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Installation Of International  
2024-2025

2024-2025

DAUGHTERS OF MARY  
IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL  
OFFICERS' INSTALLATION



# The Greatest Gift of the Father to All Creation



Dearly Beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

In his December Christmas Message, Pope Francis emphasized that the “message of Bethlehem is indeed the ‘good news of great joy’ (Luke 2:10).” This joy emanates from the very presence of the Greatest Gift of the Father to all creation: His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This joy overcomes all sadness, anxieties and fears and springs forth hope and love.

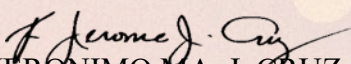
In this spirit of joy, we thank the outgoing DMII Board Members led by the International Regent for 2022-2023, Sis. Asuncion ‘Sionee’ Naraga for a most fruitful administration of the Association coming out of the great pandemic. We welcome the new DMII Board led by the new International Regent for 2024-2025, Sis. Annie Ty. We pray for all of them that God will bless them, their families and all their endeavors.

Beloved Sisters, as DMIs, we continue to follow the Lord and the Blessed Mother Mary in the synodal path as we pray for the conclusion of the Synod on Synodality this October, 2024. This year 2024 is especially dedicated as a Year of Prayer as we look forward to the Jubilee Year in 2025, declared by the Holy Father, with the theme, “Pilgrims of Hope.”

Dearest Sisters, let us thank the Lord for all the wonderful gifts, graces and blessings we have received in our families, circles, parish communities and in our life. May we give glory to God by sharing these gifts especially to the less fortunate, the oppressed and the lost among our brothers and sisters.

May God bless you and your loved ones. May God’s works prosper in your hands. May you find peace and joy at the thought that Jesus and Mary are always with us to guide us and protect us and take care of us.

Onward, Daughters of Mary Immaculate!

  
Rev. Fr. JERONIMO M.A. J. CRUZ

DMII International Chaplain





## **JUST DO EVERYTHING FOR LOVE**

Ave Maria!



Daughters of Mary Immaculate International, a Marian organization worth serving for!

My calling to serve God, Mama Mary and our brethren through the DMII is fulfilling.

The election of an International Regent for 2022-23 via a Zoom meeting of the International Board in September, 2021 propelled me to the top leadership of the organization. It was the first of its kind conducted online because of the pandemic when face-to-face gatherings were not allowed.

I felt nervous when I was elected, but even more so during the officers' installation on December 15 at the Okada Hotel. There was no turning back!

My first few weeks as International Regent were a rigid test of my determination to serve. I had not been able to return to my home province, Bohol, after the installation because of a strong typhoon ('Odette') that ravaged parts of the Visayas and Mindanao. (I would like to thank our sisters from Luzon for their generosity in reaching out to victims of 'Odette'.) Then came the problem of connectivity in 'Odette's aftermath. The internet connection was down for quite a while making it difficult to communicate with the National Office and our DMI sisters all over the country.

Covid 19 was still around in 2022 when regional assemblies were held – face-to-face for daring sisters in some regions, still via Zoom among some and a hybrid one ( a mix of face-to-face and Zoom) for a remaining few. I, along with some International Officers, was physically present at some of them and the others through video for my inspirational message. I can never forget the assembly of Region VII with the threat of an oncoming typhoon, 'Paeng' that brought gale force winds and flooding on our way home. But with Mama Mary's blue mantle of protection, we made it safely back home.

The pandemic claimed the lives of many sisters, thus reducing our number of more than 15,000 before Covid struck to just over 14,000 in 2022.

In a Zoom meeting in early 2022, we started our plans for our 22nd Biennial Convention, originally scheduled in May, 2020 in Iloilo City, to take place in 2023. Region XII agreed to host the event in Butuan City. An update report on the progress of the preparations was made during the first face-to-face meeting of the Board in February, 2022.

The 22nd DMII Biennial Convention was a huge success with more than 1,750 delegates from all over the country in attendance who actively participated in the well-managed convention program prepared by the Diocese of Butuan.

I take the opportunity to thank all of you for your wholehearted support and cooperation in all of the DMII's undertakings. Please continue giving our new IR Sis. Annie Ty the best of your efforts.

Just do everything for love. Love gives glory to God and Mama Mary, glorified through the DMII.

Merry Christmas, everyone and advance Happy and Grace-filled New Year!

Yours in Christ through Mary,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Asuncion B. Naraga'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light background.

SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA  
International Regent

# 2024-25 DMII INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS AND BOARD INSTALLED

The Century Seafood Restaurant at the Century Park Hotel in Malate, Manila was the venue of the installation of the International Officers and Board of Trustees of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International last December 12, 2023.

One hundred twenty-five sisters looking their best in colorful Filipiniana attires quickly filled the hall bedecked with flowers and Christmas decorations in preparation for the Holiday Season.

The day's program started with the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother's image led by International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga and Msgr. Isidro Irizari, rector of the St. Nicholas of Tolentine Cathedral of Tandag, Surigao del Sur. Also taking part in the processional were the incoming and outgoing officers and special guests, Past International Regents Sisters Jean Velarde, Mila Villanueva, Lelies Pimentel and

Ruby Macario who carried lighted candles and flowers for Mama Mary's altar at one side of the stage. The opening prayer was led by DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada. The Parade of Colors ended the opening ceremony.

A Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Jerome assisted by Msgr. Irizari followed.

The Monsignor as homilist talked about Our Lady of Guadalupe whose feast was celebrated right on the day of the installation, December 12. He said that in times of trials and challenges, it is Mama Mary to whom we turn for succor and solace for she is the Mother of all of us. He also cited the apparition of Our Lady to St. Juan Diego in the hills of Tepeyac in Mexico in the 16th century, reminding us of her heart that is full of love and sweetness. "By her beautiful love, Mary leads us to the very Heart of God."



*Fr. Jerome Cruz and Sis. Sionee Naraga carry the image of the Blessed Mother to the altar during the enthronement ceremony. Preceding them is Msgr. Isidro Irizari.*



*Flanking the Blessed Mother's altar are (from left) Sisters Lelies Pimentel, Mila Vilanueva, Merinnisa Ligaya, Tess Labilles, Fr. Jerome and Sisters Sionee, Isabel Ticzon and Jean Velarde.*

## OUR COVER

Outgoing International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga receives a bouquet of flowers from Sis. Annie Ty and Fr. Jerome Cruz during the turn-over ceremony.



