



Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan

SINAG: Service Ignited for the Nation Anchored in God

PRIMER

What is SINAG?

Simbahang Lingkod ng Bayan offers opportunities for college students and young professionals to support and amplify its initiatives through SINAG, or Service Ignited for the Nation Anchored in God, SLB's Internship and Volunteer Engagement Program. It aims to provide avenues for individuals towards participative and engaged citizenship, inspired by Ignatian formation, in pursuit of the organization's mission to raise the consciousness of the faithful.

SINAG seeks to ignite the light of faith and justice to address current unjust social realities that diminish human dignity and oppress the poor and the marginalized. We desire to unite and animate Filipinos especially the faithful to stand up for truth and social justice, to act against abuses and oppression. We hope to be agents of reconciliation that reunites all with God, with one another, with all of creation. We envision a society that protects and empowers its weakest members; where truth, justice and peace prevail; where life is valued and preserved; where human rights are guaranteed and promoted; where the rule of law is upheld and followed.

OUR CORE VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- **GROUNDING IN FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE.** Our faith in God compels and challenges us to live out the values of the Gospel in the here and now, to proclaim the truth and promote justice as Christ did.
- **PROMOTING HUMAN DIGNITY.** We affirm the dignity of all human persons and the sanctity of life. Each person is created in the image and likeness of God, gifted with life that must be protected and valued. Thus, we uphold the inalienability and indivisibility of basic human rights. Human rights must be respected and upheld. The rule of law must prevail.
- **PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR.** We acknowledge how poverty is a result of the perpetuation of systemic injustices in society, corruption in government that degrade and demoralize numerous Filipinos. We stand up for and accompany the poor, marginalized, neglected and victimized in society, contributing to overcome oppressive and abusive structures and policies in society.
- **PROCLAIMING THE TRUTH.** We abide by and profess the truth in thought, word and deed, the truth that leads to genuine understanding, peace and freedom.
- **CULTIVATING GENUINE DEMOCRACY.** We seek the promotion of genuine democracy where everyone has a voice and participates in governance, engaged in making

elected officials accountable. Everyone must be able to contribute their respective skills and talents in nation-building for the common good.

- LOVE OF COUNTRY. We are inspired and driven by our love of country, dreaming of a better Philippines, where we aspire for inclusive development and genuine progress. This responsibility includes caring for our common home, protecting the integrity of creation. We are not masters, but stewards of God's creation.

OUR WAY OF PROCEEDING

- In advocating for a faith that does justice, we build bridges of understanding, reaching out to people instead of dividing, listening to stories of all the actors and sectors concerned – both the victims, perpetrators, law enforcers, government officials, etc.
 - We serve as prophets that proclaim the truth, that call out injustices; that disturb people from the complicity of silence, so that all may be moved to act and respond to address injustices. We seek to enlighten and form the minds and hearts of people based on the dictates of faith and justice.
 - We use edifying and respectful language that promotes goodness, inclusivity, truth and justice. The message we proclaim is that of joy, faith, hope and love.
 - We seek to be the voice of the poor and the marginalized; to advocate their causes, fight against any policy or action that threatens and attacks their life, liberty and property.
 - We want to foster *cura personalis*, caring for the total person in everything that we do. We want to channel God's love and mercy to others.
- We humanize issues, to make people become aware of the names and faces of those affected by issues, that they are not just statistics but human beings similar to us.
 - We shall assert the rule of law as a path towards attainment of justice, upholding the Constitution, respecting fundamental human rights & due process. We thus fight against any measure that contravenes legal principles and procedures such as the present government's violent Drug War, red-tagging and harassment of opposition leaders, and the Anti-Terror Law, among others.
 - We take inspiration and guidance from Sacred Scripture/the Gospels, the person of Jesus Christ and Church Social Teachings.
 - We offer ourselves as sanctuaries where people can turn to, where they can express their grievances and seek refuge.
 - We "think with the Church" as we strive to provide viable interventions, solutions that address urgent social needs and issues from our context as Catholics. Prayer and discernment animate our actions.
 - We remain non-partisan, focused on issues, advocating causes rather than promoting and/or dismissing personalities and officials.

Who can be part of SINAG?

SINAG is open to individuals – college students or professionals, 18 years old and above who share the above-mentioned vision, values and principles. Depending on the availability of volunteers, they must be open and willing to:

- contribute time, effort, skill in helping out with SLB programs and activities (One's engagement as a volunteer will be determined by each person's willingness and availability).
- attend processing/reflection/evaluation activities after each service engagement
- participate in SLB formation and enrichment activities (voluntary)

OUR AREAS OF ENGAGEMENT

Area of Engagement	Objectives	Activities
RESEARCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gather accurate information regarding relevant socio-economic-political issues that affect Filipinos especially the poor and marginalized. ● Fact-check claims and statements of government officials and other influential personalities concerning identified relevant issues; correct fake news/alternative facts that are circulated online ● Check and identify applicable Church teachings/documents that address current social realities and guide the faithful in forming the appropriate response 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Drafting of research bulletins ● News monitoring and compilation, creation of news briefs ● Creation of fact-check reports ● Creating a database of applicable Church teachings, pronouncements, positions ● Helping form National Situationers ● Facilitate <i>Balitaan</i> Sessions among volunteers and staff ● Conduct socio-political analyses and discernment sessions ● Creation of thought/opinion pieces/articles

<p>ADVOCACY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dissemination of information regarding socio-political issues and relevant Church Social Teachings and increase people's awareness of such ● Guide people especially the faithful in their formation of opinions and positions aligned with basic principles of law, human dignity/rights and Church Social Teachings ● Encourage vigilance, engagement and participation among people to ensure promotion and protection of human dignity & rights, the rule of law and good governance as concrete ways of living out one's faith 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Maximize use of social media platforms to raise awareness and promote engagement ● Creation of media content: short videos, memes, infographics, thought pieces, feature articles, prayers, songs, music videos ● Drafting of talking points to be used by circles of discernment ● Maintenance and updating of SLB Social Media Accounts and Website ● Formation of circles of discernment/dialogue ● Organize peaceful demonstrations, prayer vigils, rallies (virtual; physically, when already permitted by government regulations) ● Staging exhibits that can go around different schools and parishes
<p>EDUCATION/ FORMATION</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Equip people with the necessary knowledge regarding difficult realities that are happening in our country, appreciating both the lights and shadows of our present time ● Teach and train people to think critically and discern the appropriate response and action to social problems, enlightening them about basic legal principles and Church teachings (Catechesis; Educate the conscience) ● Provide venues for people to express their thoughts and feelings about current social problems where they can be listened to and acknowledged 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Develop and implement National Situationer – Conscientization – Church Social Engagement Seminars and Workshops (Kwentuhang Bayan) ● Organize fora, talks regarding current issues ● Construct prayer guides with themes revolving around current realities (for BECs) ● Training of facilitators to conduct citizenship engagement workshops, seminars, modules.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Empowering people to hold public official accountable to their respective duties and promises, equipping them with necessary leadership skills● Guiding the youth to meaningfully engage in dialogue regarding different social issues and taking appropriate action	
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Application Process:

- Fill-up the SINAG Online Application Form
- Wait for an email regarding interview schedule
- Attend the online interview
- Stand by for results of screening process to be sent through email