

## *An Interview with Sr. Marie Jacinta Therese, OP*

***Sister, you have pronounced your Solemn Vows in the Order of St. Dominic. What does this mean?***

This means that in His mercy and love God has called me for Himself, and with His grace I have given myself totally to Him in love and service to His people-the Church. This is a “spiritual marriage” which means I have made a public vow offering my whole being as a spouse of Jesus in chastity, poverty and obedience until death in freedom of spirit and joy in this cloistered contemplative community following the charism and spirit of St. Dominic – all for the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

***Did your family life have any influence on your vocation?***

Yes, very much I would say, though I might not have realized it before. The example of prayer and Christian charity I’ve seen from my dear parents and siblings – our poor, simple and ordinary daily living animated by faith and joy, great trust in Divine Providence and a loving devotion to Mama Mary – these have left a deep impression on me. Perhaps no one realized it but I believe that our daily Family Rosary was “a time of sowing the seeds” of religious vocations in our family. For all these I am most grateful to the God.



Professing Solemn Vows until death

***As a Dominican, the prayer of the Rosary is an integral part of your life. How is this true for you?***

I believe that the life and mission of every Dominican begins with Mary, is lived with Mary and is accomplished with and through Mary just as the Life of Jesus and His redemptive mission can never be separated from Mary. As a Dominican the Holy Rosary for me is not just a set of prayers or a devotion as many would naturally think of it. It is a way of life, it is a mission. It is the Gospel. It is the very life of Jesus – the Incarnate Word of God, Jesus-the Truth Whom we praise, bless and preach by word and deed and by our very life of consecration for the salvation of souls.

***In the Mystical Body of Christ, the Church, what is your particular mission as a Dominican Cloistered Nun?***

My mission is to LOVE, to PRAY and to SACRIFICE with joy, always in union with and through Mary-in a life of contemplation, by this I share in the holy preaching of the whole Order. By a life of union with Jesus Crucified I help draw graces upon the world and in particular upon our Brethren, that their preaching may be fruitful for the salvation and sanctification of souls- this is the very inspiration why our Holy Father St. Dominic founded the Dominican Nuns. They are to be at the very heart of preaching by their life of loving prayer and penance.

***If you could speak to the whole human family what would you say?***

I wish to echo our Blessed Mother’s plea to the Little Shepherds of Fatima and indeed to each of us Her beloved children. Her message is a message of God’s mercy and love for each and every soul. “Pray the Rosary everyday. Pray for the conversion of sinners. Make of everything you can a sacrifice Do not offend God anymore, for He is already so much offended!”

Heaven itself has taught us the remedy for sin and the way to conversion. God sent no less than the august Queen of Heaven and Earth to deliver His message. If such is the Messenger, how important the Message must be. Let us convert and return to Jesus and our loving Abba Father. Let us now do away with sin, with pride and disobedience in its many forms, let us humble ourselves, let us obey, let us forgive, forgive, forgive. Let us not delay, for God wants us to be happy in a life of grace.

And you dear brothers and sisters who suffer much- take courage! Jesus Mary and Joseph are very close to you. To suffer with love in union with Them you are helping to save many souls and to sanctify your own... God's grace and His tender love will always continue to sustain you. Know that we are united with you in constant prayers. You are very precious to God!

***And to the young people in particular?***

Ah, young people, You are the apple of God's eye... You are loved – so much! If I could only convince each and everyone of you how precious you are to God and when you choose to be far from Him by sin how this grieves His Heart. But He continues to seek you out that you may have peace of soul and joy of heart for He alone is true joy and the source of all that is good and what you truly long for. Oh, How He loves you. Go to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Give him your heart. Give God a chance – to transform your life. Those of you who have discovered the sweetness of God's merciful love and the power of His grace in the Holy Eucharist, rejoice and remain faithful, bring all others to that Fount of redeeming love. Stay very close to Mary – She is God's Mother and our very own too. Allow Her to accompany you wherever you go, to guide and help you make the right choices each time. She leads you to Jesus. Do not be afraid nor be ashamed to pray the Rosary. It is a most powerful prayer! Consecrate yourselves to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for She has promised: "My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God". Yes, you are charged with a "Mission Possible: TO BE HOLY! And with Mary, it is sure, quick and



Sister signs the book of Professions

***Where do you see the greatest sign of hope in the world today?***

The Holy Eucharist and the Holy Rosary – here lies our greatest Hope, our only Hope. I believe that God is silently but powerfully renewing the world through the hearts of the humble, simple, child-like and suffering people, the young and the old and especially the children and those pure of heart. These are the ones who count as nothing in the eyes of the world. They continue to be faithful to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist, they continue to pray and live the Holy Rosary in their lives. This is where I see a great sign of hope because like our humble Mary through them God will show forth the splendour of His arm and will reclaim this world and those who truly belong to Himself – in His own good time. Those who live by faith know that God's powerful instruments are the small and lowly things and people in this world.

***Would you encourage young women to consider the monastic life today?***

*With all my heart, YES!* I have found the "pearl of great price" and how I wish they too may discover such a treasure. I pray fervently that many young women would respond promptly and generously to the call of Him Who is LOVE. There is no greater joy in this world than to belong entirely to Jesus Crucified, to be a chosen instrument of His Divine Love for the salvation of all humanity. In the monastic life, the demands are high and are as great as the whole world we carry daily in our hearts and offer to God, but His grace never fails and His love is what holds us to the end. *Yes, when you fall in love with LOVE, it is for life and FOREVER!*

*(This interview took place some years ago but the content and message remain ever relevant and timely.)*