

## **My spiritual companions**

Sunday is generally a busy day for Loyda Vida. Since attending Mass and serving as Eucharistic minister, visiting healthcare facilities, home bound and a rehabilitation institution were already on her schedule, attending another liturgy was not on the radar. Yet on this particular Sunday, she found herself accepting an invitation to the profession of vows for a religious Sister of the Living Word.

"I was tired, sat quietly before the service and was determined this would be my retreat for the day. I was hoping for something different," said Loyda. "Sure enough, the fascinating multi-cultural liturgy that followed was worth attending!" She introduced herself to the celebrant, Salvatorian provincial, Fr. Joe Rodrigues. Intrigued by what she experienced, she wanted to learn more and began to look into what this small religious order was all about.

"Salvatorians are about who you are as a person. With communities around the world, they encourage diversity and accept people's unique passions and desires as gifts from God," she said. "I am in ministry. People in ministry need companions with whom they can journey. Knowing I am in their prayers gives me strength. They are my spiritual companions."

### **Journey continues**

Having met others from the Order and having experienced the Salvatorian hospitality and charism on different levels; Loyda prays for guidance regularly and asks the Lord why she has been drawn to the Salvatorians. "One thing I am certain of is that the initiative is not entirely my own," she said. "As I carry experiences that have touched me the most, I feel blessed to know the Salvatorians."

### **Reciprocity in giving**

Her natural desire to give back to the Church and community is inherited from the generosity and example that her parents have set. As a person with years of experience in the parish and vicariate level, she reflected, "Gifts are extensions of us. There is reciprocity in gift-giving. Knowing the Salvatorians gives me assurance that I am not alone in my work. I've learned to seek spiritual guidance outside of my parish and knowing that their founder, Fr. Francis Jordan works with the laity and others collaboratively gives me courage."

Loyda is a staunch patron of the Salvatorian's formation program which prepares future Salvatorian priests and brothers for ministry.

[Photo E – no caption]