



Nataly Chamorro Martínez

My name is Nataly Chamorro Martínez, but everybody calls me Naty. I come from Antofagasta in the North of Chile, where I lived till I joined the Society.

As a child I was taken to church by my parents, and in my teenage years I joined a group called “Trigo Maduro” (“Ripened Wheat”) where my concern for the poorest and most vulnerable was awakened. By coming to know different social realities I started to wonder how I could help by more than just praying and going to mass. I made a commitment to work for a more inclusive, incarnational Church when I made my Confirmation.

I studied Physics and Astronomy at University – I had always wanted to be an astronomer – but I didn’t complete the course, because when I joined the Christian Life Community I began to ask myself if I could be happy just looking at the stars, and how would that help me in real life to help others? So I changed track and began to study Business Engineering, which made much more sense to my vocation as a committed layperson.

I got to know the RSCJ community in Antofagasta. I believe that through sharing life with them, praying, or having cups of tea with them, the Lord was quietly calling me to religious life. During a meeting of the Christian Life Community in 2010 where I made an eight day retreat and a few more days of formation, I was very much aware of the invitation from God to the religious life. Faced with the question: Who could I love? I felt that it would not be enough to share the love of God with just those who could be my family, that I was being invited to love the world. From then I began to see religious life as a possibility and as a style of life that made a lot of sense.



After a time of being accompanied by a Jesuit and later by an RSCJ I was confirmed in my call to religious life, specifically in the Society of the Sacred Heart. I would be able to live in community, serving others in marginalised areas and have an experience of God through prayer and retreats: this was essential for me.



My parents didn’t welcome the idea at first, but later they came to support me as they knew that I would only have taken this decision after a lot of prayer and thought. It has been a gift to have their support. My eldest sister was the one who found it hardest to accept that I was going to become a religious, as we have always shared and supported each other so much. My friends were very surprised, some of them had no idea what it meant.

When I joined the Society as a postulant in 2013 I was sent to the Santa Olga community, teaching in our school. I also joined a group for Catechesis and helped in pastoral ministry. I found internationality there, living in community with Murielle Pitti rscj from the Province of Belgium-France-Netherlands. I began to make this new way of life my own, learning how to trust in God and to remain in His Love.



In August 2014 I went to the Interprovincial Novitiate, where besides deepening the call to religious life and my relationship with God, I was able to live with sisters from Peru, Brazil and Mexico; we shared the same stage of formation and grew deeper into the sense of the body.



Living in the novitiate and parish communities, working in Villa de la Cruz pastoral ministry, helping children with their homework and women who were setting up businesses, various faith workshops and of course prayer: all of this was fundamental to my ability to respond to Jesus: YES!

I made my First Vows on 28th of August 2016 in the Church of Christ the Redeemer in Reñaca Alto, Viña del Mar, in the presence of Edith Opazo rscj, my Provincial, my family, friends, and members of the Christian Community of Jesus Christ, Missionary. I was sent to the Michaihue community in Concepción where I am working in the Sacred Heart School, helping in a Foundation, helping children with homework and supporting women in various craft workshops in Michaihue.



Having made my vows, and now sharing and getting to know new people, I continue to be called to simply be with them -- transmitting the love God has for each one of us, so that they can trust in God and live joyfully, or at least with a more optimistic outlook.



I am hopeful about the future: I look forward to living the General Chapter Calls, and to having new companions on the journey, trusting the Spirit to touch the hearts of other women ready and willing to show forth His Love. I trust that God will always be at my side...