

Now A Nun of Love!

—Now enjoying the liberty of God's law of love, after 12 years in a Catholic convent!

From Lydia "Nun" Atlanta; Indonesia:

GBY! THIS MAY 16TH, 1981 I TURNED 40 YEARS OLD! So I just made it into the "Over 40s Club"! Ha! The Lord gave me a little poem on it:

They say, "Life begins at 40!" When you can still be sexy! You say yours began at 50! When you founded the Family! I say mine began at 30!

When the Family founded me!

CERTAINLY THE THING THAT DISTINGUISHES MY

TESTIMONY is that before I

met the Family I spent 12 years in a Convent as a Catholic nun!

(As far as I know I'm the only girl in the Family with such a

past history, but if there's some- else please write—I'd love to hear from you!) Otherwise,

I was like most of the rest of us before—a lost, lonely little sheep

looking for the True Fold.

I FEEL THAT MY REAL LIFE

DIDN'T BEGIN UNTIL I MET

THE FAMILY in 1972 when I

was 31 years old, but I had a lot

of time to wait before that, many

years in which I'm sure the

Lord was preparing & getting me

ready. Afterwards I could see

that the Lord actually used the

Convent partly just to keep me

"in cold storage", uncommitted

to the System until He could get

you & the Family rolling! Ha! I

think the Lord also used my years

in the Convent as a kind of pro-

to-type or preview of & prepara-

tion for my life in the Family,

because in many ways they're

similar—the basics of dedicating

your life to serving Jesus, forsak-

ing all, even the concept of being

married to Jesus which in the

Convent was called being a "Bride

of Christ".

I WAS BORN IN 1941 IN OK-

LAHOMA, U.S.A. & grew up

there happily. My father was a

very devout Catholic & we grew



Lydia today at 40 years old! After 9 years in the Family of God's Love, a liberated Nun of Love! TYJ! Photo by Peter Atlanta.

up in a very Catholic atmosphere

& went to a Catholic school. I

can't remember a time when Je-

sus wasn't a big part of my life

or when I didn't love Him. Of

course, I had no concept of "be-

ing saved", as it was all in Catho-

lic terms & doctrine, but never-

theless the same Jesus. My Fa-

ther was a great influence on

me. He gave me so much that

I am thankful for, especially for

bringing me up in the fear & ad-

monition of the Lord & for

teaching me to love Jesus. And

I love him dearly for it.

I REMEMBER WHEN I TOLD

MY FATHER I HAD DECIDED

TO JOIN THE CONVENT he

was so touched & so happy. He

told me that many years before

when we were still small he had

prayed & asked the Lord that

at least one of his children would

dedicate his or her life to the

Lord, & of course to him my en-

tering the Convent was definitely

the answer to his prayer. Since

joining the Family I have tried

to show him that his prayer has

been fulfilled even more fully

now, but he just doesn't under-

stand why I left the Catholic

Church. But when my husband

Peter & I visited home in 1978,

Daddy took us both aside one

evening & shared with us that

altho' he didn't really understand

why we couldn't work within

the Church (poor Daddy!), he

knew we were doing the Lord's

Work & what we felt was right,

& he gave us both his blessing,

GBH. He's now over 70 years

old & still working hard, but I

know it probably won't be long

before the Lord takes him to his

reward, & he'll be so happy then

& be able to understand every-

thing, TYJ!

ALTHO' MY CHILDHOOD

WAS GENERALLY NORMAL

& HAPPY, I felt a certain "a-

loneness", like many of us, be-

ginning when I was very young,

like I was somehow "set apart"

or different & somehow didn't

fit in like the rest, which became

more noticeable to me as I got

older & into my teens.

I GRADUATED FROM HIGH

SCHOOL IN 1959 & a few

months later entered a small

local convent of Benedictine

Sisters in Oklahoma, along with

two of my school friends. I did

it because I sincerely wanted to

give my life to serve Jesus, &

that was the only way I knew of,

as a Catholic, & at that time.

SISTERS IN THE CONVENT

ARE JUST LIKE PEOPLE IN

THE CHURCHES—many of

them don't even know Jesus &

aren't really saved; but some of

them are, I think, & do really

love Jesus & are motivated by

His Love, as many of you have

probably found too. I wasn't

but a few years in the Convent,

tho', when I became very disillusioned

by the discovery that all the

sisters in our community,

or Convent family, weren't motivated

necessarily by the love of

Jesus, & I was shocked to find

jealousy, hate & divisive contention,

& all kinds of things there

at a time when I was particularly

young & idealistic & naive.

