**I DO NOT REGRET ANYTHING: EVERYTHING IS BY THE GRACE**

For the love of God (by the grace of God), I am Clarisse MUHUDWANEMA, from Christianand modest biological family. I am a woman and a Christian; A religious in the congregation of the SISTERS OF CHARITY OF SAINT ANNE.

 My first experience of love took place in my family. My parents were far from being perfect but they loved me with all their heart and thought me to love God and my neighbors. As I was growing up, I realized progressively, **that love is the presence of God in us**. I had my secondary school education very close to the monastery of Saint Clare. I frequently went to this monastery but I never for once understood what caused the joy of those beautiful sisters within those four corners of walls, who were in love with Christ. It was through spiritual exercise of discernment in silent prayers that I came to a realization that Jesus wants me all for himself. By the grace of God, I understood that*the kingdom of God is within me or what is within me is much greater than what is in the world.* I was consumed by love for Christ and I just couldn’t resist the profound joy in prayer. I said to myself that His glimpse of love was upon me and that He was leading me to a monastic life.

Everything changed from the moment I watched a video about the mission of the sisters of Charity of Saint Anne “heroic love”. I was deeply touched by the attitude of the sisters towards abandoned and malnourished children; I then understood that the Lord has called me to offer my entire life without reserve for the service of the marginalized in this religious congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne. The vow of Hospitality as a form of Living Charity with humility and Heroism which was the object of my choice in this congregation.

The life of personages like Saint Paul the apostle, Saint Augustine, Saint Theresa de Lisieux, the founders of our congregation (Jean Bonal, Maria Rafolf) and the testimony of a radical life of people I know are my pillars of courage and motivation in my vocation journey. The principle of love and liberty always comes to me in the spirit. Without liberty, there is no love. Not referring to “liberty to do what pleases me or do what I want” but rather, the liberty “to enter into a love relationship”which precedes us but not surpasses us. I am free once I accept to live in conformity with the commitment I make without any constraints. Undoubtedly, I may have some obstacles, but definitely, nothing can either suppress or overwhelmed me.

The stages of formation: The Postulant, the Novitiate and the Juniorate, all have helped me to grow in the desire for Holiness according to the Spirit and the Charism of Charity makes Hospitality up to Heroism. Through the vocational discernment exercises, I understood that it is the Lord taking the initiative to call. It is through formators, life experiences, through our being and our personal history that the Lord calls me consecrated. I am convinced that the training is aimed at transformation. It would be unfortunate to go through a stage of training without allowing yourself to be transformed. For the transformation to be authentic, the grace of God and his action through the formators act, but first of all the young person in formation is the first protagonist of what she wants to be and to become. The four vows (Poverty, Chastity, Obedience and Hospitality) I understood them more after my first profession through community and mission life. The experience of vows in mission and in the Community clarified my motivation and helped me to mature. Fraternal life gives meaning to the mission.

The lived community experience has enabled me to understand that the community life is a life entirely human and exclusively Christian. She is human because in her I embody human values in my female body.What asks me to be true, to courageously face my own reality and not to live childish devotional in the community, and accept without fear of judgment the reality of my feelings, and between us.The ideal community does not exist, but rather it is a “laboratory of love”.Love like Christ.On mission I am sent by the community and I am called to share with confidence and openness what I am experiencing in mission.It is true that faced with the choice made, the difficulties were not lacking but they made me rediscover the fruitfulness of a given life, put at the service of others.

Here I am on the eve of my final vows.In the midst of a Corona Virus pandemic.My thoughts and prayers extend to all those who are victims and affected."God speaks to me through COVID 19. Through her, I experience a loving God who visits his people and redeems them”. I am profoundly happy I have offered my life to God and I never cease to give him thanks for his faithfulness. Throughout these years, I have known the joy of the gift of daily intimacy with Christ through my various undertakings. My desire is to progress in this intimacy always and be absolutely for Christ, **“that which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which I have looked upon and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life… we announce to you” 1 Jn. 1- 4.**This love of Christ that I have personally encountered has been the reason of my response to offer freely my entire life for the service of humanity.

I personally believe that, everything is by the grace, No regrets! The one who has called us is faithful. Why won’t I give my life forever to Him who has promised to be with us forever in everything? If only you know the gift of God!In everything I trust in the help of the grace of God, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our patron saints, saints Anne and Joachim!

To all of you, who from near or far, my experience could be useful, thank you for your pious thoughts! May God take us in favor and bless us!

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Sisterr CLARISSE MUHUNDWANEMA made her first religious vows on November 4, 2012 in the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of Saint Anne.After four years of university studies belonging to the Maria Rafols community of KICUKIRO-KIGALI,in 2016-2019, she was sent on a Mission to the community of Mugina- Rwanda in the service of education in the Saint Anne MUGINA Primary School.In August 2019, she was sent to the Community of Abidjan - Ivory Coast to deepen the History, Spirituality and values of the congregation.After 2 years of study in Theology and Pastoral at the CELAF Institute, She is currently sent to the Community of Mugina-Rwanda after her perpetual Profession of 08/14/2021.