



Kleo Nicolette G. Valencia

I'm Kleo Nicolette G. Valencia, 17 years old, born on April 26, 2008 at Balayan, Batangas. I'm the eldest child of three children and currently living at Sta. Rosa, Laguna. My mother, Mayls Valencia, and my father, Herb Valencia, got separated when I was just 3 years old for the reason that my father cheated. So my mother and I, including my sisters left and went to my grandmother's place on Laguna and ever since that day, my mother was the one providing for all our needs.

Life was hard, especially if you're from a broken family. My mother needs to work double in order to make a living. My mother worked as a call center agent before, so there were times she's not at home. I had to take care of my sisters and help my grandmother in cooking and in doing household chores while she was away. We had many debts and financial problems. So, aside from our needs, my mother needs to pay our debts and half of all the bills in my grandmother's house. However, her income was not enough that is why she does sideline jobs to get additional income. There were times that we don't have enough foods to eat, so my mother decided to leave her job and did a work from home in order to take care of us. I could see how hard life is at an early age and how my mother does everything she could for the three of us. So I studied hard in order to help my mom.

When I was in Grade 6, I was about 11 years old that time, I heard about the Sisters of Mary School and how great the school is. I immediately decided that I must study in that school. I told my mother about the school and that everything is free even the lodging. At first, my mother refuse to let me enter the school since I will not be at home for about 5 to 6 years. But I told her that entering at the Sisters of Mary School would help us be lifted from poverty. Eventually, she agreed.

July 24, 2021, I entered the Sisters of Mary School and it made a big difference in my life. Ever since that day, I received a lot of opportunities, as well as my family. My mother got to work abroad last January 15, 2024 which made our life a bit easier. There are still challenges and problems we encounter like the time she lost her job abroad but God is always there to help us. She eventually got other side jobs that would give us income. Life was hard but with determination and perseverance, I know I could achieve my dream.