I RECEIVED A MORE OR

LESS FREE COLLEGE EDUCA-

TION during my first 5 years &

graduated with a B.A. & quali-

fications for a teacher's certificate.

I remember having to struggle

thru' all those horrible afternoon

philosophy, psychology & theo-

logy classes, which left me either

confused, bored or even asleep!

DURING THOSE FIRST 5

YEARS I ALSO WENT THRU'

"NOVICESHIP TRAINING",

taking so-called temporary vows

for 3 years, like a trial run, after

which we could either leave or go

on to make "final vows" which

was to be considered permanent.

I made the decision & took my

so-called "final vows" of Poverty,

Chastity & Obedience, as they

were called. Poverty actually

meant basically the same as our

"forsaking all", & we were taught

about "having all things common"

& turned in money & also gifts if

others needed them more than

we. Obedience also was similar

in some ways to what you have

taught us, Dad.

CHASTITY MEANT THAT

YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE

A "BRIDE OF CHRIST" & there-

fore not to marry & certainly not

to make love or have any sex

which of course is based on that

perennial false doctrine of the

Devil & the churches that sex is

bad & sinful & certainly not to be

tolerated in those who especially

dedicate their lives to God! The

Catholic Church has sure lost a

lot of its best workers & leader-

ship over this one, as literally

hundreds of priests & nuns left

their posts & the Church to mar-

ry, especially during the 60's &

all the struggles of the Vatican

Council era. Anyway, I used to

get under condemnation quite a

bit for masturbating, ha! The

Lord has surely brought me a

long way since then!—(PTL!)

"FROM NUN OF NOTHIN"

TO "NUN OF LOVE"! PTL!

That was just a faint shadow sym-

bolic of the reality Jesus wanted

me to fulfill later. So now, by

God's grace, "I am a Nun of

Love! I live in a swinging convent

of Nuns of Love who are all per-

manently & forever married to

Christ & can never marry another!

a liberated convent of liber-

ated Nuns of Love...sharing God's

Love with those in need...giving

our lives & love to make others

forever happy!" (No. 570:79-81)

Needless to say, Jesus has work-

ed many miracles in my life

since then in the area of sex.

Thank God, & thank you Dad,

for the liberating Law of Love!

WELL, IN 1965 AFTER FINAL

VOWS I BEGAN MY

TEACHING CAREER! My very

first class was a wild group of

11-year-old 6th-graders in our

convent school. I could really

understand how you felt some-

times in those years you taught

those junior high kids, Dad! I

really prayed & was determined

not to let them get the best of

me, & in the next 5 or 6 years

of teaching this age group I had

several classes whom I grew very

close to & really loved, hope-

fully with Jesus' love thru me,

as best as I knew how then. They

knew I was a different kind of

"sister" even then as I did a lot

of things with them outside of

school—taking them places in the

convent car, riding bikes,

flying kites, going to their danc-

es & sharing their problems etc.

IT'S FUNNY TO THINK

THAT I COULD HAVE BEEN

TEACHING my future mate in

the Family, Peter, who is 10

years younger than me! Who

but the Lord would have ever

even dreamed at that point of

matching up 8 years later this

little teenage future drug-taking

hippie with a young, habit-clad

school-teaching Catholic nun?!

It could only happen in this Don

Quixote, crazy, happy, loving &

totally miraculous Family! TYJ!

BUT EVEN AFTER TAKING

FINAL VOWS, INSIDE I FELT



1961, 20 years old, "all wrapped up!" "He bringeth out those which were bound with chains" (DM 25/1)

THERE WAS SOMETHING

WRONG, & I began to feel more

& more disillusioned, empty,

without direction & mostly just

lonely & looking for real love.

Many of my friends whom I'd

joined the Convent with began

to leave & I felt more & more a-

lone. Our little community was

a microcosmic sample of what

was happening in the worldwide

Catholic Church at that time,

brought on by the Vatican Coun-

cil, a split & polarisation of liber-

al & conservative & thought &

practice & the throes of change

& upheaval.

IN OUR COMMUNITY I WAS

ALWAYS IN THE SMALL MI-

NORITY LIBERAL CAMP, con-

demned as rebels by the bigger

main group. Finally by 1968 I

was part of the small group of a-

bout 30 who split from the main

group to be able to live & work