INTEGRATION OF FILIPINO VALUES AND CULTURE IN THE FORMATION OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

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ABSTRACT

Title of Research: INTEGRATION OF FILIPINO VALUES AND

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This is a descriptive study on the integration of Filipino values and culture in the formation of religious life among different women religious congregations in selected towns in Cavite. It was basically assumed in this study that Filipino values and cultures were integrated in the formation of Filipino women religious. The conceptual framework was anchored from Bronfenbrenner's ecological system theory that explains the development of the person within the context of the dynamic systems of relationships. The study utilized purposive sampling technique with the qualitative interpretation approach from the survey questionnaire.

The main sources of data were obtained from 50 Filipino women religious undergoing religious formation from 23 religious congregations. The gathered data were tabulated, summarized and grouped according to the different aspects and dimensions of religious formation.

The findings revealed that the formation of religious was facilitated through human relationships in community living. The programs of activities include human, Christian, religious, missionary, and charismatic dimensions. The process of integration of values were actualized in the physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual level. Filipino values of strong parental rules, "bayanihan", "pakikisama", and "utang na loob" in the systems were integrated and assimilated during the formation process.

The study concludes from the data that the formation of Filipino women religious was important factor in the fulfillment of their goal in being integrated, inculturated and transformed follower of Jesus Christ. In the formation process, religious values of community life and living the vows transformed Filipino values of strong parental rules, "bayanihan", "pakikisama", and "utang na loob". The ultimate goal of religious formation was focused towards the integral development of the person. In community life, difficulties arise in modes of relationships and adjustments from different personalities and cultures, thus the need for counseling sessions from the Filipino women religious in the formation to have a better understanding of self and others, and harmonious relationship with every member of the community.

The study recommends the following: assimilation and incarnation of the human and Christian values for authentic and internalized formation; integral and gradual formation programs that respond to the human, Christian, consecrated, spiritual, intellectual and apostolic formation; balance adaptation of physical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual levels in the process of internalization in religious formation; appreciation of other Filipino cultural values of hospitality, loyalty to relationships and family, attachment, and "bahala na" system.



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LIST OF CATHOLIC CHURCH'S DOCUMENTS

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Decree on the Up-to-Date Renewal of Religious Life:

Perfectae Caritatis, 28 October 1965

Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity

Ad Gentes Divinitus, 7 December 1965

Documents of the Popes:

Apostolic Exhortation

Vita Consecrata, John Paul II, 1996

Documents of the Holy See:

Canon Law

Canons of Codex Iuris Canonici, 1983

Instruction on the Renewal of Religious Life:

Renovationis Causam, 6 January, 1969

<u>Documents of Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies</u> of Apostolic Life:

Directives on Formation in Religious Institutes, 1999

Inter-Institute Collaboration for Formation, 1999

<u>Documents of Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines:</u>

Inculturation of Catechesis and Spirituality, 1995