

DMI Newsette

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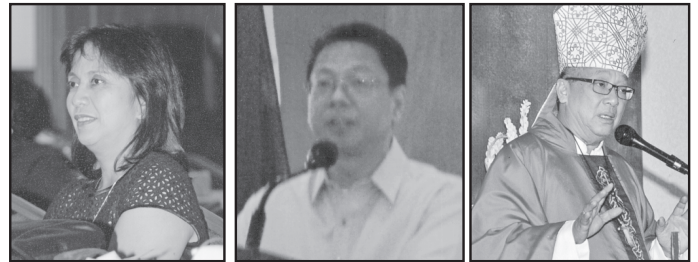
October - December 2013

800 Delegates Attend Luzon Area Conference

An arch that says "Welcome to Naga City" greeted some 800 DMI sisters from all over Luzon who attended the 2013 Luzon Area Conference held at the Villa Cacaes Hotel from October 18 to 20, 2013.

After the enthronement of the Blessed Mother and the traditional opening ceremonies in the afternoon of Day 1, Vice-International Regent for Luzon and Region VI RR Sis. Lita Canonizado welcomed the delegates to the "premiere pilgrimage city in the country, the home of our beloved *Ina*". She said that it is most fitting that the DMIs pay homage to the Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Penafrancia, as the Year of Faith nears its end. She also explained the conference theme "Role of Women in Nation-Building Through the Family with Mary as Model" which focuses on social transformation and the women, mostly wives and mothers, who are empowered to make it happen.

The rest of the afternoon session focused on the DMI's 5 Missions starting with a presentation by the International Mission Chairpersons of their committee's plans and programs.



The conference speakers, from left: Congresswoman Leni Robredo, Fr. Wilmer Tria and Archbishop Rolando Tria Tirona

Pro-Life's Sis. Helen de Leon, a medical doctor, began her presentation with updates on what are current in the medical field – the therapeutic effect of laughing and touching, the potential uses of regenerative medicine (stem-cell therapy) such as anti-aging, and the benefits of alternative (herbal) medicine, among them graviola or soursop (*guyabano*).

She then explained Pro-Life's continuing advocacy for protecting the unborn, promoting natural family planning and protecting the environment

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Congresswoman Robredo with the DMI International Officers and Board

Plans for 19th DMI Biennial Convention Firmed Up

The 19th DMI Biennial Convention in Tagbilaran City will go on as planned – on April 25-26, 2014.

International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva flew to Bohol in early December to see how the preparations are coming along and she happily reported upon her return that the 19th Biennial Convention Committee headed by Convention Chairperson Sis. Gloria Caminero is on top of things and has assured her that everything will go on as planned. Diocesan Regent Sis. Asuncion Naraga also gave assurance regarding the safety of delegates after the 7.2 magnitude

earthquake that occurred in October. Gauging from what she actually saw, Sis. Mila expressed confidence in a hitch-free DMI Convention in April.

The convention will have two venues – the Bohol Wisdom School Gymnasium in Tagbilaran City on Day 1 and the South Palms Resort in Panglao Island on Day 2. (Newspaper reports during the days immediately following the earthquake said that Panglao Island suffered very little damage.) The Convention theme is “Evangelize Jesus’ Words . . . Emulate Mama Mary’s Works . . . Make DMI a Way of Life”.

As for the registration fee, an ‘early bird’ discount is offered for those who will register early: the fee is P3,200 for those who will register between Jan. 1 and Feb. 15, 2014, P3,400 between Feb. 16 and March 15, and P3,600 between March 16 and April 10.

As an added come-on, tourists have started coming back to Bohol as many resorts and tour operators have resumed operation such as the beach resorts in Panglao, the Loboc River Cruise and the Chocolate Hills in Carmen, among others.

But most of all, we will go to Bohol for our love for Mama Mary who will keep us safe under her mantle of protection and her intercession for an enriching and enjoyable journey for her beloved daughters.

On Dec. 30, 2013, the Biennial Convention Committee sent a circular to all circles through their diocesan regents with the details of the Convention. Please refer to the circular for added information. More convention updates in the 1st Quarter, 2014 issue of the *DMI Newsette*.



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From the International Regent

MESSAGE



Dear DMI Sisters,

Feliz Navidad!

It's that time of the year again! December has come and with it, all the joys of Christmas! But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the colorful parol hanging by the window, or the *noche buena* on Christmas eve? Christmas is the season for great joy! It is the birth of the Christ Child!

This Christmas, while we attend to the festive celebrations all around us, let us not forget to bring hope and cheer to our brethren who suffered the devastation wrought by the earthquake and the typhoon.

To our sisters who shared their time by serving in the evacuation centers, shared their food with those without food, opened their homes to those who lost their homes, provided clothing to those shivering from the cold, and to those who emptied their wallets to buy medicines and other needs of the victims of these calamities, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Let us all thank the Lord and our Blessed Mother for our being able to pass the tests. We have shown Courage when in fear, Determination when in doubt and Strength when in danger!

Let us celebrate with great joy the birth of our Savior and Redeemer!
MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

SIS. MILA A. VILLANUEVA
International Regent

to mitigate the effect of climate change. The DEATH (divorce, euthanasia, abortion, total population control and homosexual (same sex) marriage) are still burning issues that the Church and the DMI must stand up against. She also introduced the Bereavement Ministry that she suggested to be set up in parishes to help bereaved families cope with the loss of loved ones.

Morality in Media Chair Sis. Chit Arce underscored the importance of educating the DMI sisters as media gatekeepers who will in turn promote awareness of the good and evil effects of media among families in their communities. The target beneficiaries of DMI's media advocacies are the children who are most vulnerable to the

harmful effects that bad media can create.

Chairperson for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) Sis. Milde Tong gave an update on the 10-Year Scholarship Program for children of prisoners and their victims and announced the launching of a Formation Program for prisoners on parole and their families. CDs of the module will be distributed to the DMI circles through their respective dioceses.

Sis. Juliet Cruz, chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers urged the circles to go one step further in sponsoring livelihood seminars by providing micro-financing through networking with cooperatives and Grameen-style institutions. The

committee's action plans also include counseling services for women in crisis and Scripture-reading and other spiritual activities as a component of the Committee's various programs.

For Youth Welfare, International Chairperson Sis. Ruby Macario announced the 1st SMI Luzon Area Conference to be held at Lola Corazon's Leisure Farm in Candaba, Pampanga on March 29-30, 2014 and invited the DMIs to send their SMI members to the Conference.

Break-out sessions for the Missions followed during which delegates had the opportunity to dialogue with the Missions chairs.

