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My name is Sr. Sherly Sunny Padayattil. Here is a little story about how I fell in love with Jesus. As I grew up in our little village Aranattukkara, I was fortunate to have a faith filled community around me. For a while we lived as Sunday Catholics until my Mom started to go Divine Retreat Center in Potta Ashram in Chalakudy. I used to go with my Mom frequently to retreats and for perpetual adoration every Friday in our Dolorous Basilica in Trichur. Watching my Mom talking to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament always amazed me. Then I started to do the same thing. Without even knowing I was falling in love with Him too.

When I reached High School I was encouraged to go for vocation campaign but I refused. That time I was so sure that God was not calling me for a religious life because I hated them for some reason. Being taught by the Nuns for 10 years I couldn't wait to get out from the convent right after my high school graduation.

Well, things changed gradually over the years. In college I was very much involved in the Marian Sodality (C.L.C) and Jesus Youth. I had a desire inside me to know the truth about life. When I found out it was Jesus, the only truth in life I wanted to give my life to Him. I started to think about becoming a missionary like Mother Theresa in Calcutta. I wanted to go out of country to serve Christ in others. But I never had the courage to give up my family especially my Dad who is the whole world to me. To choose Jesus over my beloved Dad was a great struggle for me. I spent many hours in prayer at night alone to just have the courage to go up to him and tell him my desire. One day, a Franciscan Brother was visiting my home and gave me the address of a Franciscan community after he found out that I wanted to become a nun. Still, how could I leave home without my Dad's permission or his blessings?

One day Jesus arranged that too through the intercession of my Mom. Very skillfully and wisely Mom opened a conversation before my Dad about my future. Behind her I stood praying for my Dad that he won't get a heart attack, because I know how much he loves me.

After a few hours of argument and crying he gave me his permission with one condition that I should come home as soon as I feel unhappy at the convent. He thinks I can't survive at convent with my over sensitive personality and also very shy nature.

When I entered the formation house I was so surprised to see the same community sisters who taught me all through my School there to give me formation. When I was in the three months program, one question came to my mind: How do I know it is really Jesus who is the one calling me? So I made a deal with our Lord before I returned home for vacation. I asked for a real experience of God in my life which would prove that it is Him who calls me to this wonderful religious life which I am so unworthy of.

You know when God asks of you something He is not satisfied with just a little or half, He wants it all. He knows that how I am so close to my Dad which leaves not much room for Him in my heart. So He answered my prayer before I even finished it.

It happened when I was at home for vacation waiting for Sisters to call me back to the convent. The letter arrived saying that I have vocation to religious life. that made my Day so sad and upset. Yet my father, for my happiness, agreed to it silently. The next day I said goodbye to my Dad while he was ready to go to work, not knowing that was my final good bye. On that evening of August 30th 1990, while he was coming home from work on a bicycle a bus hit him and he passed away on the spot. It took me couple of days to understand that my Dad's death was the answer to my prayer. And it happened so quick.

Now it is my turn to say "Yes" since Jesus did His part. It was very heart breaking to leave my Mom and my brothers and sisters in a desperate situation. Yes, He gave me his grace through many supporting priests and nuns who were praying for me at that time. After two years I have been asked to leave the country and come to USA for formation. In 1995, Dec.8th I made my first profession of vows and was accepted to the community of Franciscan Sisters of St.Elizabeth. By His grace I made my Final vows in 2002 and am living a wonderful religious life.

I am so happy that I made a deal with our Lord on that day about my vocation. Since then I have never had a doubt about my calling even though I have experienced the ups and downs of religious life. I know He will get me through it.

Thank you Jesus for this wonderful life that you gave me.



My name is Sr. Joanne Uralikunnel.

As I was growing up as a little girl I was very lucky to have a good relationship with many holy nuns of the Adoration Convent and also from my own family my aunts and my uncle. They sowed the seed for my vocation. My aunt

(Sr. Mary Thundathil S.H.) taught me to pray 3 Hail Marys to the Blessed Mother every day with the intention to become the Bride of Christ. So I prayed everyday until I entered High School. In high school I became a completely different person. I had many friends and I was very happy, outgoing personality. I didn't think about anymore about becoming the Bride of Christ. One day at the end of the school year my teacher asked everybody what they wanted to become in the future. I started to think and when my turn came to answer the teacher I said, "I want to become a Sister." Everybody started to laugh because they thought I was joking. After the teacher left the class room my friends told me that if I join the convent I would jump over the fence. That response from my friends struck me. So I was not sure if should enter or not. The devil was keep attacking me from joining the convent. So many excuses came into my mind. I could not make up my mind. I was confused and scared. In 1992 my uncle told me that he was going to Muringoor Divine Retreat centre for retreat. I asked to go with him and after that retreat that was the end of my confusion and fear. can go with him? During the retreat I got the courage to make up mind to become a sister. During the retreat I was healed from the swelling of the thyroid glands and was cured of goiter. I was on medication for 4 years

but didn't do any good. When the Holy Spirit come upon me I was cured. A few months after the retreat I joined the convent. This the story of vocation.