



DMI Newsette

To Jesus through Mary

DMI

VOL. XXIX, No. 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

October - December 2012

2013-14 DMI International Officers Installed

Simplicity marked the installation on December 1, 2012 of the 2013-14 DMI International Officers and Board but it was nonetheless a significant and meaningful event.

The installation was held at the Golden Bay Restaurant on Macapagal Avenue, Pasay City attended by some 100 DMI sisters led by the International Officers. Past International Regents Sisters Myrna Zapanta, Perla Arguelles, Sonia Mayo and Jean Velarde graced the occasion.

A Eucharistic celebration officiated by International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz opened the program. In his homily, Fr. Jerome posed a question: What would you do if the end of the world draws near? In answer to the question, he referred to the stories of characters in a recent movie who were respondents to this question in a survey conducted by an avid fan of a



Outgoing International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez holds a bouquet of flowers presented to her by Incoming International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva and International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz.

matinee idol. Fr. Jerome said that generally, people would wish to spend the last days of their lives with their families and loved ones, with love and service underlining their relationship with them. What matters most, he added, is doing what is right and just. He further said that the Season of Advent is a preparation, not for the end of the world, but for the coming of the Redeemer. The focus should be on what is essential – the true, good and beautiful.

The International Officers and Board took their oath of office, administered by Fr. Jerome, followed by the Mission National Chairpersons and DMI Newsette Editor, then the diocesan and vicarial regents present.

Installed into office were the following:

INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

Sis. Mila Villanueva - International Regent
Sis. Paulita Canonizado - Vice-IR for Luzon & Region VI Regional Representative
Sis. Evelyn Aquino - Vice-IR for Visayas & Region X RR

International Board Pays Courtesy Call on Cardinal Tagle



Story on Page 2

Turn to Page 4

International Board Pays Courtesy Call on Cardinal Tagle

Last November 6, 2012, the DMI International Board led by International Regent Sis. Lyding Ramirez called on then still Manila Archbishop Luis Antonio "Chito" Tagle at the Arzobispado de Manila in Intramuros. At 55, he became the youngest member of the College of Cardinals during the consistory held in Rome on November 24 and is the seventh Filipino cardinal.

During the hour-long audience with the DMI, Cardinal Tagle revealed his future activities which ensure his visibility and accessibility to the laity, particularly the youth. His plans include dialogues with students in non-sectarian universities. This he has already started. He encouraged lay organizations such as the Daughters of Mary Immaculate to continue promoting to and involving in its missions young people who will be future church leaders.



Sisters Lyding Ramirez and Mila Villanueva turn over copies of DMI publications to Cardinal Tagle.

Sis. Lyding and Incoming IR and VIR for Luzon Sis. Mila Villanueva then presented a set of DMI

Turn to Page 6



Daughters Of Mary Immaculate International

Block 3, Lot 5, Kathleen Place, Fernando St., Pasay City

Tel. No. 833-1203

Website: www.dmiinternational.org

Executive Officers

Sis. Lydia L. Ramirez - International Regent
Sis. Mila A. Villanueva - Int'l Vice-Regent - Luzon
Sis. Carmen O. de la Torre- Int'l Vice-Regent - Visayas
Sis. Cecilia O. Apura - Int'l Vice-Regent - Mindanao
Sis. Paulita M. Canonizado- International Secretary
Sis. Ofelia G. Lucas - International Treasurer
Sis. Rebecca C. Pacanan -International Advocate

Msgr. Francisco G. Tantoco, Jr.
International Chaplain

Rev. Fr. Jerome Ma. J. Cruz
Vice Int'l. Chaplain

DMI Newsette Editorial Board

Sis. Sally T. Estrada
Editor

Contributors

Sis. Manolita Q. Acevedo	Sis. Adelina A. Lee
Sis. Cora T. Afuang	Sis. Violeta C. Luna
Sis. Miriam O. Angot	Sis. Ruby P. Macario
Sis. Elvie S. Arambulo	Sis. Perla R. Malazarte
Sis. Flordeliza G. Barcial	Sis. Aurora C. Manangan
Sis. Teresita Q. Birata	Sis. Sonia G. Manlapig
Sis. Vicky P. Cacabalos	Sis. Narcisa R. Pepito
Sis. Amelia C. Castaneda	Sis. Rosalinda C. Pimentel
Sis. Linda L. Castillo	Sis. Rita R. Samarista
Sis. Helen B. de Leon	Sis. Milde R. Tong
Sis. Rosalina F. Espiritu	Sis. Annie O. Ty
Sis. Pureza M. Guzman	Sis. Nimfa D. Yyance
Sis. Fortunata N. Lacaya	Sis. Mylene Segundera-Bass

From the International Regent



MESSAGE

Somewhere I read " All endings are also beginnings".

I am turning over a new leaf, a new beginning as I end two years of stewardship as International Regent of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, a daunting task to begin with, to be called to serve. And as I wind up this affair, I have received many rewards, unseen, and yet so keenly felt.

Two years ago, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate gave me a chance to be a leader. I was overwhelmed by this show of trust and confidence which until today has sustained me in giving the best in service to our Mother Mary and her daughters. I have lived in faith and in spite of my inadequacies and fears, our Mother helped me do everything, almost. In my smallness, She has given me the grace to be a good leader.

I thank our Mother Mary and you, my sister DMIs, for the sweet experience that made this life fulfilling. May our Lord bless us all.

LYDIA L. RAMIREZ
International Regent

Sis. Cecille Apura - Vice IR for Mindanao
& Region XIII RR
Sis. Corazon Afuang - International Secretary
& Region V RR
Sis. Amelia Castaneda - International Treasurer
& Region III RR
Sis. Miriam Angot - International Advocate
& Region XIV RR

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Sis. Leticia Gano - Region I
Sis. Ma. Aurora Manangan - Region II
Sis. Violeta Luna - Region IV
Sis. Maria Adelina Lee - Region VII
Sis. Teresita Viola - Region VIII
Sis. Pureza Guzman - Region IX
Sis. Perla Malazarte - Region XI
Sis. Annie Ty - Region XII

MISSION CHAIRPERSONS/DMI NEWSETTE EDITOR

Sis. Helen de Leon - Pro-life
Sis. Milde Tong - Assistance to Prisoners' Families
& their Victims
Sis. Juliet Cruz - Upliftment of Women Workers
Sis. Chit Arce - Morality in Media
Sis. Ruby Macario - Youth Welfare
Sis. Sally Estrada - DMI Newsette Editor

Lunch (a Chinese lauriat) followed the installation ceremonies.

