Quotidian Spirituality in the Dailiness of Valencia: A Tool for Missiological Re-Imagination Mark Anthony Zarate, OFM

Abstract

What can missionaries learn from people in the peripheries? With this question in mind, the writer examines the stories of ordinary people in Valencia, Dumingag, Zamboanga del Sur using Karl Rahner's elucidation on spirituality and its relation to everyday life. This optic leads to the realization that at the core of the everyday dynamics of people are values and mindsets borne out of concrete encounters with the Divine. Consequential to this conviction is the call to missiological reimagination. How can practical holiness embedded in their stories direct the course of our sharing in the mission of evangelization?

Introduction

Practical holiness – that is, faith translated into practice, especially in the peripheries –is a noteworthy signpost to the reality that the growth of the church is not only centrifugal. The church does not only draw its strength and furtherance from the teachings of theologians, experts, and scholars situated in or coming from the center. Without prejudice to the significance of the theological and academic elucidations about the faith, we cannot regard these as the singular source of growth for our ecclesial community as it would place the church in an elitist posture, standing on a grand narrative that is not accessible by all. On the other side, we must take into account the centripetal forces that come from the silent narratives of the people in the peripheries. The way they negotiate their lives in relation to their faith, amidst their differing contexts and situations, is truly a rich resource in understanding with more profundity our life and direction as an ecclesial community.