*The Parade of Colors*





*The Eucharistic celebration presided by Fr. Jerome and Msgr. Irizari*



*The International Officers and Board and Past International Regents with Fr. Jerome and Msgr. Irizari. From left: Sisters Cathy Pineda, Biennah Villanueva, Josie Halog, Milde Tong, Mila Villanueva, Lelies Pimentel, Ruby Macario, Annie Ty, Sionee Naraga, Jean Velarde, Merinnisa Ligaya, Sally Estrada, Juliet Cruz and Isabel Ticzon.*



*Program hosts Sis. Cora Afuang and Lorie Manalansan*



*Opening remarks by IVR-Luzon Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya*

As the first disciple of Jesus, the DMIs as Mary's daughters must follow her along the path that would lead us to her Son, Jesus. We are messengers who spread the Word of God by witnessing, not only through word of mouth but more so through our actions. Msgr. Irizari's final words: "Let us take courage in our Blessed Mother's words 'Do not be afraid. Be at peace. Am I not here?'"

Vice-International Regent for Luzon and International Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya gave the opening remarks for the installation ceremony, underscoring the sacredness of the charges and oath of office the incoming officers will make as they assume their duties and responsibilities as leaders of the organization.

Fr. Jerome as installing officer made a short statement about the concluding session of the Synod in Rome in October, 2024 and the declaration of Pope Francis for 2025 as a Jubilee Year.

The installation ceremony followed the awarding

of tokens of appreciation to the outgoing Board led by IR Sis. Sionee.

First to be installed were the national officers of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate led by President Elaiza Marie Hondulada. (Pls. see complete list of national SMI officers on page 12.)

The DMII International Officers and Board were then presented by Sisters Biennah Villanueva and Cathy Pineda who acted as marshals during the installation ceremony. They were the Regional Representatives, the International Officers – the International Secretary, the International Vice Regents for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao and the International Regent – followed by the International Mission Chairpersons and area coordinators as well as the chairpersons of Special Committees. (Please see the complete list on page 10.)

In her valedictory address, outgoing International Regent Sis. Sionee Naraga said that the DMII is worth serving for. She recalled the challenges thrown her way at





*Outgoing Regional Representatives receive plaques of appreciation from Sis. Sionee and Fr. Jerome. From left: Sisters Lorie Manalansan, Pinky Saavedra, Luz Binoya, Agnes Arada, Isabel Ticzon, Tess Labilles, Merinnisa Ligaya and Virginia Cabero.*



*Mission International Chairpersons Sisters Cathy Pineda, Milde Tong, Cora Afuang and Biennah Villanueva as they receive their plaques of appreciation.*

the beginning of her term as if testing her determination as a daughter of Mary – the powerful typhoon Oddette which ravaged parts of the Visayas and Mindanao and the problem of connectivity in its aftermath. She also cited the decline in DMI membership from 15,000 plus in 2019 to 14,000 in 2022 caused in large part by the deaths from Covid 19 during the pandemic. She also cited the transition from online to face-to-face regional assemblies, some a mix of the two (they termed as hybrid) beginning 2022. An assembly she could not forget was when she attended the Region VII assembly braving the gale force winds and flooding brought by a typhoon. The upside of our pandemic experience, she said, was our being able to learn and embrace the digital world via our children and grandchildren.

The very successful 22nd DMII Biennial Convention held in Butuan City in September, 2023 was attended by more than 1,750 delegates who participated very actively in the well-prepared convention program.

In ending, Sis. Sionee thanked all those who served with her for their invaluable support and cooperation in all the programs and activities of the organization. She said that her speech aims to encourage, not to scare, the incoming Board. She asked them to give IR Sis. Annie the best of their efforts. “Just do everything with love. Love gives glory to God and our Blessed Mother, glorified through the DMI,” she concluded.

In her acceptance speech, IR Sis. Annie Ty began by quoting part of the Blessed Mother’s Magnificat: “I am the handmaid of the Lord, be it be done to me according to your word.”

Sis. Annie said that she felt nervous and overwhelmed when she was elected as International Regent during the biennial convention. She also said that she thought that the DMI Missions were beyond her capacity before. However, Mary’s perfect obedience and discipleship, saying “yes” to be the mother of the Word Incarnate, served as her inspiration to also say



“yes” to the mission she has been called to do. “The virtues of Mary are not just an inspiration but a strength for all of us.” She, too, is encouraged by the joint effort of everyone.

She related that she called her 99-year-old mother on the morning of installation day, the first call she made to her after the powerful earthquake that hit Mindanao, to ask her for prayers, and her mother said, “Magbubukas ang langit sa inyo.” Such encouragement ensured her humble acceptance of the position.

She will call her team the “All Star Team”. The

recent big earthquake in Surigao and the pandemic notwithstanding, Sis. Annie said, “We have been blessed.”

Bouquets of flowers were presented by Fr. Jerome to Sisters Sionee and Annie after the turn-over ceremony. A surprise “turn-over dance” was then performed by the two IRs to invite others to join them on the dance floor.

Hosting the night’s program were Sisters Cora Afuang and Lorie Manalansan who headed the Program Committee for the event.

## THE INSTALLATION RITES



*The national officers of the Squirettes of Mary are inducted into office.*



*Sis. Annie Ty, incoming International Regent*



*International Vice-Regents Sisters Merinnisa Ligaya for Luzon, Norevic Laroa for Visayas and Pinky Saavedra for Mindanao.*



*International Secretary Sis. Lorie Manalansan and Int'l Treasurer Sis. Norma Eusebio.*



*The incoming Regional Representatives, from left: Sisters Letty Gano, Virginia Cabero, Marilyn San Diego, Agnes Arada, Corazon Bo, Rosalinda Desales, Thelma Lim, Susan Honculada and Elizabeth Dipaling*





*The Mission International Chairpersons, from left: Sisters Angie Baes, Shirley Corvera, Milde Tong, Tess Labilles and Evelyn Alcantara and their area coordinators.*



*Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada, Co-Editor Sis. Ruby Macario, Int'l Auditor for Membership Sis. Juliet Cruz and Int'l Advocate Sis. Merinnisa Ligaya.*



*The Diocesan Regents . . .*



*. . . and Vicarial Regents*



*Sis. Sionee's valedictory address*



*Sis. Annie's acceptance speech*



*Sis. Annie accepts a bouquet of flowers from Sis. Sionee and Fr. Jerome.*



*The surprise turn-over dance*



*IR Sis. Annie with Fr. Jerome and the past IRS Sisters Ruby Macario, Mila Villanueva, Sionee Naraga, Lelies Pimentel and Jean Velarde.*



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# THE WOMEN AT THE HELM

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## CONGRATULATIONS FOR A WELL-MANAGED POST-PANDEMIC TRANSITION!

