

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you". [Joshua; 1/9]

The pandemic has brought drastic changes in the lives of people in and around the globe. Mostly poor are left behind without proper food, job, medical and financial assistance. The migrant workers were found on the roads, walking weeks and months, having no hope of reaching their destination.

This deadly virus caused people to feel lonely, rejected and many lost their loved ones, often the breadwinner of their families and young children becoming orphans, left to fend for them. At this devastated situation. I ask God to journey with my brothers and sisters who are still going through the loss and pain of losing their own loved ones." O God, be merciful to them. Renew their hope and restore their shattered dreams as you listen to their life story, is my prayer for them".

It is at this challenging time that I am drawn to respond to God's call in and through the Good Shepherd way of life. A true shepherd never leaves even a single sheep to fend for itself. Rather he endures many troubles, suffers fatigue, hunger and thirst, understanding the needs of each one and caring for the whole sheep fold.'

My life is a journey with my Shepherd God as I am being nourished, strengthened and cared for so that I become whole and holy during my formation period. "As I go on stay with me and guide me Lord to live in union with You and to respond to the cry of the poor, using me as an instrument to bring comfort and healing to our wounded world. You chose me and brought me to this religious family to journey with the people, to listen to their struggles and pains, to talk to them in their desperate situation and uphold them in times of their helpless and hopeless moments, is my prayer. I offer my life to you."

## "I have calmed and quieted my soul like a weaned child with its mother". [Psalm;131-2]

Here this child has no arrogance or pride and does not challenge or question the mother's care. She just sits in her mother's lap experiencing the love of her presence because her mother knows what is best for her. This is a perfect source of inspiration to remind me how important it is to depend fully on God who journeys with me, as I draw strength for my mission of shepherding.

I am a good individual but I become a better human when I blend together with my companions and sisters with whom I live in order to become empowered, enlightened and energized. I hear the words of our dear Mother Foundress:" Work to become worthy of your wonderful vocation, by a burning, active and alert zeal and a charity without limits, always keeping the Good Shepherd before you as your model". St. Mary Euphrasia.



Mahalakshmi Pre-Novice

