

A LOVE CAPABLE OF FAITHFULNESS

Words of Mother Adela, SCTJM On the First Profession
of Sr. Sonia, Sr. Michelle and Sr. Elena

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Dearest Bishop Agustin Roman; dear priests and deacons; dear seminarians; dear Sisters of our Congregation and all other Sisters that have come to be with us tonight; dear family members, friends and Apostles of the Two Hearts.

With profound gratitude, I welcome you all. Thank you for being here with us on this day of the first profession of our Sisters Michelle, Sonia and Elena. We rejoice as we welcome into our religious family these three Sisters who, moved by love, have given their fiat to embrace a life of special consecration in order to more closely follow a poor, chaste and obedient Christ.

Sisters Sonia, Michelle and Elena, the Lord has revealed to you the love of His Heart. He has given you the grace to experience from the depths of your hearts the power of His love, a love that is capable of completely transforming human existence and giving human life a new direction. The experience of that gratuitous love of God was so powerful that your hearts were intimately moved to respond in love, to give a worthy offering for so much love received: the total and unconditional offering of your very selves. And so today you can say with Saint John, "We love Him, because He first loved us." (cf. 1 Jn 4:19)



The religious vocation is, in essence, a call of love and for love. We must find its beginnings in a mysterious dialogue that took place between the Heart of God and the heart of the human person. The "follow me" which Christ spoke to your hearts has caused a marvelous interior revolution that moved you to 'leave everything in order to go after Him' (cf. Mk 10:21). That "follow me" should resound within you for the rest of your lives, making your fiat a constant echo that beautifies the face of the Church and witnesses before the world the supremacy of the love of God. The fiat that you have given today should be the key that forever opens your hearts to a willing, unconditional fidelity to the Lamb - so as to follow Him wherever He may lead you.

Fidelity is a concrete and visible expression of love. Fidelity to the love embraced and to the love offered is a mature decision of the heart that moves us to forever remain constant in the fiat we have given. One of the titles attributed to the Virgin Mary in the Litany of Loreto, which because of its simplicity seems to me so powerful, is that of Faithful Virgin. How beautiful it is to live and die being faithful! To be able to do this, we need to learn from the Virgin Mary's faithful Heart to have an interior and exterior disposition of fidelity. What is this faithfulness of Mary? What are its dimensions? I would like to briefly mention the words that the Servant of God John Paul II said about this topic during his first trip to the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico:

"The first dimension is called search. Mary was faithful first of all when she began, lovingly, to seek the deep sense of God's plan in her and for the world...How shall this be?—she asked the Angel of the Annunciation...There will not be faithfulness if it is not rooted in this ardent, patient, and generous search; if there is not in man's heart a question to which only God gives an answer, or rather, to which only God is the answer.

"The second dimension of faithfulness is called reception, acceptance. The 'How shall this be?' is changed, on Mary's lips, to a 'fiat'. Let it be done, I am ready, I accept: this is the crucial moment of faithfulness, the moment in which man perceives that he will never completely understand the "how"; that there are in God's plan more areas of mystery than of clarity; that, however he may try, he will never succeed in understanding it completely. It is then that man accepts the mystery, gives it a place in his heart...with the availability of one who opens up to be inhabited by something—by Someone!—greater than his own heart.

"The third dimension of faithfulness is consistency. To live in accordance with what one believes. To adapt one's own life to the object of one's adherence. To accept misunderstandings, persecutions, rather than a break 'between what one practices and what one believes: this is consistency. Here is, perhaps, the deepest core of faithfulness.

"But all faithfulness must pass the most exacting test: that of duration. Therefore the fourth dimension of faithfulness is constancy. It is easy to be consistent for a day or two. It is difficult and important to be consistent for one's whole life. It is easy to be consistent in the hour of enthusiasm, it is difficult to be so in the hour of tribulation. And only a consistency that lasts throughout the whole of life, can be called faithfulness. Mary's 'fiat' in the Annunciation finds its fullness in the silent 'fiat' that she repeats at the foot of the Cross. To be faithful means not betraying in the darkness what one has accepted in public." (Jan. 26, 1979)

I ask our Blessed Mother, the faithful Virgin, that she may keep you in Her Immaculate Heart so that in the school of Her spousal and maternal love, you learn the beautiful lesson of fidelity. A lesson that She, more than anyone else, can give us - since Her fiat at the Annunciation was the same fiat She gave at the Cross...and it is

this same fiat that the Heart of the Church proclaims to her Spouse, our Lord Jesus Christ, from generation to generation.

In the love of the Two Hearts,

Mother Adela Galindo, Foundress SCTJM

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