



DMI NEWSETTE

vol. XLIII no. 2

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY IMMACULATE INTERNATIONAL

April - June 2025

AREA CONFERENCES SMI'S SUMMER GANAP

*By Sis. Evelyn Alcantara,
International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI*



5th SMI Luzon Area Conference



5th SMI Visayas Area Conference



4th SMI Mindanao Area Conference

The Area Conferences of the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate (SMI) for Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao were successfully held on separate dates and venues during the summer of 2025 as follows:

Luzon – June 7-8, 2025 at the Caliraya Resort Club in Bgy. Lewin, in Lumban, Laguna

Visayas - May 18-19, 2025 at Resorts Negrense Hotel, Bgy. Punta Taytay, Bacolod City

Mindanao – June 10-11, 2025 at Louza's Pavilion, Malaybalay City, Bukidnon

The conference main theme was “SMI as Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year”. The events started with the traditional enthronement and consecration of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary and ended with the recessional, invoking her intercession and guidance as they pursue the SMI Motto: To Know, To Love and To Serve. The Area Vice-Presidents – Sq. Mara Ella Tayag for Luzon, Sq. Pristell Gail Retiro for Visayas and Sq. Mariz Evelyn Lim for Mindanao gave their welcome remarks and thanked the conference delegates for their participation and support.

Inspirational messages were also given by International Regent Sis. Annie Ty and International Chairperson for Youth Welfare/SMI Sis. Evelyn Alcantara exhorting the SMIs to continue their service to the Church and the SMI organization because this aids them in personality enhancement and spiritual upliftment, along with building leadership and

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INSIDE

POPE LEO XIV: FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF PERU TO THE VATICAN

WE ARE AT THE THRESHOLD OF NEW BEGINNINGS



My beloved Daughters of Mary Immaculate,

As we embrace the journey of the Jubilee Year 2025, we find ourselves at the threshold of new beginnings. The election of Pope Leo XIV marks a fresh chapter in the life of the Church, a sign of God's enduring guidance and the Holy Spirit's renewing presence in our midst. In this sacred moment, we are invited to deepen our commitment to Synodality, to continue walking together as a people of faith, listening, discerning, and moving forward with one heart and one soul.

The Jubilee theme, "Hope Does Not Disappoint" (Spes Non Confundit), reminds us that even amidst uncertainty, hope- grounded in the love of Christ- never fails. As Daughters of Mary Immaculate, you are called to embody this hope in your families, communities, and apostolates. Let your hearts be filled with courage and trust, for hope is the light that leads us on.

We draw inspiration from the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Hope, a great model of humility, steadfast faith, and self-giving love. In her, we see not only the first disciple of Jesus but also the perfect image of a hopeful Church in pilgrimage. As we live her virtues, may we become radiant witnesses of God's mercy and love in today's world.

Dear Sisters, may the Holy Spirit guide your steps. May Mother Mary Immaculate walk with you, and may your every effort as pilgrims of hope bear fruit in joy, renewal, and peace. God bless you, your families, and your DMII circles.

Sincerely in our Lord,

Sincerely in our Lord,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Jeronimo J. Cruz". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Rev. Fr. JERONIMO MA. J. CRUZ

DMII International Chaplain

Theme: "DMII: Pilgrims of Hope and Light of the World in the Jubilee Year"



Dear Beloved Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace be with you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother Mary Immaculate.

As we journey deeper into the Jubilee Year 2025, our hearts are lifted with renewed joy and purpose, strengthened by the grace of this sacred time. We, the Daughters of Mary Immaculate, are called to walk as **pilgrims of hope**, bearing the light of Christ in a world that longs for peace, compassion, and spiritual renewal.

The Jubilee Year invites us not only to celebrate God's mercy and love, but to **live it with conviction**—to move beyond comfort and become true missionaries of hope. Just as Mary journeyed with faith and obedience, we too are called to embrace the pilgrimage of life with unwavering trust in God's divine plan. Whether in our families, communities, or apostolates, let us be bold in carrying the **light of the world**, reflecting Christ's presence in our every word and action.

In a time when darkness threatens to overshadow truth and faith, our role as DMIs becomes ever more critical. We are **bearers of light**, not by grand gestures alone, but through simple acts of kindness, compassion, and service—through listening, accompanying, praying, and loving with sincerity.

Let us remember: the pilgrimage of hope is not a solitary path. We walk **together, in synodality**, strengthened by sisterhood, nourished by the Eucharist, and led by Mary, our model and mother. Her quiet strength, humble obedience, and radiant faith are our guideposts as we fulfill our mission in the Church and in the world.

As we reflect on this quarter's theme, may we be inspired to reignite the flame of faith in our hearts and in others. May every step we take, every prayer we offer, and every mission we pursue be **a testimony of the hope we carry** and the light we shine.

May the Jubilee Year bring forth in us a deeper conversion, a more vibrant spirituality, and an unshakable commitment to be, indeed, "**Pilgrims of Hope and Light of the World.**"

With Mary, let us go forth in faith.
With Christ, let us shine our light.
With love, let us build the Kingdom.

In Christ and Mary Immaculate,


Annie Oro Ty

International Regent

Daughters of Mary Immaculate International

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camaraderie that can improve their over-all skills and potentials as future leaders of the nation.

