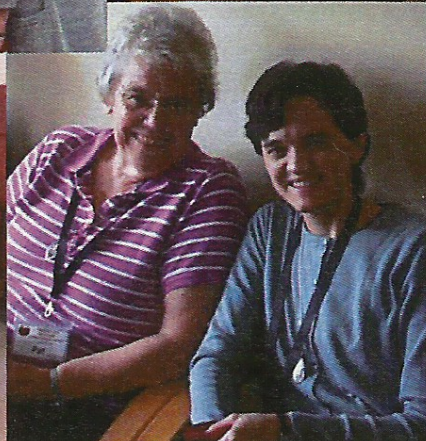


THE JOURNEY

SISTERS OF THE CROSS AND PASSION



From England
TO THE WORLD

Lets' travel
TOGETHER

Meet our Sisters
ON THE JOURNEY

LET YOUR JOURNEY BECOME APART OF OURS

FROM THE BEGINNING

ELIZABETH PROUT

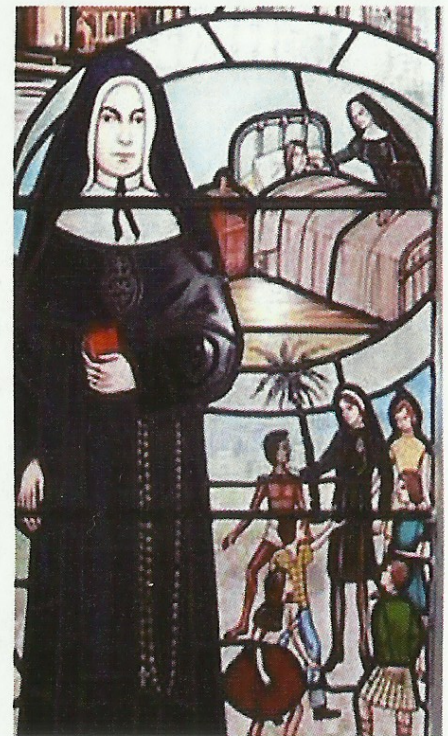
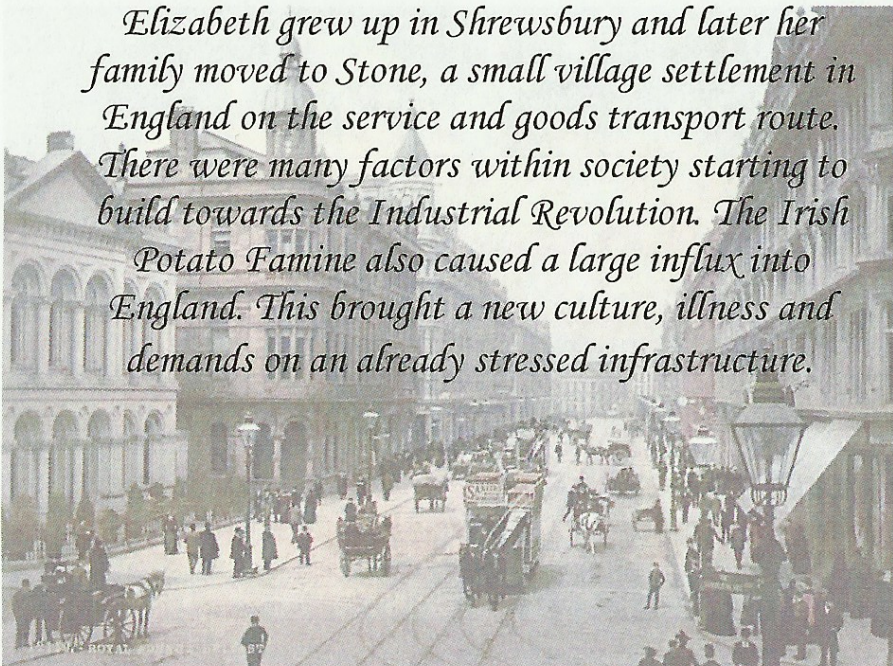
*Small in stature,
giant in courage and perseverance*

Let's meet Elizabeth and get to know a little of her story and the beginnings of the Cross and Passion Sisters. Elizabeth Prout was born in Shrewsbury, England on 2nd September 1820, she was baptised in the Anglican Church of St Julian. The faith journey she began there came to fruition when she became a Catholic and subsequently the foundress of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion.



ELIZABETH'S FAITH JOURNEY WAS MARKED BY
THE CROSS OF PERSONAL SUFFERING, ILLNESS
AND BETRAYAL BUT THROUGH IT ALL SHE
MAINTAINED HER INTEGRITY.

Elizabeth grew up in Shrewsbury and later her family moved to Stone, a small village settlement in England on the service and goods transport route. There were many factors within society starting to build towards the Industrial Revolution. The Irish Potato Famine also caused a large influx into England. This brought a new culture, illness and demands on an already stressed infrastructure.