Past International Regent Sis. Myrna Zapanta began the second part of the program with her opening



Sis. Mila is presented by Marshals Sisters Lydia Ordonez and Ruby Macario to Fr. Jerome prior to her oath-taking.

remarks. She said that Christianity is on its 500th year of existence in the Philippines and as the Church celebrates the Year of Faith, she exhorted the DMIs to play a lead role as they enter an era of New Evangelization.

Outgoing International Regent Sister Lydia Ramirez made an emotion-filled valedictory address as she turned over the leadership of the organization to a new International Regent. She said that leadership is an attitude from which others could draw inspiration. The post-IR stage of her life, she said, is a new beginning, a period of adjustment to a slower pace (she had been practically island-hopping all throughout her two-year term, being present in all the area conferences and regional assemblies held in various parts of the country). She is thankful to Mother Mary and her DMI sisters for the many rewards, unseen but felt, of being called to serve.



The International Officers and Board during their oath-taking administered by Fr. Jerome.



Installation of Mission Chairpersons and DMI Newsette Editor. From left: Sisters Sally Estrada, Milde Tong, Chit Arce, Juliet Cruz, Helen de Leon and Ruby Macario.

The sweet experience, she said, has made her life very fulfilling.

As a token of appreciation, Sis. Lyding awarded medallions to the International Officers and Board and mission chairpersons who served with her during the past two years.

Before her acceptance speech, Incoming International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva handed a bouquet of flowers and plaque of appreciation to Sis. Lyding. She also awarded a similar plaque to Region XII Regional Representative Sis. Lelis Pimentel for her gracious hosting of the 3rd Quarter International Board meeting in Tandag City, Surigao del Sur in August.

In accepting the leadership of the DMII during the next two years, Sis. Mila made special mention of the accomplishments of her predecessors and vowed to continue the legacy that each bequeathed to the organization. With the guidance of Mother Mary and the help of her sisters in the International Board and the Missions as well as those in the dioceses, vicariates and circles all over the country, she will endeavor to promote the growth and success of the Daughters of Mary Immaculate International. She also called on all DMIs to achieve deeper conversion to be effective evangelizers while accomplishing the DMI missions.

Sis. Mila then distributed special certificates and images of the Blessed Mother to the incoming Officers and Board and mission chairpersons.



The Past International Regents present and Fr. Jerome Cruz with some officers, RRs, and mission chairpersons. From left, seated: Sis. Lyding Ramirez, Fr. Jerome, Sisters Sonia Mayo, Lydia Ordonez and Cora Afuang. Standing: Sisters Leni Larrazabal, Jean Velarde, Lelis Pimentel, Evelyn Aquino, Helen de Leon, Myrna Zapanta, Perla Arguelles, Mila Villanueva, Milde Tong and Ruby Macario.



Sis. Mila presents a plaque of appreciation to Sis. Lyding after the the turn-over rites.

The day's program ended with the closing remarks of Past IR Sis. Sonia Mayo. The history of the DMII, she said, is marked by endings and beginnings as the leadership of the organization changed hands through the years. She recalled the highlights of her term as International Regent which her team helped make very memorable. She told the incoming officers to work unceasingly so that the members may continue to grow in faith in Mama Mary and the DMI sisterhood.

*From the Pro-life
International Chairperson*

A Message of Hope

My dear DMI Sisters,

The Reproductive Health Bill was silently signed into law in the middle of the night, like a venomous snake that strikes in the darkness of the night. Do not be disheartened, my dear Prolifers. The fight for life continues as we stand for what is right and for what is good. We will continue to campaign against the evils of contraception and the disasters it will bring to the life of the mother and child and the sanctity of marriage and family life. Let us intensify the lessons that we teach at the Pre-Cana seminar. Let us continue and be more aggressive in teaching the natural family planning methods.

In this new year and the Year of Faith, let our Blessed Mother accompany us in our journey and our mission. May the Heel of the Blessed Mother crush the head of the serpent. May the Holy Spirit live in the hearts of everyone so that we may be preserved from degeneration.

Happy New Year to all! May we all persevere with joy in our hearts and strength in our faith to proclaim the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. May the love and mercy of the Almighty God be upon us.

Yours in Christ through Mother Mary,

SIS. HELEN B. DE LEON

*International Board Pays
Courtesy Call on Cardinal Tagle
...cont'd. from Page 2*

publications (Red and Yellow books, copies of the *DMI Newsette*, etc.) and a gift basket to the Cardinal who thanked the DMI delegation before he set off to yet another appointment. It was a typical day for the busy Cardinal, truly one for the people.

The DMI delegation included DMI Vice-Int'l Chaplain Fr. Jerome Cruz, Past Int'l Regent Sis. Myrna Zapanta, Past VIR for Luzon Sis. Alice Capiral, Int'l Secretary and Region VI RR Sis. Lita Canonizado, Region II RR Sis. Au Manangan, Region XII RR Sis. Lelis Pimentel, Incoming Region V RR Sis. Cora Afuang, Mission Chairpersons Sisters Helen de Leon for Pro-life, Milde Tong for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims, Sonia Manlapig for Morality in Media, and Ruby Macario for Youth Welfare, DMI Newsette Editor Sis. Sally Estrada and Sis. Josie Halog of the National Office.

The group also had the chance to visit DMI Int'l Chaplain Msgr. Francisco Tantoco at the Arzobispado de Manila during the audience with Cardinal Tagle.

