



DMI NEWSETTE

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October - December 2016

2017-2018 DMII Officers, Board Installed



The DMII Officers and Board with the Mass celebrants.



Sis. Pureza Guzman receives a bouquet of flowers from Sis. Lelis Pimentel and Fr. Jerome Cruz.

The Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City was the venue of the Installation of the 2017-18 DMII International Officers and Board of Trustees on December 3, 2016. It was the first to be held outside of Metro Manila.

Coming to the event in their Filipiniana attires, incoming International Regent Sis. Rosalinda “Lelis” Pimentel headed the list of inductees composed of the International Officers, Regional Representatives who compose the Board of Trustees, and the International Mission Chairpersons, the International Advocate and the Newsette Editor who were appointed by Sis. Lelis to work with her team. The diocesan and vicarial regents coming from different parts of the country were likewise installed into office.

Special Guests during the occasion were Surigao del Sur Congressman Johnny Pimentel, husband of Sis. Lelis and their daughter Jana, and Mrs. Emilita Apostol Alvarez, wife of House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez who is president of the Congressional Spouses Foundation.

Past International Regents Sisters Lyding Ramirez, Jean Velarde and Myrna Zapanta also graced the occasion.

Preceding the installation ceremony were the enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the concelebrated Mass by Archbishop Emeritus Fernando Capalla, D.D. of the Archdiocese of Davao, Bishop Nereo Odchimar, D.D., of the Diocese of Tandag, DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga, DMI chaplain of the Archdiocese of Davao and Fr. Isidro Irisari, Vicar General of the Diocese of Tandag. The homily by Bishop Odchimar centered on the Season of Advent and St. John the Baptist, the “voice in the wilderness” who prepared the world for the coming of Jesus, our Redeemer.

Fr. Jerome presided over the installation ceremonies. Composing the 2017-18 International Officers are: Sis. Lelis Pimentel – International Regent, Sisters Ruby

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THE BIRTH OF JESUS

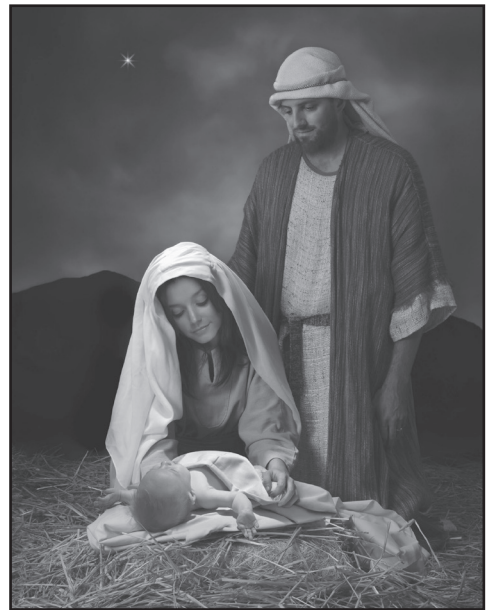
(The Gospel of St. Luke, 2:1-20)

Now it happened that at this time, Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be made of the whole inhabited world. This census – the first – took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to be registered, each to his own town. So Joseph set out from the town of Nazareth in Galilee for Judaea, to David's town called Bethlehem, since he was of David's House and line, in order to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. Now it happened that, while they were there, the time came for her to have her child, as she gave birth to a son, her first-born. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was not room for them in the living-space. In the countryside close by, there were shepherds out in the fields keeping guard over their sheep during the watches of the night. An angel of the Lord stood over them and the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified, but the angel said, "Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And all at once with the angel, there was a great throng of the hosts of heaven, praising God with the words:

*Glory to God in the highest heaven, And on earth peace
for those He favours.*

Now it happened that when the angel had gone from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this event which the Lord has made known to us." So they hurried away and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw the child, they repeated what they had been told about him, and everyone who heard it was astonished at what the shepherds said to them. As for Mary, she treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds went back glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as they had been told.

*Have A Blessed And Merry
Christmas!*



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| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
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| Sis. Corazon T. Afuang | - Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon |
| Sis. Annie O. Ty | - Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao |
| Sis. Alma C. Cagampang | - International Secretary |
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| Sis. Yolanda U. Dagandan | - International Advocate |

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

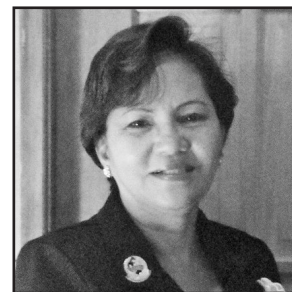
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Sis. Salvacion T. Estrada - Editor

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| | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
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| Sis. Gloria Caminero | Sis. Magdalena Larrazabal |
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MESSAGE



The 2015-2016 term of the Visayas Area had just been concluded. Let us praise and thank God for these two very fulfilling, meaningful and productive years, for the wisdom and understanding, for the guidance and protection, for the bountiful blessings He had showered upon us and most of all, for the significant opportunity to be of service to Him through the Daughters of Mary Immaculate.

It had been a pleasure working with the International Board and Mission Chairpersons, a powerhouse, composed of professionals, Doctors of Philosophy and Education, Masters in Management, finance and bank officers, corporate executives and successful women in business and an RTC judge as its International Advocate, the three past International Regents as its advisers/consultants – Sisters Mila Villanueva, Lyding Ramirez and Jean Velarde, and most of all, Rev. Fr. Jeronimo Ma. J. Cruz, its International Chaplain. But more than these qualifications is their COMMITMENT and PASSION to serve . . . with a heart full of grace.

