



Erica Mae M. Ferrer

I am Erica Mae M. Ferrer, 17 years old and born on February 20, 2008 in Camarin, Caloocan. My parents are Rolando Ferrer and Joy Anniban who were separated when I was 1 year old. My mother who were very young at that time brought me to Albay where my grandparents live. They took care of me and gave me proper education. When I entered elementary, I gained a lot of awards from school-based competitions up to provincial competitions. I was also ranked as the top 2 in our batch from grade 1 to grade 6 and have achieved all of because of unwavering support and assistance of my grandmother, Deodita S. Muico.

Our main source of living before was harvesting crops. My grandfather was a farmer and was gaining enough money to sustain our living, not until the time of pandemic when he got a severe stroke, paralyzing the left side of his body and because of that he was unable to earn money for our family, leaving the responsibility to my grandmother. To help her, I decided to sell mangoes, guavas and bananas during class breaks and recess, earning for school projects and some school supplies.

When I stepped in my last year in elementary, I learned about entering the Sisters of Mary of Banneux, Inc., which offers free education for poor students. I did not hesitate to grab the opportunity and told my grandmother about this institution, then, she helped me in completing my requirements and accompanied me for an interview. I passed the exam and I was just waiting for the admission day but then it got delayed, so I waited for 1 year. That year, I did some planting while studying at home. After a year, when COVID- 19 cases decreased, I was then admitted at the Sisters of Mary of Banneux, Inc.

My life in this institution is full of learnings and life lessons. At my first year, I became SSG (Supreme Student Government) batch representative, molding the sense of leadership while still battling against homesickness. It was hard but it helps me a lot until now. When I stepped at my second year I decided to explore the world of arts, so I entered arts club and

sculpted my creativity in this field. Through my dedication and perseverance I have won a lot of competition representing my school, like editorial cartooning, poster drawing, mural painting and sketching. I feel that this is my passion, creating good things through hands and imagination. Up until now, I am currently serving my community as CAT (Citizen Army Training) officer and stage designe. Along with that, I am learning technical drawings like sketching houses and drafting structured plans that I can also apply in college.