

STORIES
H. M^a Adelaida



I have thought I will tell about my vocation as if it was an interview. I think it will make it easier to understand me.

How did your vocation begin?

My vocation was born with me in a very small town, as I usually say, to my measure. A town without great monuments, without very important people or beautiful landscapes. I think it is the town with the smallest territorial extension in the province of Madrid. The people were (and are) very humble, mostly farmers. We all knew one another and greeted each other in the street. The Lord placed me there, the third of five siblings.

My first encounter with the love of God was marked with the sign of the cross. My mother died when I was 11 years old; and 3 years later, my father also went to heaven. We became orphans, being the five minors. But then, a newly ordained young priest, full of enthusiasm, arrived in my village. He played with children, worked with young people, met with married couples and talked to the elderly in the square. We all entered his heart. He called “favourites of God's love” my siblings and me and made us feel so by the way he loved us.

That was childhood, and then?

Thanks to this priest and another very holy one who followed him, I grew in friendship with Christ as I grew in years. Our parish organised, together with other parishes, workshops, camps, retreats... One summer we had a workshop in Valdejimena (Salamanca), a House of Spirituality in the countryside. On Sunday, we went to the Oblates monastery in the city of Salamanca. We had Mass there and then we went to the visiting room. The mother superior and a sister came out. I was very impressed by their simplicity and joy, and above all, a kind of maternal love to take an interest in everything about us. I remember asking them something about their life, and the mother said, "If girls knew how happy we are here, they would queue up to join us". We laughed. But it was like a prophecy. From that group of about 20 young people, five or six girls joined them.

Was the vocation getting clarified?

Slowly. The first girl who decided to enter the Oblates was from my town, a cousin of mine. God made us close friends, surely because of going to church to pray frequently. Soon I went to a retreat. The priest spoke about the mind-blowing God's love. I thought, “I want to repay in the same way; but that means belonging to Christ only, to consecrate myself to him. Will I have a vocation?” When I discussed this with the priest who confessed me, he told me not to discard it. I had to discern... I was very happy. That night I could not sleep with joy: “Is it true that God calls me? Me?” I was considering it for a while; I even went to visit other monasteries.

Well, and why an Oblate?

I think what I lived in these youth groups was a deep priestly spirit. It seems to me that this is why there was such a great harmony with the vocation of Oblate. But the call and the answers are personal. Through the "Face to face" with Christ, I was discerning, until I came to understand that the place he prepared for me in the Church was this. "Pleasant places were measured out for me; fair to me indeed is my inheritance!"

Any memory of your religious life?

When we make perpetual vows, after the ceremony, family and friends enter the garden for a while, with the sisters. I professed with other five young sisters. A good number of priests from our former groups and parishes attended Mass. Also quite young. What a beautiful celebration the Lord gave us that day in the garden! But... how clumsy we were that we did not think of taking a picture. It would have been great.

What has made you enjoy the most? And suffer?

Enjoy: prayer and fraternal life. Suffer: my sins and weaknesses. Well, I must confess that at first something meant almost a trauma for me: Basketball! We played novices against professed. I, who used to fail Physical Education, what desolation!

How do you live the pro eis, the offering of your life for the priests?

In crescendo, personally and in community. I want to emphasize how our older sisters live and transmit it to us. It is gorgeous! Through the sick and old sisters, we see how, at the end of their lives, love for the priests is lived with a greater tenderness. If priests saw it, said a Superior, how good it would do to them. Our founder expressed it very clearly: "The 'Pro eis' has to be like a heartbeat new every day, in fire every day. It is our being (...). It is a life that is spent "pro eis", but breaking the border and reaching all souls".

What do you most wish in the world? What do you fear most?

What I most wish: to be a holy Oblate. What I fear most, of course, is not getting it; being mediocre, not letting the Holy Spirit free hands; my life going on unnoticed; and the plan of love that God has for me is frustrated.

What job have you enjoyed the most?

I have enjoyed and enjoy everything: cooking, embroidering, singing, cleaning, being a sacristan... But, to be honest, I have especially become fond of one job in particular: caring for the old and sick Sisters. Sickness is a gift from God for those who suffer and for those who care for them. We carry the cross halfway, and that gives such deep joy.

Would you like to go to missions?

Right now!

Why?

To spread the Church and the charisma of the Congregation. I also think that we have to learn from poor and humble people. They have a lot to teach us, don't they?

What would you say to a young person or to young people in general?

The truth is that I have no habit, not even occasions, of speaking to young people about God, but instead, we are used to speaking to God about young people (we pray a lot for them). But I would tell them to look for the One who is looking for them, to wait for the One who is waiting for them.

Christ loves you, here and now, as you are and as you feel at the moment. And He is seeking to fill your life with love. Let yourself be loved, it's so easy!

Maybe I would also tell them that we need them. In Church and in the Congregation, we need their joy, their enthusiasm, their initiative... their desire to live.

We need you, young people, to transmit to your contemporaries and future generations, the hope that faith generates. We need you because "you are called to be saints" that our Founder said. I am sure Christ wants young hearts to pray for the world with love and hope.

What do you intend to do in Heaven?

Worshiping, thanking, interceding... loving and being loved... What will I do in Heaven?

Well, the same as everyone else, will I not?

"I will sing of your mercy forever, Lord".