

Testimony Home Postulancy

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Thank you all for coming. Sister Catalina has asked me to share a few words about why I said yes to the Lord and particularly here in this Congregation.

Well, first of all, I have to thank the Lord for welcoming me, for opening the doors of his house here to me and also thank the Sisters for these incredible 6 and a half months that I have been living with them. For everything they have given me and for having also opened the doors of their house and the Congregation to me .

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And to you for joining me on this day too. Since my family, my relatives, my mother, my brothers are those who do the will of God. At the end of the day, this is a banquet and the Lord has invited whoever he wants. So I hope you all get something precious out of this in this evening.

Going back to what I have been asked, I had already said yes to the Lord, when I understood that only with Him could I be happy. At that moment I said, “yes, let it be however you want, Lord.”

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But now I have said yes to the Lord again, to this place specifically. I have realized that this Congregation was my place and specifically, right now through this community. And I came to this conclusion because I can now say that I AM HAPPY. Simply. There is no other way to explain it. I'm happy, I don't just feel happy. I am happy, it is a happiness that comes from within, which is full of peace. No one and nothing can take this away from me, only the source of happiness Himself. And I know He will not take it away unless I am the one to separates myself from Him.

But what makes me so happy?

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This happiness is not euphoria, no. It is very tranquil, it is persistent, there is nothing to disturb it. Why? I have been meditating on it with the Lord and there are two reasons. First: because my life for the first time has acquired meaning here. I simply belong. Now I feel that I belong not only to this Congregation, I have found my place in the Church. I have found a place to live, my family.

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I am simply a member of something. A beloved member, a member who contributes and receives. I don't feel external, I'm not artificial. I am part of this. Most of all, I was thinking, why have I felt like I didn't belong my whole life? Well, as Sister Catalina mentioned, the Lord had given me many talents.

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All my life I have used everything the Lord has given me for myself, for my own benefit. And the Lord wanted to correct this in me, and He did it through people, although I did not understand it. I received it as a rejection when the Lord was trying to correct me. Once He straightened the use of everything that the Lord had given me so that I could put it at His service and not at my service, then, in order for me to really be free and belong, two other conditions are needed. The first is that the Heart of Jesus reigns in my surrounding and here, in this Congregation, He is the king of the House. He is the one who commands. The sisters,

all, are directed by what the Lord wants and I am speaking not only of these sisters, I am speaking of the entire Congregation. I have had the opportunity to experience the admission process that is carried out from the see in Rome and the entire Congregation is directed to God.

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For any discernment they seek for what God wants for us and the mission and the Church. This allows Him to reign, this lets Love flow. When this happens, it is very beautiful, because then the gifts and graces of other sisters become their own graces and gifts because it is the Lord who reigns. There is no competition, there are no rivalries, we complement each other, together we work in the Lord's vineyard. I have been able to experience this here.

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The second condition that must be met to feel that one belongs is that these graces, gifts and talents with which the Lord equips us are in accordance with the charism of the Congregation. In this case, in these 6 months we have been able to verify together with the Sisters that everything that the Lord was working with me was in the direction of the Congregation, of what the Congregation requires, of what this Community requires at all times. And the result has been incredible.

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Because just as my spirit had always been nullified, compressed, I had always felt crushed, first by corrections and then because I could not be free with what the Lord was giving me and asking for. Now I feel so free that my spirit expands. And the Lord can give more. I can receive and I can give. And the Community accepts it as graces for the entire Community, loves it and loves me for it too. I belong and I feel free. My spirit expands, the Lord can work in me. I don't have to limit myself nor do they limit my spirit.

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Returning to happiness. The second condition that produces such happiness for me is that I feel loved. I feel tremendously loved by the Lord through the Sisters. I feel protected. I feel cherished, I no longer have to worry about myself, take care of myself. I knew that the Lord took care of me, but now He does it visibly through the Sisters. I can no longer worrying about myself and only worry about serving Him, because they make sure that I am well and that I have what I need.

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This gives me peace and tremendous joy. And not only that, by feeling loved, now the Lord can also make me a channel to give Love, because if you are not capable of receiving it, how are you going to give it?

The sisters we have here are all Polish. And they speak Spanish very well. Some are in the process. But even if they didn't say a single word in Spanish, you would still be here, you would still love them the same, because their testimony is not through the words they speak to us. We only need to observe them.

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My lesson every day is to see how they treat others. They forget about themselves and go out of their way to comfort others. It's the only thing that matters at that moment. Who is my neighbor? Whoever is within my reach. It is a testimony of love that you hardly see out there.

When you receive this, when you are exposed to this all the time, well you just want to do the same. For me it has been such a great learning experience that I didn't even realize I was learning.

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Just a few weeks ago I was thinking;

“How could it be my Lord, I haven't realized what you've been doing to me these months! But now I look at myself, I see that you have transformed me in these months.” When I first arrived I used to look at the clock to check the time. “Ugh, so late already, Ugh, Ugh, dinner time and bedtime... ugh, these people who won't leave...” Now it's completely different. The other day Sister Catalina was suggesting to me “maybe you want to go and rest” and I answered, “no, no, no, I'll stay. I don't know what time it is, it doesn't matter to me, I'll stay.” And this is all the Lord's work.

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Furthermore, Sister Catalina alluded precisely to something about grace in weakness that I also wanted to mention: The Lord has brought me here, but I would never have chosen this for me because I saw myself as completely incapable. I thought: “but I am like a repellent to people and people repel me, I am completely antisocial, I am not good for this, but well, the Lord knows” And really, He has taken these weaknesses and I can truly say, “his grace is sufficient for me because his strength shines in my weakness.” It's spectacular. Now, in fact, I feel much more confident when something is asked of me that I know I am incapable of, because I know He is going to do it. Contrary to something that I am capable of, because then I contribute my own work with what I call “montsadas”, and anything can be expected from there...

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But when He asks me for something that I cannot do, that is not in my nature, then His grace is enough for me. In fact, I have a beautiful story that I'd like to share - I told my spiritual director: “sometimes people come and talk to me in church when I am praying... and I think: seriously!...” but he argued : “no, no, Montse, you have to put on a good face.” Of course, how to do it? I can't do that, I can't! But His grace is enough for me. It is the power of obedience: suddenly people approach me and I gently and honestly smile, and I listen and I respond because although it is not my nature, the Lord is the one who is doing it for me. And now the sisters tell me, “this person only greets you now!” - But it's not my fault, you know who to blame!

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In short, I have asked to stay here, not because there is an internal desire within me that needs to stay here: that I need this, that I want to demonstrate, that I want to be part of this because they give me love here... No! The Lord is simply responding with grace, He is responding to everything I need to persevere, He is expanding my spirit. He is giving me love, not so that I can keep it, but to give it. And that makes me so tremendously happy that I tell him, “Lord, even if you wanted to take my vocation away from me... whatever you want, but really, what you are doing here... I think it is something...”. It is clear that He is working.

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The Will of the Lord has been confirmed for the moment by the Sisters accepting me, which is a gift for which every morning I thank God. For having brought me here, for giving me these Sisters... Until whenever His will is, right?

Thank you so much.