**ELIZABETH DID NOT LOSE HOPE AND THOUGH SHE KNEW POWERLESSNESS
IN MANY SITUATIONS, SHE HELD FAST TO HER FAITH AND BELIEVED SHE
COULD OVERCOME ALL THROUGH PRAYER.**

Sometime before 1841, the family moved to Stone in Staffordshire, where her father worked as a journeyman cooper in Joule's Brewery. He earned a good wage enabling the Prout family to live in relative comfort.

At Age 29, Elizabeth Prout, a delicate Victorian woman, was chosen by God to do an impossible thing; to found a Congregation of Religious women to bring the compassion and love of Christ to the poor. This seed grew over a period of sixteen years of self-sacrifice, grinding poverty and total submission to the will of God.

Poverty was acute and living conditions grim but Elizabeth rose to the challenges, inspiring others to join her. Living on the outskirts of Manchester, it became the cradle of the new religious institution. Believing that by involving herself with those suffering poverty and ill health, she was involving herself with the suffering of Christ.

On November 21st 1852, Elizabeth and six companions made public their intention to follow Christ in a religious community. A seed had been planted and it grew into the Congregation now known as the Sisters of the Cross and Passion. The Sisters lived in community combining a humble and prayerful life with an active ministry outside the convent. There was no class distinction among members. No dowry was required. Lack of education was not an obstacle. Sisters went out to teach, to sew, to work in the mills or in any employment compatible with their religious status.



THE TIDE STARTS TO TURN

YAHWEH CALLED ME BEFORE I WAS BORN, FROM MY MOTHER'S WOMB HE
PRONOUNCED MY NAME... HE SAID TO ME YOU ARE MY SERVANT TO WHOM I
SHALL BE GLORIFIED.

ISAIAH 49

*There are many parts of the story missing, this is a very brief introduction.
Elizabeth Prout's full story can be accessed on our website*

www.passionistsisters.org

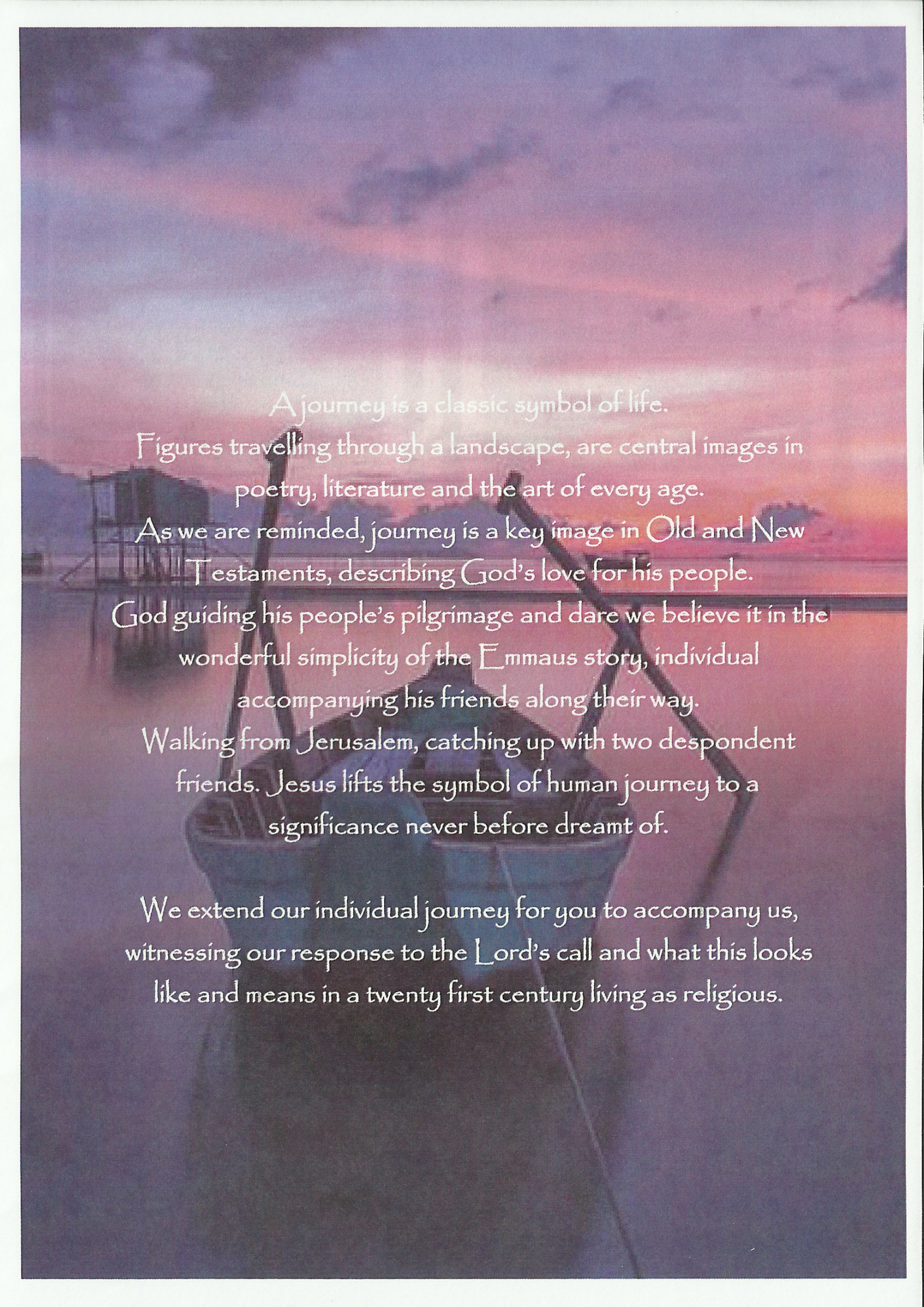
*Many aspects of her life can be retold in today's context. You could possibly
think of connections of familiarity with suffering, betrayal and loneliness.
Nevertheless, Elizabeth led her little group until the rule of life was approved
in 1863. She was recognised officially as the leader in 1864 not long before her
death at the tender age of forty-three.*

