



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Squirettes of Mary Immaculate Visayas 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 3<sup>rd</sup> SMI Visayas Area Conference was held on May 26-27, 2018 at Bearland Paradise Resort Tigbauan, Iloilo.

*By Sis. Jessa Rae Paguntalan – SMI Visayas Coordinator  
Sis Elaine Nonato - St Tomas de Villanova Miagao Circle*

### Day 1

#### Opening Rites

The event opened with the enthronement of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and recitation of the SMI prayer. International Chairperson for Youth Welfare Sis Catalina Rebecca Pineda, SMI National President Madison Marie Pineda, Past International Regent Sis Pureza Guzman and SMI Vice President Visayas Linebeth Demateo led the enthronement ceremonies. They were ably assisted by Fr. Joel Eslabra, the keynote speaker for the day.

The parade of colors and presentation of delegates followed. Sis. Jessa Rae Paguntalan, SMI Area Coordinator for Visayas delivered the words of welcome for the Squirettes and Daughters of Mary Immaculate who came from different circles and circlettes from the Visayas, comprising of Regions IX, X, XI. There were 125 delegates in all.

Sis Biannah Villanueva, SMI Coordinator for Luzon guided the enthronement ceremonies, and trained the SMI from the St. Thomas of Villanova Circlette Miagao



to do the parade of colors and as guides during the presentation of delegates.

## Talk

The speaker Rev. Fr. Joel Eslabra delivered his speech based on the convention's theme "The youth as active agents in the parish supporting our priests in the year of the clergy and the consecrated." Fr. Eslabra is a Catholic Priest from the Archdiocese of Jaro. He is a musician, an author and an inspirational speaker.

Guests: Members of the DMII International Board led by International Regent Sis. Lelis Pimentel came to show support to our SMI Visayas. Sis. Lelies was joined by International Vice Regent and Regional Representative for Region V Sis Ruby Macario, Regional Representative for Region XII Sis. Tess Miranda. SMI Mindanao Coordinator Sis. Annie Ty and our Office Secretary, Sis. Josie Halog.



*with members of the Board from the Visayas: Past International Regents Sis. Perla Arguelles, Sis Pureza Guzman and Regional Representative Region IX Sis Yolanda Galvez.*

## Team Building

The SMI's had their team building activity in the afternoon. The activity was facilitated by SMI National President Madison Marie Pineda and Vice President for Visayas Linebeth Demoteo. Team building has already been part of SMI conventions and assemblies for the past several years. Teambuilding activities aim to enhance leadership skills and as well as to enhance spirituality amongst the young, and to complement the classroom talks and ceremonies that happen during the event.



*SMIs try to form the letters SMI*



*SMIs helping a "blind" SMI get out of the mess string.*

## Eucharistic Celebration

The mass for the occasion was celebrated by Rev.Fr.Mark Lester Senina, Archdiocesan Youth Commission, Archdiocese of Jaro.



*Fr. Mark Senina with the DMII International Board.*

## Fellowship Night

The sub theme for this activity was “Discovering the country through creative show of talents in the form of Philippines/cultural dances.” Indeed, the SMI and DMI delegates showed up with their beautiful

costumes. The SMI’s from each circlette danced gracefully their presentations that were likewise all well-choreographed and well-rehearsed. The organizing committee awarded the presentations as follows:



*SALAKOT (1<sup>st</sup> Place) – Diocese of Jaro - St. Monica and St. Thomas de Villanova (Alimodian) Circlettes*



*GAWAY-GAWAY (2<sup>nd</sup> Place) – Diocese of Tacloban – Tower of Ivory Circlette*



*BAYLO DE LAS PASTORES (3<sup>rd</sup> Place) – Diocese of Bacolod – San Nichola de Tolentino Circlette*



*ALITAPTAP (Consolation Prize) – Diocese of Kalibo - Our Lady of Beautiful Love and Our Lady of Lourdes Circlettes*

## Day 2

The second day of the conference started with a morning prayer at the poolside of the resort. It was followed by the Closing Rites where Sis Cathy Pineda thanked all the SMI and DMII delegates, 125 in all, for their cooperation and full support. The awarding of the prizes and tokens for the winners of the Dance presentations, teambuilding group

activities, and the Biggest Delegation was also done before the delegates went home. The Tower of Ivory Circlette of the Diocese of Tacloban sent the most number of Registered Delegates (12 SMIs and 4 DMIs).

The event was hosted by Sis Kara Joyce Monteclaro and Sis Pauline Marie Torrefiel, both from St Thomas de Villanova Circlette Miagao.



*The winning Teambuilding Group composed of SMI from the various Circlettes*



*Tower of Ivory Circlette, Diocese of Palo, lead by Lady Counselor Sis. Leny Basilan, sent the Biggest Delegation to the Conference*

## Acknowledgments

Thank you to all our DMII Sisters from the host Circle St. Thomas de Villanova (Miagao) Iloilo Circle headed by Regent Aurora Jambre, and to our advisers and supporters Sis. Perla Arguelles, Sis. Pureza Guzman, Sis. Yolanda Galvez, Sis. Jessa Rae Paguntalan and Sis. Emma Victoria.