*The* Covid 19 pandemic restricted the movement of people through community quarantines starting in March, 2020. It was the time when the world literally “stood still”.

Fast-forward to late 2021, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International held the installation of its International Officers and Board at the Okada Hotel on November 30. Heading the list of inductees was Sis. Asuncion Babera Naraga as International Regent for 2022-23.

Sis. Sionee has been an active church worker in the Diocese of Tagbilaran for many years. She has held a number of positions in the Missionary Families of Christ (MFC), Bohol Area – as member of the Family Life Apostolate and Marriage Encounter speaker for the Diocese, MFC Couples Provincial Servants with her late husband, Sylvio P. Naraga, and at present, as MFC Handmaids Section Provincial Coordinator and MFC Bohol Finance Officer.

As a DMI sister, she has served the DMII for 38 years, starting with her home circle, the San Jose de Tagbilaran Circle of the San Jose Cathedral Parish in Tagbilaran City, first as circle treasurer and regent, then as diocesan regent, Diocese of Tagbilaran, Region X alternate representative and prior to her election as International Regent, as Region X Representative.

In her first days as International Regent, her readiness to serve was put to a test by a strong typhoon (Typhoon Odette) that hit parts of the Visayas and Mindanao in December, 2021 causing a delay in her return back to Bohol from Manila, then the connectivity problem in its aftermath, making communication with the National Office and the rest of DMI sisters in the country very difficult.

Fast-forward again to the latter part of 2023 as Sis. Sionee’s term neared its end, she thanked the Blessed Mother Mary for journeying with her and guiding her during the two years which she will forever cherish. Meeting with the other DMI sisters in regional



*Sis. Asuncion B. Naraga*

assemblies, some via Zoom and video calls and others face-to-face as well as her working with her team in the International Board are memories she will treasure for the rest of her life. “In the DMII, Mother Mary’s virtues are valued, honored and lived out. These values are the very foundation of the organization’s strength and staying power.”

In private life, Sis. Sionee is from Maribojoc, Bohol. She is a widow with five children who are all professionals: Azusyl Marie, Asylthea Marie, Asylla Marie, Ansyl Marie and Sylvio, Jr. She is an alumna of the Holy Name University (formerly Divine Word College) where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Commerce degree, major in Accounting, magna cum laude.

Sis. Sionee will continue to serve the DMII as member of the Council of Advisers composed of past International Regents. Congratulation for a job well done!



## WELCOME, SIS. IR!

Sis. Annie Oro Ty assumes the position of International Regent effective January 1, 2024 until December 31, 2025.

In her acceptance speech at the installation of the 2024-25 International Officers and Board last December 12, 2023, she said that she felt nervous and overwhelmed when elected to lead the DMII and afraid that the DMI Missions are beyond her capacity. However, she humbly accepted the position inspired by the Blessed Mother Mary's perfect obedience and discipleship when she said "yes" to be the Mother of the Word Incarnate. Sis. Annie said, "The virtues of Mama Mary are not just an inspiration but a strength for all of us." Then, too, she is encouraged by the joint effort of everyone in serving the DMII.

Sis. Annie has served the DMII in various positions since joining the organization in 1996, first as treasurer, then as regent of her home circle, the Immaculate Conception Circle of the Diocese of Tandag (Surigao del Sur). Prior to becoming International Regent, she had also served as vicarial regent, diocesan regent of the Diocese of Tandag, alternate Region XII Representative, then as Region XII Representative. Her recent positions were as area coordinator for Mindanao of the Youth Welfare/SMI and Morality in Media Missions.

Sis. Annie is also an active civic leader in her community, such as being member of the Board of the Philippine Red Cross, Surigao del Sur Chapter, vice-president for Mindanao of the Phil. Chamber of Commerce & Industry, member of the Board of Trustees of Northern Mindanao State University and is an active member of the Sigma Delta Phi Sorority which she once served as Grand Archon at UP-Los Banos.

Sis. Annie who is from Koronadal City, Cotabato graduated from UPLB with a degree in B.S. Human Ecology. She and late husband, Franklin M. Ty have four children - Faye Melissa Ty-Uson, Farah May Ty-Ondevilla, Faith Mariz



*Sis. Annie O. Ty*

Ty-Lamb and Francis Marc O. Ty. Her son Marc was her special guest during the DMII Officers' Installation last Dec. 12, 2023.

Through the years, the change of the top leadership in the organization had been almost seamless with projects and activities, particularly for the DMI Missions being pursued in accordance with the mandate of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. And with the guidance of the Blessed Mother as the DMII's patron and guide.

We assure Sis. Annie of our full support and cooperation.



# 2024-25 DMII INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

REV. FR. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ  
International Chaplain

SIS. ANNIE O. TY  
International Regent

SIS. MARIA PINKY B. SAAVEDRA  
International Vice-Regent-Mindanao

SIS. MERINNISA O. LIGAYA  
International Vice-Regent-Luzon and International Advocate

SIS. MA. LORETO S. MANALANSAN  
International Secretary

SIS. NOREVI H. LAROA  
International Vice-Regent-Visayas

SIS. NORMA B. EUSEBIO  
International Treasurer

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

SIS. LETICIA O. GANO	- Region I
SIS. VIRGINIA S. CABERO	- Region II
SIS. MERINNISA O. LIGAYA	- Region III
SIS. MARILYN P. SAN DIEGO	- Region IV
SIS. MA. LORETO S. MANALANSAN	- Region V
SIS. NORMA B. EUSEBIO	- Region VI
SIS. AGNES R. ARADA	- Region VII
SIS. CORAZON B. BO	- Region VIII
SIS. ROSALINDA L. DESALES	- Region IX
SIS. NOREVI H. LAROA	- Region X
SIS. THELMA P. LIM	- Region XI
SIS. SUSAN I. HONCULADA	- Region XII
SIS. ELIZABETH A. DIPALING	- Region XIII
SIS. MARIA PINKY B. SAAVEDRA	- Region XIV

## SPECIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

SIS. JULIET V. CRUZ	- International Auditor - Membership
SIS. BIENNAH ELENA C. VILLANUEVA	- Formation & Pilgrimage
SIS. SALVACION T. ESTRADA	- Newsette Editor
SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO	- Newsette Co-Editor

## COUNCIL OF ADVISERS

SIS. ASUNCION B. NARAGA	- International Regent – 2022-23
SIS. RUBY P. MACARIO	- International Regent – 2019-21
SIS. ROSALINDA C. PIMENTEL	- International Regent – 2017-18