Sq. Mary Joy Ancheta, SMI National President gave her testimony in support of Sisters Annie's and Evelyn's inspiring messages, on how the SMI has molded her into a better person, especially in terms of leadership skills, good personality and developing time management skill – balancing personal, work and church service.

(Sq. Mary Joy graduated from UP-Los Banos in 2022 with a B.S. Human Ecology degree, *summa cum laude*.)

The Eucharistic celebration is always a part of DMI and SMI conferences. DMII International Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz was celebrant during the Luzon Area Conference, Bishop Patricio Abella Buzon of the Diocese of Bacolod for the Visayas Area Conference and Rev. Fr. Roimar Montezo, Economist of the Diocese of Malaybalay for the Mindanao Area Conference. Their homilies revolved around the main theme of the conference.

A series of talks was then conducted, for the Visayas and Mindanao conferences, the sessions focused on how the youth can serve as pilgrims of hope especially in this fast-changing world. The Luzon conference incorporated the value of mental health that majority of the young faces today. Team-building exercises were also held to develop and enhance the values of leadership, teamwork and camaraderie.

Evenings of the conference are eagerly awaited by the delegates – the dinner and socialization that follows – which showcase their creativity and talents.. There were sub-themes adopted by each area, the delegates coming in the costumes prescribed for the event and the entries to the contest for the best dance presentation with prizes awaiting the winners. For Luzon, the sub-theme was “Bridgerton Soiree”, for Visayas, “Ocean Odyssey”, and for Mindanao, “Western Vibes: A Rodeo Night in Bukidnon”. There was also a Search for the SMI and DMI of the Night.

Overall, it was a short but meaningful event for the SMIs and their Tita DMIs. Aside from having fun and developing friendships in the organization across Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, the essence of spiritual and personality enhancement, together with strengthening leadership potentials for youth empowerment was done through a series of challenging, yet enjoyable activities that made their mark and lasting impact on the Squirettes' lives. The pictorials in the succeeding pages are a testimony of the Squirettes' active participation and involvement in the conference proceedings.

And there's an even greater event that the girls will look forward to: the 20th SMI Biennial Convention in 2026. See you there!

(Editors' Note: We wish to thank Sis. IvyLou Flores, Region VI Newsette Correspondent and Sis. Rosalinda Desales, Region IX Representative for providing additional information about parts of their SMI conference program, in Luzon and Visayas, respectively.)

Luzon Area Conference



DMII and SMI officers stand beside the altar of the Blessed Mother during the enthronement ceremony.



The Parade of Circlettes



SMI National President Sq. Mary Joy Ancheta addresses the delegates.



SMI National VP for Luzon Sq. Mara Ella Tayag receives a token of appreciation from SMI Int'l Chairperson Sis. Evelyn Alcantara, IR Sis. Annie Ty and SMI Luzon Coordinator Sis. Monique Bularan.



Conference guest speakers Mr. Rollie de los Reyes and Ms. Ma. Christine Bernadette Aparato



The Squirettes pose for a group photo before the team-building session starts.



A team carries a giant ball preventing it from falling on the ground.



The delegates in a group photo during Fellowship Night. The night's sub-theme is Bridgerton Soiree.



A group of Squirettes enjoy the cool waters of the pool.



The delegates with the mass celebrant, DMII Int'l Chaplain Rev. Fr. Jerome Cruz

Visayas Area Conference



Bishop Patricio Abella Buzon, SDB of the Diocese of Bacolod prays before the Blessed Mother's altar before celebrating Holy Mass.



Rev. Fr. Arnel Pabalete, conference guest speaker and International Regent Sis. Annie Ty delivers her inspirational message.



A team-building facilitator gives instructions before the start of the team-building session.



A team starts work to achieve the team's goal.



Tita DMIs have their own workshop while the girls are outdoors.



The regional dance presentations



The Tita DMIs and Squirettes in their Ocean Odyssey costumes.

Mindanao Area Conference



SMI National President Sq. Mary Joy Ancheta and Int'l Regent Sis. Annie Ty carry Mama Mary's image during the enthronement ceremony.



Rev. Fr. Roimar Montez, Economus of the Diocese of Bacolod, mass celebrant and guest speaker



The Parade of Colors



City Mayor Jay Warren Pabilaran of Malaybalay City, Bukidnon is welcomed to the conference.



SMI Mindanao Area Coordinator Sis. Marga Ampo and SMI National VP for Mindanao Sq. Mariz Evelyn Lim welcome the conference delegates.



IR Sis. Annie Ty and Sq. Mary Joy Ancheta deliver their inspirational messages.



Squirettes' team-building exercises



'Cowboys' during Rodeo Night



A birthday surprise for Sis. Evelyn Alcantara

POPE LEO XIV: FROM THE MOUNTAINS OF PERU TO THE VATICAN

Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost of the United States took the name **POPE LEO XIV** as the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church upon his election at the conclave in the Sistine Chapel on May 8, 2025.

To be known in Church history as the first American Pope, he was born in 1955 and raised in the suburbs of Dolton, Illinois, joining the Order of St. Augustine and ordained as priest in 1982.

