

Pacita Gomintong DelAmen
Born: August 30, 1945
Salcedo, Ilocos Sur



Becoming a Deaconess:

My story begins when I was in high school dreaming to be a journalist. At that time, I was boarding at the house of my deaconess aunt, who was married to a minister. Living with my aunt, Pelar Gerorilla Esparto, day in and day out I began to admire and appreciate the way she conducted herself. She was so organized, purposeful and compassionate. As my idol, I decided to be like her. In her counsel, she warned there is no money in being a deaconess, but that I would find much love in my life. I entered Harris in 1963 and graduated in 1967 with a major in Christian Education.

Church Assignments

1967-1969 Atabay UMC and Pias UMC, Salcedo (I alternated Sundays between the 2 churches.)

Sunday school was a booming program in these churches and in our district. We promoted the Sunday school programs by having annual Bible-centered rallies in the District. These events were well attended by the children, their teachers, and friends from all churches in the district. There was always a need for more Sunday school teachers so I recruited young people and conducted a combined Teachers Training Program. We held Recognition Sundays for these teachers in appreciation of their dedication and hard work.

Youth Ministry - In Atabay we held Work Camps and Christmas Institutes which the youth enjoyed immensely. Programs that were developed during my 2 years at these churches: Choir – we did not have an organ or piano, but I was able to form and conduct a choir. It was my experience that - where the deaconess was, young people were there. They joined visitations, outings by the river banks, Junior leagues, etc.

There was no transportation in these areas during those days; it was walking 3 to 5 miles between the two churches, and crossing rivers to visit members.

In addition to my responsibilities, I was also the District Youth and Young Adult Coordinator. The 2nd year of my assignment I was a Traveling District Deaconess supervising 7 deaconesses.

Challenges

- Heavy work load.
- The pastor seemed jealous when I was invited to conduct more services than him, or when members gave me more gifts than him.
- One of my young people, who lived next to my boarding house, was in love with me and wanted to get married immediately. I did not want to marry him. The church decided to transfer me to another boarding house farther away from his house. I introduced him to my cousin, whom he eventually married.

1969-1971 Sto. Thomas, Candon; Pagampang and Bitong in Galimuyod, church “circuits.”

General Work and Responsibilities:

My work was pretty much the same as that at Atabay and Pias churches the previous two years. Although at this time, I had ministers in Sto. Thomas and Pagampang, but I was by myself in Bitong. In addition, I was still holding the post of District Deaconess supervising 7 deaconesses. The work load here was really heavy, but I stayed focused and pursued my program objectives to serve these three churches.



Oh, when we give our service fully to the Lord, how God guides us all the way! There was a river separating Pagampang and Bitong. While walking and crossing the river on foot I meditated and focused on my sermons. I felt the Spirit of the Lord with me.

Challenges

- I was spreading myself too thin serving three churches while doing District Deaconess work. Finding rest time was a challenge.
- Safety – One night in my boarding house, someone entered my room during the dark night. I screamed. He got out quickly. He was a relative of the landlady. The incident was reported to the church, and the church moved me to another boarding house. Deaconesses need safe and comfortable housing.

1971-1972 Asingan, Pangasinan. 100 members.

Members were mostly educated and well-off. They were heavy into politics and belonged to two opposite political parties.

Responsibilities

This big church hosted most of the district events: the workers meetings, the Sunday School Rallies, the Teachers Trainings, etc. As in previous churches, I was busy with the ministries with Children, Youth, and Young Adults, organizing choir and Sunday School, joining evangelistic services, etc.

Challenge

- One of my big challenges here was that the wife of my minister was a very jealous woman. I eventually ignored her and moved on with my work.

1973-1974 Tayog, Pangasinan

This was in the big city. My pastor was quite industrious with a very nice wife; both were musicians. We all worked together well. My responsibilities were the same as those at the previous churches.

1975-1976 Salcedo, Ilocos Sur (My home church) 150 members.

It was not easy to be assigned in my local church. The church expectations were a bit overboard.

The church created a job for me – they had me set up a free Day Care Center. I had 20 children with an assistant. This was my full-time job from Monday through Friday. The weekends, I worked with the WSCS, MYF, the MYAF, choir, etc.



Study Leave and Volunteer Work

1977-1980 I attended the University of Pangasinan for Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. I was awarded "Outstanding Student." Thank God!

Matron at Edna Lee Dormitory
Abaccan, Sigan, and Victory, Salcedo churches

Public School Teacher

After 10 years of service, I resigned from the Deaconess Board. From 1980-1983 I taught at Galimuyod Elementary School and at Victory Elementary School in Salcedo.

1983 – Got married to Domingo DelAmen

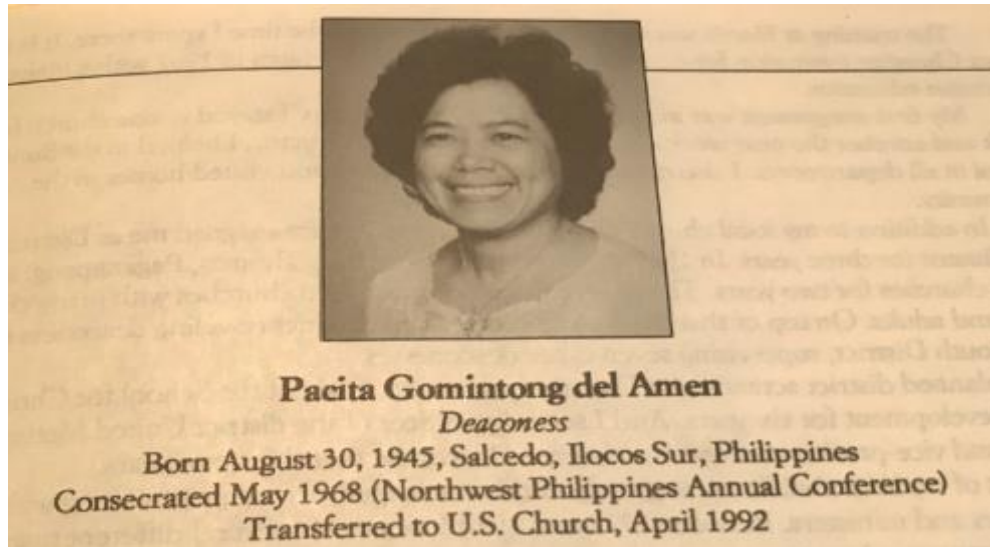
1984 – Migrated to California, USA

I took up nursing and worked at the following medical facilities:

1. Linda Valley Care Center, Loma Linda, CA
2. Heritage Gardens, Loma Linda, CA
3. Plymouth Care Center, Redlands, CA
4. Patton State Mental Hospital, San Bernardino, CA. I worked there for 12 years till I retired.

1992 – I affiliated with the US Office of Deaconess and Home Missioners

I remain active in the service for the Lord in Loma Linda and in the community as a volunteer nurse. Altogether I've been an active deaconess for 38 years.



Conclusion:



I believe being a deaconess is forever a deaconess. I don't regret being a deaconess. I also praise God for Harris Memorial College in preparing me to do God's work. Praise God for full scholarships I enjoyed all throughout my schooling.

I am happy to report that there were a number of young people from my church assignments who became deaconesses: Jolly Caplis Tallayo of Albay, Rebecca Pang-as of Pagampan, and Susan Valdez of Sto Thomas.

Finally, I close with these verses that guided my life and service: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Philippians 4:13.