The Mission Reports in plenary concluded the

afternoon's program. They are as follows:

For Pro-Life, Sis. Alice Capiral reported the activities of the Madre de Amor Foundation in Los Banos, Laguna which provides hospice care for terminally-ill patients, particularly poor parishioners. The hospice volunteers visit and lead the patient and family members in prayer and also provide counseling and medical assistance and services.

Sis. Myrna Trinidad, past regent of Risen Christ Circle of Paranaque, reported that her circle has started a training program for lay counselors who will eventually provide counseling services for parishioners with marital as well as personal problems. A joint project of Pro-Life and Upliftment of Women



International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva carries the image of the Blessed Mother for the enthronement ceremony. Flanking her are Past IR Sis. Lyding Ramirez and Vice-IR for Luzon Sis. Lita Canonizado.



Floral offering by members of the International Board



The break-out sessions for the DMI missions . . . Sis. Milde Tong for Assistance to Prisoners' Families & Their Victims



Sis. Juliet Cruz for Upliftment of Women Workers



Sis. Chit Arce for Morality in Media



... Sis. Helen de Leon for Pro-Life

Workers Committees, training is provided by certified counselors.

For Upliftment of Women Workers, the delegates requested for orientation on cooperatives. Sis. Juliet suggested that circles touch base with credit cooperatives in their localities. Participants of their livelihood training programs can then become members of cooperatives that provide saving and loan facilities. Circles can also seek assistance from their parish priests concerning counseling services.

The delegates who attended the APFV forum were provided hard copies of the new Formation Program for prison parolees and their families titled "*Buhay Pagbabago*". They will soon receive CDs of the program.

For Morality in Media, suggestions from the floor centered on media education through the formation of a speaker's bureau among teachers and lectures and modules for various age levels including *yayas*.

While municipal ordinances on media

are already being enforced in some places, DMIs must work for the passage of municipal ordinances promoting good media where there is none and ask owners of internet cafes to limit children's access to some internet sites through filters.

As for the Squirettes of Mary, Sis. Ruby cited current statistics showing that in Luzon, there are 273 DMI circles but only 73 SMI circlettes; thus, the campaign is still the formation of an SMI circlette for every DMI circle and to **Sustain**,

Maintain and Increase membership in the existing circlettes. Delegates who attended the forum agreed that they must pursue relevant activities to attract new SMI members.

Region VI (Diocese of San Pablo), the conference host, provided the fellowship program in the evening with the Vicariate of San Pablo presenting a Mexican dance, the Vicariate of St. John the Baptist, *Pandango*, and the Vicariate of San Antonio de Padua, "Sister Act", the 'nuns'

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**800 Delegates Attend Luzon Area Conference...Cont'd.
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ending up dancing the cha-cha, Gangnam-style. The evening's special features were the lively song numbers of Sis. Millet Jaurigue of the St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Baguio City and a surprise number, a waltz, by the Board Members of Region VI.

Day 2 of the Conference started with a doxology with Sis. Millet and Paul Torreon, son of DMI's official photographer, Sis. Tess, leading the delegates in a touching rendition of the song "The Prayer".

Past International Regent Sis. Lydia Ramirez then recounted her experience during the MNLF siege of Zamboanga City in August. The delegates decided to pass the hat to help in the relief and rehab efforts for the people of Zamboanga and the victims of the Magnitude 7.2 earthquake in Bohol on October 15.

The first of the three speakers during the Conference was Congresswoman Leni Gerona Robredo of the 3rd District of Camarines Sur. She was introduced by

Region VIII RR Sis. Terry Viola as the great wife behind the well-loved late DILG Secretary Jesse Robredo whose untimely death inadvertently pushed her to the limelight. While making her family her top priority, Congresswoman Leni had been able to level up in her career as economist and lawyer, as branch coordinator of the Sentro ng Alternatibong Lingap Panligal (SALIGAN) – Bicol, as president of the Naga City Council for Women for which Naga was awarded the first-ever Most Gender-Responsive LGU and as writer and editor of various publications such as Labor Standards and the Primer on Naga City Ordinances and RA 9262, the law on violence against women and children. She had also been awarded as the Most Outstanding Private Prosecutor in 2009 and for SALIGAN-Bicol as Kabalikat ng Bayan awardee during her term as its coordinator.

Seeing the composition of her audience, Congresswoman Leni decided to do away with her prepared



Sis. Ruby Macario facilitates the forum for Youth Welfare.



Doxology by Sis. Millet Jaurigue and Paul Torreon with their song "The Prayer".



Delegates dance to a lively song number by Sis. Millet.

speech to be able to speak from the heart.

By way of her experience as wife of the late DILG Secretary, she had been able to succinctly describe the key role a wife and mother plays in the welfare and stability of her family, involving making sacrifices such as setting aside her own

career to support her husband's as well as to be able to take care of her children herself. Her priority, she said, is always her family which also was Secretary Robredo's top priority.

Her husband's untimely death from a plane crash in August, 2012 propelled her to the limelight. She has since been in the public eye,



A presentation by Region VI, the host region.



"Balce Marikina" by Region V won first prize for Best Presentation.



Region III's "Pagtatanim" won the Best Regional Attire and 2nd Best Presentation.



Region VII won the Most Authentic Attire and 3rd Best Presentation with "Sayaw sa Anahaw".

coming into her own, since 2013, as Congresswoman for the Third District of Camarines Sur.

Ms. Robredo said that government officials must be accorded the same as any ordinary citizen. "In his three terms as mayor of Naga City and as DILG Secretary, Jesse never felt entitlement to privileges," she said. She asked the DMI delegates to pray that public servants remain grounded and to be steadfast in their responsibility. "Pray for public officials. Let them know where they err and, for encouragement, pat them on the back when

they do well", she pleaded.

How much the public adores Congresswoman Robredo became evident when, after her speech, DMI delegates, almost 800 of them, requested her to pose for a souvenir photo with them which she obligingly did.

International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva opened the afternoon session with an inspirational message during which she thanked the Working Committee headed by Sis. Lita Canonizado who worked extra hard to ensure that the program runs as smooth as a well-oiled machine.

She announced that the conference delegates donated close to P75,000 during the fund drive started that morning. She also gave an update on goings-on in the National Organization particularly the amendments to the DMI Rules & Regulations that the members ratified during the National Officers' Meeting in May.

The second main speaker was Rev. Fr. Wilmer Joseph Tria, CEO of the Consuelo Madrigal Foundation of the Ateneo de Naga, who was introduced by Vicarial Regent Sis. Elmy Antonio.

