



# DMII NEWSETTE

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## INSTALLATION OF 2019-20 OFFICERS CAPS DMII's RUBY ANNIVERSARY

The installation of the 2019-2020 International Officers and Board of Trustees at the Visayas Hall of Hotel Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila last November 30, 2018 capped the year-long celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> (Ruby) Anniversary of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International.

The Visayas Hall was aglow with the anniversary color as the outgoing and incoming International Officers and Board, diocesan and vicarial regents numbering more than 200, dressed in ruby red gowns started to fill it.

Cocktails were served during the registration of attendees. The enthronement of the image of the Blessed Virgin opened the installation program.

Bishop Nereo Odchimar, apostolic administrator of the Diocese of Tandag, officiated the Eucharistic celebration with DMII Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and Fr. Mario Dorado, OFM Cap, who served as rector of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes for a long time as concelebrants.

In his homily, Bishop Odchimar cited St. Andrew



*Incoming International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario receives the gavel as a symbol of her office from DMII Int'l Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel.*

the Apostle, brother of St. Peter, whose feast day is November 30 and how Jesus called him to fulfill his mission, saying, "Just as the Father sent me, so am I sending you." He also said that Pope Francis calls on the Church to turn outward (extroversion), exhorting both prayer and action.

Special guests who graced the occasion were Sis. Lelies' husband, Cong. Johnny Pimentel of Surigao

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*The incoming International Officers & Board in a group photo with Fr. Jerome and Sis. Lelies.*

# REGION I ASSEMBLY HELD IN CAUAYAN CITY

The Jape Hotel & Resort in Cauayan City, Isabela was the venue of the Region I Assembly held last Sept. 22, 2018 hosted by the Our Lady of Atocha Circle.

International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel led the delegation from the International Board – IVR Luzon & Region V RR Sis. Ruby Macario and International Mission Chairpersons Sisters Cora Afuang of Pro-Life, Milde Tong of Upliftment of Women Workers, Edna May Landicho of Morality in Media, Luz Binoya of Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims and Cathy Pineda of Youth Welfare.

The assembly participants, numbering 133 sisters, represented five circles of the Diocese of Ilagan (Isabela) – the Sto. Nino de Praga, Our Lady of Atocha, Mater Immaculata, Our Lady of La Sallette and Queen of Mercy Circles.

The assembly opened with the traditional enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother's image. Region I RR Sis. Remedios Agosto presented the delegates during the Parade of Circles followed by the welcome remarks of Past International Treasurer & Region I RR Sis. Ofelia



*The International Board with the regents of participating circles during the Parade of Circles.*



*The International Board with Fr. George . . . and with Fr. Bong Lozano, keynote speaker.*



*The International Board with Fr. George . . . and with Fr. Bong Lozano, keynote speaker.*

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## Executive Officers

Sis. Rosalinda C. Pimentel - International Regent  
Sis. Ruby P. Macario - Vice-Int'l Regent - Luzon  
Sis. Gloria C. Caminero - Vice-Int'l Regent - Visayas  
Sis. Angela L. Baes - Vice-Int'l Regent - Mindanao  
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Sis. Catalina Rebecca A. Pineda	Sis. Myrna T. Trinidad
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# Walking With Mama Mary

Dear Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

Walking with Mama Mary these past two years as your International Regent has transformed me. As some of you may know, I was a reluctant International Regent, feeling unworthy of the position because I felt there are others who have served the DMII much longer than I who deserved it more.

At my installation as International Regent, I accepted the gavel with trepidation and excitement. Trepidation because of a lingering question: who was I to take on such a gargantuan task of leading the organization on its 40th anniversary? I was nobody.

But then, as I looked to Mama Mary for succor, she, at 14, was a nobody, with no skills except her willingness to do God's will. And she accepted the assignment and lent her womb to the Creator, and mankind's history was changed forever. Thus Mary's courage and faith in God inspired me to say "Yes".

Apart from trepidation, I was also filled with excitement because I knew it meant I would journey more closely with Mama Mary. From the time I began walking with her, Mama Mary has been full of surprises. She has been dependable in her responses to my prayers, pleas and petitions, and generous with her blessings to me and my loved ones.

I wondered where this journey would lead me. It led me to our fourteen regions in the Philippines and to our circles abroad, giving me an appreciation of the diversity of our cultures, the relevance of our missions today and the urgent need for unity in Jesus which I believe can be achieved through Mama Mary.

I had to promote the virtues of friendship, unity, humility, charity and sanctity which we espouse as Daughters of Mary. In the process, I was challenged to walk the talk more closely and I was transformed.

In going around the regions, my task was to inspire our sisters and embolden their faith. The truth is, I ended up being inspired by all of you. You have fanned the flames of my faith so that it is now burning brightly. By your shining examples, you have taught me service beyond self and I am truly humbled and exceedingly grateful.

This year alone, I have traveled five times to various locations abroad where I saw the opportunities for creating circles in the United States, Europe and parts of Asia. With that purpose in mind, I established the International Affairs Committee so that we can propagate the DMII abroad. I hope this committee will be able to organize an assembly of Daughters of Mary in the US.

Closer to home, I also had the opportunity to be a homemaker like Mama Mary during her lifetime. I had the honor of signing for the purchase of DMI's new home in Lopez Village, Paranaque. While negotiations began before my term, the deal was concluded after I became IR. The house is our headquarters now and I have put systems in place to standardize and professionalize our operations. With those systems in place, we will be ready for that hoped-for big target in our numbers.

