



TESTIMONY  
**From Disco  
 Queen to  
 Bride of Christ**  
 Sr. Mary Clare  
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*“Verbum Dei Caro Factum” Est*  
 (“AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH,” JN 1:14)

**THERE IS GREAT TURMOIL NOW,  
 GREAT GLORY TO COME**

Dear Friends of MOME,

We are excited to enter with you into the graces of this Joyous Christmas Season (Dec 24 eve – Jan 9th).

“Verbum Dei Caro factum est!” (And the

Word was made flesh) is a phrase that makes satan flee, exorcists tell us. But often we as Catholics only scratch the surface when celebrating different feasts throughout the Liturgical Year; not taking to heart, and disposing ourselves to the profound graces available in every Mystery of Christ, His Mother and the Heavenly Cohort of Angels and Saints. And, so, we remain weighed

down with the burdens, evils and sufferings of life, not seeing them as steppingstones to invite our Lord’s graces more deeply in.

So, we invite you to unite with us, dear friends, in disposing ourselves to an ever-more personal communion of Life with the Incarnate Word, our Redeemer, who dwells among us! In particular consider praying with the Church through the daily Liturgy of Holy Mass (and even the Liturgy of the hours as inspired), where great riches are to be found in this Christmas Season and beyond. And, of

course, the daily Rosary.

**MUCH SUFFERING AND UPHEAVAL**

Much has curtailed in the last couple of years, to where life no longer looks the same. And for many, it has turned upside down. But

should this be seen as something bad? Or rather, a preparation for something much better? A “New Springtime” of sorts (St. JP II).

Certainly, the outcome for each of us is dependent on our choosing’s in this life and time. Are we being brought to our knees in relationship with God through it all? Or to some other god, as happened with the Israel-

ites amidst desert turmoil’s, often and again; despite the fact that God was guiding them in powerful ways.

**HOLY FAMILY TRAVAILS**

May we learn from the Holy Family how to remain in God’s peace and grace no matter what may come our way. Mary and Joseph were stripped of family comforts at the birth of Jesus as they had to travel to Bethlehem, to a poor, cold and barren cave; they had to escape to Egypt to live in a foreign country; )

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*Mary Merry Christmas  
 and Happy New Year!*

**MARY’S IMMACULATE  
 HEART, PRESENT-DAY  
 “ARK” SIMILAR  
 TO NOAH’S**

**All Aboard!**

“The coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so will the coming of the Son of Man be” Jesus tells us in Matt 24:37-39.

There is an imperative and profound reason why Jesus’ final counsel to us before dying was:

“Behold your Mother!”

The Church throughout the years has strongly encouraged the faithful to consecrate their lives to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Jesus tells us through the approved messages to Elizabeth Kindelmann, 1962, “The grace from the Flame of Love of My Mother’s Immaculate Heart will be to your generation what Noah’s Ark was to his generation.”+



# MOME Happenings

Since last January God has blessed us at MOME Hermitage property with a very special retired priest, Fr. John; he joined us to live a more hidden and quiet life of prayer, solitude, and for writing.

**MOME Hermits attended** the annual Christmas Mass and luncheon for religious sisters with Bishop Louis Kihnemann. We are very blessed to have Bishop Louis. He shared about the blessings of his recent trip to Medjugorje, and our Mother's special presence is with Him. Please join us in praying for our Bishop, and all Bishops; as well as our priests. As heads of our Dioceses and Parishes, they are in the heat of the battle.

**Our MOME Hermitage property** is used primarily for priests and religious to come for retreat, sabbatical, and time of prayer and sharing. (Periodically), we also have day and extended retreats for laity periodically. Your generous support helps us to offer retreats and days of renewal on donation basis. Many who use our facilities have limited funds.



**We have limited connection** with the public through a weekly Saturday Cenacle of Holy Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, a Contemplative Healing Rosary, and the reading of a Marian Movement of Priests message. Afterwards we meet, with those who would like, in Mary's Room at our MOME Retreat House for personal sharing.