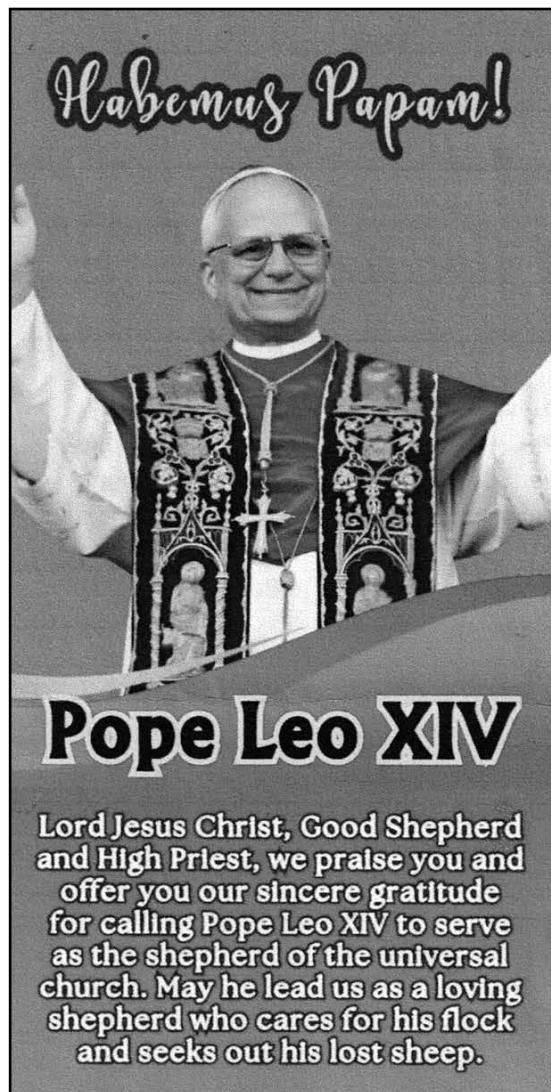
Early in his ministry, he spent two decades in the mountainous area of Peru serving as missionary priest, seminary educator and eventually as bishop of Chiclayo. Those two decades cemented his identity as a pastor of the people, fluent in Spanish and deeply immersed in Latin American spirituality.

Cardinal Prevost was called to Rome in 2023 to be appointed by Pope Francis as Prefect of the Dicastery of Bishops, a most influential role in bishop appointments. He earned the admiration by the Curia for his ability to bridge cultures – North and South America, tradition and reform.

His election during the conclave was swift. At the fourth ballot, the white smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel signaled the election of a new pope taking on the name Leo XIV, reviving a legacy last held over a century ago by Pope Leo XIII. His first public words from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica was "Peace be with you!" He called for a "disarmed and disarming peace" reflecting his deep concern for conflict zones and displaced peoples.

During Pope Leo's inauguration before more than 200,000 people at St. Peter's Square, he warned against the exploitation of the people and the earth and called the Church to remain close to the poor and marginalized.

He carries forward the reformist spirit of Pope Francis but brings his own tone – pastoral, unifying and mission-driven. This early, his actions signal a pope intent on building bridges while staying grounded on



Gospel essentials.

The whole of the United States hailed his election as the first American Pope. His home state of Illinois, particularly in Chicago, held a grand celebration with parades, murals and Portillo's sandwich named "The Leo".

As the Church looks to the future, Pope Leo XIV stands as a symbol of her increasingly global face. Fluent in multiple languages, formed in two continents and deeply committed to the people of God, he may well define a new era of leadership – one shaped by humility, justice and faith in action.

“AGING WITH GRACE AND FAITH” SAN JOSE CIRCLE’S PRO-LIFE SEMINAR

By Sis. Evelyn Nocum,
Circle Scribe

The San Jose Circle of the Diocese of San Jose (NE) successfully conducted a Pro-Life seminar-workshop last May 30, 2025 at the Chancery Hall of St. Joseph Cathedral in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija. The event was attended by DMI members and guests from the Catholic Women’s League and Mother Butler Guild.

The guest speaker was Ms. Perlita Galicia Vicente who spoke on the topic “Let’s Enjoy Growing Old Gracefully”, a part of the theme “Finding Peace and Joy Every Sunrise of our Life”. The seminar aimed to guide the participants in embracing aging with faith, joy and purpose.

The program started with the opening prayer and tribute to Mama Mary through Marian songs and the welcome remarks of Pro-Life Chairperson Sis. Conchita Amurao and Circle Regent Sis. Evangeline Ruanto. Past Region II Representative Sis. Hilaria Hipolito also gave an inspirational message,

Ms. Vicente’s talk offered reflections on aging with grace, highlighting how life’s later seasons are filled with spiritual beauty. A short break was held later followed by a workshop and open forum moderated by Regent Sis. Evangeline which allowed the participants to share their insights and experiences.

A certificate of appreciation was awarded to the speaker before the seminar closing. Vice-Regent Sis. Nida Vicmudo gave her closing remarks and Chancellor Sis. Charito de Leon led the closing prayer. Sis. Josenia Garcia was the program host who also introduced the guest speaker.

The seminar served not only as a spiritual enrichment activity but also as a celebration of life, sisterhood and lifelong faith.



