

Blessing on the Novices
International English-Speaking Novitiate
Jan 1, 2022

From Barb Dawson:

When I think about you I call this the miracle migrant novitiate – symbolic of the times in which we are living. It took a village to make this happen. And it will take a village to continue this work that has begun. I don't know what the plan God has in mind for each one of you. I am sure that this beginning experience in the Society will shape who you are in your life journey

My prayer for you is from Ephesians. It is often part of the first vow ceremony liturgy here in the USC province. I pray it with and for you as you begin this novitiate journey

... In the abundance of God's glory may the Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self,

so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love,

with all God's holy people, you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth;

so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

I thank God for each of you and for this big step for you and for us in our process of becoming One Body. Amen.

Lynette Toohey, RSCJ – ANZ

Helen McLaughlin RSCJ –Superior General, Letter 5th June 1981:

The decisive moment in each life comes when we understand that what matters most is not our love for God, but rather God's unconditional love for each one of us.

Carmelite saint, Elizabeth of the Trinity:

He does not say to you as to Peter: 'Do you love Me more than these?' ... listen to what He tells you: 'LET yourself be loved more than these! ... I am free to pour out My love on whom I wish!

"LET yourself be loved more than these" is your vocation...

It is in being faithful to it that you will make Me happy, for you will magnify the power of My love.. LET yourself be loved more than these."

[A reflection on this: Our primary vocation is to be loved by God. What a radically freeing idea. If we simply allow God to love us, then we have done the most important 'work' of our lives.]

An English laywoman, Edwina Gateley, who founded the Volunteer Missionary Movement wrote one of my favorite poems:

Let your God love you
Be silent.
Be still.
Alone.
Empty
Before your God.
Say nothing.
Ask nothing.
Be silent.
Be still.
Let your God look upon you.
That is all.
God knows.
God understands.
God loves you
With an enormous love,
And only wants To look upon you With that love.
Quiet.
Still.
Be.
Let your God— Love you.

My prayer for each of you is that you let your God love you. May you be blessed with profound knowing, belief and trust that God loves you and is with you always. Be assured of my ongoing prayer for you as you take this next step on your journey in the Society.
Love, Lynette

From Laura Moosbrugger, RSCJ – CEU

Do not be afraid,

Fürchte dich nicht,

Your God, who has chosen you
and called you by name,
Gives you a future
and hope!

Dein Gott, der dich
Erwählt und beim
Namen gerufen hat,
Gibt dir Zukunft Und Hoffnung!

Do not be afraid,
The path you walk
and that your
God goes with you,
Is blessed for
a good future

Fürchte Dich nicht,
Dein Weg, den du
Gehst, und den dein
Gott mit dir geht,
Ist Segen für
Eine gute Zukunft

Do not be afraid,
the strength of your
heart will be
renewed again and again
so that you may remain confident
in the unknown!

Fürchte Dich nicht,
Die Kräfte deines
Herzens werden dir
Immer wieder erneuert,
Damit du zuversichtlich
Bleibst im Ungewissen!

Do not be afraid,
Your God, who is
is there for you forever,
He will take good care of you
trust in him
and rely on him!

Fürchte dich nicht,
Dein Gott, der für
dich da ist, für immer,
er wird gut für dich
sorgen, vertrau auf ihn
und verlass Dich auf ihn!

Paul Weismantel Übersetzung

Blessing from Núria O'Callaghan, RSCJ - ESP

May God, the Lord of Life and History, come
to meet you and make you more human, wiser
and more sisterly.

Que Dios, Señor de la Vida y de la Historia,
salga a vuestro encuentro y os haga más
humanas, más sabias y más hermanas.

May God of Love blow into your lives so that
you may discover Him in the small and in the
great, in the visible and in the almost
imperceptible, in the gifts and in the
limitations, in the expressive and in the
profound.

Que Dios Amor, sople en vuestras vidas para
que lo descubráis en lo pequeño y en lo
grande, en lo visible y en lo casi
imperceptible, en los dones y en los límites,
en lo expresivo y en lo profundo.

May God, your companion on the way, walk with you in your search, in your questions, in your confirmation, in your deep desires, in your successes and in your mistakes.

May God, our indwelling Presence, guide and bless your steps, open your eyes and ears, make your hands generous, sharpen your sensitivity and enlarge your heart.

May time, which is God's, make you respectful and grateful to the past, hardworking in the present, inviting the new in the future.

Que Dios, compañero de camino, camine con vosotras en la búsqueda, en la pregunta, en la confirmación, en los deseos profundos, en los aciertos y en los errores.

