

Dear Friends Minglabar!

Today we are all here as friends - the 2 bishops, Enda's parents, Priests, sisters all of us even the small children we are here because we are Enda's friends and in some way we share life with her.

As her friends we come to witness her profession of perpetual vows. This profession is a solemn, formal public act by which Enda takes her life into her hands and freely hands it over as a self-gift to God and his people through the Columban Sisters.

We come, Enda, to support you as you make your profession, we come to say we will be with you; we will be your companions on this journey today and every day.

Enda by her choice of readings lets us know what this day means to her.

**She invites us to celebrate the gift of God's call to her and all of us because all of us are called by God.**

In the first reading which is about the call of Moses, about Enda's call and all our call we hear about the bush that was burning and that would not go out. Maybe there is some fire like that in all our lives even in all our hearts. We all have felt a burning desire to do good, maybe to educate our children or our people. We have felt maybe a burning love for our families, our children, our culture our God. Maybe even we have felt a burning pain, a grief for all that is lost and wounded, an awareness of the pain and suffering of the world. Yes we all have our burning bush and that is what draws us, pulls us aside to listen to what God is saying in our lives.

**The call has to be listened to and nurtured.**

In the reading it says Moses turned away to look at this strange sight. We need to turn aside to listen to our call. We are blessed when we can have the time and the circumstances that enable us to hear the call. And as we thank God for Enda's call we also thank her parents, her parish community in Cheju, the Columban Sisters and all who encouraged her from the beginning until now, to listen to God in her life.

And for us let encourage one another to listen to how God is calling us right now because we are all called very day every moment in all the happenings of our lives.

**God's calls brings us into something bigger than ourselves.**

God calls us out of our own small world into the wide open spaces of his love for us and for all people. Enda told me that in this reading what really touched her was that God called Moses not when he was strong and powerful living in Pharaoh's court but when he was weak and vulnerable minding sheep in the desert. The person who is called often feels incompetent or unworthy. This enables us to focus on the fact that the work is God's work not ours. The mission is God's mission not ours.

**In responding to the call we discover who God is.**

Then we hear that as Moses looked at the burning bush, he met God, God spoke to him directly and let him see the kind of God he was- a God who sees. He sees all our hopes, fears, joys and longings- a God who hear. He hears even the most silent cry of our hearts and a God who cares who wants to see us free from all that oppresses and pulls us down. This God called Moses and calls Edna to give her life to sharing this great love and compassion. He sends her to set his people free.

**As we respond to the call we also discover who we are, who each person is in eyes.**

We are the beloved sons and daughters of God we are in God, God is in us. The reading says that the spirit lives in us 'he is with you he is in you and because of who we are each one is worthy of full respect and dignity.

This truth shone brightly at the beginning of the Columban Sisters. Each person has a right to know the deep truth of who they are, has a right to know and experience their great dignity. Pope Francis says:

“ everyone should be able to experience the joy of being loved by God...it is something that one cannot keep to oneself, it must be shared....Let us go forth then let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Christ.”

This is **the call to mission** and in responding to that call Enda and all of us find God in a new way. Enda experiences here in Myitkyina the joy of finding Jesus in a new culture in a new people, in you, and in sharing with you in the work of the Gospel. That is why Enda wanted to celebrate this day with you here in Myitkyina. because here she has experienced so much of the joys and challenges of mission.

### **Above all the call is to a personal relationship with Jesus.**

Pope Francis also says- ‘if the warmth of God, of his love, of his tenderness is not in our own hearts then how can we warm the hearts of others?’

In the Gospel reading we see that Jesus calls us to a deep and personal relationship with God. Enda today is giving her life to give her attention to this relationship above all other relationships. This will be the most important thing in her life and because of that she will not take on other life commitments, such as husband and family, career or profession, economic well-being or developing her own personal plans. Her life will be given to love of God. Today she commits herself to love God totally, absolutely and forever and she commits herself to all those that he loves all the people he longs to gather to himself.

### **I will be with you**

And as she says yes in joy to God’s call, she knows there will be joys and pains along the way. She knows that the one she follows walked the roads of Galilee and the hill of Calvary. He embraced death and returned to fill us with new and abundant life. This is the Jesus who assures her and all of us “I will not leave you orphans,” I will be with you in the storm and the calm in the joy and the pain in success and failure in experiences of faithfulness and betrayal, in the good times and in the difficult times and I will always be faithful to you.

And to that Enda responds now with her whole life. I will follow you wherever you go. I give my whole life to you in love.

By: Sr. Kathleen Geaney, SSC

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