



# 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 Lay Missionary Volunteer

The laity has a significant role in our Church today, being identified as the principle bearers of the Church's social message to civil society. We are all called to social ministry to fulfill our baptismal responsibility. As John Paul II stated, The call is addressed to everyone. Lay people are called by the Lord to a mission on behalf of the Church and the world.

"You go into my vineyard too!" This represents the unity within our Church. The union between Christ and the disciples who were called to bear their own fruit in the world continues in the modern-day disciples called lay volunteers. Many of our laity . young, old, married and single fully respond to their call as Catholics. This growing number of people is leaving their jobs, money, security, and material possessions to serve for one, two or three years as lay missionaries to our

needy world. Daily, they are putting their faith into action. These lay mission volunteers can be found across our own country in parishes, schools, social agencies, and hospitals. They are working with those in need in our nation's rural and urban areas. They can be found in soup kitchens and child-care centers. No area is without their presence. They can be found in churches in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, Latin and Central America.

Whether teachers, construction workers, home-care aides, or accountants (and the list goes on), these lay people in mission are apostles of hope. Challenged by Our Holy Father, these lay volunteers know that to say "CHURCH" is to say "MISSION!" Information

about volunteer mission work may be obtained by contacting one or more organizations namely Salesian Commission on Youth Ministry – Mission Animation: Ronaldo S. Lora (Lay Delegate) 0916.666.75.86



Are you considering...  
**volunteer service?**

Are you...  
**currently volunteering?**

Are you a...  
**former volunteer?**

"God has no hands or feet or voice except ours, and through these, God works."  
-St. Teresa of Avila

### LAY PERSON IN VOLUNTEER SERVICE AD GENTES AD EXTRA

Usually this service extends for a year or two in a mission of the Church overseas. In this ever-expanding group, opportunities are available for people to render service in numerous areas of Church activity. Religious communities affirm that lay extensions actually intensify their charism of service. People representing every type of service are incorporating positions for lay volunteers into the work they give in the Church. Young, old, married and single are responding to this challenge. The benefits often include stipend, room and board, health insurance and some travel allotment. The personal rewards for a lay volunteer begin with the immeasurable gratitude expressed by those who are served. The blessings continue in ways bestowed by the Spirit and unique to each person. Contact the Missionary Animation of the FIN province for further information.

# DO YOU WANT TO BE A SALESIAN?

**BRO. ISIDORE JAMES SDB**

Do you want to be a Salesian?

**D**o you want to be a Salesian? This how it all started, way back 1992, I was completing my grade six back in Biiala West New Britain, I just wanted to enter a vocational school and learn a skill and that would be enough to find work. What made me to have that type of thinking was because of the educational system, which not all who enter high school would reach college or a university.

Now looking back, I would say it was not by chance or luck that I entered Don Bosco but for a purpose. As Vunabosco was just started in 1991, it was not that well known yet in West New Britain, but I came to know about it through a friend who told me he has a relative studying in Don Bosco that it was a vocational school. Without really knowing what kind of school it was, I approached the parish priest who was conducting the entry test for Vunaboco. Fortunately I passed my entry test and in 1993 I found myself at the gate of Vunabosco, and to my surprise it was not that type of school I was imagining after seeing the huge shops, classrooms and dormitories. After the interview with the principal, my only question was is this a vocational school and to my amazement the priest told me this is not a vocational school, this is a technical high school, I didn't believe myself I was in high school. And I began my new life. One lasting impression I have when I entered Don Bosco was seeing the Brothers and Fathers with the joyful smile playing with the boys in the football field and basketball court, in the evening they were praying the rosary with us, and I told myself I would like to be like that brother and I want to do the same

But I still have my dream to be an automotive mechanic and I was just in the perfect school to make that dream a reality. When I was in second year high school, I was assigned to clean the Rector's office, so one afternoon as I was cleaning the office, the Rector then Fr. Dave Buenaventura sdb, came in, and ask me, "hey Isidore do you

want to be a Salesian? And my immediate answer was a yes. As years past and reaching my last year I completely set aside the thought of becoming a Salesian, but I was entertaining the thought of looking for a job because I have learned the skills and trade I wanted most in life. But it happened that the Rector then Fr. Eduardo Revilla reminded me again, by asking me the same question do you want to be a Salesian, and it reminds me of my answers some two years back and I once more said yes Father and he gave me the form to be filled that was 1996.

made one of the great decisions in my life that is when I applied for the novitiate. There I had a hard time again because my only classmate from my batch made up his mind to leave also so I found myself alone so I have to adjust myself to be with the other batch. So we were four who were sent to Cebu for the novitiate in 2001. I made my first profession August 31, 2002 and went back to Papua New Guinea to complete my college. From 2003 to 2004 I did my philosophical studies in Bomana Diocesan Theological Institute. Again I was challenged with my studies yet I was always encouraged



By 1997 I found myself in the newly built aspirantate in Boroko East, we were around 17 from two different batches, my group were 12 who were doing our secondary studies in Don Bosco Gabutu while the other group who already completed their secondary studies and were taking some courses in Business. Life was quite tough and one by one my companions started leaving and I wanted to leave also. I went to talk to our formator then Fr. Alfred Maravilla and what he told me was, your vocation doesn't depend on others and that change my mind because the only reason to leave was my friends. I completed my secondary studies in 1998, in 1999, we were the first intake of Don Bosco Technological Institute, during my second year college in 2000, I

by my formator then Fr. Luciano Odorrigo not to give up and I finish that phase of my formation.

In 2006 and 2007 I had my practical training in Vunabosco, there I encountered difficulties yet with prayers and openness to the Rector I was able to overcome those two years. At the end of 2007, I made my application for theology, thinking I will have a companion going for theology but at the end I was told, Isidore, you will be alone for theology and I remembered what Fr. Alfred told me your vocation doesn't depend on others. May 15 2008 I arrived here in the Philippines and began a new life meeting different confreres with different cultural backgrounds that really enriches my Salesian vocation.