*"If you ever feel distressed during your day,
call upon our Lady — just say this simple
prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a
mother to me now.' I must admit
— this prayer has never failed me."
--Blessed Mother Teresa*

An Invitation to

The 14th SMI Biennial Convention

By Sis. Ruby Macario, National Chairperson for Youth Welfare

Come to the 14th Biennial Convention of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate on May 24-26, 2013 at Ciudad Christia 9Waves Resort in San Mateo, Rizal and meet your fellow Squirettes led by the SMI National Officers. They are introduced individually on page 24 of the *DMI Newsette*.

Hereunder is the Program of Activities during the convention.

PROGRAM

Day 1 (May 24)

12:00 NN - 2:00 PM	Arrival of participants
2:00 PM	Opening Program/Team-building activities
6:00 PM	Dinner/Fellowship Program

Day 2 (May 25)

6:00 AM	Wake-up activities
8:00 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM	Talk 1
12:00 NN	Lunch
1:30 PM	Talk 2
3:30 PM	Election of Officers
4:30 PM	Holy Mass
6:00 PM	Dinner followed by indoor/outdoor activities

Day 3 (May 26)

6:00 AM	Wake-up activities
8:00 AM	Closing Program

ATTIRE:

Day 1 – SMI Type A uniform, for the opening; your favorite dancing outfit in RED, for the evening

Day 2 – AM Exercise – comfortable wear

AM/PM – SMI T-shirt

Holy Mass – SMI Type A uniform

Evening – modest swim/sports wear

TO BRING: SMI circlette banner

Various materials of your choice (watercolor, crayon, colored pencils/pens, glue, scissors, etc.) for Day 1 activities

For more details about the convention, you may call your Lady Counselors or Sis. Josie Halog at the DMI National Office (02-8331203) or your DMI National Chairperson for Youth Welfare, Sis. Ruby Macario (CP No. 0917-5160734).

Region II Assembly Held In San Jose City

By Sis. Ma. Aurora Manangan, Region II Representative

The Regional Assembly of Region II was hosted by the Diocese of San Jose last October 13, 2012 at the Knights of Columbus Clubhouse in Malasin, San Jose City, Nueva Ecija. The assembly theme was "Valuing and Preserving Nature and Environment through the DMI Missions".

It was a well-attended

event with 461 delegates coming from the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan and the Dioceses of Cabanatuan, Urdaneta, and La Union. DMI sisters came from as far as Baler and Casiguran, Aurora which are part of the Diocese of Cabanatuan.

The assembly started with a Eucharistic celebration by Rev. Fr. Jun Flores,

Ph.D., chancellor of the Diocese of San Jose. Diocesan Regent Sis. Dina Salvador warmly welcomed the delegates.

Most Rev. Roberto C. Mallari, D.D., bishop of the Diocese of San Jose, was the keynote speaker. He urged the assembly delegates to translate into action and pursue vigorously the DMI pro-life mission of preserving

nature and taking care of the environment. A plaque of appreciation was given to His Excellency after his talk by Region II RR Sis. Ma. Aurora Manangan, Diocesan Regent Sis. Dina Salvador and Diocesan Secretary Sis. Fely Cariaga.

International Chairperson

Turn to Page 12



A plaque of appreciation is presented to Bishop Roberto Mallari after his keynote address by Region II RR Sis. Aurora Manangan, Diocesan Regent Sis. Dina Salvador and Diocesan Secretary Sis. Fely Cariaga.



Bishop Roberto Mallari of the Diocese of San Jose, the assembly's keynote speaker with DMI international and regional officers and diocesan regents of Region II



DMI sisters who attended the Regional assembly



Delegates from Urdaneta City led by Region II RR Sis. Aurora Manangan present a well-applauded dance number.

Diocese of Balanga Hosts Region III Assembly

November 10, 2012 was a momentous day for the Diocese of Balanga when it hosted the assembly of Region III. The event was well-attended with some 400 DMI delegates coming from the different dioceses comprising Region III: the Dioceses of Iba – Zambales and Olongapo, Balanga – Bataan and Tarlac and the Archdiocese of San Fernando, Pampanga.

This year's theme, "In Likeness of Mary, the DMII as Stewards of Life, Family and Environment" best addresses the challenges that confront us today – the Reproductive Health Bill and the natural disasters that destroy countless lives and properties in various parts of the country. The latter are in turn attributed to climate change resulting from man's abuse and misuse of the environment.

Keynote speakers were Bishop Ruperto C. Santos, DD of the Diocese of Balanga and Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD.

Fr. Orbos discussed "In Likeness of Mary, the DMII as Stewards of Life and Family". His talk was focused on the Reproductive Health Bill which the Catholic Church strongly opposes. He further said that for the DMIs to be like Mary, they must have a heart like hers. He defined HEART to stand for: **h** – humble, **e** – earnest, **a** – affectionate, **r** – rejoicing and **t** – tender. In ending, Fr. Jerry extolled the virtues of Mama Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, which he said a DMI must possess in likeness of her.

Bishop Ruperto Santos, for his part, centered his discussion on "The DMII as Stewards of the Environment". He said that man is to blame for the ever-intensifying natural disasters like 'Ondoy' that we now experience. The garbage that we throw away irresponsibly such as in our waterways return to us in the form of nature's wrath that destroys human lives and properties. He further said that an even bigger disaster will be forthcoming if the Reproductive

Health Bill is passed into law for it will destroy the very environment where Jesus lives, the human body. He enumerated a number of adverse effects that contraceptive methods and abortifacients have on the human body. Population could be controlled if one knew how to discipline himself. He ended by posing a challenge to the DMII to be very vigilant in its position on the issue of the Reproductive Health Bill.

Lunchbreak was declared after the keynote messages of Bishop Santos and Father Orbos. Sis. Alma Cagampang, past regent of the Diocese of Balanga led the assembly participants in an energizer to keep them active and alert during the unholy hour that was after lunch.

Speakers during the afternoon session were the guests from the International Board led by International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez. They were Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Mila Villanueva and

Turn to Page 10



The Parade of Circles during the opening ceremonies

Keynote speakers Bishop Ruperto Santos and Fr. Jerry Orbos, SVD.

