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AN APPRAISAL OF THE PROFILE OF THE
VOLUNTEER CATECHISTS IN THE DIOCESE OF MALOLOS
AND ITS IMPLICATIONS TO THE CATECHETICAL PROGRAM

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v

ABBREVIATIONS

CBCP	Catholic Bishops' Conference in the Philippines
CT	Catechesi Tradendae
DECS	Department of Education, Culture and Sports
DVC	Diocesan Vicarial Coordinator
EN	Evangelii Nuntiandi
FLEP	Family Life Enrichment Program
GCD	General Catechetical Directory
GE	Gravissimum Educationis
KRISKA	Kristiyanong Kapitbahayan
MCST	Misisonary Catechists of St. Therese of the Infant Jesus
NCDP	National Catechetical Directory of the Philippines
NCOP	National Catechetical Office of the Philippines
OMI	Oblate Missionary Center
PASKA	Pandiyosesis na Sentro ng Katekesis
PASKA-CCD	Pandiyosesis na Sentro ng Katekesis - Confraternity of Christian Doctrine



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vi

- PC Professional Catechist
- PTT Parish Trainor Team
- STAR Statistical Assistance Research
- VC Volunteer Catechist



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
TITLE PAGE	i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	ii
ABBREVIATIONS	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xii
CHAPTER	
I INTRODUCTION	1
Statement of the Problem	22
Scope and Limitatons of the Study	23
Theoretical Framework	25
Significance of the Study	29
Definition of Terms	32
II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND STUDIES	34
General References	34
Theses	38
III RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	46
Subject of the Study	46



	Instruments to be Used	47
	Outline of the Thesis	52
IV	PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATION OF THE DATA	54
	A. Descriptive Presentation of the Data	54
	A.1 Profile of the Central Staff	54
	A.2 Profile of the Volunteer Catechists	60
	A.3 Achievement Test	79
	B. Possible Implications of the Findings to:	
	B.1 The Status of Catechesis in the Diocese of Malolos	83
	B.2 The Goals and Content of the Catechetical Program for Volunteer Catechist	84
	B.3 The Central Staff (Internal Environment) Who are Directly Involved in the Implementation and Mobilization of the Program	85
	B.4 The Volunteer Catechists: The Primary Recipient of the Catechetical Program	88
	B.5 The Elementary Pupils and Parents of the First Communicants: Secondary Recipients of the Catechetical Program	90



V SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. Summary	92
B. Conclusion	100
C. Recommendations	101

BIBLIOGRAPHY	103
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APPENDICES

A. CBCP Pastoral Letter: July 15, 1987.	107
B. DECS Department Order Number 39, s. 1987	111
C. Modules for PASKA-CCD Parish Trainor Teams	113
D. PASKA-CCD Syllabus for the Elementary Schools' Religious Instruction	129
E. Synodal Document About PASKA-CCD	164
F. "Handog Katekismo"	168
G. Samples of the Questionnaire	170
H. Profile of the Researcher	181



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

x

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE		PAGE
1	Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Age	60
2	Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Sex	61
3	Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Civil Status	63
4	Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Educational Attainment	65
5	Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Service Record	67
6	Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Current Occupation	68
7	Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Respondents According to Benefits Received	70



