

# All or Nothing

As a religious, Mother Bernarda constantly integrated her prayer, community life and ministry. She lived life with complete trust in God. She could be Christ to others in her relationships in community, ministry and the world because her relationships were rooted in Christ.

To follow in the footsteps of Mother Bernarda, we too, are called to integrate prayer, community life and ministry. When we make God the centre of our lives, we are empowered by grace to faithfully integrate community life and ministry.

During this time of the covid-19 pandemic, life seemed to change for many of us throughout the world. People experienced a loss of hope in many areas of their lives. In our time, we are called to help those who are suffering, to find hope in the hopeless situations in their lives. Looking back at the life of Mother Bernarda, we too, are called to strive daily to create life in the hopeless situations today.

Mother Bernarda inspires us to live out the Charism of our Congregation in the world. She was a religious woman who had vision, was deeply anchored in faith and, who desired to form a new way of Religious Life.

As we reflect on our Charism, we look at Jesus from his birth to the cross, and see that indeed he gave his all!

Praying and gazing upon the cross we are moved to ask ourselves the following question:

***“What surrounds the cross?”***

Around the cross, we experience hope, love, trust, faith, pain and suffering.

***“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.”<sup>1</sup>***

At the last supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples, he taught us how to serve. His instruction to us to go into the world and serve the way he did, means that I too, am called to serve wholeheartedly.

It teaches us to use our gifts to serve others and uplift the lives of those whom we encounter each day and bring forth life in the world.

After watching the film ***‘All or Nothing’*** based on the life of Sr Clare Crockett, we could identify with another young sister who was deeply passionate about serving God and his Church. She radiated inner joy to the world in her short span of life.<sup>2</sup>

As we reflect on our own vocation story, we are inspired by Sr Clare’s life, to give our ***‘All or Nothing,’*** and to find joy.

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<sup>1</sup> (John 13:13-15)

<sup>2</sup> Sr Clare Crockett. Film published 14 November 2018

This calls us daily to reflect on the following question:

**Am I giving God 'All or Nothing' in my daily life?**

Sr Clare teaches us how to serve in our communities and in the world.

***In the life of Sr Clare, her experience of kissing the feet of Jesus on the cross on Good Friday, during the veneration of the cross, was a time of transformation for her. After that, she gave her life fully to God. The way she lived was the way she died. Her life teaches us about transformation in our own lives and how we need to embrace the cross.***



The symbol of the empty pot that we have chosen from our sharing together speaks to us about how we allow God to fill us with his gifts in order to serve others. The empty pot symbolises our lives as religious. We come before God empty and allow him to fill us with his Spirit and strength to serve wholeheartedly in the Church and in our world.

While reflecting on the life of Mother Bernarda and Sr Clare, we learn a deeper way of integrating prayer, community life and ministry.

As young Sisters, we strive to be constant in vigour and zeal in serving our Lord and his Church and to be fully committed to him by the way we serve. Like Elijah, we are called to say, ***“Lord I am burning with zealous love for you.”***<sup>3</sup> We need to be strong and capable enough to deal with our experiences of life with faith and trust in God.

We are called to serve in the best way we can; though at times we fail in love and service, God's mercy and love calls us each day to be renewed in his love and service.

***There, we find our energy to love and serve others renewed, when God is at the centre of our lives. We allow prayer to change us and our way of life as religious, living and serving in the world.***

By our life of prayer, we allow the Holy Spirit to inflame our hearts with God's love and set them on fire, so that we are able to make a difference in our world as witnesses of peace, joy and love.

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<sup>3</sup> 1 Kings 19:19-21