

SERVANTS OF THE CROSS †

THE NEW WINE

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2010

COST: A SMILE

YOU HAVE CALLED ME

Lizette Trevino

Growing Up in Texas

I was born and raised in Houston, Texas where all four seasons are warm and humid. I am the youngest of four siblings so my parents made sure to spoil me as best as they knew how. Although there was a bit of a gap in our ages, my brothers and sister always did their best to take care of me. My parents made sure that we would grow in faith by taking us to church, catechism, communion, and confirmation classes. I learned of who God was, but I didn't know him. In 1999 several tragedies in my family caused me to walk away from anything that had to do with God. I attended Texas A&M University where I earned a Bachelor's Degree in Animal Science. I now had my degree, a house and a car; I thought I had it all, but there still seemed to be something missing in my life.

Three years after graduation, I attended a retreat at the Catholic Charismatic Center. I found what I had been missing. This was the moment in my life where I knew without a doubt that God existed. I turned my life over to him and only wanted to serve Him with all my heart. A few months later, I considered looking into the religious life. I was very interested in attending a "Come and See" weekend retreat. I wanted to spend time with Sisters or Nuns to learn something so that I could grow in my faith and love for Christ. Who better to learn from than women who have dedicated their lives to Jesus? I had no intention on "joining" a community because that wasn't in MY plan. The thought of



visiting a community was never put to action and in the meanwhile, I volunteered in different ministries throughout this time of my life.

Come and See in Canada

In the spring of 2010, my thoughts about the religious life entered my heart again. I spoke to a priest about the desire and he directed me to contact a sister community that was akin in spirituality to the Companions of the Cross and recommended that I give them a call just to get some information. I called the Servants of the Cross and spoke with Sister Anna. A few weeks later, I was on my way to Ottawa for my long awaited "Come and See" retreat. On the last day of my retreat, Sr. Anna told me there was an open invitation if I wanted to apply. My heart wanted to say "YES!" but my mind thought of every excuse

possible (it's cold, it's far, it's away from family, friends, my job, my car, my cat, etc. but mostly, because it wasn't in MY plan). I told Sr. Anna that I needed time to think and pray about it.

I returned to Houston and couldn't figure out why my heart wanted to say "YES!" that day. I started to attend mass during the week and began asking God why my heart felt this way. During one of the Spanish masses at St. Philip of Jesus, I heard these words, "Me llamaste a caminar contigo." It means, "You have called me to walk with you." This was the moment I knew and understood why my heart was saying YES! It was because this was God's plan, not mine. Peace filled my heart and I couldn't deny His call. I am very excited and can't wait to find out what God has in store for me here in Canada.

THE DAY OF MY FIRST TEMPORARY PROMISES

Sr. Vicki Wright

On September 15th, 2010, I professed my first promises to the Servants of the Cross, promising simplicity, chastity, and obedience. I began discerning religious life in 2001.

The day of the promises was wonderful. I had been somewhat nervous in the days leading up to the 15th, but on that day, I felt calm. We went to St. Maurice to practice the ceremony, I attended my Logic class with Sr. Melinda at Dominican University

College, and then had a nice supper prepared by some of our brother Companions. Before I knew it, it was time. The ceremony itself was beautiful. There were 17 priests present, 11 of which were Companions of the Cross. I definitely felt the power of the Holy Spirit in my heart when they prayed over Srs. Anna, Monique, Stephanie, Melinda, and me. And the most intense and poignant moment was when I was handed the veil and Fr. Scott McCaig said: "Receive this veil which proclaims that you belong entirely to Christ the Lord and

are dedicated to the service of the Church." Hearing that I belonged entirely to Jesus now brought joy and a sense of fulfillment to my heart.

While reflecting on this special day, I was reminded of a scripture verse that carried me through the nine years of waiting, Luke 1:45: "Blessed is she who believed that what was spoken to her by the Lord would be fulfilled." God fulfilled His Word to me that day. There is peace and joy knowing that I am in the vocation that God has planned for me.



Priests praying over Srs. Anna, Monique, Stephanie, Vicki, and Melinda asking for God's blessings

MORE?

Sr. Melinda Schenher

In the days leading up to my promises, I can honestly say I was unsure what to expect. I had considered the trivial things; how I was going to miss the two glorious months of vacation in the summer that applicancy allowed and how I was thankful that I no longer had to wear white, and fight all those pesky stains that appear out of nowhere.

An awakening came in the days following my promises. As Sr. Anna was sharing the details of my formation, it clicked! I realized that I didn't have a

firm grasp on the heart of the issue. And by no means have I "arrived" at the fullness of what it means to be a Sister. On the contrary, my two years of applicancy were a primer for the journey that continues and deepens each day. The thought that ran through my mind was, "You mean, there's more?" Yes, much, much more. I have more to learn about living a life of holiness as a religious sister.

