of Malolos, the provincial capital. Some 300 DMI sisters in the Diocese attended the event at the Hiyas Convention Center on August 29, 2015 with the theme “DMI Missions: Reaching Out to the Poor with Mercy and Compassion”.

Gracing the assembly were guests from the International Board headed by International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan, With her were Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang, Region IV Representative Sis. Fely Gallardo, International Chairpersons for the DMI Missions Sis. Edna Mae Landicho for Morality in Media and Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare and DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada. The Region’s past regional representatives were also present: Sisters Prising Hermogenes, Piling San Juan, Tesy Villarino, Flor Barcial and Violy Luna.

Hon. Henrietta “Tita” de Villa,

former ambassador to the Holy See and president of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, keyed the assembly. Ms. De Villa shared her personal experiences of interaction with the Pope at the Vatican, vividly describing how it was to be in close contact with him. She also shared her programs for the poor, and matched with complete gestures, she led the audience to the question of who do we call Poor. For her, the poor must not be seen as an opportunity for well-off people to give donations to. The gift of being able to share must also be coupled with being able to evangelize. “When we give, Jesus must be seen in us. When we think of projects for the poor, look beyond and see what the real needs of the poor are.”

The other speakers during the whole day assembly program were:

Sis. Sally Estrada on DMI Promotions and the Newsette, noting that public awareness of the DMII as an organization can best be promoted through work the members do for

the 5 DMI Missions, particularly through networking with other sectors and agencies/organizations both in the government and private sectors, enabling them to reach more beneficiaries – the marginalized in society.

Sis. Cathy Pineda said that recruitment of more Squirettes members continues to be pursued. She also announced that plans and preparations are being made for the 2nd SMI Luzon Area Conference to be held next year.

Sis. Edna Mae Landicho presented her program for Morality in Media particularly focusing on projects and activities for the youth through the creation of a media website and social media accounts. Online campaigns will include traditional games and sports for children as well as culture and the arts.

VIR Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang updated the delegates regarding plans and programs of the International

turn to page 11



Plaques of appreciation were awarded to assembly speakers, from left: Sisters Thess Curia, Rebbie Pacanan, Cora Afuang, Cathy Pineda, Sally Estrada, Edna Mae Landicho and Fely Gallardo.



Hon. Henrietta de Villa delivers her keynote message.



Msgr. Albert Suatengco, Mass celebrant, receives a token from IR Sis. Rebbie Pacanan. With them in photo are some past and present Region IV officers.

Region IV Assembly ... from page 10

Board and extended her invitation for Region IV DMIs to attend the forthcoming Luzon Area Conference in Dagupan City in October.

A Eucharistic celebration by Msgr. Albert Suatengco, DMI diocesan chaplain, opened the afternoon session.

Capping the day's program was the International Regent's time during which Sis. Rebbie Pacanan

gamely answered questions from the floor.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Thess Curia and Sis. Brigs Abela were the program emcees. Intermission numbers were provided by the Rosa Mystica Circle and the Fr. Willmann Dance Guild.

The Vicariate of the Immaculate Conception headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Lucy Bernardo hosted the assembly, assisted by Vicarial

Regent Sis. Lhens Ramos and the DMI sisters of the Vicariate of St. Augustine of Hippo. Regents of the other vicariates in the Diocese headed their respective delegations – Sisters Rebecca Zamora of Sta. Maria II & San Agustin, Tess Barcelon of St. Anne, Marilyn San Diego of St. Martin of Tours & St. Francis of Assissi, Josie de la Torre of Sta. Maria I, Tess Labilles of San Jose, Renata Cui of Our Lady of Fatima and Ketchie Francisco of Sto Nino.

TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE HOSTS REGION XI ASSEMBLY

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

The DMIs of Region XI held their 27th Regional Assembly on Oct. 3, 2015 at the Leyte Park Hotel with the Tower of Ivory Circle as assembly host. Guests during the event were the DMI officers and members of the International Board and mission chairpersons who arrived the day before (Oct. 2) for their 3rd Quarter Board meeting. (They were dinner guests of International Regent Sis. Rebbie Pacanan at her residence in V & G Homes, Tacloban City.)

A total of 169 DMI sisters representing 15 circles in Region XI attended the assembly which started with a concelebrated Mass with DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz as main celebrant assisted by Circle Chaplain Msgr. Benedicto Catilogo. In his homily, Fr. Jerome emphasized that DMIs must be role models in the community and posed the question: How much are you in touch with your mission beneficiaries?

