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Sr. Holy: A Calling From the Lord

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Sr. Holy: A Calling From the Lord

Abstract: This paper includes a portion of an interview with Sr. Holy, a woman religious missionary who belongs to the congregation of Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, where her theological beliefs are enacted by her service to others. Within the congregation of Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, she is focused on directing the novitiate, giving spiritual direction, volunteering with the aid for women, networking with the aid for women, and taking part in a life learning center making disciples. She uses her gifts that Jesus has given her to employ her virtues in the service of others. Throughout her life she mentioned the Lord continually calling her for religious life.

One of the first questions I asked Sr. Holy during the interview was “what is your favorite scripture?” which was quite simple. She laughed and told me she didn't know if she had a favorite one. After a few seconds she told me two of her favorite. The first one was John 10:10, “I have come to bring you life, and life in the fullest.” The second one was Luke 4:18, “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.” She told me this is part of the reason she does missionary work; to bring you life, and life in the fullest. She concluded the question by saying that she is not any better or any more special. All there is to it is to follow your heart within human limitations. This is what we are called to do.

This particular response reminded me of the text, “Mercy Without Borders” by Mark and Louise Zwick. In the text the Zwicks tell us about their beliefs, “if we were to be true to our

beliefs, faced with reality with the reality of the Central American wars and the refugees, we had no choice but to act” (Zwick, 59). This tell us that they believed they had to take a prophetic stance in their beliefs. There was no if, ands, or buts about this belief in the situation. The thing that caught my attention the most is how they felt they had no choice but to act. As Sr. Holy would put it, this is what they were called to do. She told me, “Jesus looks at the heart.” Every church is a Christian community that should be open to everyone. She tells me examples of how her church community marched in Selma, visited immigrants, and prayed with incarcerated victims.

She ended that conversation in a very intriguing way that informed me on a way that spirituality can become part of your own life. She said, do not let others pull you into their storm. You should mentally pull towards peace. You are needed everywhere, and you should mingle with everyone in your community. It clicked with me that many women take the path of being a women religious because they have a passion to devote their life to Jesus. They are just like others who have a passion to be a lawyer, teacher, or doctor.

Works Cited

Sr. Holy. Personal Interview. 5 Jan. 2018.

Zwick, Mark, and Louise Zwick. *Mercy without Borders: the Catholic Worker and Immigration*. Paulist Press, 2010.