## MISSION CHAIRPERSONS & AREA COORDINATORS

### PRO – LIFE

SIS. ANGELA L. BAES	- International Chairperson
SIS. LOURDES PELICANO	- Area Coordinator for Luzon
SIS. JUDITH L. LEGASPI	- Area Coordinator for Visayas
SIS. TERESITA M. MIRANDA	- Area Coordinator for Mindanao

### MORALITY IN MEDIA

SIS. SHIRLEY L. CORVERA	- International Chairperson
SIS. IRMA PULANGCO	- Area Coordinator for Luzon
SIS. SONIA ALVARINO	- Area Coordinator for Visayas
SIS. MARILYN DE ASIS	- Area Coordinator for Mindanao

### UPLIFTMENT OF WOMEN WORKERS

SIS. TERESITA D. LABILLES	- International Chairperson
SIS. APOLONIA MISLANG	- Area Coordinator for Luzon
SIS. ELENITA BASILAN	- Area Coordinator for Visayas
SIS. LUCINA BINOYA	- Area Coordinator for Mindanao

### ASSISTANCE TO PRISONERS' FAMILIES & THEIR VICTIMS

SIS. MA. CLOTILDE R. TONG	- International Chairperson
SIS. AURA EUNICE S. SANTOS	- Area Coordinator for Luzon
SIS. EVE G. BOLARDE	- Area Coordinator for Visayas
SIS. LUZ ALMENDA	- Area Coordinator for Mindanao

### YOUTH WELFARE/SMI

SIS. EVELYN R. ALCANTARA	- International Chairperson
SIS. MONICA BULARAN	- Area Coordinator for Luzon
SIS. MELISSA MANULAT	- Area Coordinator for Visayas
SIS. MARGARITA AMPO	- Area Coordinator for Mindanao



## SQUIRETTES OF MARY IMMACULATE NATIONAL OFFICERS

ELAISA MARIE HONCULADA	- President
MARY JOY ANCHETA	- Vice-President for Luzon
PILIPINAS RAMBANO	- Vice- President for Visayas
MARIZ EVELYN LIM	- Vice-President for Mindanao
VENUS MAHAL SORIANO	- Secretary
PRINCESS ROMERO	- Treasurer
ALLYANNA MANANSALA	- Chancellor



*From the Diocese of San Jose (NE) – Region II*

## OUR LADY OF THE HOLY FACE, NEWEST CIRCLE IN NUEVA ECIIJA

*By Sis. Ma. Elvira Martinez, Scribe, San Jose Circle*

Twenty-nine prospective members of a new circle in the Diocese of San Jose were exemplified and became the charter members of Our Lady of the Holy Face Circle last November 25, 2023 at the Immaculate Conception Church in Nampicuan, Nueva Ecija. Rev. Fr. Richard Lagos, parish priest, paved the way for its organization as he had long desired to have a DMI circle in his parish.

On September 24, the San Jose Circle officers led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Marivic Mendoza conducted

an orientation for the prospective members about the organization and their obligations as DMI members.

The exemplification ceremony was led by DR Sis. Marivic assisted by Past Region II Representative Sis. Hilaria Hipolito, Vicarial Regent Sis. Conchita Amurao and Circle Regent Sis. Evangeline Ruanto.

The installation of charter officers followed the exemplification rites with Sisters DR Marivic and VR Conchita as installing officers.



*The exemplification team of San Jose Circle with Fr. Richard Lagos*



*The charter members of Our Lady of the Holy Face Circle*



# SAN JOSE CIRCLE JOINS LIVING ROSARY FOR WORLD PEACE

By Sis. Evangeline Ruanto.  
Incoming Circle Regent

In response to the declaration of Pope Francis for Oct. 27 as a Day of Fasting, Penance and Prayer for Peace in the World, Rev. Fr. Getty Ferrer, parish priest of St. Joseph Cathedral, San Jose City, spearheaded a Living Rosary for World Peace in front of the cathedral at 5:30 p.m. on Oct. 27, 2023.

The mandated organizations in the parish were requested five representatives each to participate in the activity. The San Jose Circle was represented by Regent

Sis. Nerissa Grospe and four others. The participants made a heart-shaped formation, each holding a candle which was lighted when it came time to pray her/his part in the rosary and on to the next until the living rosary was completed. A Marian song was sung after each decade of the rosary.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by Bishop Roberto Mallari, DD of the Diocese of San Jose assisted by Fr. Getty Ferrer ended the activity.



*The living rosary formation*

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## SAN JOSE CIRCLE MEMBERS VISIT SICK DMI SISTERS

By Sis. Beatriz Martinez, Circle Scribe

The San Jose Circle of San Jose City, Nueva Ecija has undertaken regular visitation of sick circle members who can no longer attend DMI meetings and other circle activities. The purpose of the visitation is to inspire them, encourage and comfort them and pray for them and their families

A group of sisters have volunteered to do this corporate work of mercy. The first batch of sick members they visited were Sisters Emma Pobre, Anatalia Gania, Eva Violago, Cecile Sobrepena, and Jane Aguinaldo.

Another batch is scheduled to be visited next.



# FAMILY DAY ENCOUNTER HELD IN THE DIOCESE OF MALOLOS

*By Sis. Ma. Theresa G. Curia,  
Region IV Newsette Correspondent*

On November 19, 2023, the 5 Mission Thrusts of the Diocese of Malolos held a joint project themed “A Family Day Encounter”. Ninety-one families of persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) selected from various vicariates of the Diocese were brought to the covered court in the district of Congressman Salvador Pleyto, a Brother Knight of Columbus.

Part 1 of the program was a sharing by the parents, siblings, wives and children of PDLs about their life experiences in the absence of family heads or providers while they are in detention facilities. Parlor games, group dancing, and a slogan-making contest were also held. A livelihood program for the families was launched and vegetable seedlings were distributed to them.

The families received grocery packs worth P1,000 each donated by the circles in the diocese. In addition to the packages, they also received P500 cash, 3 kilos of rice and canned goods donated by Brother Knight Pleyto.

The Squirettes in the SMI Circlettes of the diocese provided assistance during the program by serving food, facilitating in the games and doing errands during the activity.

They also performed a doxology at the start of the program.

The project was spearheaded by incoming Region IV Representative Sis. Marilyn San Diego with Sis. Cora Raymundo as project team head. Sisters Ketchie Francisco, Bebot Cui, Apol Mislang and Eve Bautista were members of the team.