Diocese of Balanga Hosts Region III Assemblycont'd. from Page 9

Mission Chairpersons Sisters Helen de Leon for Pro-life, Sonia Manlapig for Morality in Media and Ruby Macario for Youth Welfare. Also present was Sis. Rosalina Espiritu, deputy RR for Region III.

Sis. Lyding who ends her term as IR this December urged the delegates to continue organizing new DMI circles and SMI circlettes as she pursues her dream of a DMI circle in every parish. Sis. Mila, incoming IR starting January, 2013 showed video clips of activities undertaken by the DMI in the past years. Sis. Sonia underscored the very strong influence of media in shaping the lives of people particularly the internet which exposes the youth to various materials and programs, even porno materials, right in their homes, unknown to their parents who are out of the house to work. Sis. Helen updated her audience on the Reproductive Health Bill, stressing various sections of the bill that need to be clarified. She also provided them with a list of pro-life programs and activities being pursued by the National Chair, particularly in the organization's campaign against the RH Bill. Sis. Ruby informed the delegates about the activities of the SMI and announced the forthcoming 14th SMI Biennial Convention. She encouraged the circles to drum up attendance of their Squirettes in this major SMI event in May, 2013 and ended up dancing to her signature song "I Have a Dream" with the delegates gamely joining in the dance.

A concelebrated Mass followed with Fr. Noel Nuguid as main celebrant in place of Bishop Santos who had a prior commitment that afternoon. Father Noel's homily centered on the goodness of Mama Mary that made her the right choice to be the mother of our Redeemer.

Deputy Region III RR Sis. Rosalina Espiritu provided a recap and evaluation of the day's proceedings, congratulated the Balanga Diocesan Officers for a very successful regional assembly and thanked the Blessed Mother whose intercession they prayed for to make the assembly a big success and to keep the delegates safe as they travel back to their homes after the event. Balanga Diocesan Regent Sis. Ellen Magpantay ended the day's program by thanking the program hosts, Sisters Mercy Nuestro and Thelma Manansala and the chairs and members of the Regional Assembly working committees who did their best to put together a fruitful and enjoyable conference.



Bishop Ruperto Santos receives a certificate of appreciation from Diocesan Regent Sis. Ellen Magpantay and Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Alma Cagampang. With them are International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez and VIR for Luzon and Incoming IR Sis. Mila Villanueva.



Fr. Jerry Orbos with Sis. Lydia Ramirez, Sis. Mila Villanueva, Sis. Alma Cagampang and Sis. Ellen Magpantay.



The delegates during the energizing exercises led by Sis. Alma Cagampang.

"Mary in the Year Of Faith" Region VI Assembly Theme

The Regional Assembly of the Diocese of San Pablo (Region VI) was held on November 17, 2012 at the San Pedro Astrodome, Pacita Complex 1 in San Pedro, Laguna with the theme "Mary in the Year of Faith".

Assembly delegates numbering 225 represented the three vicariates of the Diocese – the Vicariates of St. John the Baptist (composed of six circles), San Antonio de Padua (five circles), and St. Paul the First Hermit (four circles).

The Parade of Circles around the astrodome hall signaled the start of the assembly, followed by a procession of the image of the Blessed Mother carried by Region VI Representative Sis. Lita Canonizado and the diocesan officers led by Diocesan Regent Sis. Elvie Arambulo. The enthronement and consecration of the Blessed Mother's image then took place with Vicarial Regent Sis. Elmy Antonio leading the consecration prayer. Gracing the occasion were DMI International Chaplain Fr. Jerome Ma. J Cruz and Vice-International Regent for Luzon and Incoming IR Sis. Mila A. Villanueva.

Highlight of the assembly was the keynote speech delivered by Fr. Jerome during the morning session.



Fr. Jerome Cruz delivers his keynote address.



Region VI RR and International Secretary Sis. Paulita Canonizado carries the image of the Blessed Mother for enthronement and consecration.

His talk centered on the Proclamation of the Year of Faith sourced out from the Apostolic Letter *Porta Fidei* (Door of Faith) issued in 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI. The Year of Faith began on October 11, 2012 coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. The date also marked the 20th anniversary of the publication of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* initiated by Blessed John Paul II which illustrates the beauty and power of the faith. The Year of Faith will end on November 24, 2013, the Solemnity of Christ the King.

Fr. Jerome said that the Year of Faith is a summon to our authentic and renewed conversion to the Lord. He exhorted the DMIs to open their hearts to the Word

Turn to Page 12



A Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Mario Rivera and Fr. Jerome ended the morning session.

"Mary in the Year Of Faith" Region VI Assembly Theme.cont'd. from Page 11

of God. Renewed faith reestablishes and strengthens our communion/connection with God. He further said that at present, there exists a crisis of faith among the Catholic laity and even among Catholic families. As DMIs, we are tasked by our missions to help lessen the impact of this crisis and to address the social issues that exacerbate the sufferings of people, particularly the marginalized among us. He then posed these questions: Do you experience Jesus in your family? In your circle? Is your circle a haven of God's love and a haven of life for others?

Fr. Jerome's parting words: "Let us be credible witnesses of people enlightened in minds and hearts by the Word of God. We must bear in mind that faith is our business. Without faith life is meaningless. We must be strong in our faith and stay focused on our mission. Starting today, don't let others write your life; write your life for the glory of God now and forever."

The morning session ended with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Mario Rivera, pastor

of Sto. Rosario Parish and Fr. Jerome.

Sis. Mila A. Villanueva, Vice-IR for Luzon and incoming International Regent, gave an inspirational message during the afternoon session. As Nov. 17 was also her birthday, the delegates greeted her with a birthday song and a warm round of applause. Dance presentations were then performed by six DMI circles.

Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to Sis. Teresita Banzon and the Theresian Circle and to Vicarial Regent Sis. Isabel Ticzon and St. Paul the First Hermit Circle for the organization of two new DMI circles, the Our Mother of Life and Our Lady of the Assumption, respectively, within the Diocese in 2011.