I can say unequivocally that these past two years have led me to a deeper relationship with Mama Mary, and ultimately with our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the centuries, Mama Mary's message to us is one and the same: "Do as He tells you."

Will we be able to hear Him? From my own experience, I know it's possible with Mama Mary who has shown me the way to Jesus' own heart.

Let me end by saying that I am filled with gratitude for having had the opportunities to walk with Mama Mary and serve as your International Regent. I am thankful to all of you who have helped me and provided inspirations that ignited my fervor and kept me going. Most of all, I am profoundly grateful to Mama Mary for walking with me, being my mother like no other and leading me closer than ever to Jesus.

Yours in Christ through Mary,

**ROSALINDA C. PIMENTEL**  
International Regent

## *Installation of Officers... from page 1*



*DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel are assisted by the Committee on Ceremonials carry the Blessed Mother to the altar during the enthronement ceremony.*

del Sur and their children, and Ms. Emilita Apostol Alvarez of the Congressional Spouses Foundation. Past International Regents Sisters Myrna Zapanta Jean Velarde, Lyding Ramirez and Mila Villanueva were also present.

The installation ceremonies with Fr. Jerome Cruz as installing officer was held after dinner. Installed were the 2019-20 International Officers led by Sis. Ruby Macario as International Regent and Board of Trustees consisting of the Regional Representatives, International Mission Chairpersons and area Mission coordinators, heads of special committees, the International Advocate, the Newsette Editor, and the diocesan and vicarial Regents. (Please refer to the list of those who were inducted on page 7.)

The outgoing officers and Board were given token



*Fr. Jerome and Past IRs Sisters Myrna Zapanta, Lyding Ramirez, Jean Velarde and Mila Villanueva and Sisters Ruby Macario and Lelies Pimentel, incoming and outgoing IRs, respectively, on the stage during the enthronement while Int'l Treasurer and Region VI RR Sis. Elvie Arambulo (at rostrum) leads the DMI Prayer*

gifts by Fr. Jerome and Sis. Lelies in appreciation of their invaluable service during the past term.

Ms. Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel, noted musical composer and lyricist and wife and mother, respectively, of two Senate Presidents, Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel and Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel, Jr., was the evening's guest speaker. Ms. Pimentel's topic was "Mary and Me". She related her devotion to the Blessed Mother all her life – as a student of Xavier University where she met her husband and even earlier and how she and her family had been generously blessed with scholarships for her children and their other needs while her husband was in jail during Martial Law. As a couple, Senator Nene and Ms. Bing are the moving spirit behind the Pasa-LORD Movement which propagates Prayer for Peace in the Philippines.



*The Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Jerome Cruz, Bishop Nereo Odchimar and Fr. Mario Dorado, OFM Cap.*



*Dinner at the Visayas Hall of Hotel Sofitel*





*The outgoing officers and Board are presented token gifts as keepsakes.*



*Fr. Jerome as installing officer*



*The installation of Vicarial Regents*



*... Diocesan Regents*



*... Chairpersons of special committees*



*... International Mission Chairpersons and Area Mission Coordinators*



*... International Auditors for Membership and Financial, International Advocate and DMI Newsette Editor*



*... Regional Representatives*



*... International Vice-Regents, Sisters Milde Tong for Luzon, Yolly Dagandan for Visayas and Tess Miranda for Mindanao*



*... and International Regent Sis. Ruby Macario*

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## *Installation of Officers... from page 5*



*Ms. Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel, guest speaker.*

*The Turn-over Ceremony. Sis. Lelies . . . and Sis. Ruby Macario, her delivers her valedictory speech . . . acceptance speech.*

In her turn-over speech, Sis. Lelies thanked all the DMI sisters for their support during her term, saying that they served as her inspiration while "walking with Mary" in her journey. (Please turn to page 3 for the rest of her message.)

Incoming IR Sis. Ruby Macario in her acceptance speech laid out her plans during her term which include spiritual formation, quality membership and relevance to the present and future of the DMII.

The night turned musical after the installation rites with guest singers – The Camerata of Barasoain Church who also sang during the Mass, Jericho Labilles and Mona Chillette Martinez entertaining the guests with Philippine folk and Broadway songs.

The outgoing International Officers and Board and selected sisters from the Risen Christ Circle performed dance numbers that later brought the DMI sisters to the dance floor for ballroom dancing which lasted till almost midnight.



*Sis. Lelies Pimentel and special guests Cong. Johnny Pimentel and their children*



*Ms. Bing Pimentel and special guest Ms. Emelita Apostol Alvarez*



*The outgoing Board in a surprise dance number.*

# DMII OFFICERS 2019-2020

**Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz** International Chaplain

**Sis. Ruby Macario** International Regent

**Sis. Brigida Cecilia Abratique**  
REGION I Representative  
and International Secretary

**Sis. Hilaria P. Hipolito**  
REGION II Representative

**Sis. Joan Mary L. Dizon**  
REGION III Representative

**Sis. Aida Y. dela Cruz**  
REGION IV Representative

**Sis. Ma. Clotilde R. Tong**  
REGION V Representative  
and Int'l. Vice Regent - Luzon

**Sis. Isabel S. Ticzon**  
REGION VI Representative  
and International Treasurer

**Sis. Eufelia A. Dollentas**  
REGION VII Representative

**Sis. Zenaida A. Sto. Tomas**  
REGION VIII Representative

**Sis. Emma M. Victoria**  
REGION IX Representative

**Sis. Asuncion B. Naraga**  
REGION X Representative

**Sis. Yolanda U. Dagandan**  
REGION XI Representative  
and Int'l. Vice Regent - Visayas

**Sis. Teresita M. Miranda**  
REGION XII Representative  
and Int'l. Vice Regent - Mindanao

**Sis. Lucina A. Binoya**  
REGION XIII Representative

**Sis. Nemie Gurdriel**  
REGION XIV Representative

Sis. Juliet Cruz International Auditor - Membership  
Sis. Lydia Ordonez International Auditor - Financial

Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya International Advocate  
Sis. Sally Estrada Newsette Editor

## MISSIONS

Sis. Cora Afuang Prolife Mission Chairperson  
Sis. Sylvia San Pedro Coordinator - Luzon  
Sis. Conchita Esperas Coordinator - Visayas  
Sis. Angela Baes Coordinator - Mindanao

Sis. Solema Eugenio Upliftment of Women Workers  
Mission Chairperson  
Sis. Lorie Manalansan Coordinator - Luzon  
Sis. Nida Catubao Coordinator - Visayas  
Sis. Shirley Corvera Coordinator - Mindanao

Sis. Biannah Villanueva Youth Welfare/SMI Mission Chairperson  
Sis. Evelyn Alcantara Coordinator - Luzon  
Sis. Melissa Manulat Coordinator - Visayas  
Sis. Annie Ty Coordinator - Mindanao

Sis. Laura Cespon Prisoners' Families/Victims  
Mission Chairperson  
Sis. Lydia Ordonez Coordinator - Luzon  
Sis. Gloria Caminero Coordinator - Visayas  
Sis. Miriam Angot Coordinator - Mindanao

Sis. Cathy Pineda Morality in Media Mission Chairperson  
Sis. Helen Balmores Coordinator - Luzon  
Sis. Igmedia Balagaso Coordinator - Visayas  
Sis. Sheila Peji Coordinator - Mindanao

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Sis. Mila Villanueva Asst. Chairperson - Foreign Membership  
Sis. Emelie Ramos Asst. Chairperson - Local Membership  
Sis. Edna May Landicho Chairperson - Formation and Pilgrimage  
Sis. Rose Enriquez Chairperson - Formation and Pilgrimage  
Sis. Elizabeth Bongon Chairperson - Ceremonials  
Sis. Ludy Lim Asst. Chairperson - Ceremonials

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Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel  
Sis. Mila Villanueva  
Sis. Pureza Guzman

## OFFICE SECRETARY

Sis. Josie Halog

# REGION V ASSEMBLY HELD SEPT. 30



Some 450 delegates from the eight dioceses comprising Region V packed the function hall of the Icon Hotel-Timog in Quezon City last Sept. 30 for their 2018 Regional Assembly with the theme “Embracing the Life of Humble Service and Credible Witnessing to Jesus thru Mary”.

Promptly at 8 a.m., the entronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary started the opening ceremony followed by the entrance of colors and its attendant rites and the Parade of Circles. Carrying their circle banners were the circle regents in the dioceses of Region V – the Dioceses of Antipolo, Cubao , Imus, Kalookan, Manila, Novaliches, Paranaque, Pasig and the Prelature of Puerto Princesa – Palawan – totalling 55 circles. Specially cited for having the most number of delegates was the Our Lady Queen of Peace Circle of the Diocese of Imus with 27 sisters in attendance.

*The image of the Blessed Mother is taken to the altar on her andas during the entronement ceremony.*



*Diocese of Antipolo*



*Diocese of Imus*



*Diocese of Kalookan*



*Diocese of Manila*



A concelebrated Mass by Rev. Fr. Henry Ferreras, pastor of Our Lady of Fatima Parish and Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz, DMII international chaplain, came next.

Fr. Ferreras also keyed the assembly via his homily. Serving as chaplain of the Philippine Orthopedic Hospital prior to his present assignment, he said that cases of amputation are commonplace in this hospital. Amputation is cutting a part of the body to remove pain or to prevent the spread of the cause of one's illness. Relating it to the day's Gospel, the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, he said that the parts of one's body must be used to glorify God – the hand to hold on to Him rather than amassing wealth and grabbing power, the foot to direct one to God instead of marching off in numerous directions, the eyes to focus on God rather than being distracted by the many attractions of this world. He then posed these questions: "Do you see God? What is your motivation to become DMI members? What are the benefits you derive from being a member – the accompanying prestige and honor? The inter-connectivity? Are you a weak link or the source of strength of your organization?"

A strong organization, according to Fr. Ferreras, must provide good leadership, servant-leaders who can inspire good teamwork and shared values. It should have the ability to make a difference. It must also provide personal growth where members are accepted and supported and gets affirmation. It must be able to draw the support and cooperation of members who will work together at community-making in spite of diverse backgrounds. "Effective communication is key to achieve all these," he concluded.

Fr. Jerome Cruz, in his brief message after the Mass, thanked Fr. Ferreras and welcomed Msgr. Albert Sanchez, pastor of San Pedro Parish and DMI chaplain of the Vicariate of Puerto Princesa who just arrived from Palawan. He also exhorted the DMIs to be instruments of God's graces and blessings to the community.