*The Family Day Encounter held at the covered court in Sta. Maria, Bulacan.*

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## REGION V DMIs GO ON PILGRIMAGE OF LAGUNA CHURCHES

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan, Region V Representative  
& Regional Newsette Correspondent*

In cooperation with the officers of Region VI (Diocese of San Pablo), the DMI sisters of Region V went on a pilgrimage to churches in Laguna known for its rich history and religious significance. The activity was initiated by Sis. Edna May Landicho, past chairperson of the Special Committee on Formation and Pilgrimage.

Over a hundred DMI sisters joined the activity held last October 14, 2023. Upon arrival at the first of six churches they visited, they were met by the

organizing team from Region VI composed of Sisters Isabel Ticzon, International Auditor – Financial and past Regional Representative, Sis. Iluminada Lagunda, Region VI RR, Elvie Arambulo, past International Treasurer and RR, and Sis. Norma Eusebio, Diocesan Regent.

An hour was allotted for each visit to these churches for prayers and travel time to the next destination. The group had lunch at the Parish Multi-



Purpose Hall of Pagsanjan, the third church visited.

The churches included in the pilgrims' itinerary were:

1. The Diocesan Shrine of Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Turumba and Parish of St. Peter Alcantara in Pakil. The church was first constructed in 1732 and had undergone a series of renovations after a fire and an earthquake destroyed it. The final and major renovation was done from 1980 to 1984.

The group was privileged to be invited to a chapel within the church premises that houses the original and over 300 year-old image of Our Lady of Turumba.

2. Santiago Apostol Parish Church in Paete, Laguna was next. Built in 1646, it likewise suffered damages from a series of earthquakes with the final renovation done also in the 1980s.

3. Diocesan Shrine and Parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Pagsanjan was next where the group stayed longer for lunch. It became a parish on November 12, 1687 with its first church made of nipa and bamboo. It is said to be the oldest parish in the country having had the Our Lady of Guadalupe as patroness for more than 300 years.

4. St. John the Baptist Church in Liliw, Laguna dates back to 1612 when it was originally made of wood and reconstructed a number of times due to fire and an earthquake.

5. San Bartolome Apostol Parish in Nagcarlan, Laguna was first built using wood and nipa in 1583. The present church with baroque-style architecture made of bricks and adobe stones held together by egg white was built in 1752. Improvements, such as a choir loft, were done a year later. Its four-story bell tower has Muslim-inspired crenulations with the Franciscan coat of arm carved on it.

6. Cathedral Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit in San Pablo City was the last stop. This cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of the Diocese of San Pablo. The first church was constructed under the auspices of the Augustinian Order and was made of wood. This was later ceded to the Franciscan missionaries in 1794 who later made improvements on the Church building and rectory.

Prayer intentions including the Rosary were said in each church for the pilgrims' personal intentions and for an end to the war and strife in Israel.

A group representing the parish welcomed the DMI pilgrims in each church they visited, some even providing stories about the history of the church and/or their patron saint. They were also privileged to view the venerated antique images of the saints and the Blessed Virgin Mary, said to be miraculous.

Capping the activity was a Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral Parish of St. Paul the First Hermit officiated by Rev. Monsignor Jerry Bitoon, parish priest.



*The pilgrims meet with the Region VI hosts at the first church visited, the Diocesan Shrine of the Nuestra Senora de los Dolores de Turumba in Pakil, Laguna.*



*Pilgrimage Chairperson Sis. Edna May Landicho leads the prayer at the first church visited.*



# CATCHING UP WITH THE VICARIATE OF PUERTO PRINCESA

By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,  
Region V Representative

The Vicariate of Puerto Princesa (Palawan) is attached to Region V. With its distance and detached location, the Regional Board represented by Region V Representative Sis. Lorie Manalansan, Alternate RR Sis. Juliet Cruz who is concurrently International Auditor for Membership, Regional Secretary Sis. Jing Velasco and Regional Treasurer Sis. Evelyn Alcantara visited the Vicariate to strengthen its connection to the rest of the region consisting of dioceses in NCR and the Diocese of Imus (Cavite).

The purpose of the meeting with the Vicariate headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Nitz Austria included a Servant Leadership Workshop done recently in the NCR, receiving updates on the activities of circles in the Vicariate. reviewing the preparation of reports on the DMI Missions, the holding of election for Vicarial Regent and other matters.

Sis. Nitz had been holding the position of Vicarial Regent for the past eight years owing to a request by the circle regents for her to continue manning the fort as well as the limitations imposed by the pandemic.

The meeting was attended by the past and present circle regents and vice-regents in the Vicariate.

The Servant Leadership Workshop conducted by RR Sis. Lorie, aimed at aligning the Vicariate to the rest of Region V, started the day's program. The attendees were reminded about the responsibilities and accountabilities to their respective circles. The were asked to identify the challenges confronting them such as their concerns on membership attendance and commitment, financials and their other services in the parish that limit their time for the DMI missions which should be given priority.

On membership, Sis. Jing related the experience of the Diocese of Imus in growing the circles from just one over a decade ago to the present ten active circles today with one circle having a membership of over a hundred sisters.

The vicarial meeting came after the workshop starting with the election of a new Vicarial Regent. As outgoing VR, Sis.



*The officers of the Vicariate headed by Sis. Nitz Austria*

Nitz was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her invaluable contributions to the Vicariate.

Sis. Zenaida Villegas, a past regent of St. Peter Circle was elected as the next Vicarial Regent (for 2024-25).

Sis. Juliet Cruz in her role as International Auditor for Membership discussed the need to update the circles' records in the National Office and when to submit reports and remit fees. She also said that the new circle in Busuanga needs to be nurtured for it to become a productive circle.

Before the meeting ended, Regional Treasurer Sis. Evelyn distributed special Region V T-shirts, a fund-raising activity to support the region's candidate for 2023 Star of the Night in the forthcoming 22nd Biennial Convention in Butuan City. The attendees gave their full support to the project, proving that distance is not a hindrance to the DMI virtue of Unity.

A visit to the miraculous shrine of "Balong Pari" a spring unearthed by St. Ezekiel Moreno in 1872 in Ingawan, Puerto Princesa capped the day's activities. In search of clean water for the community, St. Ezekiel had a hole dug up where a spring of clean water flowed out believed to be miraculous. A humble and quaint chapel was built near the well where a relic of St. Ezekiel can be found. The day ended with a Eucharistic celebration and dinner with the visiting team and the sisters of the Vicariate.

## **DIOCESAN REGENT OF CUBAO RECIPIENT OF CBCP'S “GAWAD PAGLILINGKOD AWARD”**

*By Sis. Lorie Manalansan, Region V Representative  
and Region V Newsette Correspondent*

In celebration of Prison Awareness Month with the theme “The Correctional Community: Journeying Together in Mutual Support on a Mission of Love”, the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines’ Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (CBCP-ECPPC) recognized those who have been actively supporting their cause.

