

Allow yourself to be touched by the Risen Christ

A religious vocation before all else is a personal human mystery of existence. All begins in the heart of God. He calls us to follow Him, as He did with numerous people we know in the Bible. The fact of our vocation is a beautiful one, a serious one, a profoundly deep one; we sometimes need time to become conscious of its grandeur.

This voice of the Lord which resonated in my ears “Follow Me”, I heard during times of silence and solitude when participating with a group of young people at a Church gathering. The silence and solitude allowed the intimate encounter with the Lord to take place; a time in which He awaited a response on my part.

For me the path was long before I responded, before I found the place, the land where the Lord desired my growth. I felt a certain anxiety: “Why me?” “I don't feel like it?”. “Will I be capable of following Him in a life totally dedicated to Him?” So I began to pray about this Call of God, this desire of God present in my depths and I sought people with whom I could reflect on these questions and began to take the straight road.

During this time of prayer, of reflection and discernment, I learnt that the Lord invited me firstly to stop looking at myself with a negative eye. Then He invited me to welcome His gaze on me. He invited me to see that it was a gaze full of hope which was not limited to my weaknesses but which always saw the best in me and for me. At the same time, thanks to His grace, I allowed myself to be guided by the Holy Spirit who whispered in my heart: “Christ does not call to Himself capable people but He makes capable those whom He calls.”

Reassured with this certitude coming from Christ, I found the courage to knock at the door of the Oblates of the Assumption (15 kms from where I lived with my parents) to say I had arrived for good. The day I said “Yes forever” I felt myself carried by the hand of Christ as He did with Adam and Eve on the day of His Resurrection. In the Byzantine tradition there is an icon of the Resurrection where the Risen Christ takes into his hand Adam and Eve taking them out of the darkness of death. To experience the Risen Christ is to live what Adam and Eve live on this icon. It is to meet the Master of Life drawing us away from our doubts, our problems, our darkness into the light.

After 25 years of Religious Life, my desire and my passion for the world and for God, my desire to serve with others in my mission, through those whom I meet, is as intense as ever and very much alive. This continues to be the path where I discover daily the presence of God, His mercy and His love in every event, in the world and in the Church. At the same time I discover each day the richness of Religious Life lived in community with my sisters.

“Here I am Lord, I come to do your will” (Ps.39)

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