For her part, IR Sis. Rebbie said that Mama Mary will surely be happy for the DMIs' commitment in sharing their time, talent and treasure for the accomplishment of their advocacy for service to the community, especially the poor and the needy.

The International Chairpersons for the 5 DMI Missions presented their programs during the afternoon session. Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Carmen

turn to page 12

Tower of Ivory Circle ... from page 11

Baquilid's program was represented in coined words: Teach, Encourage, Notify, Develop, Educate, Respect, Care, Advocate, Reinforce and Enlighten (TENDER CARE) summing up the Promotion, Preservation and Protection of life which is what Pro-life is all about. Sis. Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers batted for micro-financing for small business and self-empowerment of beneficiaries of DMI's livelihood projects. Sis. Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media included the creation of a Morality in Media Website/Social Media Accounts and the establishment of a Media Watch

Board in schools, churches, LGUs, NGOs to monitor media development. She also promoted traditional games and sports activities for the youth. Sis. Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare encouraged the recruitment of more Squirettes members. Finally, Sis. Mary Annie Jabines of Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims encourages the establishment of more scholarships, foundations on trust funds for eligible and potentially capable children of prisoners as well as a regular program of religious instructions and activities.

The Fellowship Night was highlighted by a United Nations motif and a search for the Most Popular

DMI 2015 won by International Advocate Sis. Yolanda Dagandan of the Tower of Ivory Circle. Everybody had an enjoyable evening.

The following day, October 4, a special Mass was celebrated at the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish where the host circle is based. Mass celebrant were Msgr. Catilogo and Fr. Jerome. Breakfast for the guests was hosted by Sis. Yoly Dagandan at her residence at V & G Subdivision. At about 9:00 a.m., the group proceeded to Alang-alang, Leyte where the DMII turned over seven houses donated for victims of Supertyphoon 'Yolanda'. *(Story on the turn-over ceremonies starts on page 1.)*



A welcome committee from the Tower of Ivory Circle meets guests at the Daniel Z. Romualdez Airport in Tacloban.



Rev. Fr. Rex Ramirez, assembly guest speaker



At the dinner hosted at her residence by IR Sis. Rebbie for the International Board.



International Advocate Sis. Yolanda Dagandan (seated beside Sis. Rebbie) was crowned Most Popular DMI 2015 during Fellowship Night.

Opening of the Diocesan Process for the cause of the Servant of God, FR. GEORGE J. WILLMANN, SJ

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



The Diocesan Process for the Cause and Beatification of Fr. George J. Willmann, SJ was opened on Dec. 7, 2015 at the Manila Cathedral Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. More than 30 priests and bishops celebrated the Mass with His Eminence Luis Antonio Cardinal Tagle as the main celebrant. Fr. Willmann, now called the Servant of God, established the Daughters of Isabella which later became the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

The event was attended by DMI sisters led by Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang. With her were Region IV Representative Sis. Fely Gallardo, Regent Sis. Thess Curia of the Diocese of Malolos, International Chair for Morality in Media Sis. Edna Mae Landicho and vicarial and circle regents from all over the country.

Why are we entering this process for Fr. Willmann? Why is this important for us who are members of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Youth Organization, the Squirettes of Mary and the Columbian Squires?

We want the whole world to know how deeply Father Willman lived as a Christian. He was a priest, an extraordinary human being and a faithful and creative member of the Church.

But once the long process is done, and once the Church declares him officially as a person of God, he ceases to belong to these organizations by themselves. He becomes a model for the whole Catholic Church in following the call of being a disciple. As a model for priests,

he speaks of fidelity to one's vocation of totally living one's life in the service of the Lord. As a priest, he was faithful to the ministry of spiritual guidance to the people. But what was remarkable in him was that he did not get contented only with administering spiritual help to the lay people. He also helped them to get involved in the activities in the Church, Community, the Youth and the Family. These he did by establishing a lot of organizations with specific and tangible concerns for the youth, the poor and promotion and preservation of the sanctity of life, marriage and the family.

As a model for priests, he showed that their ministry is not limited to the pulpit and to the ritual needs of the people. They should not be prisoners of the parish office nor of the work of the organizations within the confines of the church building, but should get involved in projects that enable the parishioners to be active in the world of work, business and assistance to the human and material development of the poor.

He instilled in us that lay people have the ministry of establishing the kingdom of God in our families, in our neighborhood, in our work areas, in our social life, and in the alleviation of poverty and providing the sense of material security for our families and for the whole church. Indeed, the salvation brought by Christ begins here and now and attends to the development of the whole person – body and soul.

