

"I have called you by name, you are mine."

(Is 43/ 1)

Since childhood, I ask myself : God, if you want me to be an apostle to you, how are you going to call my name, young Rita? Will you call upon me in a vision like it happened with Isaiah that reveals to me your pompous Holiness? (Is 6+); or would you send me an angel from above to bring good news to me like it happened with Virgin Mary? (LK 1/26+).

Many vocations ... More ways..., and I didn't realize that through the simplicity of my daily life you called me, and through every second, your love, compassion and tenderness has seduced me. Yes, my vocation is realistic and a divine vocation, it was grown with me and I became more conscious about it with time; so I say with the prophet Jeremiah: "Lord you have seduced me, and I was seduced. You are stronger than I am, and you have overpowered me" (Jr 20/ 7).

You seduced me with your love, and the first sign of love that you sent me, was in my blessed family. I feel that you were very pleased from me, to put me in this family which consists of eleven children, a big family from Deir El Ahmar, that is fully committed in its Christianity.

Until today, every evening, my mother gathers my brothers and sisters to pray the rosary and read the bible. I remember the warmth of her words and the outpouring gratitude and affection, when I helped her in household chores or in raising my brothers and sisters. Oh beloved God, how much I obtained from her lips your benediction?

You sent me another sign of your love, which is the faith of my father. He was a solid rock in my spiritual growth. Through his permanent surrender on God, and his deep faith, he transferred me this commitment and the root of surrender on your providence and care.

My parents were a good example to me, and from here, it opened to me doors of pastoral commitment. This is another sign of love you sent to me. You were close to me and happy from me, where I was an active member in the Fersan of Mary (Knights of Mary), and then in the Confraternity of "talaih". Many topics were given to me in the Confraternity of "Talaih", but your words in the bible were attracting me to listen, "You spoke to me, and I listened to every word. I belong to you, Lord God Almighty, and so your words filled my heart with joy and happiness" (Jr 15/16).

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Since then, I started to feel that your voice is heading directly to me to teach me something that I failed to understand and know. Until, He sent me another sign of love, when I participated in a spiritual retreat for distinguishing vocations, in the Convent of Holy Family Ebrine. It was for me like the cornerstone of the building, because I felt that he was telling me: "Go in depth" (LK 5:4), in the depth of your being; when I felt insufficient, so I went a lot of times to the Convent of Holy family Ebrine, finding the peace and happiness that I couldn't find outside not in the days of my studies, not in times of work. I remained in this state until "You have enclosed me from behind and front, you have laid your hand upon me."(Ps 139/5). I went back to myself and re-read my life; I found that my true happiness must start in the lap of the Congregation of the Maronite Sisters of the Holy Family, in order to live my filiation in your example my beloved Jesus. All the blessings of love and peace, happiness in the last spiritual retreat were adequate enough to leave my family, work, friends and everything, to follow your voice, and love you more through the consecration to you.

Yes, you have called me by my name, and you expressed to me your love in different ways .You attracted and seduced me by your love, and I couldn't resist this deep, radical and trust-worthy love.

All this was new to me, because I couldn't find it between human beings. The love of human beings such as my parents and my brothers and sisters became secondary with respect to your love. You have invaded all my entity, and gave meaning to my life. Your love gave me life, shouting from inside why not? Why not? Your love has enclosed me and I responded to you and decided to entirely give you all my entity. I entered the convent with great confidence, and loved "the place where your glory dwells" (Ps 26/8).

Today, there is great joy inside because "I found who my being loves "(Sgs 3:4) and I answered your whispering voice: "Come my love, my darling, come with me" (Sgs 2:13). Here I am, repeating with our father Patriarch Elias Howayek: "All I need is your delight" (Letter 1931)