

Calling! What is a calling?

For me, a calling is a very holy thing. It is great gift from God. I cannot understand it clearly, but I believe that I have touched it.

As any girl around twenty years old, I planned my future with a bright picture. My heart had been restless until it was touched by a call. I could neither perceive clearly nor understand exactly that call. When I realized it was Jesus' invitation, I really hesitated. However, in the depth of my heart, I wanted to respond to Jesus' call.

After high school, I entered the convent with simple ideals. I liked the religious habit, I liked the friendly smile of nuns, I felt joyful when they danced and sang, I liked the name of congregation, which is The Lovers of The Holy Cross, etc. Simple, very simple, but all these things attracted me.

Seven years is not too long to understand fully the values of consecrated life. Yet I am happy because day by day I experience Jesus' great love for me. I recognize and believe that my vocation is from God. Moreover, I also believe that He who has begun a good work in me will complete it. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you, a prophet to the nations I appointed you" (Jer.1: 5).

Now, I give thanks to God every day for graces that He gives me.

I have a small family: my parents, my brother and me. We love each other so much. I have lovely friends. Especially, I have my memorable hometown. When I follow Jesus, I leave behind such valuable things. However, I am happy and peaceful because of a greater love and greater things God has poured on my life. I love Jesus and respond to His call with my freedom.

Follow Jesus, I have learned denying my passion, my bad habits and even myself, as His invitation: "If anyone wishes to come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me" (Lk. 9: 23). This is very difficult but I am convinced that "my grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor. 12: 9). I trust in the Lord.

Being a novice, I treasure three hundred and sixty five days with Jesus for it is a one-time-only period in my consecrated life. I am attracted into the orbit of Jesus' love. Through silent time before the Eucharist, my loving relationship with Jesus is deepened. Actually, one day in the Novitiate offers me many opportunities to be united with Him. Jesus has really become the center and motivation of my every work.

My feeling after days in Novitiate can be expressed in Paul's saying: "I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me". I pray to Jesus that: "My Lord, I am yours! I belong to you! Please keep me in loyalty to you to the end of my life".

Martha Nguyễn Thị Bích Thương