

A Church Service: The Life Outlook and Liturgical Role of Sacristans in Candelaria, Quezon

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this research is to understand the life outlook and liturgical roles of sacristans in the Municipality of Candelaria, Quezon Province in the Philippines. The study used phenomenological qualitative method as a research design. Seven (7) sacristans serving at the church of “Our Lady of Perpetual Help” at least a year were purposively chosen to assure the characteristics of the respondents. The findings revealed that they entered sacristy out of religious inspiration and curiosity and to find spiritual fulfilment. The respondents unveiled that the liturgical role of sacristans includes the different preparations for the liturgy such as the preparation of the common church objects such as sotana, chalice, credence table and purificator during the religious mass. In addition, they see themselves included in the “behind the scenes” staff of the church which give them sense of camaraderie and belief that doing the role of sacristan is considered sacred and cultivates personal happiness. About the life outlooks and projections of future careers, they are not yet decided to take the path of priesthood or priestess but they see themselves other roles continuously serving the church in the future. This study hopes to provide insights for aspiring sacristans and for other catholic youths in understanding the different roles and involvement of sacristans in the church services.

Keywords: Church, Liturgy, Sacristans, Outlook, Roman Catholic