International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel in her inspirational message called on the DMIs, 12,000-strong in the whole country, to answer the calling of Christ immediately. "Are you proud to be a DMI member?" she asked. "If you are, embrace the life of humility

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*Diocese of Novaliches*



*Diocese of Parañaque*



*Diocese of Pasig*



*Prelature of Puerto Princesa*



*The Eucharistic celebration by DMI Int'l Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz and keynote speaker Fr. Henry Ferreras*



*Assembly delegates listen to Fr. Henry Ferreras' keynote address.*



*Msgr. Albert Sanchez, DMI chaplain of the Vicariate of Palawan*



*The International Officers and Board present during the Assembly. Seated from left: Sisters Cathy Pineda, Edna May Landicho, Tess Miranda, Cora Afuang, Luz Binoya, Sally Estrada and Lydia Ordonez. Standing: Sisters Helen de Leon, Lelies Pimentel, Milde Tong, Mila Villanueva and Ruby Macario*

and service not only to the DMI but to everyone. Be credible witnesses to Jesus through Mary.”

Citing a book written by Francis Fernandez, “The Day that Changed My Life” (he is author of the best-selling 7-volume series “Conversations with God”) she urged the DMI sisters to answer the Lord’s call immediately, not to let the opportunity pass for He knocks only once.

A birthday cake was presented to Fr. Jerome Cruz whose birthday is Sept. 30. He blew the candle as the delegates sang “Happy Birthday”.

Ms. Auie Anatolio, community engagement officer of Akaba Design Co., was the morning’s guest speaker. She is a Gawad Kalinga volunteer and belongs to the GK’s School of Social Entrepreneurship which advocates business with a purpose and loving the poor.

Akaba is a four-year-old enterprise that promotes the use of indigenous woven materials for various articles such as bags, clothing apparel and other items. Akaba now serves ten communities in various parts

of the country and aims to assist more to add value to locally-made products and raise the income of workers such as weavers and sewers. It provides technical assistance, product design and link to consumers (product marketing).

In her present work which she finds fully satisfying, Auie who is still quite young, has gained the following experiential learnings:

1. Poverty is relative.
2. Doing good makes good business sense.
3. Mothers are the best managers.
4. Hard work is not enough; integrity is everything.
5. Starting a social enterprise is hard but praying without ceasing really helps. “Faith moves mountains.”

At lunchtime, the Diocese of Imus presented an intermission number followed by dancing by several energetic delegates to the music of Ramon Elorta, a one-man band. A video-taped message by Vice-President



*International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel gives her inspirational message.*



*Fr. Jerome blows the candle on his birthday cake.*



*Miss Auie Anatolio, the morning session guest speaker.*



*Rev. Fr. Mario Dorado carries a relic of St. Padre Pio for the delegates' veneration. Atty. Bong Suntay, guest speaker.*



Leni Robredo was also flashed on the giant screen to the delight of the DMI sisters.

Rev. Fr. Mario Dorado, OFM Cap, of the St. Francis Church who served as pastor of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in Quezon City and mission work for some years in New Zealand, was the first speaker during the afternoon session. Fr. Dorado talked about St. Padre Pio, a canonized Capuchin priest, and his miracles of healing the sick during his life on earth and even beyond. He brought a relic of the saint, a glove used to cover the hand of St. Padre Pio where wounds appeared (called stigmata) in his hands and feet right on the spots where nails pierced Christ's during Crucifixion. Fr. Dorado took out the relic for the delegates' veneration. He also announced that the uncorrupted heart of the saint will arrive in the Philippines and be brought to his National Shrine in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. September 23 is his feast day.

Atty. Jesus Manuel "Bong" Suntay was the next speaker. He served for four terms as councilor of the 4<sup>th</sup> district of Quezon City and is now a board member of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office. He has put up several successful businesses including one of

the largest taxi companies in the country. He related a family tragedy that caused him and his family untold pain. He told his audience about the importance of constant communication and that family must come first.

Separate workshops on the 5 DMI Missions were held in various areas of the hotel. The workshops accomplished the objectives of the exercise, namely to have a sharing among the participants of their various experiences in the implementation of the DMI Mission thrusts. Likewise, there was an agreement as to the commitments and action plans to be undertaken for the remainder of the year and the coming years.

The workshops were facilitated by the following International Mission Chairpersons:

Prolife – Sis. Cora Afuang, Morality in Media – Sis. Edna May Landicho, Upliftment of Women Workers – Sis. Milde Tong, Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims – Sis. Lydia Ordonez (in lieu of Sis. Luz Binoya) and Youth Welfare (Squirettes of Mary) - Sis. Cathy Pineda.

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# REGION X ASSEMBLY SKED CHANGED DUE TO TYPHOON 'OMPONG'



*Enthronement of the image of the Blessed Mother by Region XII RR Sis. Tess Miranda representing IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel and IVR-Visayas Sis. Glo Caminero.*

The Regional Assembly of Region X was originally scheduled last Sept. 15, 2018 but was postponed to Sept. 22 due to Typhoon 'Ompong'. Hosted by the Diocese of Tagbilaran, it was held at the Le Eng VIP Hall of the Bohol Tropics Resort in Tagbilaran City.

Despite the unfavorable weather conditions still prevailing at the time, fifty DMI sisters came from the Archdiocese of Cebu led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Conchita Niere, the Diocese of Dumaguete led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Rosalia Sienes and the Dioceses of Tagbilaran and Talibon led by Diocesan Regents Sisters Lilia Quibel and Mary Annie Jabines, respectively.

International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel who had



*Rev. Fr. Ager Pana, chancellor of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, Mass presider and keynote speaker, Pimentel's message to the assembly receives a plaque of appreciation from Sisters Tess Miranda and Glo Caminero*

*By Sis. Asuncion Naraga, Diocesan Regent, Diocese of Tagbilaran*

to attend another regional assembly in Luzon sent as her representative Sis. Tess Miranda, Region XII RR and incoming International Vice-Regent for Mindanao who read her message to the assembly delegates.