The delegates went home with a light and happy heart having been part of a significant and very memorable DMI event.

Region II Assembly Held In San Jose Citycont'd. from Page 8

for Morality in Media Sis. Sonia Manlapig discussed the good and bad effects of media and told the DMI sisters present to be diligent and responsible in giving guidance specially to the youth in utilizing the various tools of media. Sis. Milde Tong, international chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims urged the delegates to continue pursuing the mission's 10-year

Scholarship Program for children of prison inmates who cannot otherwise go to school. Youth Welfare's Sis. Ruby Macario endorsed her campaign of an SMI circlette for every DMI circle and announced the forthcoming 14th SMI Biennial Convention. Sis. Au Manangan was the last of the assembly speakers who provided updates from the National Office particularly the installation of the

2013-14 International Officers and Board and the diocesan and vicarial regents on Dec. 1, 2012. She also echoed International Regent Sis. Lyding Ramirez's call for a DMI circle in every parish. She ended the assembly by thanking the delegates for the well-attended event and the Diocese of San Jose, the assembly host for a well-organized and managed conference.

From Baguio City

Updates from St. Joseph the Worker Circle

Sis. Brigida Cecilia Abratique, regent of St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Pacdal, Baguio City sent an update on the projects and activities of the circle during 2012. Here are some of them:



Mutual Assistance Program Launched

Aimed at extending assistance, both material and spiritual, to DMI members facing difficult medical and physical challenges, the St. Joseph the Worker Circle set up earlier during the year a Mutual Assistance Program. While intended primarily for DMI sisters, the Circle recently extended assistance to Philip de la Pena, a Columbian Squire who is suffering from leukemia. The prayer group devoted to the Lord of Pardon, composed of DMI sisters and the Holy Grail Assembly of the Knights of Columbus visited Squire Philip to offer not only material help but also spiritual and emotional encouragement.



Visit to Baguio Social Development Center

Members of the circle visited the residents of the Social Development Center, a half-way home for minor males in conflict with the law last July 8, 2012. They distributed T-shirts to residents of the center and brought snacks which they shared with them and their house parents. The occasion was an eye-opener for the DMI sisters as much as an opportunity for them to do counseling work for Center residents.



Participation in Diocese-wide Tree-Planting

The St. Joseph the Worker Circle participated in a tree-planting activity initiated by Bishop Carlito Cenzone of the Diocese of Baguio. The Circle was assigned to plant trees in Barangay M. Roxas together with the Knights of Columbus and students of St. Louis Pacdal High School. Other parish organizations and students were assigned in the other 13 barangays within the jurisdiction of the Parish.

From Dagupan City, Pangasinan

Miraculous Medal Circle Joins Archdiocesan Jubilee of the Laity Celebration

By Sis. Aileen Santos, Circle Regent

The Miraculous Medal Circle of Dagupan City participated in the month-long observance of the Jubilee of the Laity last July, 2012. The Month of the Laity is part of the activities leading to the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Archdiocese of Lingayen-Dagupan in February, 2013.

The Golden Jubilee is an occasion for us to celebrate our faith and commitment, in praise and thanksgiving. It is a celebration of the unity of church organizations, apostolates, ministries and communities under one Church and guiding devotion.

Who are the Laity? The Laity are the common people performing extraordinary tasks in the service of God. They belong to the people and they move among us. We ourselves can be Laity. But, strictly speaking, they are the Lay Liturgical Ministries and Apostolates and the Lay Organizations and movements. The Daughters of Mary Immaculate International is part of the latter.

One of the highlights of the Jubilee of the Laity celebration was the Lay Congress attended by the DMI sisters of the Miraculous Medal Circle on July 28. Speaker during the Congress was Bro. Bernard Factor Canaberal, a long-time media practitioner who talked on "Media, Youth and Faith". Bro. Bernard talked about how media is affecting the youth and their spiritual well-being nowadays in light of the prevalence of technological and social media advancement. Because of the advent of Facebook, Dota, Twitter and enhanced electronic gadgets, the lives of our youth are becoming



DMI sisters who attended the Lay Congress. With them are Circle Regent Sis. Aileen Santos (seated) and Sister Analyn.

limited to these things. Personal interactions have taken a backseat to online social networking.

This digital culture is also creating a barrier between children and parents because of the gap in technological know-how. Media plays a big part in the promotion of these technological advancements. It can easily influence its consumers in terms of their acceptance and disposition to a particular trend. What the media wants us to see, we see. Vis-a-vis, what it doesn't want us to see, we ignore. Thus it is up to the parents to guide their children on choosing and filtering information that would be helpful to them, while turning away from negative influences. Media should be used as a powerful tool to bring the youth closer to God and to live their faith according to His will.

Mater Admirabilis Circle Launches 10-Year Scholarship Program; Prisoner's Child First Beneficiary

From Urdaneta City



DMI sisters from Mater Admirabilis Circle turn over school supplies and groceries to the family of APFV scholar Ricky Boy Olino. With Ricky Boy are his mother, Chona de Vera-Olino and two of his siblings.

The Committee on Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) of Mater Admirabilis Circle of Urdaneta City, Pangasinan headed by Sis. Marietta Ramos launched last May 21, 2012 the 10-Year Scholarship Program started a year ago by Sis. Milde Tong, international chairperson for the DMI Mission for APFV. The Committee coordinated with Urdaneta District Jail Wardress Sr. Inspector Nonie Obsuna and Mr. Jude Ferrer who formed a group from the jail management to conduct a survey and interview inmates to select a deserving beneficiary of the Program.

Ricky Boy Olino, son of inmate Ricky Olino who is in detention for selling dangerous drugs, is the Circle's first scholar. Ricky Boy, a Grade 2 honor pupil, is one of Ricky's seven children. His family who thanked the DMI sisters profusely for their assistance, also received grocery items for their daily needs.

The Circle's APFV Committee includes Sisters Ma.



The Circle's scholar, Ricky Boy, with his father, Ricky Olino.

Aurora Manangan, Violeta Verceles, Rosario Llarenas, Mel Lopez and Aida Rosario.