Guest speaker Ms. Perlita Vicente receives token of appreciation from circle officers



The seminar participants during an ice-breaker exercise

DMI SISTER ATTENDS FOCOLARE CONFERENCE IN ROME

*By Sis. Evangeline Ruanto, Regent,
San Jose Circle*

Sis. Josefina “Zen” Agustin Garcia, secretary of the San Jose Circle of the Diocese of San Jose – NE was part of the Philippine delegation to the Focolare Movement’s “Call to Hope” Program Protagonists of Dialogue held last March 26-29, 2025 at the Focolare Conference Center at Castel Gandolfo in the outskirts of Rome, Italy.

The event was attended by about 300 delegates from all over the world. The Focolare Movement is composed of people of all ages, vocations, religion, convictions and culture. The inspiration of the conference is the ecumenical significance of the year 2025 along with the anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and the establishment of a uniform observance of Easter.

Sis. Zen is a true-blue DMI. She proudly wore the DMI uniform on the first day of the conference. Prior to her joining the San Jose Circle in 2022, she had been actively serving her parish, in the Catechetical Ministry and the Diocesan Commission on Ecumenism. Bishop Roberto Mallari, DD of the Diocese of San Jose designated Rev. Fr. Renz Jane Valente, director of the Commission and the core team of the Commission on Ecumenism and Interreligious Dialogue (CEID), namely Emma Bustamante, Edith Averilla and Sis. Zen.

Through this conference, the Focolare Movement aimed to offer a sign of hope and a living experience of being protagonists of this journey towards Christian Unity. Sis. Zen said that they learned and shared life stories and experiences in faith in that conference. They also had the great opportunity to enter the Holy Door at St. Peter Basilica in Vatican City and a short trip to Assisi, Italy.



Sis. Zen Garcia as a Philippine delegate to the Focolare Conference in Rome, Italy.

BLOCK ROSARY HELD DURING MAMA MARY'S MONTH

The San Jose Circle spearheaded a month-long Block Rosary among the parishioners in San Jose City, Nueva Ecija to celebrate May, the month dedicated to our Blessed Mother.

Each day, the image of Mama Mary was brought to a household where the Holy Rosary and other novenas were prayed, Thirty-one families welcomed the Blessed Mother to their homes. Among them were the families of Jojie Baclig, Luningning Galicia, Leticia Manalo, Perfecta Quines and her sister, Loida Bagtas. The month-long activity ended in the home of Victoria Zen on May 31.

“This Block Rosary is more than just a tradition. It’s our way of keeping the faith alive in our families and strengthening our connection with each other”, said

one participant. It brings peace into our homes, and especially during this month dedicated to Mama Mary, we feel truly blessed.”

The daily activity not only honored our Blessed Mother but also served as a spiritual anchor for the community that reinforces bonds among neighbors and fosters a culture of prayer, unity and shared Catholic values.



The DMI sisters join members of the household during one of the May Block Rosary devotions.



HYDROPONICS GARDENING INTRODUCED AS AN INCOME-GENERATING ACTIVITY

The San Jose Circle through its Upliftment of Women Workers Committee headed by Sis. Nida Vicmundo sponsored a seminar-workshop on Hydroponics Gardening, i.e., growing plants without soil. The activity was held at the San Jose West Central School in San Jose City last March 6, 2025 aimed at promoting innovative and sustainable agricultural

practices.

The resource person was Sis. Evelyn Nocum, a Ph.D. in Education Management, who demonstrated the step-by-step process of hydroponics gardening. The participants were from Barangay San Juan. Past Region II Representative Sis. Hilaria Hipolito was a special guest.



Resource speaker Dr. Evelyn Nocum demonstrates Hydroponics Gardening



The participants in the seminar-workshop.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SMI CIRCLETTE INVESTS 16 NEW SQUIRETTES

*By Sis. Nemie Finalla,
Region IV Newsette Correspondent*

The Immaculate Conception SMI Circlette of Malolos City held its investiture of sixteen new members and installation of officers at the Chapel of Sto. Nino de Malolos last June 2, 2025. The event was a testament of the commitment of the Immaculate Conception Circle's Youth Welfare Committee of nurturing young women in faith, leadership and service.

The ceremony started with a Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Howard John Tarrayo. His homily underscored the importance of Mary as a model of purity and devotion, inspiring the new Squirettes to emulate her virtues in their daily lives. He also reminded the DMI sisters to guide them in the preparation for their becoming future DMIs.

During the investiture ceremony, the new SMIs received their pins and sashes symbolizing their commitment to the SMI values and the SMI mission TO KNOW, TO LOVE AND TO SERVE.

Special guests during the event were Region IV Representative Sis. Marilyn San Diego, Diocesan Regent Sis. Catherine Francisco, Diocesan Secretary Sis. Apolonia Misleng, Diocesan Youth Welfare/SMI Chairperson Sis. Evelina Bautista and Vicarial Regent Sis. Marlyn Regondola. Members of the Immaculate Conception Circle and SMI Circlette as well as the relatives

and friends of the new Squirettes were present to give them encouragement and support.