*The Congregation began small, a little seed sown in Manchester in 1851. But
from the beginning Elizabeth dreamt of an international missionary
congregation 'limited only by the limits of earth.'*

*This was not achieved in her lifetime. After her death only a handful of Sisters
remained. But among them were exceptionally talented and inspired leaders.*

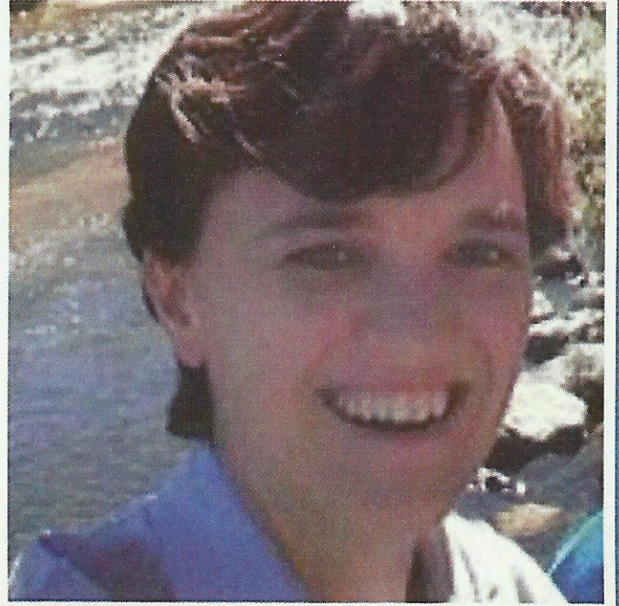
*Numbers grew. New works were undertaken. Convents were opened
throughout Lancashire, and Yorkshire, Scotland and London. Sisters were
missioned to make a foundation in Bulgaria in 1873 and in Ireland in 1878.*

The tide hand turned.

A photograph of a boat on a body of water at sunset. The sky is a mix of purple, pink, and blue, with the sun low on the horizon. The boat is in the foreground, and its reflection is visible in the water. The text is overlaid on the image.

A journey is a classic symbol of life.
Figures travelling through a landscape, are central images in
poetry, literature and the art of every age.
As we are reminded, journey is a key image in Old and New
Testaments, describing God's love for his people.
God guiding his people's pilgrimage and dare we believe it in the
wonderful simplicity of the Emmaus story, individual
accompanying his friends along their way.
Walking from Jerusalem, catching up with two despondent
friends. Jesus lifts the symbol of human journey to a
significance never before dreamt of.

We extend our individual journey for you to accompany us,
witnessing our response to the Lord's call and what this looks
like and means in a twenty first century living as religious.



TRAVELLING TO ARGENTINA JOURNEY WITH SR FLORENCIA

Hello! I am Florencia Buruchaga, one of the Passionist Sisters of the Argentine Province. Since two years ago, I have been living in the community of Bajo Boulogne in the outskirts of Buenos Aires. I live along with Angelica CP and Andrea CP. I am 31 years old and for 8 years I have lived happily in the spirituality and charism of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion

Hola! Soy Florencia Buruchaga, una de las Hermanas Pasionistas de la Provincia Argentina. Vivo hace dos años en la comunidad del Bajo Boulogne, junto a Angelica CP y Andrea CP. Tengo 31 años de edad y hace 8 años que vivo inmensamente feliz la espiritualidad y el charisma de las Hermanas de la Santa Cruz y Pasión.