Que Dios, Presencia que nos habita, guíe y bendiga vuestros pasos, abra vuestros ojos y vuestros oídos, haga generosas vuestras manos, afine vuestra sensibilidad y ensanche vuestro corazón.

Que el tiempo, que es de Dios, os haga personas respetuosas y agradecidas con el pasado, laboriosas en el presente, invitadas a lo nuevo en el futuro.

Blessing from Rita Crivelli, RSCJ – BFN

“May the Lord send his blessing on you and keep you:

May the light of the Lord's face be shining on you in grace:

May the Lord's approval be resting on you and may he give you peace.

So they will put my name on the children of Israel, and I will give them my blessing”

“Que le Seigneur vous bénisse et vous garde !

Que le Seigneur fasse briller sur vous son visage, qu'il vous prenne en grâce !

Que le Seigneur tourne vers vous son visage, qu'il vous apporte la paix !

Ainsi, ils mettront mon nom sur les enfants d'Israël, et je leur donnerai ma bénédiction.”

I have chosen the passage from the book of Numbers that the liturgy offers us on 1 January to open a new calendar year. Today is the World Day of Peace and the Church celebrates Mary, Mother of God.

J'ai choisi le passage du livre des Nombres que la liturgie nous propose le 1^{er} janvier pour ouvrir une nouvelle l'année civile. C'est aujourd'hui la journée mondiale de la paix et l'Eglise fête Marie, Mère de Dieu.

And this day is also the celebration of a new stage for each of you, novices and professed members of the novitiate community.

Et ce jour est aussi la célébration d'une nouvelle étape pour chacune de vous, novices et professes de la communauté du noviciat.

It is good to hear these words that reveal to us God's benevolence for his people, when he relies on faith and trust in a word, a promise heard.

It is the same for us today, for you, dear novitiate community. You are here because you have heard a word, a call that is a "promise" of life following Christ.

Each one, in her place, is committed to this journey of the novitiate which has as its aim: "the interiorization, in faith, of the call received and the preparation for the first religious commitment" Const n° 81.

I like very much the image of the path for the time of the novitiate, with Abraham setting out on his journey following this word heard as a promise of liberation, of life, of happiness, of fruitfulness.

The people of the promise will make journeys throughout their history, with ups and downs, and in their faith, little by little they will also learn to reread their history by discovering the signs of God's presence at their side, his fidelity, his tenderness and his benevolence in the ordinary things of life with others.

I also like very much what Pope Francis said in his homily this morning about Mary being the one who knew how to "interiorise the promise heard, and who knew how to care for it. To take care of what the Lord is doing for her and her people by praying the word of God and rereading the events of her life.

Il est bon d'entendre ces paroles qui nous dévoilent la bienveillance de Dieu pour son peuple, quand il mise sur la foi et la confiance en une parole, promesse entendue.

Il en va de même pour nous aujourd'hui, pour vous chère communauté du noviciat. Vous êtes là car vous avez entendu une parole, un appel qui est « promesse » de vie à la suite du Christ.

Chacune, à la place où elle est, s'engage dans ce chemin du noviciat qui a pour but : « l'intériorisation, dans la foi, de l'appel reçu et la préparation au premier engagement religieux » Const n° 81.

J'aime beaucoup l'image du chemin pour le temps du noviciat, avec Abraham qui se met en route suite à cette parole entendue comme promesse de libération, de vie, de bonheur, de fécondité.

Le peuple de la promesse va faire des traversées tout au long de son histoire, avec des hauts et des bas et dans sa foi, peu à peu il apprendra aussi à relire son histoire en y découvrant les signes de la présence de Dieu à ses côtés, sa fidélité, sa tendresse et sa bienveillance dans les choses ordinaires de la vie avec d'autres.

J'aime beaucoup aussi ce qu'a dit le Pape François dans son homélie ce matin faisant de Marie, celle qui a su « intérioriser la promesse entendue, et qui a su en prendre soin. Soigner dans la prière de la parole de Dieu et la relecture des événements de la vie ce que le Seigneur fait pour elle et son Peuple.

I conclude with these words from our constitutions at the end of the chapter on the novitiate! May Mary walk with you !

90.

During this time when they are reflecting on their call, the novices learn that Mary, the Mother of Jesus who keeps all things in her heart, is close to them. She teaches them to welcome the Word of God, and go forth to announce it with joy.

Je termine avec ces paroles de nos constitutions à la fin du chapitre sur le noviciat ! Que Marie vous accompagne !

90.

Marie, Mère de Jésus, qui garde toutes choses dans son cœur, est présente à ce temps d'approfondissement et de maturation. Elle montre aux novices cette attitude qui accueille la parole du Seigneur pour aller l'annoncer dans la Joie.