One person who I hope to learn from is Blessed Mother Teresa. She had a profound impact on me in my first year, and I'm excited to spend this year walking with her book "Come Be My Light". In her book, she writes,

I want to be only all for Jesus – truly and not only by name and dress (...) I would give everything, even life itself, for Him. It sounds nice but in reality it is not so easy. And just that I want, that it not be easy." (*Come Be My Light, 2007*)

She embraced her vocation with wholehearted abandon, and for me, this is what I desire as well. She could see that it would not be easy, but was still willing to walk the road. And so, as this year begins and I make the journey of living my commitment to Christ, I pray that I may desire to be 'only all for Jesus', and live to expect that there is always more to learn.

GOD IS MOVING!

Sr. Anna Chan

We are back in full swing here at the rectory. The sisters returned from their summer holidays by late August. And for the last flight pick-up on August 26th, we piled in the car with our big welcome signs as we anticipated the arrival of our newest applicant Lizette Trevino from Houston, Texas. Within the next week and a half we enjoyed the Companions of the Cross' 25th anniversary celebrations, headed out to Combermere for our Community days, and drove to Michigan for Jim Lowe's ordination to the transitional diaconate. When we returned to Ottawa, four of us registered at Dominican College for our courses in Philosophy. By week's end we were preparing testimonies, food, decorations, games, and prizes for our Sister Shower/Veil-orette (a 'holy' bachelorette celebration). The afternoon was spirit-filled and light-hearted - what else would you expect when among thirty other women! On September 14th our feast day and on the 15th the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows we celebrated two great days at St. Maurice parish. And on the 15th, we were blessed to witness Sisters Melinda and Vicki as they professed their first temporary promises. (Check out our website to view pictures from the ceremony and even a written copy of Fr. Scott's homily.) It was a blessing on the 16th to gather at our home with our 'new in-laws', the Wright's and the Schenher's, in an



Melinda, Srs. Anna and Monique awaiting Lizette at the airport



Srs. Anna and Monique with Jorge Alvarado (a Companions of the Cross seminarian) at the Companions of the Cross 25th anniversary

intimate supper. But the week wasn't over; we re-started our famous Eggs and Fellowship brunch and received a large crowd (I think the last count was fifty-one present!). Praise God, our friends from Petawawa, Ontario promised to put together a busload of people for our next Eggs! The Lord loves to bring His people together. Now, that's September for you or at least part of what September usually looks like for us. We were still able to manage our schedule of daily prayer, Poustinia Fridays (silent and prayerful days), formation, school, and our monthly Saturday family night where Sr. Monique led us in karaoke and games!

You might ask, how do we maintain peace and joy in our hearts with such a busy and active schedule? The root stems from our desire to live out fully our mission of evangelization with each other and to whomever we meet; simply to be Christ to one another. And every morning when we place the cross around our neck, we remind ourselves that we are part of a greater mission, God's salvific mission. And it has to be a reminder every day. It has to be a reminder of giving God His glory because that peace and joy comes from Him alone. This coming year, we have made it our priority to learn more about one

of our pillars of evangelization, the Charismatic. I believe we will see His Spirit move in a very special way within our community; our seventh year together since we first began in 2003. I want to end with words from our Spiritual Father, Fr. Bob Bedard. They are simple but very effective,

We will know the Spirit of God as working in our lives. We will sense him doing the things Jesus taught that he would do. He will bear witness within me about who Jesus is. (John 15:26) He will be teaching me things I hadn't effectively known before, in fact, all the things I need to know. (John 14:26)

(We are Called to be Companions of the Cross, 1994)

Come Oh Holy Spirit!



Melinda and Christine Labrosse at the Sister Shower

ARE YOU READY?

"Come and you will see" - John 1:39

Do you want to share your love for Christ with others?
Do you feel a stirring on your heart to the religious life?

Experience our community life, prayer life, and receive one-on-one guided direction throughout the weekend.

Call Sr. Anna Chan with your request at the number below.


Come and See Schedule:
November 24 - 28, 2010
January 19 - 23, 2010
February 24 - 27, 2010
or by appointment



Talaga?

(Filipino for "Oh Really?
Did you know?")

Fun Facts About Texas!

- Texas comes from the Hasinai Indian word *tejas* meaning friends or allies. 
- The armadillo is the official state mammal.
- The first word spoken from the moon on July 20, 1969 was Houston.
- The population of Texas is 24 million, not including the 16 million cattle.
- The official dish of Texas is chili.
- In Texas, it's illegal to put graffiti on someone else's cow.
- You can fit the entire world's population in Texas.

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Our community has devoted this year to the Holy Spirit, and so we invite you to pray this psalm with us:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

(Psalm 51:10-12,17)

Fill it to the Brim Our Wish List

+ You can help us in filling our needs to the brim through gift cards at Real Canadian Superstore, Costco, or Staples, or you can provide us with food items such as:



- Eggs
- Frozen Juice
- Coffee
- Snacks/Appetizers
- Ketchup
- Meat (such as ground beef, chicken, and pork)

For more details, please call or email us at info@servantsofthecross.ca

Mission Statement

We are a religious community of women called to spread the message of the Gospel through a dynamic evangelization. Akin in spirituality to the Companions of the Cross, we live this message in our everyday life as Fr. Bob Bedard, our Spiritual Father envisions. We stand on four pillars: being faithful to the Eucharist, being open to the Holy Spirit, being devoted to Our Lady, and being loyal to the Church's Magisterium.

Contact Info

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