Fr. Tria focused his talk, "The Role of Women in Nation-Building through Schools and

Workplaces", on three important words – Women, Mary and Nation-Building – which are enshrined in the DMI Vision. Fr. Tria said, "Your womanhood is intertwined with your devotion to Mary. As a DMI, you are dedicating your life to her. This devotion is the source of your energy, the fuel that makes you move and perform your apostolic work with passion. The devotion must, therefore, be nourished, preserved and shared."

The end-goal of our apostolic work, through the DMI missions, is

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nation-building, the building of God's Kingdom on earth.

Women have a built-in mechanism for sensitivity. Unlike men who have a built-in mechanism for pragmatism, women have the power to feel, to decipher and to decode. Our country is at the height of insensitivity. And women are needed to restore sensitivity and sanity in our land.

Citing Fr. Intengan's 1995 study of the Philippine Social System as quoted by Fr. Gorospe, the Philippines is extremely divided into social classes – the elite comprising 1%, middle class, 9% and the lower class, 90%. The elite, the oligarchs continue to rule the country, protected and perpetuated by farce democratic systems. There is no participation by the people, no genuine transparency, no real people empowerment.

Fr. Tria said: "The unimaginable and unreasonable poverty in our country is the very reason why there is a need to rethink the role of women in nation-building." There is a need to connect Mariology with the moral consequence of

political greed, secularization, environmental degradation, poor democratic systems and lack of health care. There is a great and urgent need for renewal among Catholic women. There is a need to bridge the wide gap between rituals and building the Kingdom, between worship and justice.

Mary is our model and inspiration of our being devoted Catholic women. She gave birth to the Church and as our mother, she nourishes the Catholic women and the Church. Mary led the apostles in prayer until the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. She was there praying during the birth of the Church and of the lay faithful and devotees. In our social apostolate, even in the midst of trials and challenges, the DMI is never alone, as the words of Jesus on the

Fr. Tria said: "The unimaginable and unreasonable poverty in our country is the very reason why there is a need to rethink the role of women in nation-building."

Cross resonate: "There is your mother."

The building of God's Kingdom entails nation-building, and considering the Philippine context, Fr. Tria said that the duty to build the nation lies in the people's hand, most especially the women.

Mary never ran away from responsibility. In spite of her poverty, she gave all the support she could give to embolden Jesus, to empower Him to establish the Kingdom through the power of the Cross. Fr. Tria then posed this question: "Have we done the same to our neighbor entrusted to us?" Quoting part of *Christifideles Laice*, a post-synodal apostolic exhortation made 25 years ago, "...the lay faithful must bear witness to those human and gospel values that are intimately connected with political activity itself, such as liberty and justice, solidarity, faithful and unselfish dedication for the good of all, a simple lifestyle and a preferential love for the poor and the least".

Fr. Tria pointed out the need for shepherding the people. "Every DMI

needs to shepherd her own people in the family. Shepherding begins with aggressive and strategic recruitment, requires accompaniment as distinguished from delegation and transformation as distinguished from transaction.

In exercising our prophetic role, Fr. Tria suggested the following steps: 1st, experience the suffering of the people; 2nd, make a moral judgment, and 3rd, act. How? Among others, by calling for reforms to restore the dignity of the people, by preparing our neighborhood to participate in public discussions, by initiating and supporting moves to cleanse our political systems, by mobilizing our members to denounce injustice, by animating our people to speak on behalf of creation and of the community.

Fr. Tria urged his listeners to continue to search for the Filipino identity as formed and molded by the devotion to Mary. With a clear identity as DMIs, he said that we can do many miracles of transformation in the Filipino community and

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"Faith as Obedience and Witnessing"

Region III Assembly Theme

Some 350 DMI sisters from the Dioceses of Balanga (Bataan), Iba (Zambales), and Tarlac and the Archdiocese of San Fernando (Pampanga) converged at the Multi-Purpose Hall of the Lord's Transfiguration Parish in Angeles City on Sept. 21, 2013 for the regional assembly of Region III.

The Archdiocese of San Fernando and the Immaculate Heart of Mary Circle of Angeles City hosted the assembly with the theme "Faith as Obedience and Witnessing".

The assembly opened with floral and candle offerings to the Blessed Mother by the assembly hosts led by Past Regents

Sisters Amelia Guiao and Vicky Angeles and Helen Co and the Diocesan Regents of Region III – Sisters Angelita Salvador of Tarlac, Erlinda Crispin of Iba, and Ellen Magpantay of Balanga. An invocation led by Sis. Julieta Pelayo, chancellor of the Immaculate Heart Circle and the welcome remarks by Sis. Joan Dizon, past International Board Member, then followed.

The first of the assembly's two main speakers was Most Rev. Pablo Virgilio David, D.D., auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of San Fernando. He was introduced by Sis. Hilana Roman, past regent of the Immaculate Heart Circle. Bishop David, who holds a doctorate in



Assembly speakers - Bishop Pablo David and Bro. Alvin Barcelona



sacred theology from the University of Louvain in Belgium, is concurrently pastor of the Holy Rosary Parish in Angeles City.

He started his talk by providing a background on the Year of Faith that focuses on New Evangelization. He said that the distinction between a disciple and an

apostle is that a disciple is a follower while an apostle is a witness. Faith is spiritual intelligence, the capacity to know God's will and the disposition to cooperate with God's creative and redemptive acts in history.

Bishop David quoted Pope Benedict XVI who defines

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Members of the International Board who attended the Region III Assembly, from left, seated: Sisters Milde Tong, Ruby Macario, Juliet Cruz and Mila Villanueva. Standing: Sisters Sally Estrada, Amy Castaneda and Helen de Leon.

faith as a relationship with God that grows through constant communication. The capacity to respond to God who communicates with us is the beginning of faith. The root word of faith is "to listen".

Listening intently leads to understanding, commitment and finally to action. To obey in faith is to submit freely to the Word of God.

"The Blessed Mother is the exemplar of faith as obedience," Bishop David said. She opened her whole being to become Mother of the Redeemer.

For Filipinos, faith is a basic fundamental of life. Mary's role in our lives is to lead us to her Son. She also urges us to do what He asks of us. ("Do whatever he tells you to do" - Jn. 2:5) "The spring of life is my Son," she had declared in her many

"Mary is a strong woman, an example of obedience manifested during the Annunciation and at the foot of the cross, standing firmly on the rock of faith."

apparitions. As a manifestation of this declaration, Bishop David said that the Blessed Mother during her apparitions led her young visionaries to a spring.

