

EAC

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

THE HISTORY OF EVANGELIZATION IN KIRIBATI
THROUGH FDNSC SPIRITUALITY
1881-1993

770000

A Thesis

Presented to

the Faculty of the Graduate School
De La Salle University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Arts in Religious Education

by

Sister M. Leonila de la Peña, FDNSC



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

THESIS ABSTRACT

TITLE: The History of Evangelization in Kiribati
through FDNSC Spirituality

No. of pages:

Researcher: Sister M. Leonila de la Peña, FDNSC

Type of Document: Thesis

The study aims to present a historical account of the evangelization of the locals of Kiribati through FDNSC spirituality, will serve also as a source of inspiration and strength, showing a new method of evangelization of the two Catholic Secondary Schools, to all Catholic Christians, priests, sisters and laity, who have a right and duty in the work of evangelization, will be helpful to the religious Sisters who are working directly for the Christian formation and evangelization in formal schools and other related area and that this study will benefit the parish priests and other catechetical workers of the parish, by providing a systematic and contextualized evangelization program for the laity. And it aims also to service as an inspiration to other parish workers and religious organizations to re-orient and direct the thrust of parish towards the strengthening the work of evangelization.

The general procedure employed in the study is through oral interviews of the I-Kiribati elders, MSC and FDNSC missionaries who lived and worked in Kiribati for many years, and by reading and research made by the researcher.

Evangelization will become relevant by interpreting the realities of human existence in the light of God's word and Gospel. Therefore, the realities of the situation that contain in our society today at the level of the world, continent, country and locally pose a challenge to the evangelization task of the Church most especially the Church in Kiribati.



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

This challenge of the situation is indeed a challenge of the Lord. The voice of our age, events, needs and desires of our people, constitute the signs of the times and perhaps the signs of the Lord. The Lord is present in these realities and reveals the way in which the Gospel should be presented to the people.

This interpretation, to be authentic and reliable, has to be done by the community pooling together all the efforts of Christians united with God, seeking His light in prayer and reflection, involved in the concrete life of the society, open to the past and future under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

As the year 2000 draws close, every Catholic Christian, should be more involved in the evangelizing activity of the Church, so that Jesus Christ be known to whom who don't know Him yet, and be better known and experienced by those who already know Him.

The local priests need to be made aware of their responsibility as Evangelizers and need to be given adequate training which is ongoing and the local priests need to be convinced of the importance of the role of the laity as Evangelizers in the Church.

Evangelization awareness or seminars should be encouraged in all parishes and the laity need to be given the opportunity to learn about basic theology, Scripture, liturgy, ministry or other courses which are relevant to their needs.

The 3 Secondary High School should be given adequate basic Christian doctrine and more moral values during their high school life.



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THESIS ABSTRACT

CHAPTER

1 INTRODUCTION

Background of the Study..... 5

Brief History of the
Implantation of Catholic Faith
in Kiribati (1881)..... 5

The Missionaries of the Sacred
Heart And the Daughters of the
Sacred Heart (1888-1895)..... 6

Review of Related Literature.....11

Related Empirical Study.....28

Conceptual Framework.....30

Statement of the Problem.....31

Scope and Limitations.....33

Significance of the Study.....35

Definition of Terms.....37

2 METHOD

Research Designs.....41

Respondents.....41

Sources of Data.....42

Instruments.../.....42



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

3 THE PAST (Historical Documents)

The Coming of Faith (1881).....	44
The First MSC Missionaries (1888).....	49
World Map.....	52
Map of Kiribati.....	53
A Brief History of Kiribati.....	54
Religious Cultural Background....	60
The First FDNSC (1895).....	65
Implementation of the CLAYE II Program.....	69
Time-Line-Kiribati.....	75
Present Survey (Present History).....	80
The Growth of the Catholic in Kiribati.....	83
Total Population by Religion.....	84
Faith Development in Kiribati.....	88
The Vision Statement of the Catholic Church in Kiribati.....	91
Interviews.....	110



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY

CHAPTER IV - SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Summary.....	111
Conclusion.....	113
Recommendations.....	116
References.....	117
Appendices A (Interview Guide for the First Missionaries as Informants).....	119
Appendices B (Interview Guide for the I-Kiribati Elderly).....	121
C (Interview Answers of Elderly I-Kiribati..	124
D Personal Insights.....	129