One outstanding supporter of this mission is Sis. Hermogenes “Jenny” Quieta, diocesan regent of the Diocese of Cubao who received the Gawad Paglilingkod Award from CBCP’s Chairman of the ECPPC, Bishop Joel C. Baylon, DD. The awarding ceremony was held at the International Shrine of Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, the Antipolo Cathedral last October 29, 2023. Sis. Jenny was recognized for her unselfish and consistent support to this mission spanning almost three decades.

In his message, CBCP Executive Secretary Fr. Nezelle Lirio said, “We cannot deny, too, that part of this community are people who felt the love of God and because of this are moved to share this love to those who are unable to see it at the moment. We are journeying as disciples of Christ and our mission is to contaminate everyone with this love so that the world that is full of hatred, competition, abuse of authority and maladies may find hope and faith in God through each one of us.”

Sis. Jenny was cited for her “love and concern for the members of the prison society – the prisoners and their families, the released prisoners and the correctional employees – has contributed significantly to the realization of the Church’s mission of uplifting the quality of life of the disadvantaged.

Sis. Jenny’s home circle, the Sagrado Corazon Circle, Sacred Heart Parish Shrine in Kamuning, Quezon City and the rest of the Diocese of Cubao have been giving scholarships and school allowance to children of inmates in their diocese aside from visiting the prisoners, especially those who are not visited by their families.



*Sis. Jenny Quieta receives her award.*

## **NEW SMI CIRCLETTE ORGANIZED, DMI AND SMI OFFICERS INSTALLED**

*By Sis. Catherine Longcob,  
Vicarial Regent*

A new circlette of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate was organized at the Inay Maria Magnificat Parish in Springville, Camella, Bacoor City last November 3, 2023.

Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Emelie Ramos prior to conducting the investiture ceremony explained to the new SMIs the significance of their motto and their devotion to the Blessed Mother. The induction of the



*The SMI investiture ceremony*

*turn to page 18*



### *New SMI Circlette organized... from page 17*

circlette officers followed later with the guidance of the SMI Lady Counselor and Diocesan Regent Sis. Leonora Habon.

The activity started with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Colemar, parish priest.



*The newly installed officers of Inay Maria Magnificat Circle*

The incoming officers of the Inay Maria Magnificat Circle were also installed during the occasion by DR Sis. Leonora Habon.



*The members of the Inay Maria Magnificat Circlette with Fr. Emmanuel Colemar*

## DIOCESAN EXEMPLIFICATION OF NEW MEMBERS HELD

*By Sis. Catherine Longcob,  
Vicarial Regent*

Six DMI circles of the Diocese of Imus held a joint exemplification of 34 new members last November 23, 2023.

The circles were the Sto. Nino de Molino, Our Lady Queen of Peace, Inay Maria Magnificat, De la Merced and Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circles all in Camella, Bacoor City and the St. Anthony of Padua Circle in Candelaria.

The exemplification ceremony was performed by an Exemplification Team headed by Past Vicarial Regent Sis. Veronica Bambilla.



*The exemplified DMI sisters with the Exemplification Team*

## RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE CONDUCTS MEDIA FORUM

The Risen Christ Circle of the Holy Eucharist Parish in Paranaque City conducted a forum on Media Awareness for parents of Day Care children at the Day Care Child Development Center of Moonwalk Village last October 5, 2023. The activity was spearheaded by the circle's Morality in Media Committee co-chaired by Past International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva and Past International Chairperson for Morality in Media Sis. Sonia Manlapig.

Sis. Mila was the resource speaker who talked to the parent-participants on the Effects of Social Media and to the children about Guardian Angels. She later distributed rosary bracelets and a children's book about guardian angels. A picture frame of a Guardian Angel was also donated to the Center to hang on its wall.



*Sisters Sonia Manlapig and Mila Villanueva with the Day Care Center children*

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## RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE'S PRO-LIFE COMMITTEE HOLDS SEMINARS

*By Sis. Helen Balmores,  
Pro-Life Committee Chairperson*

Webinar on Depression and Anxiety in Children, Adolescents and Young Adults. A webinar via Zoom was conducted by the Risen Christ Circle Pro-life Committee last Sept. 23, 2023 with sisters from Region V (NCR) as participants.

The resource speaker was Dr. Jocelyn Balmores de Leon, a pediatrician, who is an asst. professor in the Dept. of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, Western Michigan University Homer Stayker MM School of Medicine and medical director in VMed Health Mall Drive Pediatrics in Kalamazoo, Michigan, USA.

The comprehensive and informative lecture covered the early symptoms of anxiety and depression starting from infancy, middle childhood, adolescents and young adults. Some of these are social phobia, anxiety and compulsive disorders, panic disorder, loss of appetite to eat and study, lack of sleep, guilt, feeling of pain in some parts of the body, suicidal tendency, sadness, refusal to go to school or social gatherings and others.

As parents and grandparents, the DMI sisters were told to be very aware of the early symptoms and prepare a comprehensive plan. Treatment would depend on severity – for mild cases, consult a guidance counsellor/teacher for some counselling sessions, while moderate or severe cases would need consultation – communication – coordination. The latter should be done with a team such as mental



*Dr. Jocelyn B. de Leon, resource speaker*

*turn to page 20*





## IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CIRCLE'S LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

Sis. Nelia Ricarte, regent of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle in Malabon City spearheaded a livelihood project, “Okoy Veggies Making” for housewives aimed at setting up a small business using simple ingredients commonly available in the community. The activity was held last Sept. 12, 2023.



### *Risen Christ circle's Pro-Life... from page 19*

health specialists, church and community leaders, social workers, parents, counsellors and doctors.

Lastly, Dr. de Leon advised the participants to listen first before giving advice, express support, adjust the methodology in dealing with the young generation and be open to reconnect and stay non-judgmental to them.

She ended with a quotation that says \: “It takes a village to raise a child. Find a village, encourage one another, and open your village to others.”

Symposium on “Empowering the Elderly”. A symposium for senior citizens was held at the Holy Eucharist Parish in Moonwalk

Village, Paranaque City last November 10, 2023 attended by the members of the Golden Ministry of the parish and DMI sisters.

The speaker was Bro. Emiliano Manahan, Jr., an advocate and author of empowering books and member of STMA, ministry of the Couples for Christ.

He discussed the rights and privileges of older persons. He also suggested concrete measures which are practical and doable in order to become productive and able to solve elderly issues and concerns. He also encouraged the participants to be empowered through awareness of their rights and benefits of membership in organizations for the elderly and knowledge of the support and benefits provided by the government and NGOs.