In ending, Bishop David said: "Mary is a strong woman, an example of obedience manifested during the Annunciation and at the foot of the cross, standing firmly on the rock of faith." He also admonished the DMI sisters to keep their gaze fixed on Jesus and the Blessed Mother who is both the provider and perfecter of our faith.

The afternoon session started with messages from the members of the International Board who attended the assembly.

International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva called on all DMIs to achieve renewed conversion to the Lord and Mother Mary through deepened faith. She also urged them to undertake the task of evangelization especially in the mission areas, first by teaching them how to pray.

Pro-Life International Chair Sis. Helen de Leon cited the pro-life virtues of Mama Mary: she was the first to reject abortion when she said to Gabriel during the Annunciation: "Thy will be done." Her virtue of charity shone



Offering of flowers and candles to our Blessed Mother by Sisters Vicky Angeles, Amelia Guiao and Helen Co.



The Parade of Colors. The bearers are Sisters Evangeline Tipace, Luming Yu and Monica Umali of the host circle.



A group photo of the Immaculate Heart Circle members, assembly hosts, with Bishop Pablo David.

during the Visitation and at the Wedding in Cana, her patience and perseverance during the Nativity and her strength and courage at the foot of the Cross.

"If Mary's time were today, she would be leading the fight for the unborn and what is morally right," Sis. Helen said. She enjoined her audience to continue to stand up for life and to

support the anti-RH position of the Church. She also introduced a new ministry called Bereavement in parishes aimed at helping ease the pain of losing a loved one.

Upliftment of Women Workers Chair Sis. Juliet Cruz asked the DMI circles to conduct orientation sessions on cooperatives and Grameen-style institutions as a source of micro-financing for marginalized women who attend DMI-sponsored seminars to enable them to start their small business.

Sis. Milde Tong, chair of the Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims gave an update on the Committee's 10-year Scholarship Program for children of prisoners and victims reporting that 35% of circles all over the country have already adopted scholars.

She also announced a new Formation Program for prisoners on parole and their families that will be launched during the Luzon Area Conference in October.

Youth Welfare Committee Chair Sis. Ruby Macario rendered a report on the 14th SMI Biennial Convention held in May, 2013 and the new SMI plans and programs that include monthly meetings of SMI circlettes and area

“The Christian message is both informative and performative. It is life-changing in that it hones our relationship with God and with others.” His final message: “Be present in your homes. Be Jesus to your family and to others.”

conferences to be held alternately with the biennial convention. The First SMI Luzon Area Conference will be held on March 29-30, 2014 at Lola Corazon's Leisure Farm in Candaba, Pampanga.

International Treasurer and Region III Representative Sis Amelia Castaneda also addressed the delegates thanking them for their presence and congratulating the assembly working committee for work well done.

The afternoon's speaker, Bro. Alvin Barcelona, is a much-sought-after Kerygma preacher and writer who started his talk

on the topic “Faith as Witnessing” with the song “A Place for Us”, his audience gamely joining him in the singing. “Witness the faith, live the faith,” Bro. Alvin proclaimed.

Quoting Pope Benedict XVI, he said that Christianity is not a moral code or philosophy but an encounter with a person. He then cited the 3Cs of the Church – **Cult** (ceremonies or rituals and celebrations), **Creed** (doctrines, beliefs and teachings) and **Code** (way of life) and the 3Ps – **practical** (connected to everyday life), **positive** (pro-active such as Mary's visit to cousin Elizabeth that gave hope, encouragement and clear direction) and **progressive** (leading to transformation and change).

Bro. Alvin's talk at times consisted of experience sharing. A cancer survivor, he said he has offered his

life, his very existence to become a living witness to the Word that Jesus left us. By God's grace, he has been able to live his faith from day to day.

“The Christian message is both informative and performative. It is life-changing in that it hones our relationship with God and with others.” His final message: “Be present in your homes. Be Jesus to your family and to others.”

A Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Nitoy Mallari and the closing remarks by Sis. Felicia Ayson, regent of the Immaculate Heart Circle ended the Region III Assembly. The day's masters of ceremonies were Sisters Corazon Sugay and Julie Tungol, past regents of the host circle.

(Our special thanks to Sis. Felicia Ayson, regent of the Immaculate Heart Circle for writing part of the Region III Assembly Report. - Ed.)



Assembly delegates enjoy an unfreezing exercise.

Region I Assembly Held in Cauayan City

Region I Representative Sis. Leticia Gano reported that ten circles in Region I were represented at the Region I Assembly held on July 27, 2013 at the Queen Jennifer Hotel in Cauayan City, Isabela.

The ten circles, 3 from Baguio City – St. Joseph the Worker, St. Vincent Ferrer and Our Lady of Atonement Circles, one from Ilocos Norte – Mother of Good Counsel Circle, St. William Parish in Laoag City, and six from Isabela – Mater Immaculata of Cauayan, Our Lady of Atocha of Alicia, Our Lady of Mercy of Angadanan, Our Lady of La Sallette of San Mateo, Sto. Nino de Praga of Cordon and St. Francis of Assissi of Santiago City, were represented by 120 DMI sisters.

Gracing the assembly were International Regent Sis. Mila Villanueva, International Chairperson for Pro-life Sis. Helen de Leon and Upliftment of Women

Workers Committee Chairperson Sis. Juliet Cruz.

In her inspirational message, Sis. Mila told her audience about her advocacies in leading the apostolic services through the DMI missions that would benefit our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the parish communities. Her message inspired the daughters of Mary to be more active in their mission.

Sis. Helen de Leon of Pro-life shared her plans and programs aimed at the promotion, protection and preservation of life. She underscored the need for all pro-lifers to be actively involved in this mission.

Sis. Juliet for her part pointed out how DMI members can become agents of change through the DMI's missions with the objective of uplifting the economic life and the spirit of the less privileged members of society.



Sister Unity, Millet Jaurigue (3rd from left) with guests from the International Board, from left: Sisters Juliet Cruz, Leticia Gano and Mila Villanueva.



Guests from the International Board, Sisters Helen de Leon and Mila Villanueva with Sis. Millet Jaurigue of the St. Joseph the Worker Circle of Baguio City.

Highlighting the Fellowship Night was the search for Region I Ms. DMI 2013. Seven candidates participated in the contest.