**We continue our on-line ministry** of writings and videos. Your donations help us to pay someone part time to keep up with the postings, etc, to help protect our contemplative life of prayer. (see our on-line outreaches in a separate section).

**As Canon 603 Hermits** in the Diocese of Biloxi, our primary ministry is prayer. We seek to foster a contemplative life of prayer, silence, solitude and penance. We pray intensely for all of humanity, especially the Church throughout the world, and in particular Bishop Louis and the Diocese of Biloxi. We have Daily Mass, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosaries, Adoration, Mercy Chaplet and other prayers, remembering you all, and your intentions.

## (GLORY CONTINUED)

they encountered many persecutions throughout life, in particular from their own family, the government and from church leaders. They suffered more than all of humanity put together, and yet in every moment of their life they trusted in God's providential care, were attentive to His inspirations in the present moment, and sought to live in the Father's Divine Will, and the mission for which they were created.

### WHERE ARE WE?

Where do we find ourselves personally in this very chaotic, topsy turvy time, when it is hard to know what is up or down, right or wrong, true or false? Are we choosing to trust in our Lord's providential care no matter how bad or crazy life may seem? The Holy Family no doubt had a majority of Satan's army battling them at all times; and yet, they remained peaceful, joyful, surrendered and trusting, amidst the greater sufferings they endured.

And we, dear friends, are called to do the same. And, the key to success is to be found in the Mystery of the Incarnation. JESUS TOOK ON OUR

FLESH THAT WE MIGHT TAKE ON HIS DIVINITY. As we have been preparing the "caves" of our hearts during the Advent Season, for his coming, may we have the grace to surrender all cares, concerns, fears, anxieties, sins, disorders and sufferings into the hearts of Jesus and Mary; hence inviting them more deeply into our own hearts. May the Light of the Holy Spirit illumine our hearts and minds, that we may know more-and-more who we are before God, and where He is knocking to come in more deeply to redeem us.

### BREAD OF HEAVEN

And, last but not least, Bethlehem means "House of Bread." How fitting that it is there that the "Living Bread come down from Heaven" was born (Jn 6). May we long to receive Him in Holy Communion, and to spend time with Him in Eucharistic Adoration where He longs and waits us. For the Eucharist is the "Source and Summit of the whole Christian Life." It is where God has become SUBSTANTIALLY PRESENT here on earth, as He is in Heaven.

"O Come let us adore Him!"

And a reminder that, as Catho-

lics, Christmas Eve, Dec. 24th, is the beginning of the Christmas Season, which continues with High Solemnity throughout the 8-day Octave, as though each day is Christmas Day; until January 1st, the Feast Day of Mary, Mother of God. And then the season continues until January 9th, with the Solemnity of the Baptism of the Lord. So please join us in spirit as we celebrate the GREAT Mystery of the Incarnation of Christ.

### THANK YOU!

Beloved Friends, be assured of our love and prayers for you; and our GREAT appreciation of your support of our MOME Mission: Your prayers, financial support and those who volunteer their service in various ways; may our Divine Lord reward you 100,000 fold.+ *Sr. Charista Maria*

*Sr. Mary Clare*

To learn more about our MOME Mission and get our latest blogs and vlogs, go to:

**OurMotherOfTheEucharist.org**

*God Bless You!*

**MOME Hermits**

# From Disco Queen to Bride of Christ

How does one convert from living a single life to becoming a Consecrated Religious? Each story is unique. Here I summarize part of my conversion story.

Before becoming a Consecrated Religious, I was always drawn to them as I was growing up. There seemed to be a supernatural presence that drew me. The mystery of devoting oneself to God struck my heart deeply; but the world, and I am sure the evil one, were pulling me away from all that was holy and good, and drew me to all that was banal and worldly.