Fr. Willmann chose to become a Filipino and lived his ministry for our people. It is very fitting that as a saint "made in the Philippines", we Filipinos can make his message known and that we can take part in the process that investigates his being truly a person of God, whose heart was filled with a desire to be of service to the lay people. But our further commitment as we pray for this process is to make sure that we live one with Christ, through our holy lives and as lay disciples of the Lord. The world is our place of formation and our area of ministry. It is also where we can find God speaking to us and acting in us and through us.

Madre de Amor Hospice Foundation Revisited

THE HOSPICE CARE DMI VOLUNTEERS

By Sis. Lita Canonizado,
Past International Secretary

The Madre de Amor Hospice Foundation, the institution in Los Banos where we, DMI sisters of Region VI (Laguna) are volunteers turned 21 years this year. It was not an easy journey but definitely one that is good for the soul. We started with hopeful eagerness to serve, stayed, realizing that though difficult, we have to go on serving because it is the right thing to do. Because there are times when the only thing someone looks forward to is a simple “Kumusta po kayo ngayon?” from us.

“Whatever you do to the least of My brothers, you do it to me.” (Matthew 25:40) You might think it is such an easy request from a God Who sacrificed His only Son so that we may have a chance to eternal life and joy with Him. After all, the least among us have simple needs, some good food, comfortable clothing maybe and a little entertainment to ease the doldrums of life are enough to satisfy them. That is why, Christmas gift-giving, feeding programs and medical missions are popular undertakings of most non-profit, social welfare groups. The same with hospice care, or so we thought. How difficult could it be? Visitation of the sick, we’ve done it before. Easy, especially if we have a priest in tow who usually

does the talking, most of the time anyway.

Hospice care is much, much more, we came to realize eventually. We did not anticipate the emotional toll. The kind of care we were tasked to do was far from easy. The patients’ situations are often complicated. Majority are cancer patients who may still have a good chance of cure, but because they are poor, they have no access to treatment. And so, we give them the best we can afford – psychological support and pain medicine, the latter sourced through donations from friends, from private and government institutions. The former is the hard part, as we have to rely on faith, on the strength of OUR faith. Often, we are severely tested, especially when the patients are children, or promising young adults, or an elderly without family or the breadwinner in a helpless family. We suffer with them, we get angry because no matter how hard we try, it is difficult to accept such senseless reality. And yet, we have to keep the emotions to ourselves. We can share their burden but only in silence, to make them feel a little better.

When we joined the Hospice Care as volunteers, we were told that the saddest words are when a doctor says to a patient that there is nothing more he can do, that all that can be done is to make the patient comfortable until the end. Or he can do nothing and just let the patient die, usually in great pain. And that is the gap that we volunteers should try to fill . . . to lessen the pain. With or without medication. Armed with nothing but mercy and compassion, and the love of the Almighty. Hard sell to persons facing death. But try we always do, as it is the LEAST we can do for them, who are not only the LEAST, but the most unfortunate of our brothers.

Sadly, while there were a number of us DMI volunteers in the early years of Madre de Amor – from the

turn to page 15



Some of the remaining DMI volunteers of the Madre de Amor Hospice Care Foundation. The author, Sis. Lita Canonizado stands 2nd from left.

DMIs ATTEND DIOCESAN ADVENT RECOLLECTION



Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul Adefuin (in circle) speaks before the recollection participants.



Fr. Eugene with the officers of the DMI Diocese of San Pablo

By Sis. Cerenilla Cruz, Regent, and
Sis. Filomena de Leon, Treasurer,
Mother of Life Circle

A Diocesan Advent Recollection and Get-together was held by the DMIs of the Diocese of San Pablo (Region VI) on November 29, 2015 at the Central 2 Auditorium in Calamba City.

More than 200 DMI sisters representing 17 circles of four vicariates of the diocese headed by Region VI Representative Sis. Elvie Arambulo, Past RR Sis. Lita Canonizado and Diocesan Regent Sis. Loreta Santos attended the event.

Fr. Francis Eugene Fadul Adefuin, DMI diocesan spiritual director, was the recollection speaker. Focusing on the recollection theme "Mercy and Compassion", he cited biblical instances showing the mercy that Jesus showed to Zacchaeus, the tax collector, the blind Bartimaeus and the adulteress who Jesus spared from being stoned to death. Summing up his talk, Fr. Adefuin said that "Jesus is God's Face of Mercy".