Sis. Victoria Cacabelos of Mater Immaculata Circle won the title of Ms. DMI, Sis. Esperanza Baliton of Sto. Nino de Praga was 1st runner-up and Sis. Ofelia Lucas of Our Lady of Atocha, 2nd runner-up. Titles were also won by the other candidates: Sis. Millet Jaurigue who

represented the three circles of Baguio City was crowned Sister Unity, Sis. Beth Carbonel of Our Lady of Mercy was Sister Friendship, Sis. Diatilinda de la Pena of Our Lady of La Sallette was Sister Sanctity and Sis. Elma Francisco of Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle was Sister Charity.

The Assembly Working Committee happily reported that their fund-raising activity was very successful. The funds raised will finance the Region's projects and activities for the DMI missions.



Sis. Vicky Cacabelos was crowned Ms. DMI-Region I.



Assembly hosts from the Mater Immaculata Circle take a breather with their guests from the International Board after the assembly.

News Updates from the Diocese of San Jose (Nueva Ecija)



STA. CECILIA CIRCLE DONATES WHEELCHAIRS

The Sta. Cecilia Circle of Guimba, Nueva Ecija awarded a total of 29 wheelchairs to disabled residents of different barangays in Guimba during the first semester of 2013 as part of the Circle's pro-life project. Part of the funds used for the project came from the circle's Christmas caroling in December, 2012. Photo shows the DMI officers and members with the beneficiaries who received wheelchairs from the circle.

ST. CHRISTOPHER CIRCLE'S GIFT-GIVING PROJECT

Indigent families and children of a barangay in Licab, Nueva Ecija were beneficiaries of the gift-giving project of St. Christopher Circle last March 16, 2013.



SCHOOLCHILDREN RECEIVE BAGS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES FROM ST. JOSEPH THE HUSBAND CIRCLE

Regent Sis Ligaya Placido and Sis. Flor Domingo led the DMI sisters of St. Joseph the Husband Circle of Rizal, Nueva Ecija in the distribution of school bags and supplies to public school children prior to the opening of school last June, 2013.



A Jollibee mascot entertains the children as the DMI sisters look on.



The DMI sisters turn over their donations to the orphanage staff.

From Marilao, Bulacan

Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle Visits Bethany House

By Sis. Mila Reyes, Past Vicarial Regent, Vicariate of St. Martin of Tours

The Ina ng Grasya ng Diyos Circle of Marilao, Bulacan visited Bethany House Sto. Nino Orphanage on August 10, 2013 for its pro-life mission and donated sacks of rice, cooking oil, biscuits, bath soap, laundry bar and detergents, toothpaste and other grocery items for use by the wards in the orphanage.

The 59 children in the orphanage were treated to Jollibee meals complete with mascots and clowns courtesy of Regent Sis. Mely de la Pena and family. The children, aged 2 to 12 years old, joined in the singing, dancing and tricks performed by the clowns.

On September 7, as a joint project of the

Upliftment of Women Workers and Morality in Media Committees, the Circle visited the orphanage again to donate nursery and elementary books, courtesy of Past Regent Sis. Alice Cuyugan, the present chair of Upliftment. The sisters brought chocolate cupcakes and used clothes for the children.

The Bethany orphanage is in Tabe, Guiguinto, Bulacan. It is a home for abandoned, neglected and orphaned children up to 12 years old. Men and women volunteers take care of the children, do the laundry and cleaning. Maintenance of the orphanage comes from donations from NGOs, religious groups and generous individuals.

800 Delegates Attend Luzon Area Conference...Cont'd. from Page 8

society. And we can do this as a simple act of gratitude to the Lord because, even in our insignificance as the mustard seed, He has handpicked us to be part of His team in building His Kingdom.

A Eucharistic celebration by Archbishop Rolando Tria Tirona of the Archdiocese of Caceres concluded the conference session. In his

homily, Archbishop Tirona said that Mary, the Mother of God, is a woman of faith whose life had been committed to total and absolute adherence and surrender to the will of God.

He cited three attributes of Mary's faith – affective (from the heart), effective (bears fruit such as the Visitation), and steadfast

(proven at the foot of the Cross). He also cited four characteristics of Mary that are worth emulating by the DMI sisters: **interiority** (one's inner life, "the soul has many rooms at the center of which is God"), **prayer** (the way to deepen and enrich one's interior life; "it is living out our relationship with God"), **action** (the fruit of prayer that calls for

action to help others), and **determination** (commitment).

Archbishop Tirona suggested some simple ways for the DMIs to emulate Mary's faith through her characteristics:

- Start small – begin with your families.
- Never forget to say "Thank you".

"Christmas In Our Hearts" - Dioceses Of Cubao and Novaliches Outreach at Molave Youth Home

*By Sis. Ruby Macario, Vicarial Regent,
Diocese of Cubao*

On December 7, 2013, 16 DMI circles from the Dioceses of Cubao and Novaliches joined forces and prepared over 240 snack packs and Christmas gift bags for youth offenders housed at the Molave Youth Home located inside the Quezon City Hall Compound.

This Christmas tradition was made more special by the presence of Most Rev. Honesto Ongtioco, DD, Diocese of Cubao bishop who celebrated the Mass. A Living Rosary led by the youth home residents themselves preceded the Eucharistic celebration. Bishop Ongtioco noted the different Christmas lanterns made by the youth which carried various messages of hope such as *Bagong Pag-asa*, *Paskong Masagana*, etc. The Bishop spoke lengthily about a particular lantern



Bishop Honesto Ongtioco is welcomed by DMI sisters to the Molave Youth Home.



Christmas lanterns made by the Molave Youth Home residents.

message that said: "Christmas in Our Hearts", stressing to the youth that Christmas happens in the hearts of men where God should dwell. The central message of his homily was *PASKO: PASOK KRISTO SA BUHAY KO!* exhorting everyone to have a more meaningful Christmas.

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- Do good everyday.
- Spread cheer.

"The center of the Church is Jesus," Archbishop Tirona declared. "And Mary continues to build that Church." As he ended his homily, he posed this question to his listeners: Do we follow the way of the Blessed Mother in building the Church through our families?"

A contest for the best presentation was the main event of Fellowship Night. The motif was Filipiniana. Composing the contest board of judges were Chairman – Jess Achas, Naga City Events & Protocol Officer, and members: Sis. Mila Villanueva, Sis. Lyding Ramirez, Macky Barachino of the Ramon Obusan Folkloric Group and Lyn

Santi, general manager of Villa Caceres Hotel.

Adjudged winners were the following:
Best Regional Attire – Region III ("Pagtatanim")
Most Authentic Attire – Region VII ("Sayaw sa Anahaw")
Best Regional Presentation: First Place – Region V ("Balce Marikina")
Second Place – Region III ("Pagtatanim")

Third Place – Region VII ("Sayaw sa Anahaw")

Day 3 (Sunday) started early with the Angelus and closing prayer led by Sis. Jane Corcuera and the closing remarks by Region VI Diocesan Regent Sis. Elvie Arambulo. Delegates who have not yet been to the Bicol Region left early to visit its many beautiful tourist spots.