The core of our mission in Argentina may be understood as
“accompanying those excluded from the system to recover their dignity,
sharing the memory of the Love of God that reaches its maximum
expression on the Cross”

By this we mean — and live — passionately, the Passion of Jesus for the least.

Tell us a little about how you live Sr Florencia

Our houses are inserted in a poor neighborhood, where we share with the people their dreams, hopes, and daily challenges. In the midst of this reality, our life is nourished by the experience of the Crucified in the sharing of the searches, wanderings, dreams and being friends with neighbours. We share in fragility and stigmatization of young people suffering from drugs, alcohol, physical violence and social marginalization.



Sr Florencia, share some of your journey through describing your ministry to us.

The young people and adolescents understand and participate in our mission in a concrete project, called “From the Corner to the Decent Work”. We become part of the project being present at different areas –

As street befrienders visiting the families in their houses, especially women who are vulnerable to help them with their housing rights and access to work.

We are also present at a space called “Day house”, which aims to facilitate young people and give them an opportunity to undertake a process of recovery from dependence on and consumption of drugs, which is then concretized in the experience of insertion in the labour field, helping them and accompanying them to find a project of life -THEIR own life project.



Sr Florencia what is the invitation to religious life for you.

From my personal experience, the vocation has always had a pull that focuses me on the centrality of Jesus in the daily and simple things of life here among the poor. It is a matter of seeing in such fragility the **POWER of HOPE** that restores meaning and joy and opens you to the new and unknown. The community is thus fundamental because it helps me to grow, it renews me and gives me strength.

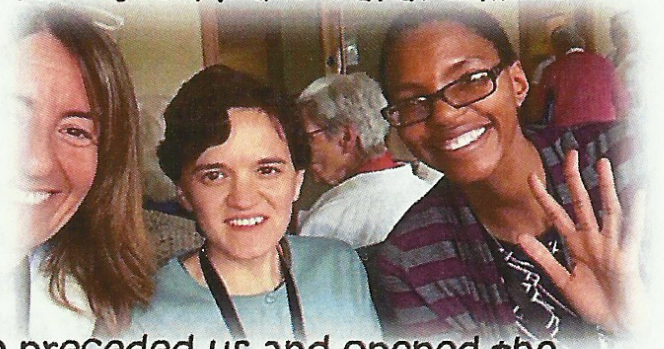


What draws you towards Cross and Passion Sisters?

As Passionist Sisters, we assume as ours the choice of Jesus for the poorest. The inserted life has the beautiful possibility to celebrate the growth and the journey of the people with whom we work, its achievements, its dreams and hopes. It also contains the enormous challenge of struggling with them for a more just, fraternal and more human life.

The certainty that Jesus is with us every day of our lives, encouraging our dedication and service to the realisation of the kingdom. We are

sustained by the memory of those who preceded us and opened the way, Paul of the Cross and Elizabeth Prout, attentive to the guidance of the Spirit that leads us on unsuspected paths, full of hope and courage. This is the life we choose and to which we are invited each day, to deepen and recreate by being faithful to the Gospel of Jesus.



Sr Florencia first language is Spanish, we have translated for this booklet, yet wish to acknowledge her language and therefore including original writings by Sister Florencia cp.

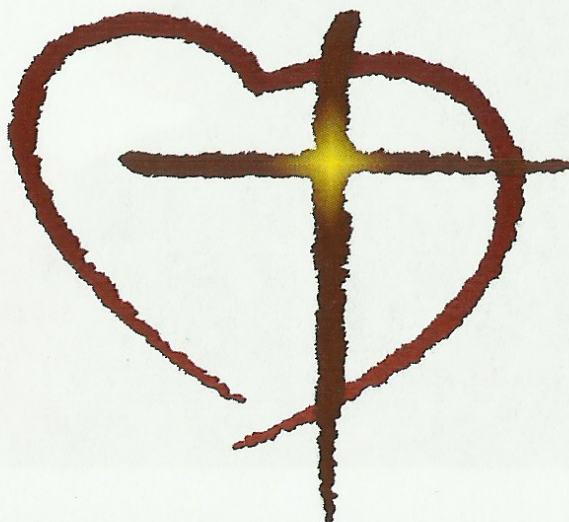
Traducimos nuestra misión en Argentina desde el “acompañar a los excluidos del sistema a recuperar su dignidad, haciendo memoria del Amor de Dios que alcanza su máxima expresión en la Cruz”. Con ello queremos decir – y vivir – la entrañable Pasión de Jesús por los últimos, los más pobres, los que viven en las periferias geográficas y existenciales.