Diocesan Chancellor of the Diocese of Tagbilaran, Rev. Fr. Agerio Pana took the place of Bishop Alberto Uy of the Diocese of Tagbilaran as Mass presider and assembly keynote speaker. Bishop Uy, because of the change of date, was not able to attend due to a prior commitment in Manila. The delegates were thankful to Fr. Ager for accepting DMI's invitation despite his very heavy schedule. (He had to sail to Cebu City that afternoon to catch his flight to Malaysia to attend the Divine Mercy Asian Conference.)

With the theme "Living Mary's LOVE, COMPASSION and CARE through DMII's Presence and Mission . . . 40 Years and Beyond", Fr. Ager said that feeling compassion and mercy is not enough. He pointed out that DMIs must give and live in action the assembly theme. With his characteristic humor that made his message truly interesting, he gave two important points to ponder and reflect upon : GRACE and MERCY.

1. GRACE is enjoying the gifts we do not deserve;
2. MERCY is being spared from the punishment we deserve.

Enjoying continually the many blessings of God and



*A plaque of appreciation is awarded to Sis. Tess by Sisters Glo Caminero and Sionee Naraga.*





*Presentation of Workshop Output report*

the many gifts He offers to us everyday that we are not worthy to receive in the eyes of God – this is Grace. Being not able to receive the punishments we deserve because of our sins – this is Mercy. God’s Charity is Mercy. Additionally, he defined Compassion as the ability to suffer with and have a heart for the poor. We can keep the spirit of Mercy, Compassion and Care always alive in our hearts and in our lives by finding the need to do something, something one has not done before (mercy), need someone to love (love of God, of family, of neighbors (care), need someone to believe in God, a God that can sustain, uplift (faith), need someone to hope for (hope for God’s mercy and compassion despite adversities and challenges confronting us).

The day’s program consisted of workshops on the Five DMI Missions the outputs of which were documented to be used as guides for the circles’ future projects, a discussion on Parliamentary Rules and Procedures in conducting meetings by Atty. Adeline Glovaza, a report on the Region’s accomplishments by IVR-Visayas and Region X Representative Sis. Glo Caminero which includes the Members’ Welfare Fund by the Dioceses of Tagbilaran and Talibon and an open forum.

The much-awaited Fellowship Night came next during which a mass installation of the incoming Regional, Diocesan, Vicarial and Circle officers took place. Dance presentations by the DMI sisters from Dumaguete and Tagbilaran added color to the affair. Ballroom dancing led by “dancing queens”, Sisters Tess Miranda and Glo Caminero capped the Fellowship Night.



*Installation of regional officers by IVR-Visayas Sis. Glo Caminero*



*Installation of diocesan and circle officers by Sis. Tess Miranda*



*Dance presentations by the Holy Rosary Circle and the Diocese of Dumaguete*

# DIOCESE OF MALAYBALAY HOSTS REGION XII ASSEMBLY



*The 700 delegates to the Region XII Assembly are welcomed by the host committee headed by Sis. Lota Gamboa.*

"*DMII Embracing a Life of Humble Service and Credible Witnessing to Jesus through Mary*" served as the theme of the Region XII Assembly held at the Folk Arts Theatre, Kaamulan Grounds, Malaybalay City last Nov. 9 to 11, 2018. It was a well-appointed venue for the assembly with the natural greenery surrounding it a testimony of God's beautiful creation, a tapestry that provided a very cozy and breezy ambiance.



*IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel carries the image of the Blessed Mother . . .*



*. . . while Sisters Annie Ty, Mindanao SMI coordinator and Tess Miranda, Region XII Representative, carry the flowers during the enthronement ceremony.*



*The Parade of Circles*



*Region XII officers with IR Sis. Lelies on stage during the enthronement ceremony.*

*By Sis. Sheilah Peji,  
Region XII Newsette Correspondent and  
Sis. Sol Simbulan,  
Diocese of Malaybalay News Contributor*

A group from the International Board led by International Regent Sis. Lelies Pimentel graced the occasion to provide inspiration and report on the DMI Missions and thrusts.

More than 700 delegates from the Dioceses of Agusan del Sur, Butuan, Cagayan de Oro, Gingoog, Surigao City, Surigao Sur, Tandag and Bukidnon comprising Region XII participated actively during the day's session, listening to the day's speakers and discussing relevant issues pertaining to the DMI missions and thrusts with the assistance of the Mission Chairpersons during the break-out workshops in the afternoon.

The enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Mother signaled the start of the assembly opening ceremony followed by a Concelebrated Mass

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# ARCHDIOCESE OF DAVAO HAS NEW DMI CIRCLE

*By Sis. Evelina C. Ramos, Vicarial Regent*

A new circle received its DMI charter last Oct. 28, 2018 at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish Social Hall. The new circle has been named Sacred Heart of Jesus Circle of Obrero, Davao City.

The twenty-five aspiring recruits who will compose the circle's charter members were given an orientation by a team from the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle in September, 2018. On Oct. 28, they were exemplified by the Exemplification

Team of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Vicarial Regent Sis. Evelina Ramos headed the team. The installation of its charter officers followed. Region XIII Representative Sis. Laura Cespon led the installation of officers.

Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Gonzaga, DMII Archdiocesan spiritual chaplain and pastor of the Sacred Heart Parish blessed the officers of the new circle and warmly welcomed its charter members.