News Updates from the Diocese of Antipolo



Diocesan Exemplification of New Members

Last Dec. 10, 2013, 39 candidates from the different circles of the Diocese of Antipolo converged at the St. Paul of the Cross Parish Pastotal Center for their exemplification (long conferral) ceremonies. Composing the Exemplification Team were Sis. Cora Afuang – regent, Sis. Minda Atutubo – vice-regent, Sis. Lou Biason – chancellor, Sis. Annalie Calma – custodian, Sis. Alma Luces – exemplifying officer, Sis. Rita Lucena – commissioning officer, Sis. Penny Bulan – banner bearer, Sis. Zeny Manlangit – monitor and Sisters Malou San Diego and Luz Tegelan – guides.

Mary & the Pope

Pope Francis acknowledges this longstanding tradition of the Church to honor Mary during the month of May.

*The second thought: in the silence of his daily activity, St. Joseph shared with Mary a single, common focal point of attention: Jesus. **They accompany and guard**, with dedication and tenderness, the growth of the Son of God made man for us, reflecting on everything that happens. In the Gospels, Luke points out twice **the attitude of Mary**, which is also that of St. Joseph: "She treasured all these things, and pondered them in her heart" (2:19.51).*

On-the-Spot Poster-Making and Slogan-Writing Contest Finals Held



The finals of the On-the-Spot Poster-Making and On-the-Spot Slogan-Writing Contests were held on Nov. 9, 2013 at the Our Lady of the Abandoned Center in Marikina City. The participants were the winners of the same contests in the circle level held earlier. The objective of the contests was to increase the awareness of the students in their role in promoting good morals through the different media as well as promoting filial love and devotion to Mama Mary. Guided by the theme: "Sino si Maria sa Buhay Ko?", the resulting works of the students were very interesting and revealing. Cash prizes were awarded to the top three winners in both contests.

From the Diocese of Balanga

Bataan DMIs Receive Award for Active Role in Annual Mt. Samat Pilgrimage

The DMIs of the Diocese of Balanga received a plaque of appreciation from Bishop Ruperto Santos, assisted by Fr. Joen Villanueva, for their untiring efforts to make the annual Mt. Samat Pilgrimage, now on its 10th year, the success that it had been. Sis. Dolores Gonzalo, regent of St. Joseph Circle received the award on behalf of the DMII during the awards ceremonies held last Nov. 30, 2013.

The annual pilgrimage was started by

Archbishop Socrates Villegas when he was bishop of the Diocese of Balanga. It consisted of a five-hour walk from the foot of Mt. Samat in Panilao, Pilar, Bataan up to its summit where the 302-foot cross known as *Dambana ng Kagitingan* stands. This famous historic spot becomes the center of Eucharistic celebrations to mark the start of Advent. Pilgrims who join the trek relive the hardships of Jesus as He carried His cross to Mt. Calvary. Thousands of devotees, both young and old, join the pilgrimage.



The DMI sisters in a group photo before the start of the pilgrimage.

From year-to-year, the involvement of the DMIs in the pilgrimage has become a necessity: providing the required logistics for those who join the procession and

preparing and assisting in the Eucharistic celebration. - *Sis. Thelma D. Manansala, past regent, St. Dominic Circle, Abucay Bataan*

Sto. Rosario Circle's Active Media Campaign



Diocesan Regent Sis. Ellen Magpantay and Circle Regent Sis. Emerlita Talento headed the group that visited internet cafes and CD stalls as a Morality in Media activity.

Acting out their role as media gatekeepers, the members of the Sto. Rosario Circle headed by Sis. Emerlinda Talento, circle regent and Diocesan Regent Sis. Eleanor Magpantay made a surprise visit to magazine stalls, video tape rental shops and internet cafes in the town of Orani, Bataan to see and check if the proprietors of these

establishments follow existing laws and ordinances in the conduct of their business. The activity was part of their campaign to promote good media under the Morality in Media thrust of the DMII. - *Sis. Mercedes Angeles, recording secretary, Sto. Rosario Circle*

Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle Calls On Diocese of Laoag Bishop

The officers and members of the Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle of St. William Parish in Laoag City paid a courtesy call on Most Rev. Renato Pine Mayugba, D.D., bishop of the Diocese of Laoag last March 8, 2013.

During the DMI sisters' audience with the bishop, Sis. Marcelina Agustin, the circle's recording secretary, introduced the members of the group to Bishop Mayugba. Vicarial Regent Sis. Lucina Tamayo provided a historical

background, the vision and mission and scope of activities of the organization. They then reported the accomplishments of the circle and an update on its programs and projects in pursuance of the DMI missions. As a parish-based organization, the Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle undertakes several projects jointly with parish ministries and Marian organizations.

Bishop Mayugba commended the circle for fulfilling its missions and for



The Our Lady of Good Counsel Circle with Bishop Renato Mayugba during their courtesy call.

its active involvement in parish undertakings. At the end of the visit, the Bishop blessed the group who thanked him for taking time

out from his very busy schedule for a very productive dialogue with them.

Diocese of Balanga DMIs Join Grand Marian Procession

The DMIs of the Diocese of Balanga with the Sto. Rosario Circle of Orani, Bataan in the lead participated in the Grand Marian Procession held in Intramuros, Manila on Dec. 1, 2013. The procession is held every Sunday before the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8 during which various images of the Blessed Mother coming from

parishes all over the country are processed.

The congregation from Bataan accompanied the image of the Virgen Milagrosa del Pueblo de Orani, the miraculous Patroness of Bataan. Accompanying the DMI sisters were Rev. Fr. Santos Detablan, parish priest, Sis. Ellen Magpantay, diocesan

regent, Sis. Emerlinda Talento, circle regent and WGK Roy Arroyo of the Knights of Columbus Sto. Rosario Council 3888 and his brother knights.

The group left Bataan early in the morning of Dec. 1 and attended the Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Mario Sobrejuanite at the Chapel of the

Eucharistic Lord in Mega Atrium before proceeding to Intramuros. The Marian Grand Procession is an annual undertaking by the *Confrada de Immaculada Concepcion*. Participation in the procession has become an annual pilgrimage for the DMIs of Bataan.



The DMIs and other members of the Bataan congregation accompany the image of the Virgen Milagrosa del Pueblo de Orani during the Marian Grand Procession.



