



**Religious of Notre Dame of the Missions**

**Philippine Region**

**December 2019**

*As the year 2019 ends, we express our warmest gratitude for your infinite generosity and support for our mission. Receive our greetings and prayers for a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year.*

### **Accompanying Filipino Youth**

I am grateful to have participated in the Joint Biennial Convention of the Association of Major Religious Superiors in the Philippines, held July 13-17, 2019 at Del Rio Hotel in Iloilo City, with the theme: **“Consecrated Persons Accompanying the Filipino Youth in Mission: Beloved, Gifted and Empowered”**. The following are some gleanings that I gathered from this convention.

Young people look for a sense of self by seeking communities that are supportive, uplifting, authentic and accessible, communities that empower them, especially as traditional family models continue to decline. We need to know more about the young people with whom we engage, their characteristic traits, their confusions, their anxieties, their loneliness, their disbeliefs, their inspirations, gifts, talents, goals and dreams. Young people need to be listened to without judgment.



As in the Emmaus story, the youth find themselves “standing still and looking sad,” struggling to find their place in a world threatened by climate change, injustices, corruption and violation of human rights. Like Jesus, who walked with his two disciples to Emmaus, listening to them, interpreting the Word of God, staying with them and sharing a meal, we, too, as Consecrated Persons, are called to accompany the youth of today, helping them to realize that God is with them and loving them in this broken world.

By: Libera Buhphang, RNDM

### **Called to Share the Radiant Light of Christ**

“Let the little children come to me” (Mt.19:14). Part-time ministry in Kuya Center the past few years, being with these little children of God, has been a blessing and a grace from God in my life. I have witnessed the pains and sorrows in the faces of these children which helped me to experience the sacred light from Christ. Journeying with these children, I have heard the missionary call to share the radiant face of Christ in a world that is disfigured by injustice, corruption, poverty, persecution and apathy.



Every day I spend with these children I feel very connected with God everywhere and in everything, and I feel that this becomes an avenue for me to listen to the voice of God and allow myself to be entrusted to God’s loving presence. This deepens my commitment to participating in the Divine Missions and to continue proclaiming the Kingdom of God. I believe that God always forms and strengthens me with many blessings, embracing me with His loving presence and sustaining me with His encompassing love. By the touch of these children, I have learned to love without any conditions; I have learned to give without any reason; I have learned to care for people without any expectation.

By: Shiuly Catherine Gomes, RNDM



### Delesan Kailawan Alumna Takes Up School Leadership!

It was a great delight for us to receive the news that one of our former dorm girls, Mrs Sabilita Dakias Tungkilan, was named as the school head of the Manobo Village Elementary School on August 5, 2019. She feels it is a very great challenge for her as a Manobo Dulangan. She was not expecting this, but believes God decided for her. We continue to pray that God will bless our efforts in enabling the integration of the Manobo Dulangan girls in society.

By: Cora Cagalawan, RNDM

### Entering a New Culture and New Experience of Kulaman

With my good courage and openness, I ventured into the culture in Kulaman as a new missionary in June 2019. After five months' experience in this mission, I feel joy and happiness. I keep discovering and learning new things. I am adjusting to the culture, food, custom, beliefs and language. I am trying to communicate with the people every day in spite of my broken language. Sometimes, I find it difficult to understand others due to language limitations, too.

I am working as coordinator of our dormitory which accommodates 60 Manobo Dulangan tribal girls. They are good, gifted and kind. They always cooperate in all the activities conducted in the center. I am also trying to share my gifts, talents and energy with them. We visit their homes on a monthly basis, my first experiences of travelling to the tops of the mountains by motor bike. or by walking and climbing them.

How risky and challenging it is to reach their homes! Here, however, the people are used to this walking and climbing every day. They are so simple and hospitable, always smiling. This touches me so much. Their family situations are not good enough. The houses look very simple and there is so little in them. Still they are happy with whatever they have.

Carrying out my mission with joy and love, I feel I am receiving much more than I am giving. In this journey I am not alone and am so grateful to my community here, always beside me with their support.

By: Nipa Elizabeth Pereira, RNDM



### Enriching Days with the Children



As one of my ministries, I volunteer at Saint Martin De Porres Center Inc., a social, educational and charitable institution known for their work in serving the poor and marginalized parishioners of Immaculate Conception Cathedral. It is a joyful and wonderful experience for me being with the children and interacting with their parents in the Day Care Center. It is enriching for me to be able to spend time with the children, helping them learn to write, and assisting the teachers and parents in feeding the children and in their class activity every Thursday morning.

By: Molly Mathew, RNDM

If you wish to become part of the life and mission of the RNDM Sisters, please contact: Sr. Claudia Stecker, RNDM (Region Leader), 18 Lantana Street, New Manila, Quezon City, Philippines. Email: [rndmsistersphilippines@gmail.com](mailto:rndmsistersphilippines@gmail.com)

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