Because of their efficient and effective leadership, the Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Area Conferences and 14 Regional Assemblies were religiously and successfully conducted, gathering our DMI sisters as one in the name of our Blessed Mother Mary and hopefully, the insights and learnings we acquired had contributed to our transformation into better persons and better DMIs.

Several projects were initiated and as a result, this is what to expect in the early months of 2017:

- The printed copies of our Constitution and By-laws with amendments duly ratified during the 20th Biennial Convention held in Davao City last April 23-24, 2016
- Our new PVC-type membership identification cards with our latest picture in Class A uniform as approved during the National Officers' Meeting last May 10, 2015
- Blessing on January 28, 2017 of Mary's House, the new DMII National Office which was acquired in October, 2016, located at the corner of N. Lopez Ave. and St. Andrew St., Lopez Village in Sucat, Paranaque City
- The printed copies of the amended Constitution and By-laws of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate
- The completion and turning over of the last three houses (to complete the 10 houses) donated by the DMII to Typhoon Yolanda victims in Bgy. Pepita, Alangalang, Leyte

My dear Sisters in Mary, we have done a lot and we did our best! Let us give recognition to the late International Regent Sis. Rebecca Conge-Pacanan who initiated and directed our activities for 2015-2016. After the discussion of the Board about the law on succession, I told her, "Sister Rebbie, don't ever leave me!" and she calmly said, "Ah hindi, kaya mo 'yan!" And the day before her interment, while we were taking our snacks at Leyte Park Hotel and while I was suffering from the anticipation of what is going to happen next, a fresh leaf fell down in front of me from the lifeless ceiling of the hotel, as what was witnessed by three members of the Board. And so I accepted and committed myself to do the workables left to be done.

Now, my heart is full of joy, not because I am now relieved of the great responsibilities of an International Regent but because I saw how passionate, enthusiastic and determined our DMI sisters were in fulfilling and putting into action what we were mandated to do by the CBCP. Let us give more of ourselves in the coming years! I am positive that under the leadership of our new International Regent, Sis. Lelis Pimentel, we will continue to grow, not only organizationally but also spiritually, socially and culturally.

GO DMII GO! Forward, onward Daughters of Mary Immaculate!

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Pureza M. Guzman'.

PUREZA MONTECLARO GUZMAN
International Regent



The concelebrated Mass by Archbishop Fernando Capalla, Bishop Nereo Odchimar, Fr. Jerome Cruz, Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga and Fr. Isidro Irisari.



The Regional Representatives take their oath of office.



The installation of the Vice-International Regents – Sisters Gloria Caminero for Visayas, Angie Baes for Mindanao and Ruby Macario for Luzon.



Sis. Lelis Pimentel receives the gavel from Fr. Jerome as she assumes office as International Regent.

Macario – Vice-International Regent (VIR) for Luzon and Region V representative (RR), Gloria Caminero – VIR-Visayas and Region X RR, and Angie Baes – VIR-Mindanao and Region XIV RR, Sis. Theresa Curia – International Secretary and Region IV RR, Sis. Elvie Arambulo – International Treasurer and Region VI RR, Regional Representatives Sisters Remedios Agosto – Region I, Virgie Terrado – Region II, Alma Cagampang – Region III, Eufemia Dollentas – Region VII, Zenaida Sto. Tomas, Region VIII, Yolanda Galvez – Region IX, Magdalena Larrazabal – Region XI, Tess Miranda – Region XII and Laura Cespon, Region XIII.

Sis. Lelis in turn inducted the following to appointive positions in the Board: Sis. Myrna Trinidad – International Advocate, International Mission Chairpersons Sisters Cora Afuang for Pro-Life, Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media, Milde Tong for Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Lucina Binoya for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, and Cathy Pineda for Youth Welfare, and Sis. Sally Estrada – DMI Newsette Editor. The 2017-18 SMI coordinators are Sis. Biannah Villanueva for Luzon, Sis. Conchita

Niere for Visayas and Sis. Annie Ty for Mindanao.

In her turn-over speech, Sis. Pureza Guzman who served as International Regent during the remaining period of the late Sis. Rebbie Pacanan's term (2015-16) said that she humbly accepted the responsibility of an IR as a true daughter of Mary Immaculate. She then reported the major accomplishments during the two -year period such as the amendments to the DMII Constitutions and By-laws that the members ratified during the 20th Biennial Convention in Davao City in April, 2016, the turn-over of seven houses donated by the DMII to 'Yolanda' victims (three remain to be built to complete the pledged ten houses), and the sale of the first Mary' House in Pasay City and the acquisition of a new one in Lopez Village in Sucat, Paranaque City that will soon be inaugurated and blessed. She also thanked the 2015-16 International Officers and Board, the International Chairpersons of the DMI missions and the diocesan, vicarial and circle regents all over the country for their full support and cooperation.

Sis. Pureza then turned over to Sis. Lelis the



Sis. Pureza Guzman delivers her turn-over speech.



Sis. Lelis is presented a bouquet of flowers by Sis. Pureza and Fr. Jerome. With them in photo is Cong. Johnny Pimentel, Sis. Lelis's husband.



The acceptance speech by Sis. Lelis.



IRs Sisters Pureza and Lelis and Fr. Jerome with the evening's special guests – Ms. Emilita Alvarez, Cong. Johnny Pimentel and daughter Jana, Bishop Odchimar and Archbishop Capalla.

gavel which symbolizes the authority and attendant responsibilities that she will assume as the new International Regent. She also awarded plaques of appreciation to the outgoing Board and mission chairpersons who served with her.