The Immaculate Conception Circle headed by Regent Sis. Jessica Villano and SMI Lady Counselor Sis. Cecilia Sy continues to foster an environment where young women can grow in faith and leadership serving as beacons of faith and inspiration to others.



The SMI members with Fr. John Howard Tarrayo



Members of the Immaculate Conception DMI Circle and SMI Circlette with Fr. Tarrayo

OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION & CINCTURE CIRCLE CONDUCTS LIVELIHOOD TRAINING

By Sis. Nemie Finalla

Past Regent Sis. Paulina de Regla of the Our Lady of Consolation & Cincture Circle of Paombong, Bulacan was trainor in *Tocino*-Making for the Mother Leaders and Barangay Health Workers of Islet Sta. Cruz, a little island in Paombong, Bulacan last May 16, 2025.

The activity was spearheaded by Sis. Marita Dionisio, chairperson of the circle's Upliftment of Women Workers Committee with assistance from DMI sisters who helped raise funds for the project. Sis. Paulina provided raw materials for the demonstration such as pork and chicken from her business.

The residents of Islet Sta. Cruz rely heavily on seafoods found abundantly in their place for their food and source of livelihood. The training that the circle provided to the women of the islet has given them

an alternative fare for the family table as well as an alternative source of income, in time for the opening of school when children would bring their *baon*.



The livelihood training in session



REGION V OFFICERS HOLD ORIENTATION FOR INCOMING CIRCLE REGENTS

By Sis. Lorie Manalansan,
International Secretary
and Region V Representative

The Regional Officers of Region V headed by RR Sis. Lorie Manalansan conducted an orientation of incoming circle regents of dioceses comprising Region V – the Dioceses of Antipolo, Imus, Kalookan, Manila, Novaliches, Paranaque and Pasig – last February 16, 2025 at the United Bayanihan Center in Mandaluyong City with International Regent Sis. Annie Ty as special guest.

The speakers during the orientation were:

- * Sis. Emelie Ramos, Diocesan Regent of Imus who discussed how circle meetings are conducted as prescribed in the DMII Red

Handbook;

- * Sis. Juliet Cruz, International Auditor for Membership and Alternate Region V Representative who presented the DMII membership profile, data and statistics, stressing that the quality of prospective members takes priority over quantity.
- * Sis. Alma Luces, Diocesan Regent of Antipolo who discussed at length the DMI Missions including the report format of Mission projects and activities and the schedule of their submission to the National Office;

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- * Sis. Zenia Velasco, Regional Secretary, who reminded the attendees about wearing the proper uniforms in various DMII activities as well as the proper use and care of DMI paraphernalias;
- * Sis. Beth Bongon, International Chairperson of the Committee on Ceremonials who identified the appropriate ceremonies that the DMII conducts for various events such as the conference opening ceremony, the exemplification of new members, the installation of officers, the chartering of a new circle, etc.



Region V Diocesan Officers of Antipolo and Imus during the orientation held at Unilab Bayanihan Center.



Vicariate officers of Puerto Princesa and Taytay, Palawan

The regional officers next made a special trip to Palawan to orient circle regents in the Vicariate of Puerto Princesa and Taytay. The same set of officers plus Sis. Evelyn Alcantara, Youth Welfare/SMI International Chairperson made the trip. Sis. Beth Bongon was not able to join the group.

The orientation of the Palawan circle regents included an open forum during which certain issues and concerns of the local circles were clarified. The election of a new vicarial regent was held. Sis. Zeny Villegas was reelected to the position.

The next day, the sisters of the Our Lady of Assumption Circle in Abongan, Taytay hosted the lunch of the visiting regional officers. Joining them at lunch was Rev. Fr. Philip Tan, parish priest, who said that the DMII is not new to him as his mother was a DMI member in Cuyo Island.

A meeting was held after lunch with Circle Regent Sis. Rogelyn Taneo leading her members in a dialogue with the regional officers. Fr. Philip caught up with Sis. Lorie and the group during a dinner hosted by the Vicariate officers headed by Vicarial Regent Sis. Zeny Villegas assisted by Sisters Aileen Apostol, Lydia Reyes, Eldy Mendez and others.



The Our Lady of Assumption Circle headed by Regent Sis. Rogelyn Taneo hosted lunch for the visiting Region V sisters.

RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE SPONSORS PARISH *SANTACRUZAN*

*By Sis. Ellen Lopez Pasos,
Risen Christ Circle*

A grand Santacruzán procession was held last May 31, 2025 as the culminating activity of the month-long Flores de Mayo, a traditional Marian celebration to honor the Blessed Mother.

Rev. Fr. Rodyn de la Torre, parish priest of the Holy Eucharist Parish, designated the Risen Christ Circle as the lead organization in the activity with Sis. Milde Tong, International Chairperson for APFV, as chairperson of the organizing committee. The DMI sisters acted as one, meeting several times to plan and prepare for the event and mobilizing their resources as well as tapping generous donors and the LGU to ensure its success.

The Santacruzán is more than a parade of beauty and tradition. It is a journey of faith, a reminder that like Queen Helena, mother of Constantine, the Roman emperor, we, too, are seekers of the Cross. Each step, each flower, each prayer honors Mary's role in leading us to Jesus, our true King.

In the words of Fr. Rodyn, "Let this walk renew our hearts with hope, courage and faith."