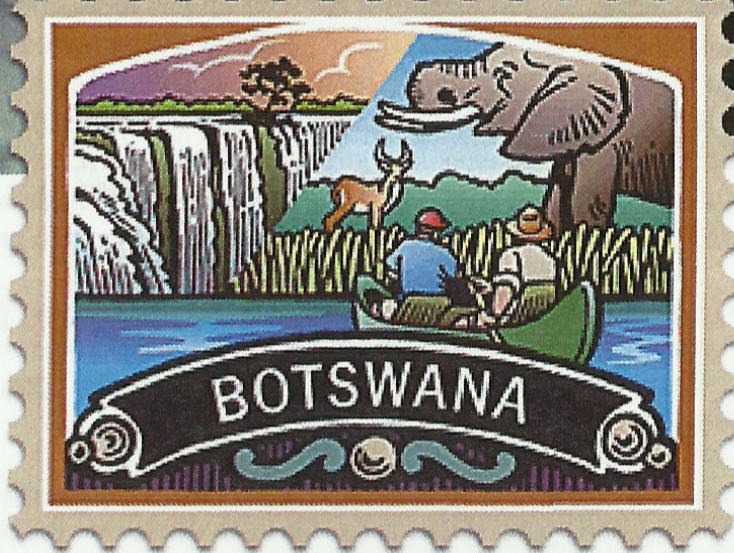
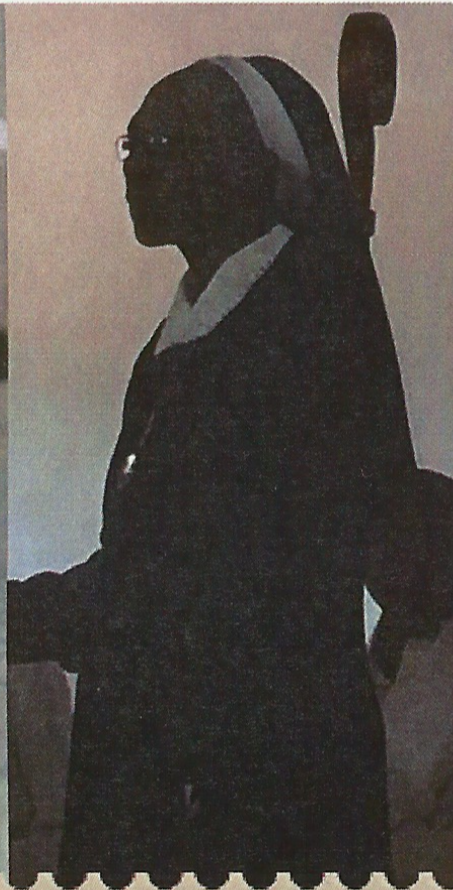
Nuestras casas están insertas en los barrios, donde compartimos con la gente sus sueños, esperanzas, utopías y desafíos cotidianos. En medio de esta realidad, nuestra vida se nutre de la experiencia del Crucificado en el compartir las búsquedas, las andanzas, los sueños y los mates con los vecinos, y también en la fragilidad y la estigmatización de los jóvenes que padecen la droga, el alcohol, la violencia física y la marginalidad social. La realidad de estos jóvenes y adolescentes nuclea nuestra misión en un proyecto concreto en el cual estamos insertas, el proyecto “De la Esquina al Trabajo Digno”, y que acompañamos desde diferentes ámbitos: como operadoras de calle visitando a las familias en sus casas, sobre todo a las mujeres en situación de vulnerabilidad de sus derechos de vivienda y acceso al trabajo; acompañamos el espacio de la casa de día, que apunta a poder facilitar en los jóvenes la oportunidad de emprender un proceso de recuperación y de abandono del consumo, que se concreta luego en la experiencia de inserción en el campo laboral, ayudándolos y acompañándolos a encontrar un proyecto de vida, SU propio proyecto de vida.