8 Frequency and Percentage of Respondents
According to Formation and Follow-up . . . 72

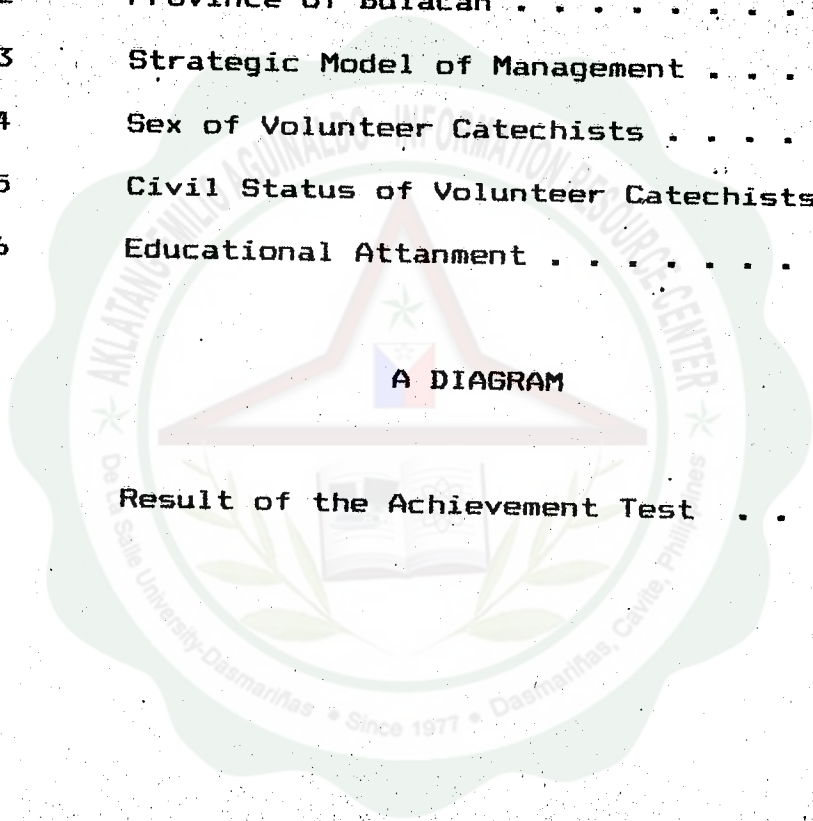
9 Frequency and Percentage Distribution
of Repondents Needs 74

10 Frequency and Percentage Distribution
of the Respondent's Raw Scores on
Achievement 79



LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE		PAGE
1	PASKA-CCD Organizational Chart	20
2	Province of Bulacan	21
3	Strategic Model of Management	28
4	Sex of Volunteer Catechists	62
5	Civil Status of Volunteer Catechists	64
6	Educational Attainment	66
	A DIAGRAM	
	Result of the Achievement Test	80



CHAPTER V

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. SUMMARY

The Filipinos are fortunate to be in the only Catholic country in Asia. But gone were the days when the parents were the first catechists of their children. Nowadays, most of them are preoccupied by the material world. Many of them now feel incapable in fulfilling their role as their children's first teachers and witnesses of the Christian message. In spite of the launching of family catechesis, majority of the Filipino parents are not yet ready to be the catechists in the family circle. Hence, the importance of catechists, professional or trained, remain. The CBCP appeal for more VC's has to be supported so that baptized Christians will grow in their spirituality and be responsible children of God and conscientious citizens of this country.

The Problem

This study was an attempt to present the picture of the Volunteer Catechists in the Diocese of Malolos.



This research answered the following questions:

1. What is the profile of the respondents

1.1 under the Diocesan Center for Catechesis in terms of:

- a) age
- b) sex
- c) civil status
- d) educational attainment
- e) service record
- f) training undergone
- g) needs

1.2 under the Volunteer Catechists in the Diocese of Malolos in terms of :

- a) age
- b) sex
- c) civil status
- d) educational attainment
- e) service record
- f) current occupation
- g) formation and follow-up
- h) benefits received
- i) needs



2. What is the degree of comprehension of the Volunteer Catechists in terms of:

- a) content
- b) methodology?

Subjects

The VC's gathered by the PASKA-CCD Central Staff in the diocese of Malolos were the respondents of this study. They have served their parish for at least five years. It is not a controlled group so the researcher was able to conduct her pre-test of the questionnaire to only 9% respondents (34 VC's) of the total number of the VC's who have served for at least five years in the public elementary schools. She made use of the Split-Half Method and Item Analysis Process to validate her self-made questionnaire. The latter means was carried out through the assistance of the STAR office of Rev. Fr. Luke Moortgat, CICM. It was computerized.

Methodology and Instrument Used

This study is a descriptive research which aims to present the Profile of the VC's in the Diocese of Malolos through simple statistical procedures.



The data were gathered from the Central Staff and the VC's by the researcher herself. To prove that the PASKA-CCD training program is adequate to prepare the VC's for religious instruction in public elementary schools, the validated Achievement Test was administered to the 34% VC's last August 19, 1989. They were tested on their knowledge about the essentials of the Catholic Faith and on the Methodology imparted by the Central Staff.

Statistical Used:

Simple statistical procedures were used in the study. Frequencies, percentages and weighted mean were obtained through manual computations.

Findings:

Based on the data gathered, analyzed and interpreted the results are summarized as follows:

I. On Profile of the Central Staff

A. Age

The Central Lay Staff is composed of young Church workers. They are in their legal age. They can be considered as mature in their



mental age. The youngest is twenty-three years old whereas the rest belong to the range of 32 - 39 years old.