A planning meeting for the santacruzán with Holy Eucharist Parish Priest Fr. Rodyn de la Torre and Bgy. Moonwalk Chairman Dr. Jem Que.



The Santacruzán sagalas



Sis. Milde Tong, head of the Santacruzán Committee



The flower-bedecked carroza of the Blessed Mother



The event sponsors, the DMI Risen Christ Circle members

RISEN CHRIST CIRCLE'S OUTREACH AT TAHANAN STA. LUISA

*By Sis. Edna R. Alvarez,
Risen Christ Circle APFV chairperson*

The Risen Christ Circle's Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims (APFV) Committee spent a day recently with residents of Tahanan Sta. Luisa, a facility in Antipolo City for girls rescued from the streets who had been traumatized and victims of multiple abuses, exploitation and maltreatment.

Activities during the day consisted of talks on moral values and spiritual upliftment, a workshop on rosary-making and distribution of gifts – food items, household and personal articles, school and art supplies to be used for therapy sessions and cash.



The residents of Tahanan Sta. Luisa with the visiting DMI sisters. The rosary-making workshop



From the Diocese of Kalookan – Region V

LIVELIHOOD SKILLS FOR WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

*By Sis. Marlene Mayor,
Diocesan Regent*

Teaching livelihood skills is one avenue which the Diocese of Kalookan provides to promote the empowerment of women in the community. Two circles in the Diocese of Kalookan, the San Jose de Navotas Circle headed by Regent Sis. Lucia Bacones and the San Antonio de Padua Circle collaborated recently, orienting the women on how to improve their daily lives by engaging in business.

The women were first taught livelihood skills such as Embotido- and Rug and Potholder-making to start their own business.

These livelihood programs provide economic opportunities and support, leading to increased self-reliance and improved social status. The programs usually focus on capacity-building, skills development and access to resources like loans or market opportunities. Having their own income help uplift their status, thus breaking down traditional gender roles and promoting equality.



A demo on embotido-making



Women participants busy at rug-making

MOTHER OF DIVINE GRACE CIRCLE'S INFO CAMPAIGN

Photo



NEWS

By Sis. Jessie Abagat,
Vicarial Regent

The Mother of Divine Grace Circle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in Malabon City initiated an information campaign for active participation of parishioners and the public at large in significant events in their community. The DMI sisters had tarpaulins made to be hung in public places for passers-by to see, such as: the call of the Church for prayer, fasting and alms-giving during the Lenten Season at the church courtyard and active participation in the mid-term national and local elections placed at the gate of a school to be used as voting precincts.



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From the Diocese of San Pablo – Region VI

DIOCESAN RECOLLECTION HELD VIA ZOOM

By Sis. IvyLou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

DMII Diocesan Spiritual Director Msgr. Mario Rafael Castillo was the Lenten Recollection speaker of the Diocese of San Pablo DMI sisters last April 10, 2025. The recollection theme was “DMII/SMI: Pilgrims of Hope in the Jubilee Year”. Msgr. Castillo started his talk by reminding his audience that life itself is a journey, a pilgrimage that does not always follow a straight or predictable path. As pilgrims, he said that we constantly move forward, learning and growing often amid challenges that test our faith. The essence of pilgrimage lies not in the destination alone but in the transformative power of the journey itself.

Hope is trusting God’s hidden work, giving our trust even if we do not see it. Hope must not be anchored on fleeting emotions or worldly expectations but in the quiet steadfast assurance that God is ever present in every step of the journey. It may not be easy and smooth; detours, delays and dry seasons may get in the way, but even in hardship, the path toward God remains open to those who persevere with courage and humility.

Msgr. Castillo stressed the importance of journeying with others. He invited the participants

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to recognize and cherish the companions that God has given them along the way.

In conclusion, Msgr. Castillo offered a powerful reminder: “Keep walking.” Whether you are just beginning your spiritual journey, feeling lost along the way, or nearing your destination, God walks with you. The journey may be long and difficult, but we never walk alone.



A screenshot of recollection participants

NEWS UPDATES FROM THE THERESIAN CIRCLE

*By Sis. Paulita Canonizado,
Past Region VI Representative*

In a beautiful display of faith, tradition and service, the Theresian Circle recently marked two significant events in the second quarter highlighting both spiritual devotion and compassion.

Tapusan, A Floral Tribute to Mama Mary. The month of May, Mama Mary’s Month culminated in a vibrant celebration at the Diocesan Shrine of St. Therese of the Child Jesus in Los Banos, Laguna. The annual “*Tapusan*” festivities concluded the month-long novena with a festive Santacruzian procession..

Sagalas representing various organizations graced the event with their elegant attire symbolizing the virtues and titles of Mama Mary. The Theresian Circle sisters and the Squirettes led in the recitation of the Holy Rosary, offered flowers during the Mass and joined the procession afterwards.



Theresian Circle DMIs and SMIs lead prayers in the church.

APVF Outreach on Ascension Sunday. The Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Committee of the Theresian Circle led by Mission Chairperson Sis. Dalisay Maligalig visited the Provincial Crisis Center for Girls on Ascension Sunday.