Before her acceptance speech, Sis. Lelis handed a bouquet of flowers to Sis. Pureza. In accepting the leadership of the DMII during the next two years, she vowed to continue the legacy that her predecessors bequeathed to the organization. She specifically mentioned that she will work hard in pursuing the DMI Missions as mandated by the CBCP which is the organization's reason for being. She called on the DMI sisters to help her in promoting the growth and success of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International by becoming effective evangelizers while accomplishing the DMI missions.

Sis. Lelis then gave out images of the Immaculate Conception, the official image to be used by all the regions during official DMI functions.

It was party time after dinner, an early Christmas



The outgoing Board receives plaques of appreciation from Sis. Pureza.

get-together, the event being the last for the officers and Board for the year.

The program started with Region XIII RR and event host Sis. Laura Cespon welcoming those present followed by the Christmas messages of Archbishop Capalla, Bishop Odchimar and Fr. Jerome.

The evening's guest speaker, Ms. Emilita Alvarez
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The incoming International Officers and Board...



... and DMI Mission Chairpersons, DMI Newsette Editor and International Advocate.



DMII's past and present IRs – Sisters Lyding Ramirez, Pureza Guzman, Lelis Pimentel, Jean Velarde and Myrna Zapanta.



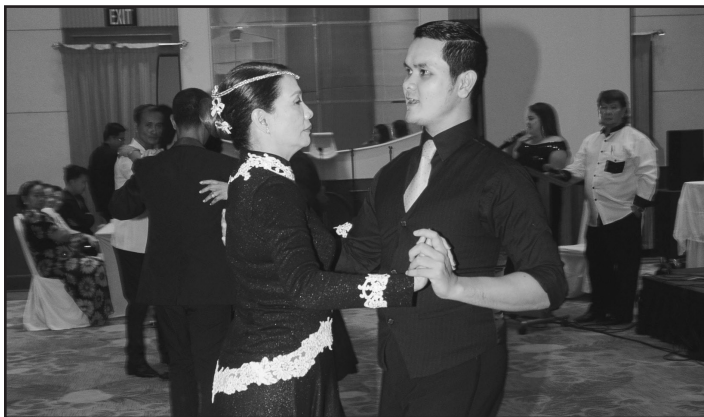
Region XIII RR Sis. Laura Cespon delivers her welcome address. With her is the evening's emcee, Enrico Magbag.



Ms. Emilita Alvarez, guest speaker



Cong. Johnny Pimentel pledges full support to the DMII.



A dance exhibition by Sis. Thess Curia and partner.



Contestants in the dance contest.

was introduced by Sis. Lelis.

Ms. Alvarez said that being invited to the DMI affair is providential as the Congressional Spouses Foundation which she heads is launching a program for the prisons called “prisonpreneur”. The program will teach prisoners livelihood, wellness and other skills for personal development and self-sufficiency. This will give them an opportunity to live a purposeful life when they are set free after serving their prison term. This program of the Foundation is being undertaken jointly with the Department of Justice, Department of Health and the Board of Pardons. Ms. Alvarez has invited the Daughters of Mary Immaculate to provide the spiritual component of the program. Women prisoners at the Correctional Institute of the Philippines in Mandaluyong City will soon be beneficiaries of the program.

Congressman Pimentel also gave an inspirational message assuring the International Regent and the DMI organization of his full support.

The rest of the night turned musical with the Himig Singers serenading the group with beautiful music followed by a ballroom dancing contest and dance



The Stars of the Night, Sisters Lelis and Pureza with Past IRs Sisters Lyding and Jean.

exhibitions. The exchange of Christmas gifts was great fun. Proclaimed DMI Stars of the Night were Sisters Lelis Pimentel and Pureza Guzman. They later donated their cash prize to a fund-raising campaign of the Diocese of Kalibo with Past IR Sis Jean Velarde who received the donation thanking them profusely for their generosity.

THE WOMEN AT THE HELM

CONGRATULATIONS FOR A JOB WELL DONE!



In May, 2016, Sis. Pureza Monteclaro Guzman, Vice-International Regent for the Visayas, took her oath as International Regent to serve the remaining term of Sis. Rebecca C. Pacanan whose untimely passing came less than a month after the 20th DMI Biennial Convention in Davao City.

During the convention, amendments to the DMII Constitution and By-laws were ratified by the members, one of them providing that in the event an incumbent IR is unable to serve a full 2-year term by reason of incapacity or death, the vice-international regent of the area where she came from will replace her. The responsibility fell upon the shoulders of Sis. Pureza who accepted the position with humility.

Sis. Pure serves as IR until December 31, 2016. With her able leadership, the objectives and goals that the DMII Officers and Board set in early 2015 to accomplish during their term have already been achieved and those requiring a longer term have been readied for turn-over to the next Board. Sis. Pure saw to the almost-seamless transition when she took over from Sis.

Rebbie and now bequeaths the DMII leadership to Sis. Lelis. (Please see the International Regent's Message on page 3 for the details.)

Sis. Pure's home circle is the St. Thomas of Villanova Circle of Miagao, Iloilo. She served in various capacities in the DMI Archdiocese of Jaro eventually becoming the Regional Representative of Region IX in 2013-14 and as Vice-International Regent for the Visayas in 2015-16.