Madre de Amor Hospice ... from page 14

Theresian Circle of Los Banos, St. John the Baptist Circle of Calamba and the Our Lady of Salvation Circle of Sta. Cruz, only a handful remains today. Understandably so because the years have taken a toll on us. It is now difficult for us to walk long distances, and some patients live in places not accessible to motor vehicles. We simply have to walk, along railroad tracks, slippery creeks and farms in the middle of nowhere.

At present, we are trying to recruit hospice care volunteers and looking to the newly created circles

in Region VI such as the St. Augustine Circle in Bay, San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle in San Pedro and Our Lady of Assumption in Rizal to increase our numbers. We know that our Lord knows our need and through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother, He will answer our prayers. Our patients are increasing, and now, they come from all over Laguna and so, more than ever, we need not just volunteers but volunteers coming from all over the province.

(The Madre de Amor Foundation was first featured in the January-March 2007 issue of the DMI Newsette. - Ed.)

RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE RESUMES CAMPUS MEDIA

By Sis. Helen Balmores,
Past Regent, Risen Christ Circle

The Morality in Media Committee of Risen Christ Circle, Holy Eucharist Parish, Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City conducted another media symposium in Moonwalk National High School on November 3, 2015. Titled "Media – A Double-Edged Sword", the symposium speakers were Sisters Helen Balmores and Beth Rebosa, past chairpersons and Sis. Aniway Baylon, current chairperson of the Morality in Media Committee.

During the symposium, 400 Grade 10 students and their teachers were enlightened about the advantages of media in their daily lives as well as their adverse effects when used excessively, habitually and improperly, particularly social media. The possible adverse effects include aggressiveness in sexual and violent activities like rape, teen pregnancy, bullying others, deterioration of family togetherness and closeness and deterioration of mind and spirit, and the worst, lack of interest in God and the Scriptures.

After the symposium, Mr. Paul Tura, the school's guidance counselor, joined the teachers and students in

expressing their appreciation for the opportunity given to them and suggested that similar symposiums for lower level students be given in the future.

Also present were the officers and members of the Risen Christ Circle headed by Regent Sis. Clem Mahinay.



Morality in Media Chairperson Sis. Aniway Baylon, one of the symposium speakers. Behind her are Vice-Regent Sis. Leigh Cuenca, Past Regent Sis. Helen Balmores, Past Media Chair Sis. Beth Rebosa and Regent Sis. Clem Mahinay.

PHOTO

NEWS

MARY MOTHER OF THE CHURCH CIRCLE OFFERS FREE HAIRCUT

The Mary Mother of the Church Circle of BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City offered free haircut to residents of the developing communities in Sunshine Ville recently. Giving full support to the project was Fr. Steve Villanueva, pastor of the Mary Mother of the Church Parish. Partnering with the DMI circle in the project was TESDA of Talon 2.



MINA DE ORO CIRCLE SPONSORS PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR FOR SQUIRETTES

A Personality Development Seminar was sponsored by the Mina de Oro Circle for its Squirettes of Mary Immaculate Circlette members. The date was October 17, 2015, a stormy day in San Jose, Mindoro Occidental.

Dr. Theresita Gomez-Macaraig, a registered guidance counselor was the resource person who spoke on the Five Aspects of Personality Development – spiritual, physical, mental, social and emotional. The whole-day seminar consisted of lectures in the morning and simulation activities in the afternoon.



The Mina de Oro DMIs and SMIs with Dr. Theresita Gomez-Macaraig, resource speaker (5th from left). To her right is Past IR Sis. Myrna Zapanta.

TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE FACILITATES TWECS' EYE CARE MISSION

The Third World Eye Care Society (TWECS) is a non-government organization that has been extending support to the poor and the needy, more particularly the victims of Supertyphoon 'Yolanda' in Leyte. Last November 14 to 24, 2015 the TWECS headed by Dr. Marina Roma-March, president of TWECS Canada/VOSH BC and VOSH International, visited Tacloban and the town of Tanauan in connection with their Eye Care Program.

The Tower of Ivory Circle became TWECS' partner as its local counterpart providing required assistance, particularly



Tower of Ivory Circle and TWECS officers and volunteers who undertook the Eye Care Mission.

in mobilizing the program recipients/beneficiaries.

As a result of the the joint efforts of the two organizations, a total of 5,300 patients were examined and given free

eyeglasses. TWECS later awarded a Certificate of Appreciation to the Tower of Ivory Circle in recognition of the invaluable assistance and support it extended to the highly successful Eye Care Mission.

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