



Joseph Nguyen Giao Hoa

Before coming to Japan five years ago I studied some Japanese, thinking to become a Salesian priest in my newly adopted country. It was during my experience working with young people at the oratory that I discovered my vocation to be a missionary. The example of my Japanese confreres has helped me a lot and in a particular way the missionaries. A serious difficulty I feel is that Christianity does not attract the Japanese.

I was a Salesian aspirant in Vietnam and my four years with the Salesians and especially the contact with the ethnic minorities in K'long in Vietnam lie behind my missionary vocation. Being with the young and speaking of God's love to them helps me be a better person. The Japanese language is difficult. I am doing my best to get to know Japanese society and culture.

Joseph Nguyen Khac Diep

I am a post-novice studying philosophy. Before coming to Japan as an aspirant to Salesian life perhaps it was more the spirit of adventure than the missionary vocation that attracted me. During the prenovitiate I found myself in crisis but then came to understand more clearly that being in this country means being a missionary with the task of spreading the Gospel of Jesus. However for now I am but a missionary in formation.

Andrew Tran Minh Hai

I must be honest and say that when I came to Japan as a Salesian aspirant my missionary vocation, if indeed it existed, was weak and insecure. It was towards the end of the novitiate that I felt myself called to share with others the graces received and the spirit of the Gospel, and I owe this to the exemplary lives of the missionaries I have met. Living in Japan and assimilating the culture is not easy. St Paul's words here are a help to me: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me".

Joseph Nguyen Duy Hun

I arrived in Japan four years ago as an aspirant after two years of preparation in my native land, Vietnam. I have to admit that my vocation to be a missionary began here. It was a discovery more than something which came about naturally. In fact, working with youngsters at the oratory, almost none of whom were Christians, I discovered that I was being called to be a missionary for their sake. My fellow Vietnamese have been an important source of support for me and of course the help of Mary our Mother. Japan is very much a developed nation and it is difficult to spread the Gospel.