In private life, Sis. Pure is married to Executive Judge Francisco Guzman of the Justice Calixto Zaldivar Hall of Justice in San Jose, Antique. They have two children, Erwin and Franceza Marie (+). She holds a Master in Public Administration degree and works as a division chief in the Iloilo Provincial Government. She heads the Social Action Ministry of Miagao Parish.

Sis. Pure pledged to continue extending full support to the DMII Board as a member of DMII's Council of Advisers composed of past International Regents.

The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International congratulates and thanks Sis. Pure for a job well done!

OUR NEW INTERNATIONAL REGENT UP CLOSE



Sis. Rosalinda "Lelis" C. Pimentel will assume the position of International Regent effective January 1, 2017. Installed last December 3, 2016 at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao City, Sis. Lelis will be at the helm of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International until December 31, 2018.

In her acceptance speech during her installation, Sis. Lelis called on all DMI sisters to remain fully committed to the DMI vision and missions and to continue being evangelizers while accomplishing their apostolic work, particularly among the marginalized in their parish communities.

The home circle of Sis. Lelis is the Immaculate Conception Circle of Tandag, Surigao del Sur. She has held various positions in the DMII, as circle regent, diocesan regent and Region XII Representative from 2009 to 2012. At present she is

SMI Coordinator for Mindanao, a position she held since 2013.

Sis. Lelis is married to Congressman Johnny Pimentel of the 2nd District of Surigao del Sur who was a 3-term governor of the province, and they have four children – John Paul, Jana Patricia, Joanna Pauline and John Vincent. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration degree from St. Theresa's College, Cebu City.

Aside from being DMII International Regent, Sis. Lelis is Board Chairman of the Philippine Red Cross, Surigao del Sur Chapter and of Vision 20/20 Eyesight, Surigao del Sur, Co-chairman of the Board of the Provincial Tourism Council and Corporate Board Member of Andres Soriano College, Bislig, Surigao del Sur.

Her latest affiliation is as member of the Congressional Spouses Foundation which she envisions to be a project partner of the DMII in several projects for the DMI Missions.

DMI DIOCESE OF BAGUIO HOSTS REGION I ASSEMBLY

By Sis. Virginia Banta, Regent, St. Joseph the Worker Circle

The nippy December air and sweet smell of pine greeted some 90 delegates to the Regional Assembly of Region I at the Crown Regency Hotel in Baguio City last December 9-10, 2016. Represented were eight circles in Region I headed by Regional Representative Sis. Letty Gano.

The assembly was hosted by the DMI circles in Baguio – Our Lady of Atonement, St. Joseph the Worker and St. Vincent Ferrer Circles.

Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang headed the guests from the International Board including Mission Chairpersons Sisters Edna May Landicho for Morality in Media and Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers.

Rev. Fr. Angelo Mariano, spiritual director of all religious organizations in the Our Lady of Atonement Parish, was the inspirational speaker whose talk centered on the assembly theme “The Holy Eucharist – Life of Every Filipino United with Mama Mary”. He said that understanding the Eucharist is key to the renewal of Catholic family life and ended his talk with the message that the DMIs must be at the forefront in promoting the faith renewal of families, starting with their own. “The family that prays together stays together.”

Sis. Edna May Landicho talked on the program of her mission Morality in Media which she summed up

in the word PACT – Praise everyone who promotes wholesome media and their effects on people’s lives, Attack or make war on bad or immoral media, Consolidate or work closely with organizations that support the DMI campaign for good media and Thrust – organizing assemblies and other venues for media education. She cited various practices that may be undertaken to expand understanding of good media.

For Upliftment of Women Workers, Sis. Juliet Cruz said that the main objective of this DMI mission is to help marginalized women in the community in various ways to address their temporal and spiritual needs as well as those of their families. She underscored the need for sustained assistance from the DMI such as micro-financing for business and self-employment. “Don’t give them fish; teach them how to fish.” she declared. She also stressed that literacy is the basic and best tool for upliftment, thus her suggestion for DMI circles to promote the Alternative Learning System (ALS), an education program of DepEd for out-of-school youth and others in the community.

VIR-Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang in her message talked about the salient provisions of the amended DMI Rules and Regulations ratified by members during the 20th Biennial Convention in April stressing the need to observe closely what the Rules provides as it holds the key to a unified DMI. She also updated the delegates on goings-on in the national organization.

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The DMI sisters of the Diocese of Baguio, assembly hosts, during a meeting with Region I RR Sis. Letty Gano.



Fr. Angelo Mariano, assembly guest speaker



VIR-Luzon Sis. Cora Afuang receives a plaque of appreciation from Our Lady of Atonement Circle Regent Sis. Millet Jaurigue and Sis. Letty Gano.



The DMI Diocese of Baguio officers with guests from the International Board.

A Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Angelo ended the day's session.

The fellowship program after dinner was time for camaraderie and fun as songs, dances and theatrical acts were presented by the circles. Regent Sis. Millet Jaurigue of Our Lady of Atonement Circle, the total entertainer that she is, rendered well-loved songs and was warmly applauded by her audience. Hosts Sisters

Zenaida Cabunilas and Romelda Escano saw to the smooth flow of the program and sustained interest of the assembly delegates.

On Day 2 (December 10), Sis. Florence Reyes of St. Joseph the Worker Circle shared her invention, IODPURE-IQ up iodine concentrate which won a national award. Sales proceeds of the product will be utilized for helping the underprivileged residents in the community.