## IN MEMORIAM

### SIS. EUFEMIA B. ABRAGAN



The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International mourns the untimely passing of Sis. Eufemia B. Abragan, Region VIII Representative on July 26, 2023.

Sis. Fem was the regional representative of the Bicol Region. Prior to her position as RR, she served as Diocesan Regent of the Diocese of Caceres. The Holy Trinity Circle of St. Clare Parish, Tigaon, Camarines Sur was her home circle.

She led a very active life having been involved in various endeavors such as being a part-time professor of Sienna College, president of the Philippine Association of Social Workers, CamSur Chapter, president of the Social Workers Development Leaders Network for Region 5 (Bicol) and legal consultant of the Farmers' Cooperatives of Tigaon and Sangay Municipalities in Camarines Sur.

We in the DMII International Board extend our deepest sympathy and condolence to Sis. Fem's family and join them in prayer for her eternal rest.



## SEARCH FOR MUTYA NG DMII, A FUND-RAISER

By Sis. Rosalie Batocabe, Diocesan Regent

The five DMI circles of the Diocese of Lucena held its third Search for Mutya ng DMII as a fund-raiser for the mission projects of the diocese as well as their Kalinga sa Retiradong Pari ng Diyoseses ng Lucena.

Sis. Herminia M. Derilo of St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle of Pagbilao, Quezon was crowned 2023 Mutya ng DMII. Runners-up were Sis. Arlene Valdeavilla of Our Lady of Penafrancia Circle of Lucena City and Lucita Ortiz of Our Lady of the Angels Circle of Atimonan who were crowned Mutya ng Pagkakaibigan and Mutya ng Pagkakaissa, respectively.

The coronation was held last Sept. 9, 2023 with Diocesan Chaplain Fr. Dennis Imperial as special guest.



## ANNUAL DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY AND RECOLLECTION HELD

The Diocese of Lucena held its annual assembly and recollection last October 7, 2023 at the Minor Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel in Tayabas City with DMII Diocesan Chaplain Fr. Dennis Imperial as recollection speaker.



## ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA CIRCLE ADOPTS A PAGBILAO MSK

The Munting Sambayanang Kristiyano (MSK) of Bgy. Ibabang Bagumbungan in Pagbilao, Quezon was adopted by the St. Catherine of Alexandria Circle. The MSK members received catechetical instructions starting October 28 until December, 2023. An orientation preceded the activity after a Eucharistic celebration held at the House of Prayer of Sto. Domingo.





# DMII DONATES FUNDS TO THE DISASTER RESILIENCE CENTER CHAPEL

*By Sis. Agnes Arada,  
Region VII Representative*

Thirteen circles of the Archdiocese of Lipa donated funds for the crucifix and tabernacle to be installed at the St. Lawrence Deacon & Martyr Chapel of the Disaster Resilience Center in Marawoy, Lipa City.

The blessing of the new chapel was held last August 18, 2023 after a Holy Mass celebrated by Archbishop Gilbert Garcera assisted by Fr. Jayson Siapco, archdiocesan director of the Social Action Ministry, and other priests.

Spearheading the fund-raising project were Region VII RR Sis. Agnes Arada and Diocesan Regent Sis. Issa Daria. The vicarial and circle regents in the Archdiocese also attended the event. A total of P153,000 was donated for the project.



*DMI sisters headed by Sisters Agnes Arada and Issa Daria pose before the crucifix and tabernacle they donated to the St. Lawrence Deacon & Martyr Chapel.*

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## REGION VII CIRCLE NEWS ROUND-UP

*From the Archdiocese of Lipa*

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CIRCLE'S TREAT FOR PDLs' FAMILIES. Twenty-nine families of PDLs were treated to lunch and given gifts on October 15, 2023 to celebrate Prison Awareness Month in Nasugbu, Batangas. The activity was sponsored by the circle's Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Committee.







**OUR LADY OF FATIMA CIRCLE'S RUG-MAKING TUTORIAL.** Twenty-three women composed of housewives and college students from Batuhan San Pedro and Agbang in Bolo, Bauan, Batangas received a tutorial on rug-making at the Villanueva-Marquez residence last Aug. 20, 2023 sponsored by the circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee. The participants brought home "trapo" to be processed into rugs to start a livelihood activity. The circle is headed by Regent Sis. Annie Paglinawan.

### ***From the Vicariate of San Jose, Occ. Mindoro***

**NUESTRA SENORA DEL PILAR CIRCLE'S "KWENTONG DEL PILAR".** Past Circle Regent Sis. Rhoda Flores gave a testimonial talk on the love and guidance of Nuestra Senora del Pilar, patron saint of the parish during a gathering attended by parishioners titled "Kwentong Del Pilar" sponsored by the circle on July 29, 2023



**ST. RAPHAEL THE ARCHANGEL CIRCLE'S FEEDING PROGRAM.** The feeding program was a joint project of the circle and the parish's Family and Life and Social Services Ministries. The beneficiaries were the residents of Gawad Kalinga in Bgy. Bagong Tubig in Calaca, Batangas. Circle Regent Sis. Nenette Asuncion headed the project.



### ***From the Vicariate of Calapan, Or. Mindoro***

#### **ST. AUGUSTINE CIRCLE'S FEEDING PROGRAM**





# DIOCESE OF BACOLOD CIRCLE ACTIVITIES IN PHOTOS

By Sis. Majella Verdijo,  
Diocesan Regent



\*For Assistance to Prisoners' Families & Their Victims Mission, Diocesan Chairperson Sis. Marieta Barreta reports the distribution of food packs to families of prisoners deprived of liberty (PDLs)

\*For Morality in Media, the St. Jude Thaddeus Circle created a Facebook page where various articles on responsible media, particularly social media, and other relevant subjects directed to the youth are posted. Launched in May, 2023, the page had garnered 1,000 likes and 1,000 followers as of June 30. Photo shows the circle's MIM Team with Chairperson Sis. Ma. Catherine Locsin.



\*For Pro-Life, feeding programs were held by the following circles:

St. John Nepomuceno Circle for 600 children with their parents in celebration of the founding anniversary of the Augustinian Missionaries in the Philippines; and

Our Mother of Perpetual Help Circle for mass goes on June 4, 2023 with the Parish's Good Shepherd Ministry as project partner.

The Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Circle conducted an optical-medical mission for residents of Purok Kasilingan giving free eyeglasses to the beneficiaries.





