



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Squirettes of Mary Immaculate Luzon Area Conference

## “The youth as active agents in the parish supporting our priests in the year of the clergy and the consecrated”

*“Discovering the country through creative show of talents in the form of Philippines/Cultural Dances.”*

The 3rd SMI Luzon Area Conference was held on July 21 to 22, 2018 at Club Balai Isabel in Talisay, Batangas.

*By Madison Marie Pineda,  
SMI National President*

### Day 1

#### Opening Rites

The area conference began with the enthronement of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the recitation of the SMI Prayer-Consecration to Mary. The enthronement was led by SMI National President Sq. Madison Marie Pineda, and DMI International Vice Regent for Luzon and Regional Representative Region V Sis Ruby Macario. They were assisted by Sis Catalina Rebecca Pineda (International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/Squirettes of Mary Immaculate), and the SMI National Officers -Sq. Angelee Perada (VP for Luzon), Sq. Janine Alcantara (National Treasurer), Sq. Joy Ancheta (National Secretary), and Sq. Jonalyn Lico (National Chancellor).

The morning ceremonies continued with the parade of colors and presentation of delegates. Sis Biannah



Villanueva, SMI Coordinator for Luzon, and Sis Beth Bongon, Past Regent of Our Lady of Fatima in the Diocese of Cubao guided the participants for the enthronement ceremonies, and likewise trained the Squirettes for the parade of colors.

The Squirettes were seated according to the color of their ID laces. These were lively colors like bright yellow to different shades of pink, green, and blue. The different laces were assigned at random to SMIs so they will be seated not with their co-circlettes but with SMIs from different Circlettes. The Tita DMIs had red for their ID laces. The hall was full and lively with the 340





*Doxology by the SMI from the Diocese of Kalookan*



*Religious dance presentation by the SMI from the Diocese of Lipa*

delegates - 217 Squirettes and 123 DMI delegates. The 3rd Luzon Area Conference was then opened with a loud SMI chant led by the emcees – Sq. Madison Marie Pineda and Sq. Joy Ancheta.

A doxology was performed by the Nuestra Senora De Nieva Circlette from the Diocese of Kalookan (Region V). This was followed by a religious dance presentation by the Squirettes from the Diocese of Lipa (Region VII).



*Rev. Fr. Russel Matuloy, Spiritual Director of St. Francis De Sales Major Seminary in Lipa City*

The Keynote Speaker for the Conference was Rev. Fr. Russel Matuloy, Spiritual Director of St Francis De Sales Major Seminary in Lipa City. He was at the same time the celebrant of the opening mass for the conference. His keynote address that he delivered during his Homily was about seeking Jesus, the comforter of the disturbed.

Sis Ruby Macario delivered an inspirational message in behalf of the International Regent Sis Lelis Pimentel. The message was about inspiring stories of sufferings that led to holiness, and how songs and dances can be forms of praising the Lord. Together with the SMI National Officers, Sis Ruby led the delegates to dance to the song “I have a dream”.

***Teambuilding and Zumba***

Teambuilding activities have been part of SMI conventions and conferences. It is one venue to fulfill the

organization’s objectives of leadership, personality and spiritual formation for the participants. Teambuilding activities complement the talks that the squirettes listen to during the classroom sessions. Despite the rain pour, the SMIs held their outdoor teambuilding activity in the afternoon. Mr. Jojie Juanerio of San Jose Academy in Navotas City was the facilitator.

The Tita DMIs had their zumba dance session while the SMI held their teambuilding activities.



*The SMIs and Tita DMIs donned on their Red SMI T-shirts for their Teambuilding and Zumba activities respectively.*

***Fellowship Night***

Given that the sub-theme for the 3rd SMI Luzon Area conference is “Discovering the country through a creative show of talents in the form of Philippines/ Cultural Dances.”, the delegates showed up with their beautiful and colorful Filipiniana costumes.

To start the evening activities, SMI National Officers Jara Alcantara and Angelee Perada facilitated an activity called “Copy Cut” where the different SMI

color groups had to imitate the fierce posing of models in different magazine covers. As expected, the SMIs were excited and confident to show their fierce sides. The Tita DMIs also participated in the activity and were also fierce enough to pose as fashion models! z

The Cultural Dance presentations ensued. There were 8 group performers from the different Regions in Luzon. The beautiful dance presentations proved that indeed, the Philippines is a country that is very rich in dance culture and tradition.

Following are the presentations (Pictures at the bottom of article)



*The SMI's copy cut Fashion Model pose*



*The DMI's copy cut Fashion Model Pose*

- Champion**  
**Ragragsakan – Region VII (Diocese of Batangas)**  
**1st Runner up**  
**Remix Folk Dance – Region VI**  
**2nd Runner up**  
**Mangyan Ako - Region VII (Diocese of Mindoro)**
- Binasuan – Region II**  
**Lapay Bantigue – Region V (Diocese of Paranaque)**  
**Kalapati – Region IV**  
**Dayang – Dayang – Region III**  
**Sakuting - Region V (Diocese of Paranaque)**

## Day 2

The second day of the conference started with a morning prayer inside the hall. Afterwards, the delegates danced to the alert song: I'll Follow Jesus.

The Sunday mass was presided by Father Manny Guazon, a priest from Batangas and the founder of Pondong Batangan. Pondong Batangan is equivalent to the Pondong Pinoy.

Tita DMI Sis. Cathy Pineda in closing the conference, thanked all the SMIs and DMII / Lady Counselors for their attendance and full support to the 3rd SMI Luzon Area Conference. Despite the rains, typhoon and floods, all 340 of them came to Club Balai Isabel in Talisay, Batangas.

The 3rd SMI Luzon Area Conference was successful and one happy memorable event for the SMIs and DMIs.

The event closed with the exit of colors and recessional with Mama Mary.

Until the next SMI Luzon Area Conference.



*Father Manny Guazon, founder of the Pondong Batangan*

Acknowledging here the support of our members of the DMI Board of Trustees who stayed the entire duration of the Conference and participated in the activities. Sis Myrna Zapanta, Past IR, Regional Representatives Sis Remy Agosto, Elvie Arambulo, Fely Dollentas, Morality in Media International Chairperson Edna May Landicho, SMI Luzon Coordinator Biennah Villanueva (host), Luzon Coordinator for Assistance to Prisoners' Families and their Victims Lydia Ordonez, National Office Secretary, Sis Josie Halog.



*Part of the Organizing Committee: from left to right - Tita Biennah Villanueva, Tita Monik Bularan, Sq. Abby Villanueva, Sq. Jona Lico, Sq. Joy Ancheta, Sq. Madison Pineda, Tita Cathy Pineda, Tita Chodee Amoranto, Tita Sally Dastas, Tita Evelyn Alcantara, Sq. Angelee Perada, Sq. Jara Alcantara*

### The SMI Cultural Dancers