REGION XII ASSEMBLY HELD IN AGUSAN DEL SUR

The DMI sisters of Agusan del Sur headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Sheila Peji hosted the Region XII Assembly in San Francisco, Agusan del Sur on November 12, 2016.

A total of 351 delegates from the dioceses of Region XII – Butuan City and Agusan del Norte, Tandag City and Surigao del Sur. Surigao City and Surigao del Norte, Gingoog City, Cagayan de Oro City, Bukidnon and the host, Agusan del Sur – attended the assembly.

Gracing the event were members of the International Board headed by International Regent Sis. Pureza Guzman. They were VIR-Mindanao and Region XII Representative Sis. Annie Ty, Mission International Chairpersons Sis. Edna May Landicho of Morality in Media, Sis. Juliet Cruz of Upliftment of Women Workers, and Sis. Cathy Pineda of Youth Welfare, SMI Coordinator for Mindanao Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel and Sis. Josie Halog of the DMI National Office.



Sisters Annie Ty and Pureza Guzman crown the Blessed Mother's image during the enthronement ceremony.

Former Agusan del Sur Governor Valentina Plaza and San Francisco Mayor Jenny de Asis were the special guests.

The assembly opened with the enthronement of the Blessed Mother and the traditional DMI opening



At the presidential table, from left: International Regent Sis. Pureza Guzman, Mayor Jenny de Asis, Region XII Representative Sis. Annie Ty, Upliftment of Women Workers Int'l Chairperson Sis. Juliet Cruz and Morality in Media Chair Sis. Edna May Landicho.



Region XII Assembly delegates



Gov. Valentina Plaza, keynote speaker



Plaques of appreciation awarded to Region XII Assembly Working Committee



In Santa caps during fellowship night: Sisters Josie Halog, Juliet Cruz, Pureza Guzman, Edna May Landicho, Annie Ty and Lelis Pimentel.

ceremony. Mayor de Asis welcomed the assembly delegates to her city.

Governor Plaza as keynote speaker on the theme “Eucharist and the Family in the Jubilee Year of Mercy” exhorted the delegates to keep the unity that binds them in the sisterhood while going about their apostolic work and exploring various opportunities and ways to serve their parish communities and in the process deepening their Catholic faith as well as that of their families.

International Regent Sis. Pureza Guzman, in her inspirational message, challenged the delegates for an even greater commitment to the vision, missions and objectives of the DMII.

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A dance number presented during the fellowship program.

The afternoon session was devoted to activity updates from the International Mission Chairpersons and a regional meeting presided by Sis. Annie Ty who gave pointers on various matters regarding DMI rules and regulations, chairmanship of the missions, and conduct of DMI ceremonies, elections and meetings. She also announced the upcoming installation of the International Officers and Board and diocesan and vicarial regents on Dec. 3, 2016 in Davao City.

Adding color to the day's program were the lively presentations and chorale and dance contest among different circles.

DR Sis. Sheila Peji thanked her Vicarial Regents, Sisters Tessie Aton and Marieta Hinay, Diocesan officers Sisters Carolina Lagat and Cathy Oclarit and the Circle Regents of the diocese for giving their all-out support to ensure the success of their regional assembly.



DIPOLOG CITY VENUE OF REGION XIV ASSEMBLY

The Zamboanga del Norte Convention Center in Dipolog City was the venue of this year's Region XIV Assembly, the region's fourth, last November 19, 2016. Comprising the region are the Diocese of Dipolog, Diocese of Iligan, Archdiocese of Ozamis and Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Basilan.

Some assembly delegates arrived a day earlier and took the opportunity to feel the local ambiance and explore tourist spots in the area, going as far as Rizal Park and Dakak in Dapitan City.

Highlighting the assembly opening was the enthronement and



Bishop Severo Caermora of the Diocese of Dipolog, receives a plaque of appreciation from Sisters Nemie Gurdriel and Angie Baes.

consecration of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Participating in the ceremony were Dipolog Diocesan Regent Sis. Nemie Gurdriel, assembly host who carried the image of the Blessed Mother, Past International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez who crowned her with flowers and Region XIV RR Sis. Angie Baes who carried the Holy Rosary for her hands. The prayer was led by Vicarial Regent Sis. Maritess Uy of the Diocese of Dipolog. Sis. Angie then officially welcomed the delegates.

The first guest speaker, Rev. Fr. Leonilo Dagpin, formator of Cor Jesu Seminary in Dipolog City, talked on the topic “In the Year of Mercy, An Opportunity for Healing in the Family” while the second, Msgr. Mamerto Dolera, pastor of St. Joseph the Worker Parish of Sindangan, talked on “Christian Family, Eucharistic Missionary in the Year of Mercy”. The assembly delegates listened closely to the talks of the speakers as their topics were very relevant to the work they do as they pursue the DMI missions and thrusts.

Most Rev. Severo Caermare, D.D., bishop of the Diocese of Dipolog, was the main celebrant in the Eucharistic celebration.

It was ‘throwback time’ after dinner, when the assembly hosts got busy giving the convention hall the ‘60s and ‘70s look. The delegates themselves prepared for a trip back in time as they donned the ‘retro’ look. Songs of the good, old days further set the mood for a night of fun and happy memories.

The DMI officers did the opening salvo as they danced the waltz with the DIs who led them to the dance



During the enthronement and consecration ceremony, Sis. Nemie carries the image of the Blessed Mother while Past IR Sis. Lyding Ramirez, a crown of flowers for her head and Sis. Angie, a Rosary for her hands.



