

INTRODUCTION

Jesus' various mission commands found in the Gospels contain a variety of "mandate words": go, teach, proclaim, make disciples, baptize, announce. As witnesses of the crucified-risen Lord, Jesus' followers are to go to the ends of the earth, joyfully announcing the Good News of God's Kingdom. Thus, as Pope Francis notes, "Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus; we no longer say that we are 'disciples' and 'missionaries,' but rather that we are always '*missionary disciples*.'" Indeed, all members of the People of God are "agents of evangelization"; this reality "calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized" (*Evangelii Gaudium* 120). To assist in fulfilling this vocation is the said purpose and goal of this book: *Go, Teach, Make Disciples: Sourcebook for Mission Education and Animation*.

Background. In envisioning the national celebration of the fifth centenary of Christianity in the Philippines, the CBCP Episcopal Commission on Mission (CBCP-ECM) along with the National Office of the Pontifical Mission Societies (PMS) foresaw the need for educational materials that would enable deeper mission formation and catechesis on all levels of the Church. They recalled that twenty years ago in 2000 for the celebration of the National Mission Congress, *Tell the World ... Catechetical Modules for Mission Animation* proved to be an invaluable resource. They also envisioned a similar project for the quinquennial celebration of "Philippine Christianity" in 2021.

Content. *Go, Teach, Make Disciples* contains a wide variety of biblical, theological, catechetical, and pastoral resources to facilitate a "missionary renewal" of all pastoral agents in the local Church. Here one finds twelve presentations of basic mission catechesis, inspiring quotes from popes and saints, lyrics of mission songs, a bibliography of locally published mission resources—all designed to facilitate a deeper awareness and commitment to evangelization, which Saint Pope Paul VI noted is "the vocation proper to the Church, her deepest identity.... The task of evangelizing all people constitutes the essential mission of the Church" (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 14).

Audience. This book has been designed with the widest possible audience in mind. Priests will find rich sources to enhance their homily and retreat reflections. Catechists and Religious Education Teachers will appreciate the materials as they prepare their lesson plans. Religious men and women will draw insights for the deepening of their vocation and mission witnessing. Missionaries, parents, and the youth will be enriched in their faith journey as well as in their life of prayer and meditation. Indeed, there are resources available here for the wide missionary renewal of the entire Church on all levels!

Practical Matters. A closer examination of the content of this volume will reveal rich materials that can be used in a variety of ways. Each of the twelve modules contains abundant content, enough material for a few sessions; thus, the presenter needs to "digest" or even "simplify" the content for the level of the particular intended audience. Each module contains *reflection questions* that will facilitate group discussion and interaction; these questions are found at various places, depending upon the individual module. Sessions can be enhanced with

songs and with various choices from the quotes of popes and saints. Creativity is highly encouraged on the part of the facilitator, teacher, or catechist.

Profound Gratitude. These materials are intended to serve missionary animation for several years to come. Thus, all are grateful for the initiative of the CBCP-ECM and the PMS in facilitating the preparation of this sourcebook. The best way to express our heartfelt gratitude is to actually use these materials for the missionary renewal of Filipino Catholics. Indeed, under Mother Mary's mantle and energized by the Holy Spirit, all are warmly encouraged to: *Go, Teach, and Make Disciples.*

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