Santol Vinegar-Making Demo-Seminar Held

The Mater-Admirabilis Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee sponsored recently a demo-seminar on *santol* vinegar-making. Resource persons during the seminar were Gloria Aquino, Sonia Quinto and Peter Bergonio of the Dept. of Agriculture.

Seminar participants were small farmers and jobless women in the community who also learned how to make organic fertilizer from waste

materials from fruits, vegetables and fish scales and gills. Environment protection and conservation is an added benefit of the project.

The Circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee is composed of Sis. Frida Nido, chairperson and members Sisters Antonia Andrada, Linda Llorra, May Ann Norberte and Susie Dawang Edwards.

Turn to Page 16

From the Diocese of Malolos

DMIs Reach Out to Obando Flood Victims

By Sis. Mila S. Reyes, Regent, Vicariate of St. Martin of Tours & St. Francis of Assissi

The DMIs of the Diocese of Malolos (Region IV) headed by Diocesan Regent Sis. Violy Luna and Region IV Representative Sis. Flor Barcial trooped to Obando, Bulacan to distribute relief goods at the church of San Pascual de Baylon Parish last August 23, 2012. Obando was under water for nearly two months.

Members of the Sta. Clara Circle based in Obando who are themselves victims of the flood solicited help for their *kababayan*. The immediate response of the circles within the Diocese, an admirable show of unity and love, yielded close to 600 bags of groceries and clothes which were distributed to 578 families in six flooded barangays of the town.

The distribution of relief goods had been very orderly, thanks to the Sta. Clara Circle and Diocesan Secretary Sis. Cora Raymundo and Circle Regent Sis. Kaye Lumabas.



DMI sisters prepare relief packages for distribution.

After the relief goods distribution, the Circle hosted a brunch of *arroz caldo*, *okoy*, *leche flan* and the famous *tibok-tibok*.

Santol Vinegar-Making Demo-Seminar Heldcont'd. from Page 15



Seminar participants watch Ms. Gloria Aquino and Ms. Sonia Quinto, resource persons from the DA, as they demonstrate the process of vinegar-making.



DMI sisters prepare waste materials for making organic fertilizer. The group includes (standing) Sisters Marietta Ramos, Violy Verceles, Linda Lloren, Norma Locquiao, Nida Fridoy, (seated) Rosa Llarenas, Cion Sarmiento and Au Mangangan.

From the Diocese of Kalookan

Habagat Flood Victims Receive Assistance

The recent flooding caused by the *habagat* (southwest monsoon) affected many parishioners in the Diocese of Kalookan, the DMI sisters in circles comprising the Diocese (Caloocan City, Malabon City and Navotas City) among them. Hardest hit were the DMIs of the Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle of Maysilo, Malabon City. The floods rose to waist-deep and almost to the rooftops in some areas.

Responding to the need of the hour, the DMIs of the Diocese of Kalookan launched a relief drive to extend assistance to the flood victims. Diocesan Regent Sis. Sylvia San Pedro spearheaded the project of sourcing grocery and food items from the circles in the diocese. The relief goods were later distributed by Regent Sis. Mila Masallo and her team from the Maysilo circle who visited the flood victims in their residences.



Diocesan Regent Sis. Sylvia San Pedro (at far left) with the officers and members of the DMI Diocese of Kalookan.

San Jose De Navotas Circle Promotes Proper Attire in Church



Members of the San Jose de Navotas Circle pose by the tarpaulin posters at the San Ildefonso Church, Estrella St., Navotas City.

The San Jose de Navotas Circle donated tarpaulin posters to several churches in Navotas City to promote among parishioners wearing of proper attire in church. The posters were patterned after the official PROPER ATTIRE IN CHURCH Poster issued by the Ministry of Liturgical Affairs of the Arzobispado de Manila. The circle's Morality in Media Committee led by Sis. Lucy Santos spearheaded the project aimed at augmenting the posters in the Church's campaign to inculcate among churchgoers a proper dress code.

From the Diocese of Balanga

DMI Circles Sponsor Marian Exhibit

To promote deeper devotion to the Blessed Mother, the DMI Diocese of Balanga put up a Marian Exhibit, the first to be held in the Diocese. The exhibit was open for public viewing daily from September 6 to 11, 2012 in celebration of Mama Mary's birthday on Sept. 8.

A concelebrated Mass by Balanga Bishop Ruperto Santos, DD and Fr. Abraham Pantig marked the opening of the exhibit. This was followed by procession to the exhibit venue and ribbon-cutting ceremonies officiated by Bishop Santos and Fr. Pantig. Heading the DMIs of the Diocese were Past Diocesan Regent Sis. Lourdes Valdecanas and Diocesan Regent Sis. Ellen Magpantay.

Some 40 images including the apparitions of the Blessed Mother in various parts of the world were exhibited, courtesy of families who own the images, some for many decades. More than 3,000

Marian devotees flocked to the venue to view the images.

A Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral of St. Joseph in Balanga City officially closed the Marian Exhibit on September 11, 2012.



DMI sisters from various circles in the Diocese took turns in keeping daily vigils during the Marian Exhibit.

From Region V

DMI to Sponsor ABS-CBN Healing Mass



The Daughters of Mary Immaculate will be a regular sponsor of ABS-CBN's Healing Mass every 4th Sunday of the month starting January, 2013. During the year, the DMI had sponsored some of the Masses aired on Channel 2 such as the New Year's Eve Mass on Dec. 31, 2011, the Healing Mass on Feb. 26, 2012 and the Mass on Mama Mary's birthday on Sept. 8, 2012. Photo shows DMI sisters with Fr. Glenn Paul Gomez, SVD, head of the Healing Eucharist, Inc. and the Society of the Divine Word's Media Communications during last year's New Year's Eve Mass.



The DMI retreatants with Deacon Imay Olila (in white T-shirt) and Jim, caretaker of the Center from the Netherlands (in G-string).



Our trek through a wooded path to Bulong ng Simoy Formation Center.