Guest speaker Fr. Leonilo Dagpin with Sis. Lyding Ramirez and Region XIV officers – RR Sis. Angie Baes and Diocesan Regents Sisters Pinky Saavedra of Zamboanga, Floripes Santos of Iligan, Miriam Angot (also past RR) of Ozamis and Nemie Gurdriel of Dipolog.

floor. There were presentations by circles representing the dioceses, each ending with more dancing – cha-cha, boogie, samba, tango, swing . . . ‘Twas really a night of fun and happy memories! Lucky delegates brought home prizes they won in the raffles.

The evening’s hosts – Sisters Thalma Sorronda, Emma Jalosjos and Bebeth Esparaguera – did an excellent

job at keeping the mood jovial as the delegates danced the night away.

In closing the assembly, Sis. Angie Baes who is the incoming Vice-International Regent for Mindanao thanked the host Diocese for the assembly’s big success and announced that next year’s assembly will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Zamboanga headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra.

VIRGIN MARY'S GROTTO - A DMI LEGACY

The beautiful grotto of the Blessed Virgin Mary that now stands at a special place within the St. Joseph the Worker Church – Pacdal Park is worth the pride of every member of the St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Baguio City.

The grotto, a project of the circle, was initiated by Circle Regent Sis. Virginia “Jean” Banta and was taken up when the circle held its 2016 Planning Session early this year. Sis. Jean, as project director, soon got the project moving after securing approval from Fr. Victor Munar, parish priest and the circle’s chaplain.

Letters of solicitation signed by Fr. Vic and noted by Vicarial Regent Sis. Brigida Cecilia Abratique were then sent out to prospective donors who responded positively with donations both in cash and in kind.

On July 16, 2016, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Fr. Vic led the groundbreaking ceremony, blessing the site where the grotto will be built.

The Circle thanked all the project donors particularly Engr. Romy Aquino who donated a big bulk of the construction materials required by the project. Sis. Jean’s husband, Engr. Rizal Mabanta helped the Circle in the solicitation of donations.

Finally, on September 8, 2016, Mama Mary’s birthday, Fr. Vic inaugurated and blessed the grotto. It was also his 34th sacerdotal anniversary. A big crowd composed of circle officers and members, the donors and sponsors of the project, those who helped in the construction of the grotto and several parishioners attended the event. A sumptuous lunch was later served to those who came.

The Grotto of the Blessed Virgin Mary is now a dominant structure within the park, a proud legacy of the St. Joseph the Worker Circle to the parishioners of the St. Joseph the Worker Parish of Pacdal, Baguio City.



Fr. Vic Munar, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, blesses the grotto during its inauguration and blessing.



The grotto of the Blessed Mary is now a dominant structure at the St. Joseph's Church Park.



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CIRCLE HOLDS 'SALE FOR A CAUSE'

By Sis. Virginia Mabanta, Regent,
St. Joseph the Worker Circle

The St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Pacdal, Baguio City held a ‘sale for a cause’ during four consecutive Sundays, from July 17 to August 7, 2016.

The fund-raising activity was aimed at helping raise funds for the liver transplant of Aleiah, the first grandchild of Vicarial Regent Sis. Brigida Cecilia

“Marlin” Abratique, a member of the circle.

Aleiah, who was born on November 21, 2014, was diagnosed at the age of one month with Biliary Atresia, a condition in which the bile gets stuck in the liver because the bile duct failed to develop when she was

still in her mother's womb. Barely three months old, she was operated on to correct the condition. In June 2016, when she was one-and-a-half years old, doctors at the Philippine General Hospital, based on their prognosis, strongly recommended a liver transplant soonest, the first operation having failed to prevent cirrhosis and her liver is permanently damaged. She remains jaundiced and her abdomen swells. The liver transplant will cost P5 million.

The Circle's sale for a cause will continue to add up to the fund needed for the transplant. During the initial 4-Sunday sale the DMI sisters held, they volunteered to share belongings and services, undeterred by the rains and dumpy weather in Baguio at the time. Sharing in

the determination of the sisters to help were friends and parishioners who donated items brought to the sale site at the St. Joseph's Church garden.

Sis Marlin continues her appeal for help to kind-hearted and generous individuals in the form of cash donation or referral to any organization or foundation which can help facilitate Aleiah's required medical procedure.

Most of all, Aleiah needs our prayers, for us to even storm the heavens for a miracle, so that she may grow up to become a young Squirette of Mary and eventually a devoted Daughter of Mary Immaculate.



The DMI sisters during the 'Sale for a Cause' held at the St. Joseph's Church garden.



Tarpaulin for Aleiah Abratique's cause.

From the Diocese of Imus

News Update from the DIOCESE OF IMUS

Diocesan Conferral Rites Held



The long conferral ceremony for new DMI members of the Diocese of Imus.

The Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of Bacoar City, Cavite headed by Regent Sis. Rony Bambilla had been designated by Diocesan Regent Sis. Emelie Ramos to form the Diocesan Exemplification Team that will conduct the long conferral ceremony for 63 new members of DMI circles of the Diocese.

The new members were divided into two smaller groups who were

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A NEW CIRCLE FOR THE DIOCESE OF IMUS

A new circle at the Centro Pastoral de San Antonio de Padua in Maragondon, Cavite is the latest addition to the DMI circles in the Diocese of Imus.