As a senior in high school, I began to go out on the weekends with my friends to dancing clubs. I loved to dance and liked the beat to the music (and of course along with dancing clubs comes drinking). I rarely listened to the lyrics of the music, but a little later in life when I saw the words to the songs I danced to, I was deeply saddened and troubled by them. It was brainwashing songs that lead one to the flesh, impurity and to a selfish outlook on life. My parents were concerned that I was becoming more selfish and worldly; that I was wanting to accumulate things, and to “keep up with the Jones’s.”

As I was about to go out to party one night, my father was watching a nun on T.V. named Mother Angelica. He asked me if I would just listen to her a little before going out that night. I agreed to do so, because my daddy asked so nicely. As I listened to Mother Angelica, she made me laugh because she spoke the TRUTH with her well-known humor. I could see that she seemed to really care about the souls of others and their salvation. Just before I got up to leave, I said to my father, “If ever I was to be a nun, that’s the kind of nun I would want to be!” Little did I know that God would say, “Amen!” to that.

One morning before school started, my father woke me up and said, “Would you like to come to Mass with me this morning?” I said, “Daddy, you have three other children. Why would you just ask me?” He said something that made me feel special and loved by him. Although I knew he loved my other siblings deeply as well, he said, “I’m asking

you because I know that you have what it takes to want to come with me daily... Do you believe that Jesus is truly in the Eucharist?” I said, “Yes;” thinking to myself, where is this leading? Then he asked, “You really like your boyfriend Ken don’t you?” I said, “yes.” He added, “Do you just feel content sitting next to him without saying a word?” I said, “yes.” He asked, “Do you love him and feel safe with him?” I said “Yes.” Then he said something I will never forget, “Jesus loves you when you just spend time with Him and sit with Him. It makes Him feel loved when you feel safe with Him.”

These words pierced my heart like a sword, and I almost began to cry. My father then challenged

me to go to Mass with him every day for a month. I told him that I would. And, as my month was coming to an end, I realized how much peace I was having in my heart from going to Mass daily, and receiving the True Presence of Jesus within my body and soul in the Eucharist.

A side note, but very important. My Mother would have gone to Mass with my father every morning, but because she was a school bus driver, she attended Mass at Noon. My Mother is a faithful Catholic and would encourage my siblings and myself to attend Mass every Sunday, Holy days of obligation, and even attend a weekday Mass if able. She loved to attend Tuesday nights that were dedicated to Our Mother of Perpetual Help. I tried to go with her to this Mass as often as I could. No doubt, Our Lady had her hand in my vocation.

After a month, I decided to stop going to daily Mass. I had kept to my word of going every day for a month, and patted myself on the back interiorly, thinking myself pretty good. But, I noticed that my days at school seemed empty and sad when I stopped going to daily Mass. So I decided on my own

to start going again without my father, or anyone else asking me to do so. I felt myself maturing and growing spiritually, but I was still being drawn to the world. I desired to go out dancing again, and at this particular time, something very strange and surreal happened to me. Soon after I walked into the dancing place with a boyfriend, I audibly heard a distinct male voice say to me, “Would you find my Mother here?” I thought, this a strange question, and tried to

ignore it; when I heard it a second time asking me the same question, I looked at my boyfriend and asked him if he said, “Would you find my mother here?” He looked at me strangely and told me that he didn’t say that to me.

Then I wondered, is it Jesus asking me this question?... I felt a little admonished by the question and thought up an answer

to defend myself. I answered Him, “Yes, your Mother would be here just like you are. You came to save sinners and she wants to save them too.” Jesus’ voice became interior to me as He put two more questions to me. “Is this what you want to do with the rest of your life?... Do you want to do this when you are in your 30’s, 40’s and 50’s?”...

