



Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matara Religious Family of the Incarnate Word

November 5, 2020

Dear Parishioners of St. Johns,

I've been given the opportunity to write to you all in the weekly bulletin and I figured that it would be a great time to update everyone on how God has been working in my life. As some of you may remember, I entered the convent in July of 2018. From July of 2018 to August of 2020, I lived in Upper Marlboro, Maryland in our Novitiate House of Formation and this past September I moved to Washington, DC to study at our Juniorate House of Studies. The Juniorate House of Studies is exactly that, a house of studies! Our classes are founded in a strong Thomistic (St. Thomas Aquinas) foundation of Philosophy and Theology. We also take classes regarding the spiritual life, language, and other classical arts. Along with our normal class schedule, each sister is asked to give a presentation on a topic chosen by the professors. Myself and Sr. Mary Inexhaustible Chalice were asked to give a presentation on the history of the United States in October. It was a great moment for both of us to expound on our knowledge of our country and how it was influenced/affected by other countries.

Our daily schedule starts with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass celebrated by the priests of our Religious Family (Institute of the Incarnate Word) and ends with Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. During the day we have times for community recreation, private prayer, and office work. Each sister is responsible for an office in the house and an apostolate with a church. My office is assistant laundress. For my apostolate I go to NE Baltimore to teach many children who have never heard of the Gospel. I go with two other sisters and two brothers. I also play organ and sing for the Mass at Our Lady of Fatima (a parish run by the priests of our Religious Family). Please pray for the fruits of our mission!

The last time I was at St. Johns I had a white veil; but on November 1st, the feast of All Saints, I made my first profession of vows! I now have the vows of poverty, chastity, obedience, and Marian Slavery. I also have a blue veil!

However, as wonderful as my life is right now, it is about to get even better. In February, I will be entering the contemplative branch of our Institute. This means that I will move to Italy to live in a monastery. If any of you know Sr. Mary Help of Christians or Sr. Mary Corredemptrix, I will be joining them in this new way of life. The monastic life is quite different from the life I live now but just as joyful and beautiful. I ask for your prayers as I follow the Incarnate Word on this way that He has marked out for me. Please be assured of my prayers for each of you, especially for those of you who may have a vocation to the priesthood, diaconate, or consecrated life. I thank you all for your continued support of me and my vocation! May our Blessed Mother keep you all hidden in her Immaculate Heart!

In Jesus & Mary,

Sr. Mary Servant of the Redemption Powell