



M 28 : 19



Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

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the principle of coetera tolle connotes sacrifice but it can also mean "gift"

When it comes to being a missionary, it involves detachment and **"leaving everything behind."** The life of a missionary is never glamorous. God has called us all to serve where he has directed us to go. Some people are called to a local stage and some in a little bit further away – Ad Gentes. If one is faithful to God's call, there is no greater reward in life but the awareness of doing his will in spite of leaving everything behind both material needs and emotional attachments.

When it comes to serving Jesus in the missions, it requires

sacrifice. Some of these sacrifices are very easy. Some are much more difficult. In some instances, God will ask us to sacrifice one's family and friends which is a little bit more difficult.

The best thing about commitment is as long as one performs it while one is thinking clearly and straight, it makes it very easy to understand trial when pressure arises. While one is planted in the missions, God will readily renew the desire to serve him. The capacity to leave everything behind, though difficult and painful is possible. It enables a missionary to be willing to sacrifice some modern

comforts and some personal desires.

We can rejoice with friends and families even though they are far from us. We can celebrate the good plans that God has in store for us. We take hope in the future that God has designed for us.

God will never demand anything that He has not already given his people. The principle of **coetera tolle** connotes sacrifice but it can also mean "gift". Everything a missionary can hold onto in the mission lands is a gift. In the same manner, everything that a missionary is, is his gift to Jesus.

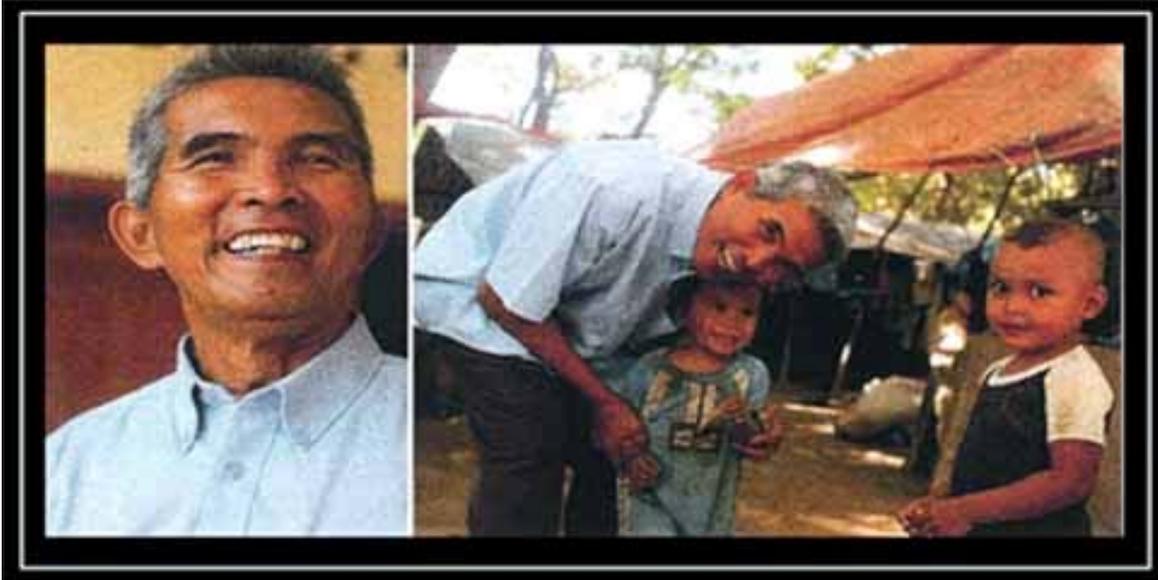
SIMPLE HINTS: COETERA TOLLE

1. Leave everything behind - "Distacco". Start all over again. We are SOJOURNERS. We are PILGRIMS.
2. Be discerning on things that are essential. Learn how to disregard non-essential things.
3. Amaze yourself and rouse those around you to the potential of each new day.
4. Live detachment concretely. Look with hope to the horizon of today, for today is all we truly have. Past no longer there. Future not yet there.
5. Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect; this is the essence of one's humanity. It is the beginning of leaving everything behind.
6. The outlook on life depends on the way one look at things. We can only use things, not abuse them. We are only caretakers not owners. (Principle of Stewardship)

He laughs at the stunned silence that meets his statement and follows it up with a grin explaining, "I am so proud to have two priests and several sisters who openly say that their decision to enter the 1999 rampage and during the 2006 crisis. It is said that when people fled in panic towards Don Bosco. Fr. Rolando, wearing his sutana, was there at the gate to usher them in while preventing those

positive effect if they look at this as an opportunity of enriching their knowledge while shying away from the bad effects. This is a young country with intelligent people. This country will

MY GREATEST CONTRIBUTION TO TIMOR - LESTE IS HAVING FATHERED TWO SONS AND MANY DAUGHTERS. – FR. ROLANDO FERNANDEZ



priesthood and sisterhood was due to the Don Bosco school." Fr. Rolando is chosen as the Outstanding Filipino in Timor-Leste representing the Religious Sector for a mirage of achievements. Part of the Salesians of Don Bosco and currently in charge of the Social Communication Office, he is known for completing the translation of the New Testament into Tetum. He is instrumental in the publication of many Tetum pamphlets, leaflets and articles on religion, health and education. He is actively involved in faith formation for many Timorese who in time became priests and sisters. He has contributed in the promotion of low cost alternatives including traditional herbal-medicine, sustainable agriculture, and bio-gas.

He risked his life several times for many Timorese during

who were in a violent frenzy from about to embark entering the compound.

Fr. Rolando has been in Timor-Leste for over 25 years now. But when one sees him, his excitement about his mission makes you think that he is about to embark on his first day of adventure in Timor-Leste. **"I witness the changes here that are remarkable. A year ago the young ones were throwing stones at each other. Today, they live together and play together as they go through the vocational courses we offer. The change is all due to the atmosphere of unity and peace that we actively promote here in Don Bosco,"** Fr. Rolando said.

"The world is opening up to the Timorese. Their exposure to the world should have a

achieve much," Father Rolando says.

His commitment to his work is inspiring. His sense of humor is infectious. His patience is quite unbelievably long. His thoughts and undertakings are innovative. His generosity is well known. His work with Timorese families in the rural areas has etched a strong positive reputation for Filipinos. His enthusiasm continues to inspire his co-workers in the religious sector and his ability to impart his knowledge unselfishly makes him someone who must surely be respected.

Despite all of these, Fr. Rolando remains humble, approachable and never without his sense of humor. Fr. Rolando is indeed a shining example of what a Filipino should be.

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