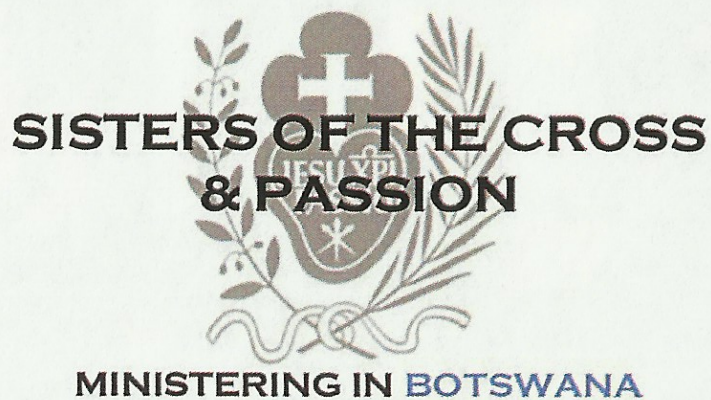
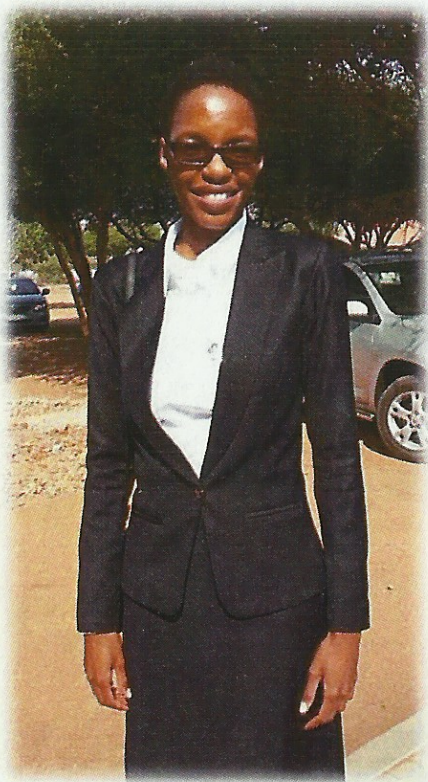
Las Hermanas Pasionistas asumimos como nuestra la opción de Jesús por los más pobres. La vida inserta tiene la hermosa posibilidad de celebrar el crecimiento y el andar de las personas con las que trabajamos, sus logros, sus sueños y utopías. También contiene el enorme desafío de luchar con ellos por una vida más justa, más fraterna y más humana.

Desde mi experiencia personal, la vocación siempre ha tenido una fuerza que me devuelve a la centralidad de Jesús en la vida que transcurre cotidiana y sencillamente. Se trata de ver en tanta fragilidad la FUERZA de una esperanza que restituye el sentido y la alegría y te lanza a lo nuevo y desconocido. La comunidad resulta así fundamental porque te ayuda a crecer, te renueva y te fortalece.

La certeza de que Jesús está con nosotras cada día de nuestra vida, alentando la entrega y el servicio al proyecto del Reino; sostenidas por la memoria de quienes nos precedieron y abrieron el camino: Pablo de la Cruz y Madre María José; atentas a los gemidos del Espíritu que nos lleva por caminos insospechados; mujeres de frontera, de esperanza y de coraje... Esta es la vida que elegimos y a la que nos sentimos invitadas, cada día, a profundizar y recrear para ser fieles al Evangelio de Jesús.







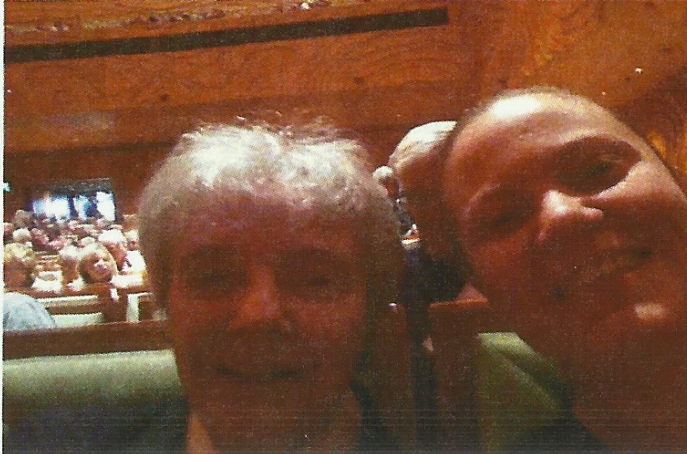
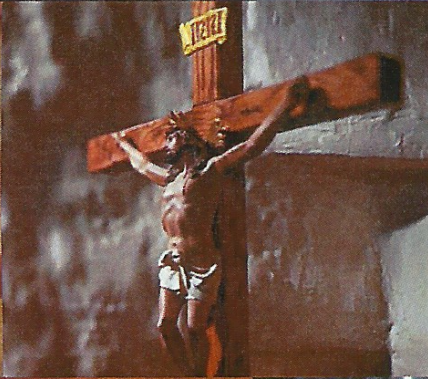
Dumelang! I am Sister Pulane Makepe, a professed Passionist sister living out the charism of the Sisters of the Cross and Passion in Botswana. We have the opportunity in our mission to put our Passionist spirituality into action in the service of the local community.

In recent years, we have been involved in the ministry of presence particularly in the lives of young children in early childhood education on the outskirts of Gaborone and in a particular way accompanying vulnerable people in our community project, Grain of Hope, out in a rural area.

Within the Diocese of Gaborone our sisters serve in various pastoral activities such as catechetical commissions, Engaged Encounter accompanying young couples in their preparation for marriage and their early life of marriage and, as of a year ago, interacting with youth in the Diocese of Francistown.

*Where ever, whenever He calls, may God always grant us the grace to
respond freely with compassion.*

Witnessing the joy of the presence of Christ in the lives of His beloved ones has been energizing to my vocation. I invite you to join me and other young women on this journey of Faith, Hope and Love rooted in the Cross and Passion of our Lord and the message of His resurrection.



