

MAY 29, 2011
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

JOHN 14: 15-21

"If you love me, come follow me" has been and still is Jesus' everlasting injunction to me as his spouse, as his lover. What better place than our own CDP *CONSTITUTION* # 22 for guidance:

In Jesus we see the providential love and mercy which are God's constant actions toward humankind. Our response to this compassionate love of God, according to Moyer, must be unconditional. 'Since you will never look for your own interests, since you will do all with no thought of reward, it is charity alone that will activate you in everything and everywhere.' You will practice toward everybody the spiritual as well as the corporal works of mercy.

At my baptism, my life was dedicated to our Blessed Mother by my parents. When I was a young child, I had a serious childhood disease, and was not suppose to live—according to the doctors at St. Paul Hospital in Dallas. But Providence intervened and is still intervening in my life as a Sister of Divine Providence. For me, this is part and parcel of being a true Daughter of Father Moyer and Mother St. Andrew*. But it was Sister Adelaide Krchnak, COP, my first grade teacher, who took me on her knee and said: "Mary Lee, I know you are still mad that you did not die. But, my dear child, I believe the Lord kept you alive for a very special reason and together, we must search out that reason, don't you think?" She planted the seed of my vocation. All I had to do was nurture it and keep it safe.

As I grew older, I began to make daily visits to the Blessed Sacrament during our lunch hour and asked Jesus, "What do you want of me?" Eventually, I turned to my Mother Mary and she seemed to say, "my son spared your life—what greater gift in return than your own life." By the time ten years arrived, I had the answer-Give my life back to God in the life of a Sister!

At baptism, I was dedicated to Our Blessed Mother by my parents and nurtured in this dedication by having the Sisters of Divine Providence ever present in my growing up years. They have always been there! And still are. Later in life, especially with my final vows, the circle of love was completed by my consecration to my Blessed Mother, brought about by our retreat master, Father P.M. Endlers, on June 22, 1947—a consecration was complete but continuously expanding in the unfathomable love and omnipotence of an all-knowing God!

"The cross, if you carry it, will carry you, keep you, and sanctify you."

For reflection or sharing:

Δ Recall your own vocation story. Why do you continue "to follow"?

Δ Relish the graces of your own consecrated life.

--Sr. Sylvan Durbin, CDP

*Mother St. Andrew Feltin is the founder of the Sisters of Divine Providence in Texas. She came to Texas in 1866.