The outreach began with a catechism session that focused on self-empowerment and nurturing relationships with others and with God. Recitation of the Holy Rosary and a Eucharistic celebration presided by Rev. Fr. Abraham Paz, SVD followed.

The girls, residents of the facility, enjoyed the platefuls of pancit, fried chicken and ice cream that the DMI sisters brought. Their smiles were a testament to the joy that a simple act of kindness can bring.



The girls at the Crisis Center hear Mass on Ascension Sunday.

MOTHER OF LIFE CIRCLE PROMOTES HEALTH OF CHILDREN IN BATONG MALAKE

*By Sis. Liza Arpon,
Circle Regent*

On May 29, 2025, a health project aimed at improving the well-being of youth in Bgy. Batong Malake, Los Banos, Laguna took place at the new barangay building.

The activity was a project of the Mother of Life Circle through its Assistance to Prisoners' Families & their Victims Committee. Ms. Elvira Teves, Barangay Councilor for Health, Nutrition and Sanitation, the Sangguniang Kabataan and the Sangguniang Barangay ng Batong Malake spearheaded the project with the theme "*Tuli Tuloy sa Kalusugan*".

More than 100 boys, aged 9 to 13, underwent screening as part of the free circumcision drive. Among them were two sons of a PDL and their two friends.

The boys and their parents/guardians were treated to a hamburger meal before going home.

The DMI sisters also provided meals and snacks to the volunteer doctors and others who helped during the activity. This project showcased the Mother of Life Circle's and the community's commitment to improve the lives of vulnerable children and their family.



The DMI sisters with some project beneficiaries

ST. PAUL THE FIRST HERMIT CIRCLE SUPPORTS DAPDAPAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S *BRIGADA ESKWELA*

By Sis. IvyLou Flores,
Region VI Newsette Correspondent

A donation of school supplies was the St. Paul the First Hermit Circle's way of supporting the Brigada Eskwela program of Dapdapan Elementary School in San Pablo City last June 20, 2025.

The project was part of the circle's mission thrusts on Pro-Life and Morality in Media aimed at promoting dignity, education and moral values among the youth. School Principal Ms. Olivia Gapunuan and Teacher Arianne thankfully received the donations.

The Brigada Eskwela is a nationwide initiative of the Dept. of Education that encourages community involvement in preparing public schools for the upcoming academic year. Through volunteerism and donations, the program fosters the spirit of bayanihan or Filipino communal unity.



DMI sisters turn over their donation to the officials of Dapdapan Elementary School.

LA RESURRECCION CIRCLE IS ALIVE AND WELL

By Sis. Nanette Almario,
Circle Scribe

True to the DMI Missions, the La Resurreccion Circle has consistently played a significant role in improving the lives of people in its parish community, especially the marginalized.

Last April 26, 2025 the circle prepared a special dinner for parishioners who joined the religious procession held in the parish. The communal meal served at the Parish Hall was an opportunity for fostering fellowship and unity among the parishioners.

Another significant activity of the La Resurreccion Circle was the feeding program for remedial pupils enrolled at the San Francisco Elementary School in Victoria, Laguna on May 27, 2025. Circle Regent Sis. Zorayda Lapitan, a master teacher of the school, sponsored the activity. A total of 25 pupils from Grades 3 and 5 were given nutritious snacks by teachers and volunteers before classes began. The pupils said that they feel more energized and focused after eating their snacks.

efforts of the La Resurreccion Circle to serve the community. In the coming months, the circle looks forward to expanding its outreach programs that include educational support initiatives, medical missions and other community-driven projects.



Nutritious meals served by the DMI sisters to the remedial pupils of San Francisco Elementary School.

These activities are just a glimpse of the ongoing

VICARIAL ASSEMBLY HELD

By Sis. Agnes Arada,
Region VII Representative

Vicariate I of the Archdiocese of Lipa composed of Nuestra Senora de la Paz y Buen Viaje de Wawa Circle, Marian Circle and Our Lady of Peace Circle held its Vicarial Assembly last April 20, 2025 at the Nuestra Senora de la Paz y Buen Viaje Parish conference hall.

A Eucharistic celebration opened the assembly with Rev. Fr. Antonio Umali, parish priest, as celebrant. This was followed by an insightful talk by Sis. Kriziel Andal, archdiocesan Youth Welfare/SMI chairperson and an inspiring letter by Sis. Isabelle Renee Daria, Archdiocesan Regent. The rest of the day's program consisted of accomplishment reports and presentation of the plans and projects by the respective chairpersons of the DMII Missions.

The assembly fostered a deeper sense of unity, purpose and commitment among the circle members in Vicariate I.



The participants of the Vicariate I Assembly

OUR LADY OF PEACE SMIs GO ON 2-DAY CAMPING

By Sis. Evelyn Roberto,
SMI Lady Counselor, Our Lady of Peace Circle



The Our Lady of Peace SMI Circlette held a two-day camping at Caleruega Retreat House in Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas last March 1-2, 2025. The theme of the activity was "Bloom Where You're Planted".



Team-building activities after lunch preceded a recollection with Rev. Randel Katigbak as speaker.

Day 2 was spent exploring Caleruega after breakfast. They ended the activity with a Holy Mass at the Caleruega Chapel.