*A group photo of DMI sisters of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel and Sacred Heart of Jesus Circles.*



*The exemplification rites in progress.*

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## *Diocese of Malaybalay... from page 14*

by Bishop Jose Cabantan of the Diocese of Malaybalay and Rev. Fr. Noel Pedregosa, cathedral rector.

The search for Mrs. Regional DMI 2018, the intermission numbers, the choir and the Cultural Night contests and the door prizes for the raffle draws added to the fun and excitement of the delegates. The Diocese

of Surigao emerged as winner in the major contests – the Mrs. Regional DMI 2018 and the cultural dance contest.

Assembly host, the Diocese of Malaybalay headed by Sis. Lota Gamboa, alternate Region XII RR, and Sis. Hermina Ke-e, diocesan regent was specially cited by Region XII RR Sis. Tess Miranda for a well-managed and successful regional assembly.



*The coronation of Mrs. Regional DMI 2018*



*Contestants in the cultural dance contest during Fellowship Night.*



## BAGUIO DMIs EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO 'OMPONG' VICTIMS

*By Sis. Marlin Abratique,  
Region I Correspondent*

While a number of our DMI sisters from the four circles of Baguio themselves suffered property damages wrought by Typhoon 'Ompong', they realized that less fortunate families needed immediate help more than them.

From amounts collected during the recently-concluded Regional Assembly, school items were purchased individually by the circles and added to the donation of school supplies from private individuals. The DMI donations were turned over to Fr. Manny Flores, head of the Social Action Commission of the Diocese. The turn-over was done by Diocesan Regent Sis. Marlin Abratique, Vicarial Regent Sis. Fe Bohol together with the representatives of the circles – Sis. Millette Jaurigue of Our Lady of Atonement Circle, Sis. Cely Dontogan of St. Joseph and Sis. Rollyn Abalos of St. Vincent Ferrer.

The donations consisted of school supplies such as crayons, pad paper, notebooks, pens and pencils intended to replace those lost by the school children of

Kabayan, Benquet. Fr. Manny expressed his gratitude and appreciation for the ever-reliable support being given by the DMII in the programs and activities of the Diocese.



*Representatives of DMII-Baguio with Fr. Manny Flores during the turn-over of donations.*

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### *Region I Assembly held... from page 2*

Lucas and the opening statement by Past IVR-Luzon and Region I RR Sis. Mila Paguila.

The Eucharistic celebration held at the Immaculate Conception Parish Church was officiated by Fr. George Quilong Quilong, DMI Region I spiritual adviser.

Fr. Bong Lozano, parish priest of San Mariano, Isabela keyed the assembly. The International Mission chairpersons provided updates on their respective missions while Sis. Ruby Macario discussed the Issues and Concerns of the DMII.

IR Sis. Lelies Pimentel during the International Regent's Time gave updates on goings-on in the International Board and exhorted the delegates to be true daughters of Mary by upholding and practicing the DMI virtues at all times.

A Fellowship Night capped the day's program with the circles presenting dance numbers that provided a fitting close to the day's activity.



*The Region I Assembly delegates.*



*The dance numbers presented by the circles.*



## MEDIA SYMPOSIUM HELD

The San Jose Circle of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija sponsored a Seminar on Bullying, a project of the circle's Morality in Media Committee last July 7, 2018. Twenty-seven selected participants from the different circles in the Diocese of San Jose (Guimba, Licab, Lupao, Rizal and San Jose City) attended the seminar who will in turn re-echo the learnings they gained to their respective circle members.

The seminar resource person was Ms. Marvelyn Antipolo, a high school guidance counselor of Porais School in San Jose City. The salient features of RA 10627,

the Anti-Bullying Act of 2013 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations were thoroughly discussed. Bullying was defined to include cyberbullying, social bullying and gender-based bullying. The lecture also included the prohibited acts under the law.

An open forum followed the lecture, the seminar participants posing questions that the lecturer answered to their satisfaction. Ms. Antipolo left hand-outs of the lecture for distribution to the circle regents. - Sis. Carmelita Dupingay



*Seminar resource speaker Ms. Marvelyn Antipolo watches a role-play being performed by a group of participants.*



*The officers of San Jose Circle with Rev. Fr. Rufo Ramil Cruz, DMI spiritual director.*

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### *Region V Assembly... from page 11*

During the plenary session that followed, the Mission Chairpersons reported the following workshop outputs:

**Helps** – Support and cooperation coming from the members as well as the LGUs and the parish priest.

**Hindrances** – The lack of funds and the lukewarm response of members.

**Action Plans** – To enlist the support and cooperation of the members by proper planning and motivation. Continue with the proper liaison with LGUs to enlist their financial support.

In her closing remarks, IVR-Luzon Sis. Ruby Macario thanked the delegates and the working committees for another highly successful Region V Assembly.



*The delegates' plenary session after the mission workshops.*



*The closing remarks by IVR-Luzon & Region V RRR Sis. Ruby Macario.*

## EXEMPLIFICATION HELD

*By Sis. Leonora P. Guzman, Diocesan Regent*

The St. Raphael the Archangel Circle of San Rafael, Tarlac City hosted the exemplification rites for new DMI recruits from various circles of the Diocese of Tarlac last August 11, 2018.

It was during the Diocesan Officers and Circle Regents' meeting earlier in July that the activity was conceptualized, upon the Diocesan Regent's suggestion for the circles to invite new members and infuse the DMI circles with new blood.

