



“Most fulfilled and spiritually fruitful by remaining unmarried and celibate for the sake of Christ”

Celibacy Story

When I filled in the Called and Gifted Inventory, I scored highly for the charism of Celibacy. I could really identify with the statements *I am glad that I am single because I am freer to serve God and others more freely and I am emotionally and spiritually fulfilled without the special intimacy of marriage.*

My vocation is to be celibate in the middle of the world, in the middle of the parish, diocese ... bringing together others who feel the same way and beginning a new journey using the New Evangelisation as a road map.

I suppose at one time I did think of marriage but never actively sought it. I was attracted to the ‘Opus Dei’, because its members ‘lived in the middle of the world’ (Saint Josemaría Escrivá). I knew I did not want to live in a convent, shut away. I now realise that Opus Dei was only a milestone on my journey.

I live with my older sister who is retired. The best way to describe us is predominately that my sister is Martha and I am more like Mary. I enjoy my times of prayer and this is when I am happiest, I would not be able to find these moments so easily if I were married. When I pray I feel very strongly that I am ‘saving souls through prayer’.

I am a very sociable person, I love being with people, but at the same time I enjoy being single because it gives me so much more time to serve in our Parish. I help out with First Holy Communion and am also responsible for our parish safeguarding.

I have a very enjoyable job but I find it challenging and emotionally draining, so I am very glad that I don't need to meet the emotional needs of a family or husband when I get home. Being single also frees me to be more generous with my financial giving.

People often comment that I seem to be a very happy person, and a few months ago someone asked if I had ever considered becoming a nun.

Everything I read at the moment seems to show me the importance of lay people who are single and so have time to help our Parish priests. I would love to belong to a group of lay people with the Charism of Celibacy so we could encourage each other in our life for the Lord.