From Baler, Aurora

Our Lady Of Mt. Carmel Circle Members Attend Spiritual Retreat

By Sis. Mila Diasanta, Vicarial Regent, Prelature of Infanta

Almost a week before the ordination of two deacons in the Prelature of Infanta, members of the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Circle of Baler, Aurora attended a two-day spiritual retreat on Sept. 22-23, 2012 at Bulong ng Simoy Formation Center of the Vicariate of Valley Ding in Dipaculao, Aurora. Retreat master was Deacon Reyman "Imay" Olila, one of the deacons to be ordained.

Deacon Imay focused his talk on John 21: 1-7. He told the participants to reflect on what Simon Peter did upon hearing the Lord: "... he tied his outer garment round him

(for he had nothing on) and jumped into the water". He explained that the common practice during that time was for one to undress himself before diving into the water. To further meditate on such message, we were grouped into triads to reflect and share with two guide questions: First, what are my fears - where it concerns myself, my family, job and society? Second, what are my gifts that I haven't yet thanked God for? After our group sharing, we felt healed for the reason that we were able to talk and listen to each one's emotions. We were able to recognize and accept our differences and realized

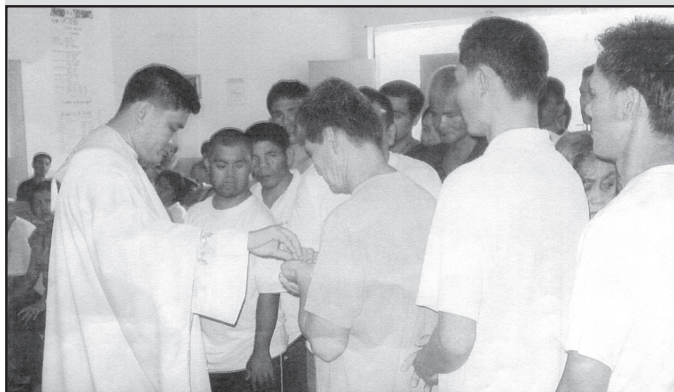
each one's intrapersonal and interpersonal strengths and weaknesses.

Deacon Imay emphasized that it is through Christ that we can conquer our FEARS and accept the fact that disobedience is death and obedience is life. He further said that we, DMIs, in response to the teaching of Blessed Mother Mary through Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, must always wear and clothe ourselves with her scapular doing sacramental works of *Kagandahang-loob*, *Paglilingkod* and *Hapag ng Pasasalamat*. Our activity ended by preparing God's letter to a participant.

Deacon Imay focused his talk on John 21: 1-7. He told the participants to reflect on what Simon Peter did upon hearing the Lord: "... he tied his outer garment round him (for he had nothing on) and jumped into the water".

From the Diocese of Tarlac

News in Photos



**DIOCESE OF TARLAC DMIs
SPONSOR MASSES IN JAIL**

DMI circles in the Diocese of Tarlac take turns in sponsoring Masses every fourth Sunday of the month at the Tarlac Provincial Jail, Tarlac City. Photo shows prisoners receiving Holy Communion from Rev. Fr. Harold Taguines, a sign of their turning over a new leaf. This spiritual activity is part of the restorative justice system that the DMII supports



**OUR LADY OF RANSOM CIRCLE I
CONDUCTS BASIC CATECHISM**

The Our Lady of Ransom Circle I conducted Basic Catechism among children of the staff of the Regional Trial Court and Provincial Prosecutors Office of Tarlac City to prepare them for their First Holy Communion. The children are shown above with Fr. Johnathan Ovivir of the Diocese of Tarlac who supported the activity and Circle Regent Sis. Rosie Espiritu. Grade 6 pupils of Sto. Cristo Elementary School also received Holy Communion during the event.

From Clarin, Misamis Occ.

Sr. Sto. Nino Circle Sponsors Feeding Program



The Sr. Sto. Nino Circle of Clarin, Misamis Occidental sponsored recently a feeding program for indigent pre-schoolers in Poblacion 3, Clarin. Leading the activity were Circle Regent Sis. Fe Palanas and Pro-Life Committee Chairperson Sis. Brenda Bano.

From Las Pinas City

Mary Mother of The Church Circle Sponsors "Handog Ni Maria, Iwas Bukol" Project

The Mary Mother of the Church Circle of BF Resort Village, Las Pinas City sponsored "Handog ni Maria, Iwas Bukol", a breast cancer awareness project held at the Mary Mother of the Church Parish Jubilee Room last Sept. 8, 2012.

A team of doctors from the Gift2 Life Foundation headed by Dr. Cristina Santos conducted for free clinical breast examination, breast cancer risk factor assessment, one-on-one breast consultation and breast biopsy if needed. Photo shows the DMI sisters with the volunteer doctors as they prepare for the free clinic.



From Iriga City

Little Flower Circle Celebrates Feast of St. Therese



The Little Flower Circle of San Antonio de Padua Parish in Iriga City spearheaded the celebration of the Feast Day of St. Therese on October 1, 2012. The circle members are shown in photo with the image of St. Therese during the procession. Flanking the image are (at left) Msgr. Joni Aguirre, DMI chaplain, and (at right) Fr. Rory Lunario, spiritual adviser. To Fr. Rory's left is Atty. Santiago Ortega who each year donates the band and the flowers for the procession. The officers of the circle were installed on July 29, 2012, headed by Regent Sis. Nina Damot, Vice-Regent Sis. Mela Boquiron, Past Regent Sis. Joy Orbon and Vicarial Regent Sis. Lilay Alde.

From Oroquieta City

Reflections . . . in *Sendong's* Aftermath

By Sis. Fe Rodrigo, Sto. Rosario de Oroquieta Circle

"Truly I say to you . . . Whatever you did not do to these little ones, you did not do for me." (Matthew 25:45)

Have we ever meditated on this verse from Scriptures? Have we given of ourselves, be it Time, Talent or Treasure? We must remember that no one is too poor to give nor too rich not to receive.

