

LET US LIVE SINGING OUR MAGNIFICAT WITH OUR LADY'S HEART
Words at the First Profession of Vows of Three Sisters, May 31, 2022

Our Lady exclaimed the most beautiful song of Her Heart in the house of Elizabeth and Zechariah. She proclaimed the deepest sentiments of gratitude for what the Lord had done in Her and through Her. *"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant."*

Dear sisters, you are here tonight giving the totality of your lives to Christ through Our Lady's Fiat because you were called, chosen by Christ to become His brides and therefore, spiritual mothers to many of His children. The Lord looked upon the lowliness of His servants and called you by name to follow Him without any reservations or conditions, leaving everything behind to walk close to His Heart, listening to the desires of His Heart, and to serve His Kingdom of love and truth with the totality of your being. You freely chose, like Our Lady, to live to keep nothing for yourselves and to give it all for Jesus as to cooperate with His plan of salvation at this particular time of history.



Be protagonists in the plan of God

Like Our Lady and Elizabeth, each of you with your particular qualities and gifts were called to be protagonists in the plan of God. Each of you had to say a Fiat, each of you has to choose to follow the joys and demands of the religious vocation and to open your heart in total availability to be communicators of life, not physical or biological, but the life of Christ which is abundant and is eternal. Like Our Lady and Elizabeth, each of you had to overcome many obstacles to reach this moment, the time when, after walking through the mountains, you have arrived at the Ain Karim of the end of your formation to sing and to proclaim that you belong to Christ, that you are bearers of Christ and that the desire of your lives is to walk across the mountains, valleys, and deserts of humanity, bringing the joy that you carry within: Christ himself, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

You are called to be a living expression of this great Mystery of the Visitation. I call you to set out with haste to go to every soul, to this difficult, fearful, and peaceless world, and by being totally united to Our Lady's Heart, Person and Mission, be a communicator of the joy of God's love and of presence for those around you. Like in the house of Elizabeth, may the Holy Spirit be free to act in and through you, to bring about a new Pentecost by your Marian presence, by your greeting, and by your service. Let the grace of the Visitation continue in history and touch an old and tired humanity, bringing the good news that God is among us and is dwelling in our midst; that history and time are not left to the forces of evil or the aridity of a world without God, because Jesus is alive and is the Lord of history. Regardless of all the darkness that may surround us, walk through humanity like Our Lady, bringing the light of Christ by the power of your consecration, your religious life, which makes the life of Christ present, like a living Gospel, in the world and in our historical moment. You carry within you the life of Christ, His way of life as well as His words, His mysteries, His memories, His actions and gestures. This is the first proclamation of the mystery of the Visitation: blessed are you, for you have been chosen from among women to carry the life of Christ in the sanctuary of your spousal and maternal hearts so as to give the fruit of this life with generosity and ardor to all.

Be women of the Visitation

Women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel, says the Second Vatican Council, is what the world needs to aid humanity in a time of great crises. Women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel, like Our Lady, must walk with haste to enter into every dimension of human life and also into every area of society, to transform it with their feminine genius, their spousal and maternal potentialities. This is why Our Lady must walk through you across the mountains and difficulties of our times to bring Christ into the world, to help our world become a home, a civilization of love, hope, solidarity, truth and life. The order of love and the human person has been entrusted primarily to women, but these women must be like Our Lady to really influence society to build this home and this type of civilization worthy of the human person, a home and school where each person can become the fullness that they were created to be.



Indeed, sisters, the Lord has done great things for you. He chose you; you are chosen to be totally His, consecrated religious women: poor, chaste, obedient and totally Marian in your identity and in your missionary zeal. He chose you to be totally His through the specific soil of our Institute and Marian Charism, because He needs religious women with a Marian spirit to visit humanity wherever He may send you to serve. He needs religious women with a Marian physiognomy to open the hearts of humanity to receive the power and joy of the Holy Spirit, a joy that the world cannot give and that the world cannot take away. People need to find joy, meaning, purpose and direction to their lives and this can only happen when they encounter Christ, the only one who can give hope and direction, joy and peace, truth and love, and answers to all the questions of the human heart.... They will encounter Christ through the maternal mediation of Our Lady, through Her maternal visitation. **Be women of the Visitation.**

Be women who believe in the promises of the Lord

Elizabeth heard the greeting of Our Lady and at that moment the infant in her womb leaped for joy. Filled with the Holy Spirit as a fruit of Our Lady's greeting and presence with Jesus in Her virginal womb, Elizabeth proclaimed the first Marian beatitude: *"Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled."*

Our Lady believed, always believed without any doubts or hesitations, in every word the Lord had promised. *This is the foundation of an unshakable trust.* Every promise of the Lord will be fulfilled in your life, in our Religious Family, in the Church and in humanity. The fulfilment of His promises is an act of His love and mercy; it is a cause of our joy, confidence and strength; and their fulfilment also requires our simple yet necessary cooperation. Be attentive to what the Lord desires to do; be attentive to hear the Lord speak in prayer, continuous formation and through the simple realities of life; be attentive to set out with haste to do what is needed for Him to realize His plans. Our Lady heard from the angel, the announcement that Her older cousin was pregnant, and heard it as a call to go and serve her. Why would she hear it that way? - because those who trust and live in total abandonment to the fulfilment of the Lord's promises are attentive to how they should cooperate in their realization. As religious women, you have chosen a life of constant and unconditional service, which means not only doing things for the Lord but being attentive to what the Lord needs you to do. Your spiritual sight and hearing must be very attentive and acute to see beyond, to hear beyond, to understand beyond what is visible and go in haste through difficult and arduous roads of mission to bring the gift of the Visitation wherever the Lord sends you.

Be women who keep all the memories of Christ in your heart

Like Our Lady who kept all things in Her Heart, you must also keep everything, every word, every memory of God's action in your lives and in our Institute. Ponder every intervention of God even in the smallest ways, in your hearts. Be women of memory, so as to always look at the great things the Lord has done, to always go back to the origins of your own vocations, to the origins of the birth of our Institute. Be women who keep and guard the history and journey that the Lord leads you through, because each of those memories is a lesson, a moment of formation for your religious vocation. Keep the memories, the history, every action of the Lord on behalf of your Religious Family with faithful zeal, because keeping every memory alive in your heart will remind you constantly about the truth of who you are as a Servant, of what the Lord and Our Lady have done to fulfill every desire and promise they have given us, and will also help you know how to cooperate with the building of our future. *The Magnificat is a song of gratitude for what the Lord has done in Our Lady's life and in Her people's history.* For each of you, sisters, the Magnificat sung in the Visitation must be a song of gratitude for what the Lord has done to bring you to this day on which you have professed your religious vows and exclaimed your Fiat to the Lord and to His salvific mission. But it is also a song of gratitude for what the Lord has done in your religious family, the home and charism where the seed of your religious life is to grow to become a beautiful, strong and fruitful tree in the garden of the Church.

From this day, we all call you blessed, for you have been chosen to be spouses of Christ and spiritual mothers of His children. May your hearts and wombs always be ready to give life to many and fill the heart of our Mother, the Church, with many children so she may leap for joy. May the holiness of your religious life be a source of joy to all and may your spiritual fecundity be abundant as to inspire many to follow Christ in the total self-giving of their lives to Him, for Him, and in His service. Sing your own Magnificat to the whole world; let your Magnificat be an echo that touches many hearts and which invites them to join in singing the praises and goodness of the Lord.

Mother Angel, S.C.M.