A total of 25 recruits answered the DMII's call and were exemplified: La Purisima Circle of Concepcion, Tarlac – 10, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary Circle of Camiling, Tarlac – 6, Our Lady of Ransom II Circle of Matatalaib, Tarlac City -5, St. Raphael the Archangel Circle – 2, San Sebastian Circle of San Sebastian, Tarlac City – 1 and San Lorenzo Ruiz Circle of Fairlane Subd, Tarlac City – 1.

The Exemplifying Team came from the St. Raphael the Archangel Circle. The special guests during the activity were Rev. Fr. Claro Lacson, parish priest, Past

Region III RR Sis. Amy Castaneda,, vicarial regents and circle regents. DR Sis. Leonora Guzman thanked the circles who responded positively to her call for new members and encouraged the other circles to do the same. "Let this be a continuing activity," she said. Over a period of time, their efforts will result in DMII being a bigger and stronger organization.



*The new DMI recruits stand in formation during the exemplification ceremony.*



## INA NG GRASYA NG DIYOS CIRCLE CONDUCTS OPERATION FREE EYE CHECK-UP

*By Sis. Mely de la Pena, Vicarial Regent*

The Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle of the Our Lady of Fatima Parish in Marilao, Bulacan conducted free eye check-up for indigent parishioners, mostly senior citizens, during the months of July up to September, 2018.

Spearheaded by Sis. Luz Yuan, the circle's Pro-Life Mission chair, Dr. Mark Anthony Germarino, an ophthalmologist of the St. Michael Family Hospital in Marilao, offered his services for free. The services consisted of complete eye check-up, cataract operation, removal of Pterygium (surfer's eye) or *pugita* and other eye diseases. Eighteen senior citizens availed of the free services.

Prior to the project launching, an information



*An eye check-up is being performed on a patient.*

*turn to page 17*

## **DIOCESE OF SAN PABLO HONORS DMI SISTERS AGED 80 YEARS AND ABOVE**

*By Sis. Fortunata Aquino,  
Region VI Correspondent*

**T**he Vicariate of St. Paul the First Hermit hosted the Region VI Christmas Party and a Day to Remember DMI Sisters Aged 80 Years and Above last December 2, 2018 at the Palmeras Garden & Restaurant in San Pablo City.

There were 70 honorees, the oldest being Sis. Erlinda Marilim, 93 years old from the St. Paul the First Hermit Circle. The honorees were given certificates of recognition and roses.

Diocesan Regent Sis. Isabel Ticzon warmly welcomed the DMI sisters and guests. It was well-attended with 214 members and 55 of the 70 honorees. The Vicariate of St. Paul the First Hermit had 62 attendees and 34 honorees, the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist – 34 attendees and 18 honorees, Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua – 67 attendees and 12 honorees, and Vicariate of St. Polycarp – 51 attendees and 6 honorees. Everybody came in attires with a touch of red, except

Sis. Medarda Aquino of Our Lady of the Pillar Circle who donned the DMI uniform and was praised for her loyalty to the DMII.

Certificates of Recognition were awarded to Vicarial Regents Sisters Iluminada Lagunda of San Antonio de Padua, Teresita Banzon of St. John the Baptist and Fe Aquino of St. Polycarp for their commitment and leadership in supervising their circles in their respective vicariates. Diocesan Regent Sis. Isabel Ticzon and Region VI Representative & International Treasurer Sis. Elvie Arambulo were likewise given Plaques of Recognition for providing able leadership and exemplary performance in their respective functions in pursuing the DMI missions and thrusts.

Sis. Elvie gave an inspirational message while DMI Diocesan chaplain Fr. Francis Fadul Adefun, his spiritual message. Special dance numbers were presented by the circles and raffle prizes were given out. A sumptuous dinner ended the fun-filled event.



*The honorees who graced the event.*



*A dance presentation added color to the occasion.*

oOo

### ***Ina ng Grasya... from page 18***

campaign was held consisting of parish announcements during Masses, tarpaulin streamers and word of mouth. Patients were evaluated prior to the check-up. One patient underwent cataract operation, three for removal of pterygium and the rest for continuous eye check-up.

The circle members led by Regent Sis. Eva Bautista, Sisters Luz Yuan and Lourdes Alcantara and

Past VR Sis. Mila Reyes accompanied the patients to the hospital.

In recognition of Dr. Germarino's services for free and invaluable support of the circle's project, he was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation during the installation of the Circle's 2019 officers held on Nov. 24 at the Our Lady of Fatima Multi-Purpose Hall. Dr. Germarino's mother, Dra. Veneranda Germarino received the award on behalf of her son.

# NEWS UPDATES FROM THE OUR LADY OF PEACE CIRCLE

By Sis. Sally Dastas

**SMI CIRCLETTE CELEBRATES 10TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY.** The SMI Our Lady of Peace Circlette of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Nasugbu, Batangas celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a Free Medical-Dental Mission and Feeding Program last Sept. 8, 2018, the Nativity of our Blessed Mother. Shown are photos taken during the activity.



*Free medicines are given to a patient after consultation.*



*The Squirettes and their Tita DMIs distribute food during the feeding program.*



*A young boy receives dental treatment from a volunteer dentist.*



*Volunteers in the Medical-Dental Mission with the DMI sisters and the Squirettes.*

**MALIIT NA PUHUNAN PARA SA MALIIT NA NEGOSYO.** The Upliftment of Women Workers Committee of the Our Lady of Peace Circle provides modest capital for small business to housewives to help augment the family income. In photo is shown a housewife from Sitio Hamilo, Bgy. Papaya, Nasugbu, Batangas, the project's recent beneficiary.