B. Sex

The Central Staff is composed of two male and four female workers. The lay staff are headed by the eldest, a lady, second in rank to the Director.

C. Civil Status

Only one male coordinator is married. The rest are all single.

D. Educational Attainment

Only one member of the Central Staff obtained an academic degree (Bachelor of Science in Commerce), three reached college whereas two are high school graduates.

E. Service Record

All of them served as VC's before they became parish trainers and eventually became members after they were interviewed, observed and trained by the previous staff. One-half of the set-up are in the diocese from four to six years whereas the rest are in the service



from one to three years.

F. Training Undergone

The Central Staff were trained in the diocese itself by the previous staff. Only one underwent a Summer Training in the Institute of Catechetics in Manila. Their intensive live-in training is described in Appendix C.

G. Current Needs

The majority of the Central Staff expressed the need to have lesser area of responsibility. They need further intensive professional training to equip them in the mobilization of the flourishing catechetical program in the diocese.

II. On Profile of the Volunteer Catechists

A. Age

The respondents have varied ages but 32% belong to the range from 51 - 60 which is a mature stage in terms of mental age. All of them belong to the responsible age. It is noticeable that the respondents decline in their services as they grow older.



B. Sex

The respondents are composed of nineteen male (15%) and one hundred eleven female (85%) VC's. This shows that the catechetical program is dominated by women.

C. Civil Status

Fifty-two per cent of the respondents are single and thirty-seven per cent of the rest, are married. More single VC's engaged in the catechetical work than married people.

D. Educational Attainment

Forty-three per cent of the respondents are high school graduates. It is worth mentioning that 33% of them are degree holders and 22% of the rest reached college level.

E. Service Record

The results show that the parish VC's render longer services than the parish trainers. Sixty-eight per cent of the respondents have served their parish from five to ten years.

F. Current Occupation

The result shows that the respondents belong



to the lower middle class in the strata of the society. This has not been a hindrance for them, however, to participate actively in the parish.

G. Formation and Follow-up

The VC's are trained before they are immersed in the apostolic work. Follow-up is conducted by the parish trainers and the Central Staff to animate them.

H. Benefits Received

As a token of gratitude to the free services rendered by the VC's, spiritual and material aids are extended to them.

I. Needs

More number of VC's are needed and sufficient local fund is to be solicited to provide the basic needs of the VC's in the field.

III. On Knowledge

Nobody failed among the respondents. The majority belong to the higher rank thus, providing the credibility of the training of the VC's and the adequacy of the PASKA-CCD training program.



B. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the survey and its analysis the following have been drawn out:

1. Trained Volunteer Catechists serve as an asset in the field of catechesis. They become more committed through the help of the experts and the trained catechists.
2. The good result of the Achievement Test confirms the theoretical framework. Intensive training with a follow-up contributed to the growth and progress of the Volunteer Catechists. Nonetheless, there is still a room for improvement as variables of the course were studied. A need for further study of the Scriptures, Methodology and the inclusion of the subject on Christian Morality surfaced out.
3. The Catechists' Profile revealed a commendable picture of the joint efforts by the Bishops, clergy and the laity in the field of catechesis in the Diocese of Malolos. Their simple environment



contributed to their generosity in the apostolate. They are not affected adversely by their close distance with Manila. This is reflected in their free voluntary services. Lack of funding came out not for their personal needs but for their on-going formation in order to equip them for an effective catechesis.

4. PASKA-CCD Program for Volunteer Catechists is not a separate entity in the diocese. It is in line with the thrust of the diocese for it is based on the documents of the Church and the Synod of Malolos.

D. RECOMMENDATIONSS:

1. Further studies about the Sacred Scriptures and on Methodology should be given priority in the Volunteer Catechists on-going program.
2. The plan for the establishment of a Pastoral Catechetics in the Diocese of Malolos should be given proper attention in response to the Catechetical Convention Recommendation last September 5 - 7, 1988 [cf. The Shape of



Religious Education in the Philippines Today
(Part II) p. 183].

3. Since the catechetical program has been existing for twelve years already the modules have to be evaluated and analyzed in the light of the triple dimension of catechesis.
4. Handog Katesismo, Praxis Fides, recruitment of Volunteer Catechists should be given more attention to meet the local needs for funding.
5. Similar study should be conducted among the learners in the public elementary schools to complete the Catechetical Picture in the Diocese of Malolos.

