



Sister Caroline Granil

from Tarlac, Philippines shares her vocation story.

I was already two years in England before I was touched by God for the FMDM vocation. I had just completed the State Enrolled Nursing (SEN) in one of the hospitals in North London.

And I was a lapsed Catholic!

Normally after Night Duty I would go straight to bed. However, one day this daily routine was changed when I decided to go to church that morning. And I arrived late for Mass but in time for the Gospel, which was about Jesus telling the Pharisees that He came for the sinners and not for virtuous, it is the sick who needs the doctor and not the healthy. I took this message personally. "That's me!" was my first thought.

I was sitting in a pew just behind the four figures in white garb. A moment later, one of them got up and walked to the pulpit. I remembered her saying: "There are young people nowadays who might have vocation to Religious Life but because they don't know how to respond, they push the idea out of their minds." Again a thought flashed through my mind and I said: "That's me!">

After Mass, instead of approaching them when standing in the corridor, I passed them by and walked home. I kept walking until I reached the Nurses' Home. As soon I reached my room, I wrote to my Parish Priest and asked him who those nuns in white garb were.

A few days later, I got a reply informing me that they were the Franciscan Sisters from Godalming. I wrote and that was the beginning of my correspondence with one of them, followed by several visits to the Motherhouse. I then said to the Vocation Directress: "I want to come and see the life you have", I said simply.

Thirty four years have gone by and here I am still with the FMDM family. I feel happy, grateful and at peace with my initial "Yes, that's me" to God who first called me. After many years of spiritual formation, studies, community living and mission life, 'my sunrise and sunset, of death and resurrection, of Mount Calvary and Mount Tabor, I feel truly anchored in my FMDM Vocation. I am very mindful of God's faithfulness and love for me and of my FMDM family.