Congratulations!

TODAY IS YOUR DAY.
YOU'RE OFF TO
great places!

you're off and away

AND
WILL
YOU
SUCCEED

? **YES!**

you will indeed

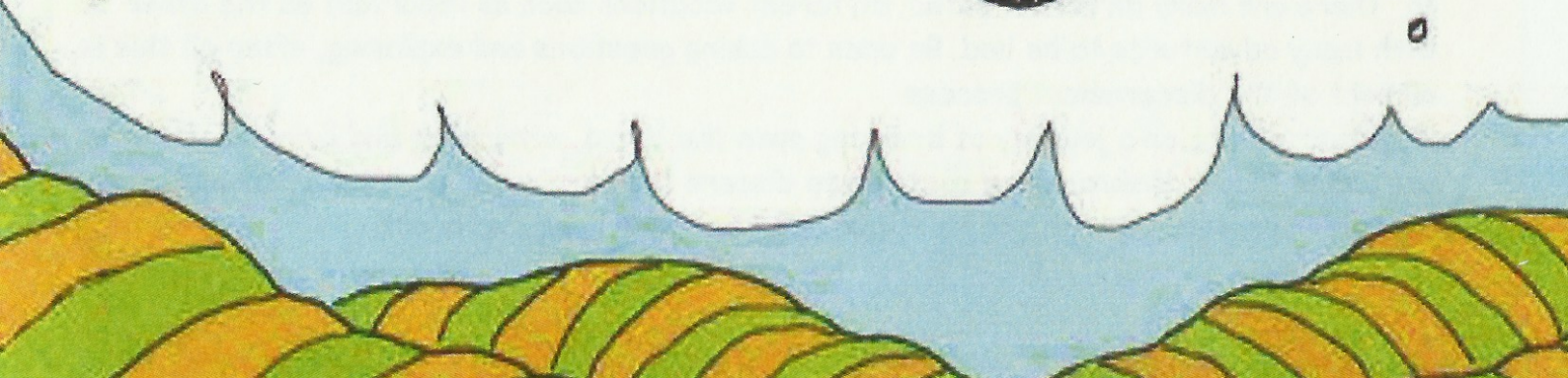
(98³/₄ PERCENT GUARANTEED.)

Kid, OH! the
PLACES

you'll move
MOUNTAINS!

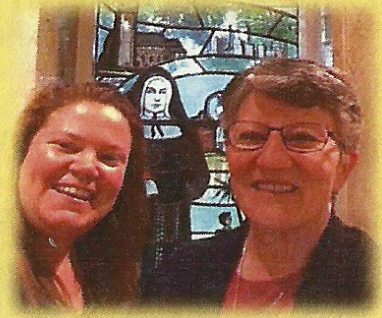
you'll

GO!



The rhythmic words from Dr. Seuss captures a little of what it is like to launch into the deep and take the first step in responding to my heart's call to become a religious with the Cross and Passion Sisters.

Life has been quite an adventure and still continues to be. From traveling around the world, completing university, teaching abroad, self-employed, discovering my calling in life has been full of sunshine yet some deep valleys travelled too. Yet during all this, The Lord is faithful, never leaving my side, guiding me towards my true self so that I can be more like Jesus, know him more deeply, being the disciple I'm created to be.



Spending a few years discerning my heart's call to religious life, there came a point when I had to action the words that fed me so deeply, moving to Melbourne Australia, to spend time living with the Cross and Passion, Passionist community. The community consisting of three Irish Sisters made for many adventures journeying together, sharing who we are and what we do in the spirit of Elizabeth Prout, our foundress, while united together through the love of Jesus.

The ground I walk on is unfamiliar, it seems like not too many have walked this path around me, so as I embrace it leaning heavy on the Lord, it gives me delight to share it with loved ones and let my heart that overflows with gratitude, peace and joy, shine out in every experience.

Each day is like I am on the road to Emmaus, leaving the house after morning prayer we all go in different directions, parish work, study, helping homeless, teaching, office work, visiting and much more. During our day we meet so many beautiful people, listen to their stories, share moments in love, joy, hardship. Returning home, we gather as Jesus taught us, sharing in meal and retelling the experiences of the day while generally offering in love a prayer for all those have been blessed to meet.

For me personally, the challenge in responding to my inner call and desire has required a lot of courage.

Confronting firstly those never ending questions
God is calling me - yeah right!

What if I find out it's not for me? What is life all about anyway?
But they're all so old - really? Do I have to be 100% sure?

These and many more questions will be asked by yourselves and possibly others.

I encourage you to spend time reflecting, praying and seeking what is your heart calling you to. There are many different paths, different vocations each as important as the other with many adventures to be had. Be open to asking questions and exploring, after all this is all part of the discernment process.