The initial step was taken by Diocesan Regent Sis. Emelie Ramos and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle on July 10, 2016 when they held an Orientation Session for the ladies of the Centro on the vision, mission, objectives, activities and other basic information regarding the DMII. The recruits responded positively to the DMI's call and an election of officers was held on July 24 with Sis. Leonarda Dipon elected as the circle's charter regent. Fr. Samuel Lubrica, administrator of the Centro, named the circle St. Anthony of Padua Circle.

The Centro Pastoral de San Antonio de Padua used to be part of the Parish of Our Lady of Assumption in Maragondon, Cavite with several barangays and subdivisions comprising it. On June 5, 2012, the St. Anthony of Padua Chapel located in Bucal 2 was declared by Fr. Sharkey Brown, administrator of the Diocese of Imus, as Centro Pastoral de San Antonio de Padua preparatory to making it a quasi-parish and eventually a parish.

Now a quasi-parish, Fr. Lubrica is encouraging the formation of religious organizations to extend religious activities in the eleven chapels in the area prior to its becoming a parish. The DMII has now become a mandated organization in the quasi-parish.

The charter officers of the new circle were installed on Nov. 6, 2016 after a short conferral ceremony. The charter members were then exemplified during a long conferral ceremony on November 12 with Sis. Emelie as head of the exemplification team assisted by Vicarial Regent Sis. Lily Habon. Fr. Lubrica extended his full support to the formation of the DMI circle.



The officers and members of San Antonio de Padua Circle with Fr. Samuel Lubrica, administrator of the Centro.



An Enrichment Program on the Eucharist and the Family

What was originally envisioned as a circle activity of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle eventually became diocese-wide when the circle spearheaded a program on "An Enrichment on the Eucharist and the Family". The activity was held in celebration of the Jubilee of Mercy and Year of the Eucharist and the Family. Sixty-six DMI sisters attended the activity held at the Our Lady of the Pillar Seminary Chapel last Sept. 24, 2016. Diocesan Regent Sis. Emelie Ramos fully

supported the activity.

Vicarial Regent Sis. Zeny Cruzada, the resource speaker, extended the invitation to the other circles in the two vicariates of the Diocese of Imus. The other is headed by VR Sis. Lily Habon.

Sis. Zeny's talk focused on the relationship and the role of the Eucharist in the life of the family. When the family actively participates in

STO. NINO DE MOLINO CIRCLE CONDUCTS SEMINAR ON TEEN SEXUALITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The Morality in Media Committee of Sto. Nino de Molino Circle, Diocese of Imus conducted a seminar on Teen Sexuality and Social Media at the Mother Care School in Bahayang Pag-asa Subd. in Bacoor, Cavite.

The seminar resource speakers were Bro. Virgilio Miguel who talked about the importance of chastity, marriage and sex only for married couples and Sis. Catherine Longcob, a circle member who discussed, aided by a PowerPoint presentation, the serious ill effects of teen-age pregnancy. Pointers on how to safeguard teens from the ill effects of social media were also discussed.

Some 60 participants attended the seminar. One participant, a male student, even turned emotional at one point during the lecture,

relating what he just heard to a personal experience in his family.

In summary, the speakers stressed that teen-age pregnancy has become a societal problem that branches out to other problems. Teen-aged parents have to contend with the pressures of parenthood with its attendant obligations for which they are ill-prepared.



Students of Mother Care School listen intently to seminar resource speaker.

the Eucharist, it celebrates its life of communion with Christ, with one another and with other Christian families, the wider community, the Church which is the body of Christ. The Eucharist as a Sacrament of Presence encourages families to reach out to others and to share Jesus whom they have received. This leads to various Catholic action movements such as the DMI and to apostolic work particularly for those who need help and protection the most – the unborn child, the poor, the elderly and the sick.

At the end of her talk, Sis. Zeny imparted the following message:

“As we end our celebration of the Year of the Eucharist and the Family, let us always strive to unite, renew and live out our faith fully, centering our family life around the Eucharist, a life of humble service to God, family and community. . .”



Participants in the Enrichment Program on the Eucharist and the Family.

Diocesan Officers' Assembly, October 4, 2016

The first-ever Diocesan Officers' Assembly of the Diocese of Imus was held last October 4, 2016 at the SK Hall of the Our Lady of Candelaria Parish in Silang, Cavite attended by officers of circles in the Diocese.

The theme of the event was "Working Together for a More Fruitful DMI". The day's program was conducted like a regular DMI assembly with the attendant enthronement and consecration ceremony for the Blessed Mother, the entrance and exit of colors and the Parade of Circles.

Assembly participants were from the seven circles of the two vicariates in the Diocese: Vicariate of Sto. Nino de Molino headed by Regent Sis. Zeny Cruzada – Sto. Nino de Molino Circle (Sis. Badette Bernardino, Regent) Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle (Sis. Rony Bambilla, Regent), and Nuestra Senora de la Merced (Sis. Amy Flores, Regent). Vicariate of Our Lady of Candelaria headed by Regent Sis. Lily Habon – Our Lady of Candelaria Circle (Sis. Cely Malig, Regent), Immaculate Conception Circle (Sis. Belen Gatdula, Regent), Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle (Sis. Liza Baluyot, Regent) and St. Anthony of Padua Circle (Sis. Leonora Dipon, Regent).

The working session was focused on the objectives of the assembly: to give DMI sisters a deeper and thorough knowledge and understanding about the organization and to guide the circles on how to carry out projects and activities in pursuance of the DMI missions. This was followed by

separate workshops on each of the Five Missions during which group discussions and experiences were shared by the circles' chairpersons and their members. Diocesan officers acted as workshop moderators. The participants also learned how to prepare accomplishment reports to be submitted to the National Office using the prescribed Report Forms.