# TWO NEW SMI CIRCLETTES ORGANIZED IN THE DIOCESE OF SAN CARLOS

By Sis. Rosalinda Desales,  
Diocesan Regent

On the occasion of the 4th SMI Diocesan Anniversary, the Squirettes of the Diocese of San Carlos celebrated the event at the Gracia Resort in Manapla, Negros Occ. on July 22, 2023. Theme of the celebration was “SMI: One in Mission Towards a Synodal Church with Mary”.

A total of 95 SMIs coming from six circlettes attended the activity. Two new circlettes that have just been organized were present – the Our Lady of Lourdes in Manapla with 20 members and the Our Lady of Peace Circlette of St. Roch Parish in Cadiz City with 18 members.

The orientation of the prospective SMIs of the new circlettes was conducted by Lady Counselor Sis. Erna Locsin of Our Lady of Peace Circle and Sis. Melby Esquina of Our Lady of Lourdes Circle who spearheaded the organization of the new circlettes.

The investiture of new members was presided by Sis. Leny Basilan, SMI Coordinator for the Visayas and Sis. Era Faith Basilan. Guests coming from the Virgin Most Powerful Circlette of Tagbilaran City were Sq. Pilipinas Rambano, SMI Vice-President for Visayas and Sq. Desabel Esperas, circlette treasurer.

Also part of the day's program were a Holy Mass and the giving of awards to Squirettes with excellent academic performance and circlette officers for their invaluable service to their circlettes. A team-building activity was later facilitated by SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Mirafornly Colorines

The day's culminating activity was the search for and coronation of Ms. SMI 2023 won by Sq. Audrey Supata of Our Lady of Peace Circlette.



Investiture of new members



The guests from Tagbilaran City, from left: Sisters Era Faith Basilan and Leny Basilan and Squirettes Pilipinas Rambano and Desabel Esperas.

## Photo NEWS

### ST. ANNE CIRCLE'S COASTAL CLEAN-UP



A coastal clean-up was undertaken by the St. Anne Circle at Old Sagay Beach Resort in Sagay City on Sept. 22, 2023.

### WALK FOR NATURE HELD BY ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER CIRCLE



To celebrate the Season of Creation, the St. Isidore the Farmer Circle held a Walk for Nature in Villahermosa, Negros Occidental last Sept. 30, 2023.





## OUR LADY OF LOURDES DMIs AND SMIs HOST VICARIAL ASSEMBLY

By SQ. Hannah Macariola

The Our Lady of Lourdes DMI Circle and SMI Circlette hosted the Vicarial Assembly of the Vicariate of Mary Our Lady, Diocese of Kalibo on August 20, 2023 at Gen. ABL Cultural Center in Makato, Aklan. The assembly was participated by four circles – Ave Maria, St. Joseph the Worker, St. Isidro and Our Lady of Lourdes Circles.



From the Archdiocese of Cagayan de Oro – Region XII

## PERPETUAL HELP CIRCLE OF GINGOOG CITY CELEBRATES ROSARY MONTH

By Sis. Nilda Villegas

The Perpetual Help Circle of Gingoog City celebrated Rosary Month last October, 2023. through the promotion of block rosaries in several areas of the parish and a lecture at the Sta Rita de Cascia Formation Center on the history of the Holy Rosary beginning with St. Dominic of Guzman who founded the Order of the Preachers and sharings from the circle sisters about how praying the rosary results in little miracles. They also gave testimony about the rosary being a powerful armor against all evil.



From the Archdiocese of Zamboanga & Prelature of Isabela de Basilan – Region XIV

## OUR LADY OF PURIFICATION CIRCLE TURNS 40

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,  
Past Diocesan Regent

On October 22, 2023, the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Our Lady of Purification Circle of Sta. Maria Parish, Zamboanga City celebrated a milestone, its 40th Anniversary. Sta Maria Parish Priest Fr. Ben Villaflores was special guest during the event. Circle Regent Sis. Yolly Santos spearheaded the celebration.

The day's program started with a Holy Mass, then the enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother's image followed by the giving of awards and recognitions to DMI sisters who have given invaluable contributions for the success and growth of the circle during its 40-year history. Birthday celebrators were also blessed and a sumptuous

lunch served during the occasion. The afternoon fellowship made the event even more significant and memorable.

The Our Lady of Purification Circle was organized on October 16, 1983 with the late Sis. Lucia Magdales as charter regent. Five of its 23 regents from 1983 to 2023 had passed on while five are still active in the organization serving in various capacities on the National and Diocesan levels and were given special citations and awards. They were Sisters Chit Ong (1986 to 88), Angie Baes (1991-93), Chit Paragas (1996-97) and Lowell Tantoco (2003-06) and Sis. Alodia Aguilar, member since 1984. Sis. Elizabeth Salmon who served as Diocesan Regent, Regional Representative and International Treasurer was also an awardee.

The circle aimed at establishing a circle in every parish in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. Thus far, it has organized seven circles as follows: Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle, Ayala Parish in 1992, Our Lady of Fatima Circle, Putik in 1993, Holy Trinity Circle,



*The Past Regents of our Lady of Purification Circle receive their citations and awards during the circle's 40th Anniversary celebration.*

Pasonanca in 1994, Our Lady of Penafrancia Circle, Calarian in 1996, Queen of Angels Circle, San Roque in 1996, Our Lady of Lourdes Circle, EAAB in 1998, and Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Circle, Cabatangan in 2023.

A past regent, Sis. Angie Baes continues to serve in the DMII International Board until the present. A past Region XIV Representative, she now serves as Area Coordinator for Mindanao of the Pro-Life Mission.



## 37th CIRCLE ORGANIZED IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF ZAMBOANGA

The 37th circle in the Archdiocese of Zamboanga officially received its charter on September 24, 2023 at the St. Padre Pio Parish in Cabatangan, Zamboanga City. The members of the circle, named Our Lady of the Most Blessed Sacrament Circle, were exemplified and its charter officers installed by the exemplification team of Our Lady of Purification Circle, its mother circle.

The Our Lady of Purification Circle plans to organize three more circles to complete its goal of forty circles in the Archdiocese by the time it celebrates its 41st anniversary.



*The charter members of the new circle take their oath during the exemplification rites.*



# NEW YEAR Prayer To The HOLY FAMILY

Pray the HOLY ROSARY Daily / facebook



**JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH, in You  
we contemplate the splendor of  
true love, to You we turn with trust.**

**HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH, may  
the approaching NEW YEAR make  
us once more mindful of the  
sacredness and inviolability of the  
family and its beauty of God's plan.**

**JESUS, MARY and JOSEPH,  
graciously hear our prayers. Amen.**



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