Before I answered Him, a surreal incident happened. I stopped hearing the loud music, people were dancing in slow motion. My eyes were suddenly opened up to the way that the young women were immodestly dressed, how the guys and young women were dancing provocatively, how they were drunk, and how many souls were not thinking about God at all. This really struck me deeply and I immediately said to Jesus, “No! I don’t want to do this for the rest of my life. I don’t want to do this in my 30’s, 40’s and 50’s.” I knew then that God was calling me to do something different with my life. I then turned to my boyfriend and asked him to take me home. He was surprised since we had just arrived, but he knew that something

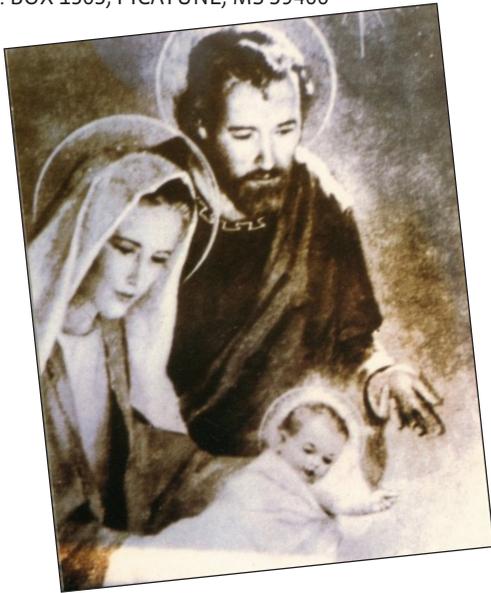


***“He called me to bring my deepest longings to Him, even if they were disordered... When I began to do this, my heart was set free!”***

**SEE BRIDE OF CHRIST PAGE 4**



Missionaries of Our Mother of The Eucharist  
 WWW.OURMOTHEROFTHEEUCHARIST.ORG  
 P.O. BOX 1503, PICAYUNE, MS 39466



**CONSIDER FOLLOWING US ON**

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**(BRIDE OF CHRIST CONTINUED)**

unique happened to me and we left immediately.

When he asked me to share with him what happened to me, I couldn't speak. I knew that if I spoke, tears would flood my face, because I was profoundly touched by what had just occurred. When I went home, I quickly went to my room and began to sob. I asked God why He was doing this to me. I yelled at Him and said, "Why are you taking all my fun away? Why do I have to be different than everybody else?" I was wrestling with God in my spirit and He ended up winning.

I ended up entering the Consecrated Religious Life at the age of 21. I thought that becoming a Religious would be the end of my journey, when in actuality, it was just the beginning. As I was maturing in the Religious Life and learning more and more about our beautiful Catholic Faith, I realized that I was needing more. As St. Augustine said so well, our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

A number of years ago, when I was feeling stuck in my spiritual life, I met

a beautiful soul. As I opened up to her about one of the struggles that I carried for most of my life and couldn't seem to shake, she asked me, "With all

***„Why are you taking all my fun away? Why do I have to be different than everybody else?„***

the hours you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, have you shared with Him what you just shared with me?" I was about to say, "Of course I have," when suddenly I realized that I did not share on that level with Him. I figured that He already knew about it and I didn't want to talk about that in adoration. In my mind, adoration was a time for meditating and just loving Jesus. I was not very integrated; and was not allowing Jesus to enter into the areas in my life of which I was most ashamed. My friend shared with me that Jesus wants to enter into our wounds and into the areas of which we are most ashamed. She encouraged me to journal before our Eucharistic Lord, all that I was struggling with and all that I was longing for.



Sister Mary Clare's younger days

Where I once thought that the more I knew ABOUT God, the holier I would become; the good Lord was trying to teach me that the most important thing that I can do is to open

my heart as a child to Him. "Truly I say to you, unless you be converted and become like little children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven" (Mat 18:3). He called me to bring my deepest longings to Him, even if they were disordered.

I needed to be raw and real with Him. When I began to do this, my heart was set free! The Lord sets us free indeed!

As I share all of this, I must add this very pivotal piece which is responsible for all of the graces I've received throughout my spiritual journey; and it is my consecration to Mary, and her faithfulness as such a tender, loving and powerful Mother. I am truly convinced that in this day and age, Mary is not an option, but a necessity.

*Sr. Mary Clare, MOME Hermit*