

My experience of First Profession and Formation

Sr. Anum Salamat



Words make and break lives, they can melt, mold and make us new, if we listen carefully and allow them to touch our lives by listening to the words of God.

I received my call through my Parish Priest and the Holy words were *"The harvest is great but the laborers are few"*. These words brought me here to the convent and now I say *"here I am Lord I have come to obey your will"* by becoming a laborer in your harvest. I am Anum Salamat, a newly temporary-professed sister.

Sr. Anum Salamat with her Parents

My journey with presentation sisters began on October 1st 2013 when I said "yes" to God's call.

This year on 29 April 2017, by the grace of God and through the acceptance and support of Sisters I took my vows as a Presentation Sister.

It was the most beautiful and joyful day of my life. Each and every moment of that day has left a deep mark on my soul. Eucharist Mass was celebrated very reflectively and peacefully. Rev. Fr. Sohail Patrick's sermon was very heart touching. He spoke very highly about Nano's call, her love for Christ and for his people. The way he spoke about Nano's life and her mission filled my heart with desire to be in this world as Nano was. When I took vows I deeply felt my strong relationship with God and with my congregation. The day was filled with deep joy and gratitude to the life God gave me to spend for Him for His people.

As I reflect back on my formation journey and the difference it has made in my prayer and daily living I am surprised and I wonder when and how changes took place in my life. It is the Lord's work; he was forming and giving me new directions and vision to my life through prayers, classes community sisters and in silence of heart in terrible noises of mind and even in my deep sleep. The blessings, graces and gifts which I have received through this life are uncountable. There is one gift which is very special and precious to me - the gift of recognizing and having the presence of a soul friend in my life. This friend stays always with me in my times of joys and sufferings. He encourages me, challenges me. I experience His presence in prayers, through people and in the Holy Eucharist when I hold Him between my two fingers and reflect on His humility in giving Himself to me in a small piece of bread; it helps me to be humble in my all relationships. His becoming part of my body and soul nourishes me day to day.

I remember the day I entered the convent I had a very strong desire to die for Christ but after receiving and experiencing His love in so many different ways, the only desire I have now is to live my whole life for Christ.

The opportunities I got to learn and have different classes and courses were a great help to my growth In faith, understanding of the Gospel, Church and Religious life, in learning and developing skills, in preparation for mission and above all in coming to an understanding of myself and growing in my personal life.

The gift of silence or solitude is like having a mirror in front of me. In silence newness takes birth and I discover God's beauty in me and in all creation.

I love to be with people and always wished to bring change in their lives, but now I feel that they have changed my life. They have opened my heart to love them and at the same time awaken enthusiasm in me to think creatively to bring change in their lives. I feel my relationship with my people is heart-to-heart relationship. I may get somewhat confused when I am moving from one place to another but one thing is sure- that I have no problem in accepting and loving the people regardless of culture, religion or color. Sisters and different teachers provided me with lots of information and knowledge about the people of different cultures, religions and about many different Christian Churches but all knowledge and information came down to my heart when I experienced their lives and shared my life with them.

Community life and Sisters' love have encouraged me to move on in life. Sisters' selfless and tireless service was always an inspiration for me and as I am going to be part of the mission and ministry, I am more than happy to offer my life for this service. I may not bring big changes or do grandiose works but I pray that my life may be a sign of God's love, joy, blessing and glory. Now with venerable Nano as my model and guide, it is with confidence that I step out into the future. I am grateful for all God has given to me.

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