

RE-BIRTH THROUGH ENCOURAGEMENT

(Noviciate Experience 1988 - 1989)

In this article, I wish to talk about two 'Re-birth' experiences that came to me through Sr. Peg Rahilly, my Novice Mistress.

As a Novice, I was very quiet and to some extent had low self-esteem. Thanks to Sr. Peg Rahilly, who among other sisters encouraged me to unleash my hidden potential in creativity and communication skills.

I had no idea that I was very artistic until one day Sr. Peg asked me to arrange a bouquet of flowers using wild plants for Rev. Fr. Yvon Lavois's birthday. Rev. Fr. Yvon was a Missionary of Africa working at Ibanda Parish. He loved flowers! I did as asked and came up with a wonderful arrangement in a clay pot resting on a banana fibre head-ring. To my amazement, Fr. Yvon appreciated that flower arrangement more than anything else presented for his celebration that evening. Sr. Peg encouraged me to be so innovative to the extent that we had to wrap a pair of Bed sheets in dry banana fibres for a gift.

With time, my artistic talent grew for the benefit of the Community, the Church and the Schools where I have served.

The second endowment is the ability to communicate fairly well. To achieve this, in 1988, Sr. Peg sent me to the Poor Clare's Monastery - Mbarara for (3) three days to share in their lived experience. She had hoped that since I was too quiet, I might discover my call within a call.

Surprisingly, after the three days at the Monastery, I returned to the Noviciate and told her that I did not feel called to a Monastic way of life. She responded "Well Anastazia, in that case, you'd better open your mouth and speak if you are to become an authentic DMJ". I have never forgotten this advice. From that day on, Sr. Peg took it upon herself either to encourage or challenge me to improve my communication skills.

If people think that I am creative and a fairly good communicator, credit goes to Sr. Peg Rahilly, my Novice Mistress.

At the moment, I am on bended knees praying for dear Novice Mistress in her current health condition. May the good Lord give Sr. Peg courage and perseverance as she undergoes the treatment.

Lots of love and prayer to all the DMJs that have made me what I am.

Sr Anastazia Asimwe
DMJ, Uganda

