Some months ago, I was busy running several errands that took up the better part of my day. It, in fact, turned out to be a long day and by the afternoon, I was tired and looking forward to checking the last stop off my list – Target.

I was determinedly walking through the store focused on picking up the items on my list, when I experienced one of those special moments.

Among the many sounds bouncing off the walls of the cavernous and busy department store was the voice of a little two-year old child who saw me and recognized that I belonged to Jesus in a special way. Reaching a little arm up, which he pointed in my direction, he kept repeating: “Jesus! Jesus! Señora de Jesus!” I was thoroughly enchanted and never had a day become so completely re-energized for me so quickly!

The consecrated life is not a career choice. It is not one among many jobs. Usually it is referred to as a “calling” or a “vocation.” If, then, it is a “calling”, who calls? The answer, of course, is God. Now, it is not that a phone rings and the voice on the other end says “Hello, this is God calling.” During the discernment process, many of us had wished that would happen!

No, it is gentler, more intimate, springing from a growing sense of dissatisfaction within the center of the soul. This sense says something like “I feel there is something more for me, but what is it?” “No matter what I do, I am not fulfilled or satisfied. It leaves me feeling empty.” Subtle as this sense can be, nevertheless, it is relentlessly persistent. It never stops or quiets down. It must be addressed.

Those of us with vocations to the consecrated life find it difficult to explain the joy, the fulfillment, the sense of “rightness” that comes when we discover the way of life to which God has called us. This happens when we realize that our vocation to the consecrated life is intensely real. God has truly entrusted us with a special mission and in finding that out and the specific community to which He is calling us, immense peace and joy permeates us.

Born in Hollywood, California, Sister Imelda entered Carmel and asked for a new name that held within it her devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. She was given the name of Sister Imelda Marie, after Blessed Imelda, a young teenager who received her First Holy Communion miraculously. “What defines you, Sister?” I asked. “What impels you to get up every morning?” Her answer came immediately, “Holy Mass, the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Communion.” A certified gerontological nurse, she is also certified as a mobile intensive care unit nurse and both E.R. and critical care nursing. Today she cares for any medical needs of our elderly and retired sisters in the Casa.
COMMUNITY NEWS -
THANKING GOD
FOR OUR JUBILARIANS!

We've known the Carmelite Sisters for the past fifteen years. We were on a plane when we saw a Carmelite Sister in a brown habit come aboard. She was so joyful and she promised to pray for us. We kept in touch and began to attend some events.

Later, we were led to Santa Teresa because we were looking for Catholic skilled nursing care for a family member. Love and compassion emanated from each sister there. Then, it wasn’t until we asked what you sisters needed, that we discovered another way to help. It was our joy to help equip Casa convent with the needed technology so that the retired sisters can see and hear the Mass now!

We love you, Sisters. We love everything you do and stand for. We see how you sacrifice so much for all of us. We want to join in your mission and that is why we decided to make a planned gift through our will. We want to help continue your “Legacy of Love.”

– Dr. Kim and Michelle Shirin

DONOR STORY!
THE SHIRIN FAMILY

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St. Teresa of Jesus (of Avila)

Carmelites are celebrating the 500th birthday of St. Teresa this year. We are excited about our upcoming retreat, “I Was Born for You, A Weekend with St. Teresa,” which will be given by Father Steve Watson, OCD, Provincial Superior of the Discalced Carmelite Friars of the Western Province and Sister Regina Marie, OCD, Vicar General of the Carmelite Sisters. This weekend retreat will be held on February 6-8, 2015.

For more information, retreat rates, or to R.S.V.P. for any of our special “St. Teresa” events, visit www.sacredheartretreathouse.com or call 626-289-1353 ext. 200.

What will your Legacy Be?

Remembering the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles in your will is a way for you to leave a lasting legacy of the ideals and values that shaped your life here on earth. Your generosity ensures that the Sisters will be able to continue to serve for generations to come.

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