**MORALITY IN MEDIA SYMPOSIUM FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.** Sis. Consolata Manding, FSN, was the resource speaker in a Morality in Media Symposium titled "You, Me and Social Media: Partners Towards Maturity" held last Sept. 7, 2018 for junior and senior high school students of Nasugbu. The Morality in Media committee of the Our Lady of Peace Circle spearheaded the activity.



*Sis. Consolata Manding, FSN, symposium resource speaker.*



*Some of the student participants who attended the media symposium.*



# ST. GEMMA GALGANI CIRCLE PURSUES DMI MISSION PROJECTS



## PHOTO NEWS

By Sis. Lorna Embalzado, Circle Regent



Feeding by Circle members of 115 elementary pupils of Bagong Lipunan Elementary School in Mabolo, Cebu City on July 19, 2018. A short program organized by the teachers was held during the activity.



The circle members joined a parish activity on Aug. 24, 2018 called : “United in Prayer- Cebu Answers the Call of Mama Mary”. A mass prayer and novena were offered in her honor at the courtyard of the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mabolo, Cebu City.



A Diocesan Assembly was attended by the DMI sisters at the Sacred Heart Center on Jakosalem St., Cebu City on Sept. 15. Some 100 DMIs from various circles in the Archdiocese attended the assembly with the theme “Living Mary’s Love, Compassion and Care through DMII’s Presence and Mission”.



A simultaneous activity of Medical Mission, Feeding and Legal Aid Program was sponsored and facilitated by circle members on Sept. 23, 2018 at the Sto. Nino Chapel, Sitio Panagdait, Bgy. Kasambagan, Cebu City. The circle was assisted by several volunteers consisting of lawyers, doctors, medical representatives and nurses.

# HOLY LOVE CIRCLE CONDUCTS “PAG-AMUMA” FOR GENSAN FOLKS



*The Pag-amuma 4-in-1 activity of Holy Love Circle in progress.*

The Holy Love Circle of the Diocese of Marbel conducted a 4-in-1 activity last Oct. 7, 2018 consisting of Medical, Dental, Para-Legal and Blood-letting for the indigents of the 62 GKKs (Gagmay Kristohanong Katilingban) of the Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage Parish in General Santos City. The circle's project partners in the activity were the Parish Social Action Committee, the Knights of Columbus (KC 4639) and the Medical Society of GSC. The activity was held in time for the celebration of the 52<sup>nd</sup> Parish Patronal Fiesta.

The Medical Team consisted of 29 doctors who extended their services for free to more than

200 patients who were also given free medicines. The Dental Team had nine dentists plus 3 PGI performing 97 tooth extractions. The team provided free toothbrushes and toothpaste and gave a demonstration on proper dental hygiene. There was also a Legal Clinic with seven lawyers providing professional advice to 26 individuals who sought legal aid concerning personal conflicts, marital problems and land disputes. Fifty donors participated in the blood-letting activity. Optical services were also provided with two optometrists giving free eyeglasses to those who availed of regular eye examination numbering some 100 patients.



*Some of the volunteers who participated in the project*

# DIOCESAN TEAM-BUILDING WORKSHOP HELD

By Sis. Ellen Velasco, Diocesan Scribe

The Diocesan incoming and outgoing officers of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga held a “Servant Leadership & Team-Building” activity at the Naval Westmincom the whole day of Sept. 15, 2018. Sis. Marilyn de Asis, incoming Diocesan Regent, conducted the lecture. In spite of Typhoon ‘Ompong’, 17 participants attended the activity.

The topic centered on the qualities of a servant-leader with emphasis on Humility, being peacemakers and helping sister DMIs with life and circle issues. “Put your circle first and yourself, second”, was the central message.

Small groups did a series of presentations presented in songs from which the attendees learned a lot.



Diocesan Regent Sis. Pinky Saavedra



A small group presentation by way of an action song,



## PHOTO TRAINING ON EXEMPLIFICATION CEREMONY HELD

The Archdiocese of Zamboanga conducted a training on the Exemplification Ceremony last Sept. 1, 2018. The training was done in order to refresh the exemplifying teams on various parts of the rites, particularly the songs relevant to the Lessons of Unity, Friendship, Charity and Sanctity. The training also aimed to form exemplifying teams in far-flung areas such as Lamitan in Basilan and in Ipil and Siocon in Zamboanga. Region XIV RR Sis. Angie Baes headed the training team assisted by DR Sis. Pinky Saavedra and the exemplifying teams of Sta. Maria and St. Joseph Circles. The activity was held at the Marian Center of Sta. Maria Parish in Zamboanga City.







## News Update

# FROM THE ZAMBOANGA SMIs

*By Sis. Pinky Saavedra, Diocesan Regent*

SMI SYMPOSIUM ON PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT - PART 2 with the topic “Self-Confidence” was held last Sept. 11, 2018 conducted by IVR-Mindanao and Region XIV RR Sis. Angie Baes with 140 participants. The activity was hosted by the Our Lady of Fatima DMI Circle and SMI Circlette.



*Symposium speaker Sis. Angie Baes stands at right.*



*The SMIs who attended the symposium*

SMIs OF ZAMBOANGA CELEBRATED NUTRITION MONTH last July, 2018 by sponsoring a Feeding Program in depressed areas in their respective communities including the Reception Center for Abandoned Children at Talon-talon, Zamboanga City.

