

Journeying with the Lord in the time of my Formation

Sr Aneela Pervaz



I thank God for my Christian call, I feel Jesus fell in love with me on the day of my Baptism. He gave me the invitation to answer to His call by living with Him and serving Him and His people.

I entered the Candidacy 1 October 2013. I became novice 15 February 2015.

My formation was a time of transformation for me. During this time I came to know that prayer and personal relationship with Christ are as important as the blood-flow in the body of a human being.

Sr Aneela Pervaz with her Parents and her Neice

Through meditations, Holy Masses, Holy Hours, retreats, recollection days, spiritual books, classes I feel deeply that I have built an intimate relationship with Jesus. This is a relationship of friendship and love. When I spend time with Him I get all my energy and strength from Him. And this energy and strength are great helps to focus on Jesus' mission.

Nano's life had touched me deeply. Her dedication, zeal, courage, compassionate heart, oneness of mind, her singleness of heart, faithfulness and her deep relationship with Christ really inspired me.

Living with Presentation Sisters I have seen all these characteristics and values in Sisters. They are really carrying the mission of Jesus and charism of Nano. And it gives me a clear vision for my life.

Vows are the centre of religious life, I studied them and grew in a deep understanding of vows, and I can say that these vows are the values, ways and means to enable me to work for the greater glory of God. And these are a commitment between God and me. I have a profound respect for the vows.

The Vow of Chastity is a commitment of love, to share God's love with everybody without conditions or expectations.

The Vow of Poverty mirrors the values of justice, simplicity of heart, mind and body. For me it is a value to share not to waste.

The Vow of Obedience is a commitment to listen to God's will attentively and to surrender myself to it. I want to practice these vows as values for the kingdom of God.

Through the human development stages I have become aware of my inner self, gifts and feelings. I have learnt to name my different feeling and to manage and cope with them. I have learnt to accept and deal

with emotions of fear and loneliness. I have learnt that self worth is very important and to appreciate others is equally important.

During this time I visited many places and people and I got a lot of energy, life and love from them. I have learnt many things from them. Their joys, happiness, pains and sufferings made me stronger and moved my heart and feet to do something for them especially for the people who are made poor.

I would also love to state that the spiritual journey that I started was not so easy. There were some moments and incidents when I felt very weak and emotionally shattered. Sometimes I found myself surrounded by so many scruples wondering whether I have chosen the right path to live my life or not, whether I would be strong enough to live this life to the fullest. But in these moments of desolation my prayer life was a strong shield for me to resist all the scruples and overcome the doubts and temptations. The other thought which empowered me in the time of distress was I am being chosen by Jesus. It is not me who chose Jesus; rather it is Jesus, who has chosen me to be his friend and servant. Therefore he will give me strength, inner confidence and passion to work zealously for His Divine Mission and accomplish it throughout my life.

I gratefully acknowledge the help of parents, all the Sisters, especially my formatters and my companions who helped me in my Faith Journey during this time. Indeed it is the result of their constant prayers that I have committed myself entirely to my beloved Lord Jesus. In the end I am aware that this beautiful spiritual journey is not ended I have just finished my candidacy and novitiate, and becoming a Presentation Sister is a lifelong journey.

Profession day: *“My soul glorifies the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior and my heart is filled with gratitude and joy.”* The day of my profession I felt that the blessings were raining on me from the sky. I was very joyful because God was rejoicing with me and I was in His Holy Hands and He was saying repeatedly *“You are mine”*.

A short ritual of water pouring the water from the small jars symbolized our pouring of our lives, the experience of the self-emptying for the service of God and His people.

Rev. Fr. Sohail Patrick celebrated Holy Mass and in his homily he shared the value and challenge of the religious life in the present world. The Priest shared a very meaningful reflection on the life of Nano and her deep love for those who were made poor. It gave me enthusiasm to work for poor and become a positive person in any situation.

As I pronounced my vows I felt that Jesus stood in front of me and taking my vows. During this I saw tears of joy in my parents’ eyes. The deeper sense of commitment and belonging with the congregation grew as I received the Emblem (Cross) and Our Way of Life.

On that day I felt very special whom God has called to work for His people.

In the evening my companions did the colourful recreation which added to our joy.

My sincere thanks to my community and all those sisters who made my day very special and meaningful.

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