Together we are on a journey of breaking open the Word, witnessing and living together as one wider family. Embrace and continue to discern the Lord's will, with the openness of a disciple in prayer, through scripture and unity between mind and heart.

Sr Karen Englebretsen

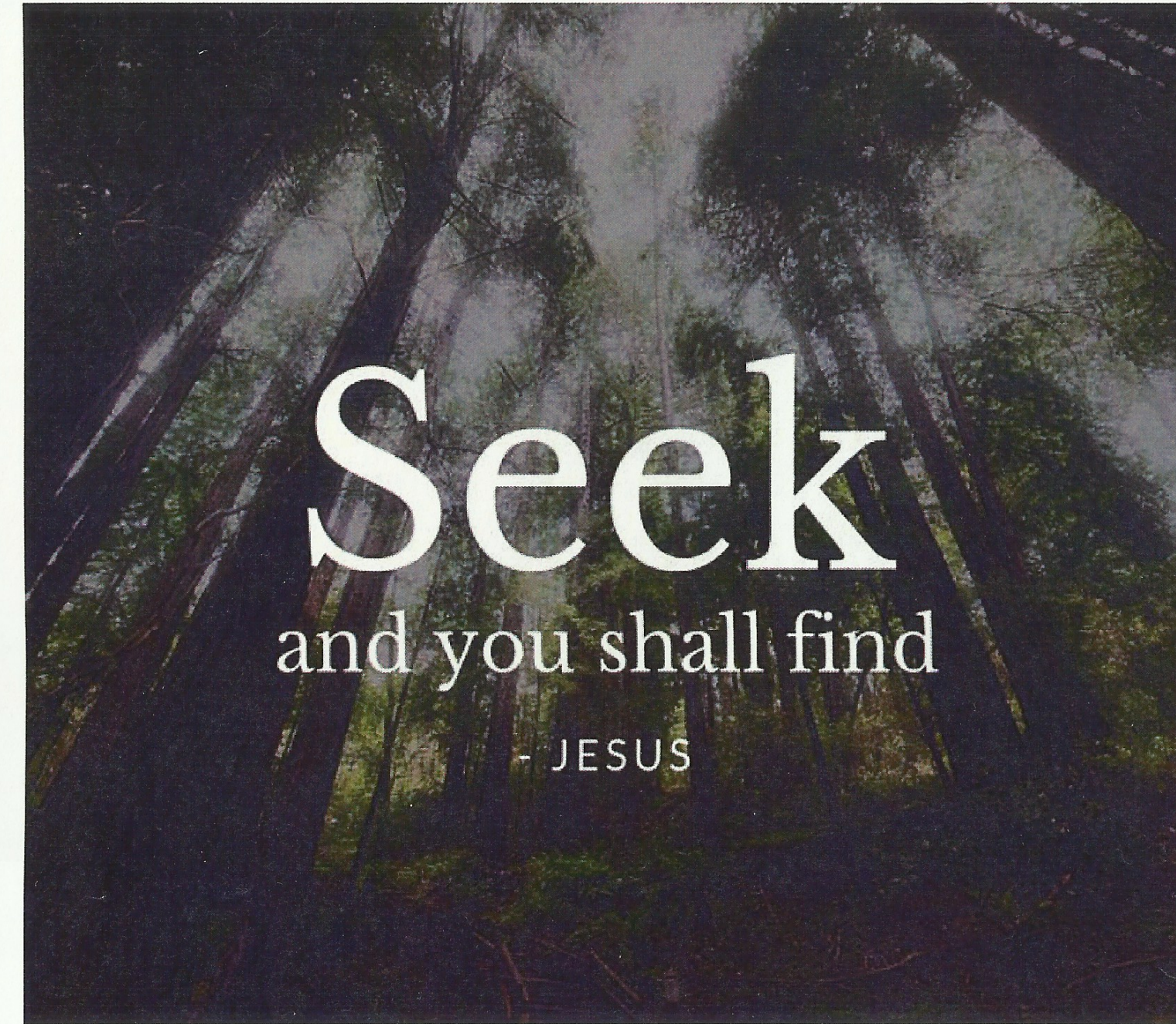




Are you a Passionist?

She read the signs of the times, the plight of the marginalized in an age of transition, the homeless, the poverty of living conditions of immigrants, the dreadful work conditions in the factories and the absence of God reflected in prostitution and crime. And by her actions she was to say:

*“We will be a presence of God among these people,
We will let our actions speak of his love”*



Seek

and you shall find

- JESUS

LET US JOIN IN THE JOURNEY OF DISCERNMENT TOGETHER

More information on our website -

www.passionistsisters.org

Your welcome to seek more information from our

Sisters in Australia via email

- Sr Brigid Murphy CP -

bridget.mc4@gmail.com