Pilot Financing Program for Small Business Launched

The Risen Christ Circle of Moonwalk Village, Paranaque City organized a symposium on Cooperatives and Financial Literacy at the Holy Eucharist Parish Center last August 3, 2013. A project of the Circle's Upliftment of Workers Committee headed by Sis. Nieves Africa, the activity will serve as a pilot for providing micro-financing to women who have attended the livelihood seminars sponsored by the Circle to enable them to start their own business.

As one of the major projects for 2013-14 of the national organization for this mission, Sis. Juliet Cruz, national chairperson for Upliftment of Women Workers, invited a resource person, Mr. Noli Salvador, project development and members' support services officer of the San Dionisio Credit Cooperative of Paranaque for a seminar for graduates of Risen Christ Circle's livelihood

training programs. Sis. Juliet is a past regent of the circle.

The San Dionisio Credit Cooperative is among the pioneer cooperatives and one of the most successful coops in the country. Today, it serves

Once an application for membership of an individual is approved, she may be extended a loan to help start a new business. At the same time, members are also able to save through regular fixed deposits they make to the cooperative.



Mr. Noli Salvador, resource speaker, during the seminar on Cooperatives and Financial Literacy sponsored by the Risen Christ Circle.

not only as a savings and loan facility for its many members but also provides benefits and services covering health, education, funeral and others through tie-ups with various service providers. Mr. Salvador spoke on how a cooperative is organized, how it functions, the advantages and benefits of being members of a coop as well as the duties and responsibilities of members. He also offered practical tips on how to manage one's finances.

Once an application for membership of an

individual is approved, she may be extended a loan to help start a new business. At the same time, members are also able to save through regular fixed deposits they make to the cooperative. Some of the seminar participants have already applied for membership in the San Dionisio Credit Coop.

Circle Regent Sis. Helen Balmores said that the seminar was an eye-opener to the women who attended, realizing that they can do a lot to uplift their economic life.

From Batangas City

Mater Purissima Circle Sponsors Media Sympo

By Sis. Merle Gutierrez, Circle Regent

A symposium on Morality in Media was held last October 12, 2013 at the St. Bridget College Auditorium from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon with Rev. Fr. Stephen Cuyos, MSC as the resource speaker. He is the Production and Training Specialist of the Communication Foundation of Asia.

The members of Squirettes of Mary Mater Purissima Circlette served as usherettes. They also helped facilitate the

open forum by collecting written questions from participants. There were 1,250 participants coming from different schools, universities, barangay high schools, parish youth clubs and organizations. The very responsive and enthusiastic audience fielded so many questions during the open forum.

Krysta Abel, SMI national secretary and president of the Mater Purissima Circlette hosted the program.



Members of the Mater Purissima Circle and SMI Circlette pose with Fr. Stephen Cuyos, symposium resource speaker.

Circle Regent Sis. Merle Gutierrez and Past International Regent Sis. Sonia Mayo who currently serves as chair of the Mater Purissima Circle's

Morality in Media Committee spearheaded this very successful event.

PHOTO NEWS

Region VIII Officers and Board Meet in Polangui, Albay

Region VIII Representative Sis. Terry Viola convened a meeting of the Region's officers and board last November 20, 2013 in Polangui, Albay. On top of the agenda were the reports by the regional chairpersons of the five DMI missions of their goals and action plans. The vicarial regents reported on the activities of circles under their respective vicariates. Shown in photo are Sis. Terry and Diocesan Regent Sis. Zeny Sto. Tomas as they carry the image of the Immaculate Conception at the start of their session.



PHOTO NEWS

From the Diocese of San Carlos

Sacred Heart of Jesus Circle Celebrates Founding Anniversary

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Circle of San Carlos City, Negros Occidental celebrated its Founding Anniversary last Sept. 29, 2013 and its annual apostolate at the DMI Headquarters with the theme "Caring for the Elderly" in pursuance of the DMI Pro-Life Mission.

Forty active members of the Circle together with Diocesan Regent Sis. Beatriz Tam served breakfast and distributed gifts to elderly residents of different barangays in the city.



From the Diocese of Bacolod

Maria Auxilladora De Los Cristianos Circle Goes Tree-Planting

The officers and members of Maria Auxilladora de los Cristianos Circle conducted a tree-planting activity at Don Salvador Benedicto, the summer capital of Negros. Fourteen members of the circle headed by Regent Sis. Esther Lopez planted fruit trees such as *chico*, jackfruit, mango, guava and avocado. Diocesan Regent Sis. Celia Ferrer and Vicarial Regent Sis. Lourdes Cascaro also joined the activity. Sis. Esther hosted a sumptuous lunch later to celebrate Easter Sunday.



From Davao City

Sto. Rosario Circle Sponsors Recollection for Prison Probationers and Parolees



The Sto. Rosario Circle of Davao City held a recollection last August 17, 2013 for prison probationers and parolees. The whole-day activity was held at Badak Beach Resort in Daliao, Davao City. The recollection speakers were Dr. Romanito Pilay, medical director of St. John Hospital and Fr. Jovilo Jonathan Bongay, DCD, pastor of Immaculate Conception Parish - Mintal.

Attended by 60 participants, the recollection was spearheaded by Sis. Loreto Ligue, circle regent, and Sis. Julie Bautista, chairperson of the Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims in coordination with the Davao City Parole and Probation Office through CCPO Helen Tejada.

Capping the event was a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Fr. Victor Isidoro Gilay, DCD.

From Ormoc City, Leyte

Sts. Peter & Paul Circle Commemorates Clergy Day

The officers and members of the Sts. Peter and Paul Circle once again spearheaded the annual celebration of Clergy Day last Sept. 9, 2013 at the Dominic Hall Catholic Rectory of the Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Ormoc City.

Honored during the occasion were a number of priests from the different parishes and religious orders as well as missionaries in Ormoc City.

A concelebrated Mass by the priest-honorees started the celebration at 5:30 p.m. Unique in this year's celebration was the offering by the clergy of the Mass for church-goers instead of the Mass being offered by the latter.

The program that followed started with an opening prayer led by Sis. Bernadette Surbano. In his

inspirational message, Rev. Fr. Gilbert Urbina expressed the honorees' gratitude to the organizers for their continuing support as they go about their daily ministry. He also recalled the challenges, sometimes seemingly insurmountable, that the priests, including himself, encounter in their task of shepherding the Lord's flock. He said that the priestly vocation requires total commitment, a dedication of one's heart and soul in responding to God's call of service in His vineyard.

