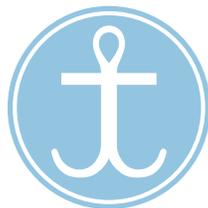


TALKING



Mission

with

ELIZABETH S. TAPIA



PHOTO: PHOTO: MIKE DUBOSE/UMNS

What three words best describe you?

Compassionate, Courageous, Delightful

Whom do you admire most?

My late mother, Lydia Santiago Tapia. I owe my life and my good upbringing to her.

What does prayer mean for you?

Prayer to me is like having tea with my best friend. The atmosphere of connection is peaceful and beautiful. Prayer is my holy conversation with the divine and bowing before the inner altar of the loving mystery.

"Lord, teach us to pray," implored the early disciples. I agree. Moreover, I pray, "empower us to turn our prayer into action." Sometimes no words are necessary, just silence—sensing the peace, the love, the invitation to live for others.

Praying is a very personal journey of my spirituality. I pray because I need it. I pray because it energizes me to do my work every day. And when told that others pray for me, I am doubly blessed.

I don't pray so that God would solve my problems or the thousand problems of my country. I pray that God will give me and our community strength and courage—faith enough to take risks in making a difference, love enough to be a witness to God's inclusive love, hope enough to welcome another day, another opportunity to take part in God's mission in this globalized world.

After having the tea of prayer, I feel refreshed. I feel more ready to say, "here I am Lord, send me."

Morning Prayer

Filipino/Tagalog

Dakilang Diyos, salamat sa Iyong aruga at biyaya sa araw-araw.

Nawa'y ang Iyong kalooban ang mangyari sa aking buhay

Ngayon at sa kinabukasan. Siya Nawa.

English

Great God, thank you

For your loving care

And daily grace.

May your will be done

In my life

Today and tomorrow. So be it.

Evening Prayer

Holy spirit, blessed wisdom,

As I take deep breaths and lay down my weary body,

I celebrate your presence tonight.

Thank you for the last 24 hours, for the night, for rest.

Thank you for life amid death, hope amid fear, laughter amid tears.

I pray for my family, neighbors, friends, and mission coworkers.

I pray, we pray, for peace in the world

In the New Year, and years to come.

We commit everything to your care...

Talk with you again in the morning.

In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

The Rev. Dr. Elizabeth S. Tapia (Missionary Support Code: 3022064), who is from the Philippines, is a missionary professor serving at John Wesley College, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, northern Philippines.