A tiny voice audibly told me " . . . the children, the children, please take care of them." Prompted by this call, I visited the Tent City one early morning after Mass. The Tent City served as temporary home for victims of Storm *Sendong* last December, 2011. My supposedly flitting visit has become a full-time duty until today, the seventh month after *Sendong* (at the time I'm writing this), cheering the children up, counseling them,

catechizing them . . . and begging friends and co-parishioners for the children's basic needs.

Now that they are all moving out, I can only cry in silence. How little I have done for them . . . to ease the pain of losing their loved ones, or to steadfastly implant in their hearts that we have but one short life to glorify, praise and thank the Creator of everything that exists, our Sovereign Lord.

Jesus whispers: "Reap your reward in heaven", a message for His golden-hearted people: Ditas Ocaya, Mein Lagar, Manny and Joy Araos, Atty. Grace and Helen, Rogelio Go, Boy and Ann Cortez, Beng Guerra and her students, Merylee Macaraeg, Jobie Dumapias, Imelda Obinger, FICCO, our Rev. Fathers, Jenny Abrenica, Cielo's Bakeshop, Bumble Bee, Inday Bacareza, Donna and last



The author

but not the least, the most loved in my family, my son and his wife. To all of them, my sincerest "Thank you!"

Dear God, these duties do not end here . . . for when You answered my prayer to make the remaining years of my life truly meaningful, You did not tell me: "It ends today".



A tent city for Sendong victims



Children of the Tent City receive school supplies from Sis. Fe Rodrigo.

From Zamboanga City

SMI Queen of Angels Circlette Organized

Sis. Dolly Villanueva, regent of the Queen of Angels Circle of the Santuario de San Roque Parish, San Roque, Zamboanga City announced that a Squirettes of Mary Circlette has just been organized in their parish.

The circlette was born after a meeting at the Santuario de San Roque Formation Center held by the Circle's SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Rosemae Estero with 16 young girls aged 11 to 20 years. Circle Regent Sis. Dolly was the investing officer during the investiture and installation rites.

The Circlette's initial set of officers are: Ma. Theresa Estero, president; Maica de los Santos, vice-president; Aiza Hipolito, secretary; Angel Vicente, treasurer; Mariel Abao, chancellor and Dianne Marquez, marshall.

Sis. Rosemae announced that the circlette will form a choir to provide liturgical music during the Sunday Masses that the Queen of Angels Circle regularly sponsors.



The initial batch of SMI Queen of Angels Circlette members with the pastor of the Santuario de San Roque Parish.



The officers of the DMI Queen of Angels Circle with Past International Regent Sis. Beling Panganiban and International Regent Sis. Lyding Ramirez (4th and 2nd from right, respectively).

The SMI National Officers At Your Servicecont'd. from Page 24



**Justine Calderon - Treasurer
(Immaculate Conception Circlette, Karangalan, Antipolo)**

I have been a member of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate for almost six years now and was elected as the fourth SMI president of Karangalan Circlette from 2011 to the present. I really love being part of this church organization because it makes me feel much closer to God and I see things differently now because of His guidance.



**Maria Caroline Soliven - Chancellor
(Immaculate Conception Circlette, Karangalan, Antipolo)**

I am 19 years of age, currently taking up Bachelor of Secondary Education, major in Mathematics and proud to say that I have been serving God for almost a decade now, including my six-year membership in the SMI. I was the president of our circlette from 2009 to 2010 and now serve as vice-president of the Parish Youth Ministry in our church. I still look forward to serving our Lord more, emulating the virtues of Mama Mary.

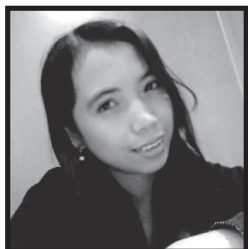
The SMI National Officers At Your Service

The incumbent National Officers of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate compose the 14th SMI Biennial Convention Working Committee. They are individually introduced in this issue of the *DMI Newsette* as they will be at your service during the convention in May, 2013.



Grace Yveth Manulat -President (Our Lady of Lourdes Circlette, Kalibo, Aklan)

Call me Bebet. Prior to my joining the Squirettes of Mary (as I had to wait for the minimum entry age), I was already attending activities of the organization, my mother being a DMI member and headed the SMI Formation Program in her circle. The SMI holds a special place in my heart. With Mama Mary's help, I have been able to give quality time to my studies at Aklan Catholic College where I am taking up a course in Hospitality Management and my duties and responsibilities as SMI officer.



Jovy Sumale - VP for Luzon (Risen Christ Circlette, Paranaque City)

Currently taking up Bachelor of Science in Administration major in Human Resource Development Management, I am people-oriented, a team player, jolly, other-centered (i.e., not self-centered) and hungry to serve God. My life now is like a boat floating in the sea, facing a heavy storm. There are times when I want to give up with all the challenges that I encounter but, with the GRACE and GUIDANCE of God, I survive and will survive.



Jesanny Yap - VP for Visayas (Our Lady of Lourdes Circlette, Kalibo, Aklan)

My birthday is January 7. I finished high school in Aklan Catholic College and now stay in Iloilo where I am taking up Bachelor of Medical Laboratory Science at the University of San Agustin. My school extracurricular activities include being Associate Editor of San Agustin's official newspaper and magazine.



Amy Jumalon - VP for Mindanao (Our Lady of Peace Circlette, Zamboanga City)

I just turned 22 last December 9. A registered nurse by profession, it is really my passion to help other people. I always believe that life is an exciting journey towards the Lord, as I was inspired by St. Therese of the Child Jesus who said, "I want to spend my heaven in doing good upon earth," thus giving me the zeal as well as the impetus to work and strive harder in fulfilling the will of the Lord for me. This is the way which I know will grant my great desire and longing for heaven.



Julia Alicia Martha Lopez – Secretary (Our Lady of Fatima Circlette, Bacood, Sta. Mesa, Manila)

They usually call me Jam. I have a passion for dancing and I was able to share this God-given talent with my fellow youth in our parish. I will be graduating a few months from now and hopefully, with Jesus' and Mary's guidance, I will be able to achieve my dream to be a successful SPED teacher.

Turn to Page 23