“PAGGAWA NG MALILIIT NA BASAHAN” BARANGAY SANG VIRGEN CIRCLE’S UWW PROJECT

Four women from the community were beneficiaries of Barangay Sang Virgen Circle’s project spearheaded by its Upliftment of Women Workers (UWW) Committee headed by Sis. Isabel Dolor. Ms. Lolita Abria, owner of a small shop assisted in the implementation of the circle project upon the request of Regent Sis. Mimi Gonda. The “*Paggawa ng Maliliit na Basahan*” project enabled the beneficiaries to start a small business with a small capital.



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From the Diocese of Butuan – Region XII

DIOCESAN SYMPOSIUM JOINTLY HELD FOR MORALITY IN MEDIA AND YOUTH WELFARE/SMI MISSIONS

*By Sis. Shirley Corvera,
Diocesan Regent
and Region XII Newsette Correspondent*

To create awareness and to promote value formation among the DMI sisters and the Squirettes of Mary Immaculate, the Diocese of Butuan through its Morality in Media and Youth Welfare/SMI Committees conducted a symposium on “Cyber Bullying and Libel: Their Legal Implications” and “Values and Virtues Essential to Promote Morality in Media” last March 1, 2025 at the LJ Mega Convention Center in Butuan City.

A total of 152 DMI sisters and SMIs from ten circles in Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur listened intently to the two invited speakers – Atty. Ron Carlo Honculada, son of Region XII Representative Sis. Susan Honculada who spoke on the legal implications of Cyber Bullying and Rev. Fr. Ronniel Babano,

STL, president of St. Michael College of Caraga who dwelt on the values and virtues essential in promoting morality in media.

Atty. Honculada said that crimes committed in the use of information and communication technologies are punishable under the Cybercrime and Prevention Act of 2012. Among the cybercrimes are computer-related forgery, identity theft, child pornography, online libel, etc. He differentiated slander, committed via spoken word, from libel committed in writing. Cyber libel is committed through a computer system like social media and other similar means that may be invented in the future. According to him, there are different forms of bullying – physical, verbal, relational and

cyber bullying. He also discussed the steep penalties (imprisonment or fine) imposed on cybercrimes.

Regarding the Data Privacy Act of 2012 (R.A. 10173), Atty. Honculada said that the unauthorized access and sharing of personal and sensitive information including private conversations are considered a breach of privacy punishable with imprisonment and fine, the length of time and amount of fine depending on the gravity of the offense.

The second speaker, Fr. Babano first talked on how to avoid cyber libel and bullying, then on the virtues and values necessary in promoting morality in media. He based his topic on the Decree on Media and Social Communications INTER MERIFICA (The Means of Social Communications) by Pope John Paul II, the document issued by the Pontifical Council of Social Communications entitled “The Church and the Internet”, and the Approach of Pope Benedict XVI to Media and Digital Culture in Catholic Social Thought.

The Church recognizes that mass media, if properly utilized, can be of great service to mankind since they greatly contribute to men’s entertainment and instruction, as well as to spread and support the Kingdom of God. Young people need to learn to function well in the world of cyberspace, make discerning judgments according to sound moral criteria, and use the new technology for their integral development and benefit of others. Cognizant of the fact that new technologies can become powerful instruments for unity and peace, or destruction and division, Pope Benedict XVI proposed a two-fold perspective of dealing with the media and educating the children: 1) The formation

of children by media, and 2) The formation of children to respond appropriately to media. Theologically, the desire for online communication is explained in terms of the participation of humankind in the communicative and unifying love of God, Who desires to make all of humanity one family. Thus, love is the central value that must prevail to promote a culture of respect, dialogue and friendship.

The communication industry needs to be at the service of truth and promoting the dignity of people, facilitating communication, communion, cooperation, formation, participation, dialogue, justice, fraternity, charity, literacy, socialization, democracy, solidarity, social justice, and the common good.



Atty. Ron Carlo Honculada, resource speaker receives a certificate of appreciation.



The seminar participants

ARCHDIOCESAN OFFICERS GO ON TWO-FOLD MISSION IN BASILAN

By Sis. Marilyn de Asis,
Region XIV Newsette Correspondent

The officers of Region XIV headed by IVR-Mindanao and Region XIV Representative Sis. Pinky Saavedra left Zamboanga City on the early morning of May 29, 2025 for their boat ride to Basilan Island to accomplish two missions:

The exemplification of 19 DMI recruits to become full-fledged members of the Sto. Rosario Circle of Begang Parish and the Heart of Mary Circle of Lamitan City.

The installation of circle officers for 2025 was held in the afternoon of the same day.

With Sis. Pinky were Diocesan Regent Sis. Ma. Bella Tandoc, Diocesan Treasurer Sis. Evelina Balbon and the Vicarial Regents of the Archdiocese of Zamboanga. The exemplification team of Our Lady of Purification Circle, Sta. Maria Parish, Zamboanga City conducted the exemplification ceremony.

By close to sunset, the visiting DMI sisters boarded the boat taking them back to Zamboanga City, their mission for the day successfully accomplished.



The exemplification ceremony



The exemplification team of Our Lady of Purification Circle with IVR Mindanao Sis. Pinky Saavedra (3rd from right, seated)



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