



# FOURTH SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER

**DATE:** September 30, 2018 (26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time)

**THEME:** Mission Tangled Up with Our Vocation

**READINGS:** Nm 11:25-29 / Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13,14 /

Jas 5:1-6 / Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

**REFLECTION BY:** Rona G. Alaza

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## Mission Tangled Up with Our Vocation

Rona G. Alaza, AR

Life is a gift and a journey that has its purpose. Before one is born God designed his/her purpose in accordance with his Divine Plan. God's divine plan takes us into an adventure of faith where we experience God's love, providence and guidance. As we explore life itself with its many joys and pains, consolations and tribulations, rewards and disappointments, God manifests his presence. Through each step of one's life, God reveals his will and one comes to realize that life is a mission.

The purpose and meaning of life is mission. Every Christian is challenged to be actively engaged in the mission and thus became a source of personal fulfillment. Pope Francis says in *Evangelii Gaudium* that this is what mission means: "here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure that it is offered up in order to give life to others." Let us reflect on mission and the challenge to live in the here-and-now, and what is mission in the context of the present modern world.

**Our Mission.** I believe that our mission is tangled up with our vocation. Finding our vocation fuels our desire to attain maturity in our faith and to offer our lives for others. It is the fulfillment of the two greatest commandments: the vertical that highlights the love of God and the horizontal that underscores the love of neighbor. These two complementary axes balance our journey of life and faith; they serve as a rudder that gives direction in our daily living.





The encounter with the author of mission enables us to find our way, to discover our giftedness, and to share the joy of serving our brethren. To put the needs of others before our own, to forgive those who hurt you, to pray for those who do not like you, are all unlikely for our human nature; however, this is what the Gospel is all about and it is the fulfillment of God's law.

**Authentic Evangelization.** This mission is evangelization; it is our duty as Christians to evangelize and to be witnesses of Christ—the Word incarnate. We are called to be the presence of God in the world. We are tasked to bring Christ to people. Evangelization is living out the Gospel, witnessing to the Beatitudes, giving testimony like the Good Samaritan, forgiving seventy times seven. In this witnessing the Holy Spirit works in our lives and brings us to conversion.

In every way, no matter what is our vocation, we have the opportunity to reach out to people who are in need, be it at work, in the school, in our home, in our convent, or even in the grocery store. Wherever we go, we are bound to bring the love and mercy of God with every word and deed. We must be a living reflection of His love. Discover your vocation and respond in mission!



**Sister Rona G. Alaza, AR,** is the Community Superior of the Congregation of Augustinian Recollects in Talavera House of Prayer in Cebu. She is also the Regional Coordinator of their Congregation for Evangelization in Luzon.

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*“Any human order to kill must be subordinate to the law of God, which says, ‘Thou shalt not kill.’ No soldier is obliged to obey an order contrary to the law of God. No one has to obey an immoral order.”*

**Oscar Romero**

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