In addition to achieving the objectives set for the assembly, the occasion also fostered close camaraderie among the DMIs in the Diocese. The success of this first Diocesan Assembly led to a decision to make it an annual activity open to all DMI members, not just circle officers, in the Diocese.



The participants in the 1st Diocesan Assembly of the Diocese of Imus.

Diocesan Conferral... from page 15

exemplified in separate ceremonies, on November 12 and November 26, 2016, to ensure the solemnity of the occasion as well as for the new members to fully understand the significance and meaning of its various parts.

The first group of 33 new sisters was exemplified at the Parish Hall of the Our Lady Queen of Peace Church at Queen's Row, Bacoar on November 12. Composing the group were sisters from Our Lady of

Candelaria Circle in Silang, Cavite and the San Antonio de Padua Circle in Bucal, Maragondon, Cavite. Present during the occasion were Fr. Tem Lumandas, parish priest, DR Sis. Emelie Ramos and Vicarial Regents Sisters Zeny Cruzada and Lily Habon.

The exemplification of the second group of 30 sisters took place at the same venue on November 26. They come from Sto. Nino de Molino Circle of Sto. Nino de Molino Parish, Bahayang Pag-asa, Nuestra

Senora de la Merced Circle of Holy Trinity Parish, San Nicolas and Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, Queen's Row, all in Bacoar City, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle of San Lorenzo Ruiz Pastoral Center, Dasmarinas City.

The new DMI sisters are "additional workers in the Lord's vineyard" who will help promote the DMI vision and missions to their community through their apostolic work.

From the Diocese of Caceres

LITTLE FLOWER CIRCLE SPONSORS FORMATION SEMINAR

The Little Flower Circle of San Antonio de Padua Parish in Iriga City sponsored recently a seminar on “Faith and Spirituality as Armors for Christian Catholic Leadership” at the Parish Formation Center.

Forty-two DMI sisters coming from the six circles in Iriga City attended the activity as part of their formation program. The circles and their respective regents are: Our Lady of Fatima led by Regent Sis. Letty Bance, St. Mary Goretti – Regent Sis. Dalen Vargas, Our Lady of Penafrancia – Sis. Rose Peniabras, Our Lady of Salvacion – Sis. Caring Vargas, Little Flower Circle – Sis. Sol Vargas and Nuestra Senora de las Angustias Circle. Also present were Vicarial Regents

Sisters Evelyn Bernales and Princess Monsalve and Past Regent Sis. Mila Boquiron of Little Flower Circle.

Msgr. Zosimo Sanado, H.P. was the resource speaker. He emphasized

that faith and spirituality must be a way of life of Christian Catholics, particularly the DMI sisters as they go about their work in the DMI Missions.



The participants of the formation program. (Inset) – Msgr. Zosimo Sanado, H.P., resource speaker

From the Diocese of Legaspi

DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY HELD

By Sis. Zenaida Sto. Tomas, Diocesan Regent

For the past three years, since 2013, the DMIs of the Diocese of Legaspi get together every December to hold their diocesan assembly during which outstanding circles in the Diocese are recognized and loyalty awards given to deserving DMI members.

The assembly this year was held at the St. Mary's Academy in Ligao City, Albay attended by some 250 sisters from twelve circles in Albay and Sorsogon. This year's assembly theme was “The DMII : Journeying with Mary Towards the Poor with Mercy and Compassion”.

A Eucharistic celebration was officiated by Rev. Fr. Lagada who was also one of the speakers in the assembly. Diocesan Regent Sis. Femme Abragan and Vicarial Regent Sis. Sol Vargas discussed about circle management and assessment of its activities. Speakers in the past included Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Edith Manila and Alternate Region VIII Representative Sis. Helen Gaité.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas discussed the evaluation and assessment of circles leading to the selection of an Outstanding Circle in the Diocese. The Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle of Malilipot has been named to the Hall of Fame after winning the Outstanding Circle Awards for three consecutive years.

Forty DMI sisters, chosen for the number of years they have remained members in good standing and for having served the DMII in various capacities and their invaluable contribution to the growth of the organization, were recipients of the Loyalty Award.

The assembly ended with a fun-filled Christmas Party featuring dances, songs, games and an exchange of Christmas gifts.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Zeny, Past RR Sis. Rita Samarista and the Diocesan Board planned and managed the successful event.

TOWER OF IVORY CIRCLE FORMS, REACTIVATES DMI CIRCLES

The Tower of Ivory Circle paved the way for the formation of two new circles and reactivation of another in the Diocese of Palo.

The St. Elizabeth Circle of Libertad Parish in Palo, Leyte was formally organized on October 2, 2016 with the exemplification of its charter members and installation of its first set of officers.

Another circle is on its way to receive the DMI charter in Sta. Fe, Leyte. The circle will be named San Isidro de Labrador Circle. The prospective members

of the circle have attended a briefing and orientation . Exemplification of the members and installation of its charter officers will follow very soon.

The St. Remedios Circle of Tolosa, Leyte has already been organized but its members have not yet been given formal DMII orientation; hence, the feeling that they are not full-fledged DMI sisters. The Tower of Ivory Circle initiated a formal orientation session for the circle members recently as part of their formation program.



The officers and members of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Circle of Palo, Leyte.



Briefing and orientation of prospective members of San Isidro Labrador of Sta. Fe, Leyte.



Orientation of members of the St. Remedios Circle of Tolosa, Leyte.