



What Vowed Life Has Been Like for Me?

Sr. Jovita MacPherson, CSM

After I entered the Sisters of St. Martha, my view of the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience began to change. They became 'a way' of seeing everything, relating to everything, and loving everything.

We used to say we 'take' vows, I soon began to differ. I now say that the vows 'take' us to places, relationships and depths that we never even dreamt of!

You see, I wanted to do something radical with my life and be about some things much greater than myself! I wanted my life to answer the question, what am I for, not, what am I against. I always felt, at some level, that our God was calling me and weaving an influence in my future thoughts and plans.

Vows are not a meek and gentle stance to take or way of being. They flow from and deal with, a God gift and universal reality. Read on.



We can see, in our human nature, that there are three dominant influences that penetrate our life choices, decisions and vie for our attention. They are love, power, and money/possessions. These three yearnings are part of who we are. They are quite evident in politics, society, culture, reading, and media. The way we deal with them determines everything.

So, I believe that people who respond to the wild invitation to embrace the vowed way of living and loving, can first, experience a freedom that has its source in God and second, come to realize that life is not about them, they are about life!

So, for me living the three vows is not only a personal choice and response to God who desires new life in how we relate, it can actually be an antidote to the suffering in the world that comes from the abuse of these three yearnings. To live these three vows well can not only make a difference in the world, it can make a different world!

Considering the great cry for hospitality in our world and the power of the vowed life, I am amazed that there are not more vowed religious!

Can you hear the CRY?

