

## **EMBRACING FIDELITY; BE A HONEY FOR CHRIST**

### **Introduction**

Galatians 5: 22 says, “The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness and faith.”

To discover the beauty of religious life, the life of fidelity plays a significant role. We the six junior sisters, professed between 1-4 years, of South Indian Province reflected and discussed on the theme given by CLT that is what it means to live a life of fidelity in community today as a young sister?

When we want to explain it with a symbol, we felt that the honeybees and their making of honey comb will be the suitable symbol to explain our life of fidelity in community life for a mission. In this article we would like to explain our life of fidelity as consecrated persons remaining in our communities engaging in various apostolates to give life and hope to our brothers and sisters, especially to the poor and marginalised to spread the Kingdom of God by using the symbol honey bees and their honey comb.

### **Symbol**



Honey bees are the wonderful creatures of God. Though they are small in size individually, they are so powerful when they are together. When we study about their life, we understand that they live and move in a very organised way. They have a leader called “queen,” drone and ordinary bees. Each of them has specific roles to fulfil like foraging, nursing and defending the hive. In short, all the bees are actively involved in the making of honey comb and collecting and storing of honey from flowers. As a mother and leader, the queen honey bee takes lead in their living and working together for a common purpose. All other honey bees move as per the directions of the queen bee. The result of their unity, dedication and hard work they achieve their purpose. Individually they might collect a spoon of honey but collectively litters of honey. The fruit of their labour is enjoyed by others.

As young sisters we learn from the life of honeybees, their unity and life in community; their fidelity to their group and to their common goal. Though we are different in language and culture we are united in Christ by the same call. In spite of all exterior diversity, we remain interiorly united with one heart and one soul. For it is by our love for one another that everyone will know that we belong to Christ. Therefore, the spirit of sisterly love and faithfulness belongs to the spirit of the Congregation after the example set by Mother Bernarda.

## **As a Junior Sister my fidelity in religious life and in community life**

The best religious is the one with the most loving, most open, most compassionate heart, most faithful for whom the pains & needs of the world matter, whose heart reaches out to human anguish. One among the best qualities a religious should possess is fidelity. Religious life offers a unique opportunity to deepen one's relationship with God and to live out the core teachings of one's faith. Fidelity is the corner stone of religious life. It is a daily journey of deepening trust, seeking to align one's actions, thoughts and desires with divine will. Through fidelity religious become powerful witness to the world.

Religious life and community life are inseparable. You cannot be a religious if you are not a community person. Like the honey bees we too live an organised way of life, we have Provincial leader, community animators and sisters. We work together for common good and for the welfare of ourselves and others. Through our being and witness, we spread the fragrance and give the sweetness of Jesus Christ to our society to heal, to enlighten, to support and to give hope. Thus, we contribute to His kingdom. As a single honey bee which produces less than a teaspoon full of honey in its life time, our selfless contribution however small it is, brings a magnanimous effect to the humanity.

As faithful young sisters we live in communities. Each member of the community, especially animators contribute for our holistic growth, to make us a good Holy Cross sister. Our presence contributes to transform the communities into joyful communities through our being, selfless service, sharing our talents and abilities, building bridges of unity. By being faithful to our vows, we make others life joyful, easy and comfortable.

### **Fidelity for mission**

In a community each one's contribution together with my own drop of honey make the community sweeter and more enjoyable. Honey is a natural sweetener. It contains anti-oxidants, enzymes and various vitamins and minerals that can boost your health. The good incentives of our sisters are a real inspiration to live our life with more passion and vigour. The joy of coming together, celebrating our life, accepting, caring, supporting each other make our community life and mission more dynamic like that of honey bees.

### **Conclusion**

Embracing fidelity in community life, we radiate a sense of authenticity, integrity and profound spirituality, inviting others to explore the transformative power of life devoted to God. Pope Francis Says "It is necessary for God's fidelity to come into our lives and infect us." Like the honey bees we co-operate with God's plan to embrace fidelity with our whole heart. Mother Bernarda says "God seeks only our commitment; the outward success is His concern." We the young sisters, who are convinced of our vocation, live our vowed life rooted in Christ for a specific purpose like the apostles. We commit ourselves for Christ and His mission. Thus, we become like honey bees producing honey for Christ forever.

The Junior Sisters of South Indian Province (1-4 years)

- |   |                    |    |                 |
|---|--------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Sr Sajani Mathew   | 4. | Sr Jasmine John |
| 2 | Sr Vimali Francis  | 5. | Sr Ancy Joyson  |
| 3 | Sr Anjali Balaraju | 6. | Sr Milna Binoy  |