



Dear Friend in Christ,

The most important thing we want to say to you today is ... **thank you**. Thank you for your ongoing support of our Community. We thank God for your prayerful support, and we lift you and your intentions up in prayer daily.

An exciting update is that we are growing in numbers, currently 9 women. And we are women who have dedicated our lives to see the fulfillment of Jesus' great commission

... go therefore and make disciples of all nations... (c.f. Matt 28:19)

The three applicants who are currently in formation are a beautiful example of dedication. They commit hours each day to prayer, receiving formation about our spirituality and way of life, and serving the community in simple ways such as meal preparation. They have given a magnanimous response to the Lord in leaving their homes (Alberta, Kenya, and Manitoba) to follow his call.

In her own words, Anna Lise expresses the most important thing she has learned about her life as an applicant:

*I see how Applicancy is a time to slow down and listen to what the Lord is saying to me, **how he sees me**. When I know who he has called me to be, from that will come the courage to step out and live our mission of evangelization.*

Over the past few years, we have been pursuing a word that the Lord spoke to us, the word '**expansion**'. Back in 2022, Sr Anna received an image of Jesus handing over an open field with mature trees on either side of the field that went far into the distance. In the open field there is a little tree symbolizing our beginnings. Being in the midst of the mature trees we sense we are part of all the many other religious communities that our Church has 'grown'. We felt that Jesus was preparing us to expand our hearts and that led us to this passage from the prophet Isaiah:

Enlarge the place of your tent, and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out; hold not back, lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes. For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left, and your descendants will possess the nations and will people the desolate cities. ~ Is 54:2-3

Wow! The Holy Spirit flooded our hearts as we heard God's word articulate the very reason for why we write to you today - to tell you about a new household that will be established in April 2024 and to humbly ask for your financial support.

Enlarge the place of your tent, ...

Your support is a partnership in mission, bringing the message of Jesus' unconditional love to new people each week. You have seen our numbers increase. And you will likely understand when we say that the time has come for our Applicancy Formation Program to have their own space to raise up the new sisters who join our Community. It has become increasingly hard for the Applicants to live out their goal 'to be' when they are constantly surrounded by the hustle

and bustle of the sisters who are living and working in our apostolates. We believe it is necessary to safeguard these years of Applicancy so that the deepening of their relationship with the Lord will build a strong foundation for the apostolic years to come.

Through much prayer and dialogue, we have decided that it's not necessarily a good time in the economy to buy a place. Instead, we have spoken with our Archdiocese and pursued rental opportunities.

We were asked to consider a recently vacated convent in the city of Cornwall, Ontario. The convent was available because a much-loved group of sisters had dwindled in numbers, and felt called to return to a larger household of theirs in Montreal. *We had our excuses*, "Too far!" but we tried to walk with the Holy Spirit and see what he was doing. **Our first look at the house made a big impression on us.** Many bedrooms. Lots of bathrooms. And an attic that was reinforced to be able to handle games of floor hockey! Or roller skating!

We felt the Lord confirm this expansion when he literally opened a door for us in Cornwall. It is such a beautiful and well-maintained home. We believe it will be a good fit for some years to come. And with more rooms, we will be ready to receive the vocation inquiries coming from not only Canada, but the United States and beyond.

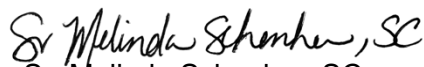
Taking on two households is a new step for our Community. ***We estimate that our expenses will increase by approximately \$2500 per month.*** This will cover food, rent (at an affordable rate) and utilities. We are working hard to be good stewards of what you have given us. We shop the grocery store sales, grow some of our own vegetables in the summer and even use our inkjet printer for many of our printing needs! We are blessed to have Sr. Monique who is employed at the Archdiocese tithing the majority of her salary to help us manage our expenses.

*We are asking everyone we know to prayerfully consider making a small monthly gift. You may think, **what can \$10 or \$25 a month do?** Consider that if every person who is able could make a small monthly gift, we could easily cover the costs of our second house. We ask the Holy Spirit to guide your decision making. Please know that every little bit helps.*

We hope you don't mind that we are reaching out to you today. We know that it's important to be accountable for the financial gifts you entrust to us, so we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. You can book a one on one time with me by calling 613-729-8710 or scheduling an online appointment at <https://zcal.co/i/Ou2X3wyn>

This Lent, please consider what you are able to give. We humbly ask for your response by Easter time. If you could find it in your heart (or between your gas and electricity bill as Mother Angelica used to say) to begin a monthly gift or send a one-time gift, we would truly appreciate it.

In the saving love of Jesus,



Sr. Melinda Schenher, SC
Director of Donor Relations