

Edna Soriano Santos
Born: June 12, 1939
Tangos, Navotas City

Becoming a Deaconess



My mother, Deborah Soriano, a down-to-earth Methodist, dedicated me to serve the Lord when I was a child. On top of that, Rev. Eduardo “Ding” Cajiua and his deaconess wife, Amelita Cajiua, were influential in my decision to be a deaconess.

I witnessed their dedication and untiring devotion to the service for the Lord, their love and genuine concern for the people in the church and for the community, their knowledge in developing and implementing valuable and beneficial programs for the various groups in the church that led to the continuous growth of the church, as well as their progressive community outreach programs. Be it in music, in studies, in their leadership, in their building wholesome relationships with people, in their religiousness and spirituality, totally inspired me! Above all, I loved the church and every happening in it; I too wanted to be a church worker. In 1956 I enrolled at Harris Memorial School and graduated in 1959 with a major in Christian Education.



Graduating Class - 1959

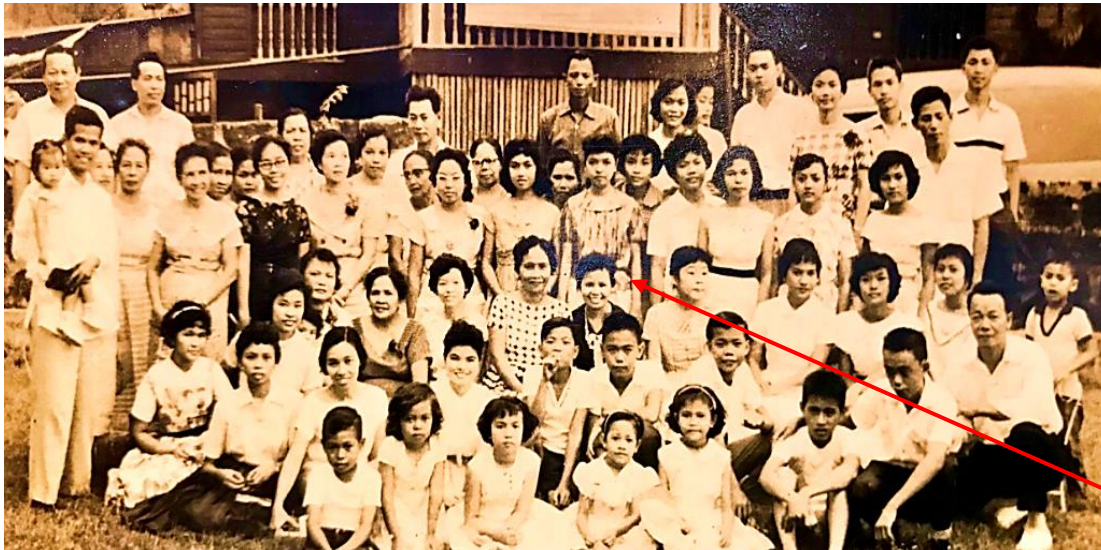
Church Appointments

1959-1961 - Malabon Central UMC. I served with Rev. Clemente “Sonny” Zuniga, Jr.

- As the Christian Education Director, I was supervisor of the Children’s Department. Mentored the teachers of the Sunday school program, the Daily Vacation Bible School, and the Bible Studies. We held Extension Classes at nearby communities.
- With my Pastor and with other members, we made visitations and prayer meetings.
- I preached at the Sunday service at times.
- Organ accompanist at Sunday worship services, at vespers and at mid-week services.
- Organized the Junior MYF and served as their adviser.
- Mentored a new member on her faith journey.
- Introduced “group dynamics” method of Bible study.

In order to accomplish my goals, I prayed hard and was determined to succeed.

Comment: I would like to mention that a good deed enriched my life: The late Dr. Lapus and his two young sons paid me a surprise visit when I was sick, and they brought medicine for me. I felt very special! I praised the Lord for them!



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1961-1963 – Taytay UMC, Resident Deaconess. I served with Pastor Eladio Reyes.

At this church I had the full cooperation of the youth group in teaching Sunday school, DVBS, and in program planning. They were involved in the Christmas programs, and attended the Christmas Institute.

The Taytay church took care of their workers; they were generous in giving gifts in cash and in kind. I appreciated the church Treasurer, Mr. Enrique Gonzaga, who came to my boarding house to hand me my check without fail and on time.



Mrs. Luisa Lapus
Council Chairman,

1963-1965 - Kamuning First UMC, Resident Deaconess. The late Rev. Ding Cajiuaat was my co-worker.

- The Nursery Department was my responsibility every Sunday; for two years I kept the toddlers busy during the worship service so that parents could worship in peace. Incidentally, Rev. Adiel De Pano and his brother, Arnel, were my most well-behaved pupils.
- Held extension classes in the house of Mrs. Salome Dilodilo.
- Supported Bible Studies at night. Going home alone in the dark was scary but God protected me from harm. Worked closely with the MYF and the MYAF.

Kamuning FUMC had a strong leadership under the late Pastor Eduardo Cajiua. They had well-organized programs and dedicated members. I did my best to assist in all areas where I was needed.



MYF Bible study group

Edna

Closing Reflection:



My 6-year life's journey as a deaconess was both challenging and inspiring. Harris prepared me to be strong to face challenges that came along the way. Those stressful problems made me a better person. Some experiences inspired me to keep going in order to succeed.

I was truly blessed to work with three dedicated ministers and to be assigned to three wonderful churches. I will always be grateful to my five host families who welcomed me as an additional member of their family: the Albarracins, Justinianos, Pascual, Paulinos, and the Santos.

I also remember the late Rev. Esteban Cruz, our "Lolo Teban," our loving District Superintendent and the late Mrs. Teodocia Cruz "Nanay Dosing" our district deaconess at that time. They gave their full support and guidance.

I have been living in California with my family since 1985. I lost my wonderful and loving husband of 42 years in 2012. In my senior years, I keep busy with volunteer work at church and my personal mission of praying for people on my 'prayer list, as well as distributing copies of the devotional Upper Room. As long as we have breath, we can serve the Lord!