During the program, the priest-honorees rendered a surprise number, a medley of songs to the delight of the DMI sisters who responded also with a special song number.



The priest-honorees with the officers and members of the Sts. Peter and Paul Circle.

Region XI Representative Sis. Perla Malazarte gave the closing remarks in which she related a story about a priest being asked by a child how much he makes. And the priest's answer: "How much do I make? I can make holding your hand seem like the most important thing in the world when you're scared. I work all day to save the souls of church goers who still do not accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior . . . I make my family wait for dinner until

I know your family member is taken care of especially if they are sick spiritually . . . I make myself work weekends and holidays because people just don't get divine services Monday thru Friday . . . Today, I might save your life, through enlightening God's purpose in your life . . . How much do I make? All I know is that YOU, my parishioners, make a difference."

The celebration ended with giving of special gifts to the priest-

honorees, a symbol of the flock's appreciation for the many sacrifices that members of the clergy make in ministering to the spiritual needs of their parishioners.

The attendees, numbering about 80, went home with a beautifully-designed "stampita" containing a prayer for priests and the picture of St. John Mary Vianney, patron saint of priests.

From the Diocese of Malaybalay

DMI-Bukidnon Celebrates Silver Anniversary



A group photo of Bukidnon DMI sisters.

Last November 17, 2013, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate of the Diocese of Malaybalay (Bukidnon) celebrated its 25th Founding Anniversary in Valencia City. It was in November, 1988 when the first DMI circle was organized in Musuan, Bukidnon with Past International Board Member Sis. Corita Hilario as its charter regent.

The celebration was held at the San Agustin Institute of Technology (SAIT) Gymnasium. The Our Lady of Hope Circle hosted the activities. A total of 249 DMI sisters attended the celebration. Guests from

various parts of the region also graced the occasion.

A Holy Mass opened the celebration with Most Rev. Jose Cabantan, D.D., bishop of the Diocese of Malaybalay as priest presider. Co-celebrating with him was the pastor of San Agustin Parish, Rev. Fr. Diomedes Brigoli. The members of the Knights of Columbus served as choir during the Mass. An appeal was made by the Mass celebrants for donations to the victims of Super typhoon "Yolanda" to which the DMIs and their guests responded generously, raising more than P10,500 from the second collection.

Sis. Rosalinda Pimentel, Past Region XII Representative and currently Mindanao Coordinator for the Squirettes of Mary, in her inspirational message gave testimonies of the Blessed Mother's continued intercession, particularly in spreading her mantle of protection over her home province, Surigao del Sur from the recent natural calamities. She shared with the DMI sisters her special prayer to calm the storm. She also encouraged the DMI circles to continue organizing SMI cirdettes, the Squirettes being future DMIs.

Sis. Annie Ty, the present Region XII Representative who came with eight DMI sisters from the Immaculate Conception Circle of San Nicolas Parish, Tandag City, congratulated the DMIs of Bukidnon for their "25 years of journeying to the Lord with the Blessed Mother", the theme of their Silver Jubilee celebration. She happily noted

the growth and progress of DMI circles in Bukidnon through the years and they continue to be among the most successful in the region.

The affair was highlighted by a motorcade around Valencia City, the Mass and program, awarding of plaques and mementoes and the fellowship. Surprise numbers were rendered by the following circles: Mirror of Justice, San Isirido Labrador, Morning Star, Queen of Peace, Sagrada Familia, Our Lady of Help of Christians and Our Lady of Hope. DMI sisters who attended the activity represented twelve circles in Bukidnon.

The successful event was carefully planned and managed by the Silver Jubilee Working Committee under the supervision and guidance of Diocesan Regent Sis. Zenaida Roberto and Past Diocesan Regents Sisters Lota Gamboa, Linda Beltran, Erlinda Chico and Lelis Ching.



The procession with Bishop Jose Cabantan, Mass celebrant.

1st SMI Luzon Area Conference

Preps in Full Swing

Close in the heels of the very successful 14th SMI Biennial Convention in May, 2013, International Chairperson for Youth Welfare (SMI) Sis. Ruby Macario and the SMI national officers have started preparing for another major event – the area conferences that will be held alternately with the biennial conventions.

The first of these area conferences is the 1st Luzon Area Conference on March 29-30, 2014. Venue of the

conference is Lola Corazon's Leisure Farm in Bgy. Talang, Candaba, Pampanga.

The conference theme is "Proclaiming God's Goodness through Mary Amidst Nature's Glory" with the sub-theme "Loving Mother Earth in Lola's Farm".

The SMI delegates can expect a lot of fun activities at the Farm upon their arrival at 12:00 noon of March 29 (Saturday) until the closing of the conference at 10:30 a.m. of the following day. Most of

the activities will be held outdoors, so close to Nature where the green of the fields and treetops meets the blue of the sky, so near God's earth for one to contemplate its beauty and to sing praises to Him Who created it.

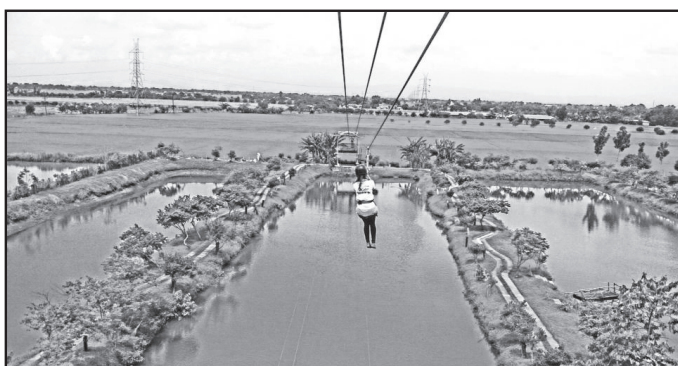
Now, the details:

Pre-registration is required. The registration fee of P1,700 covers two days and a night's stay in the farm in air-conditioned dormitory rooms plus dinner, breakfast and PM snack. Deadline for registration is **February 1,**

2014. There will be no on-site registration.

A circular from Sis. Ruby sent out to the circlettes earlier asks Squirettes to plan early (including saving part of their school allowance for the fee) to have a fruitful trip and make this first-ever area conference another fun-filled summer for the Squirettes and the DMIs.

The SMI Area Conference for the Visayas comes next in July and Mindanao, in October, 2014.



SMI Vice-President for Luzon Justine Calderon enjoys the zipline ride and the majestic view all around her.



A pathway at Lola Corazon's Leisure Farm



A view of the poolside



Wall-climbing is an exciting activity that awaits SMI conference delegates.