



Integrated Life

Pope Francis defines an integrated life, a concept central to his 2015 encyclical *Laudato Si'*, as recognizing that "everything is interconnected". 'Integration is a basic law of life' Norman Cousins.

Mother Eliswa had her own philosophy for the foundation of religious life even before the establishment of the Congregation. In the light of the life of Mother Eliswa let us learn how to be an integrated religious of 21st century.

The features of Mother Eliswa's integrated life:-

1. She walked in the Law of the Lord – “Walk in the law of the Lord” – Ps. 119/1.

Blessing is upon all those who take effort to know God's Word and allow it to direct every area of our lives. She says, “Strive in all your actions to please God, and when you begin a task pray, “Lord, May your Holy will be done”. This maxim of Mother Eliswa very well expresses to her sisters that their very focus in all their activities has to be the law of the Lord. Obviously in order to walk in the law of the Lord, one must know His Law. And so let Ps. 119/1 be a clarion call, to you and me, an invitation to experience abundance in God.

2. She delighted to dwell in the House of the Lord - “Dwell in the house of the Lord” – Ps. 23/6.

David's longing to live in the house of the Lord; In the advice of Mother Eliswa, “The best place for meditation is the heart of Jesus”. Dwelling place is not about the external structure but internal disposition of a soul for the presence of the Divine. Eliswanic Contemplation is solely based on this philosophy of our foundress where God Himself becomes our dwelling place. “God dwells within us. His gaze is always upon us”.

3. She heard the Voice of the Lord - “My Sheep hear my voice...” – Jh 10/27.

Mother Eliswa says, “Our humble disposition before God is more valuable than any great teachings of the world”. Only the Lord's true sheep follow and obey Him because they know and recognize His voice. In obedience to this voice she discovered her vocation and thus added new chapters to the history of women in India.

4. She shared in the Banquet of the Lord

“The man who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God” – Lk 14/16. It is an invitation to eternal life; Eliswa had tremendous devotion to the Holy Eucharist. Thus her devotion made her its revelation on the first day of her reception of the Holy Communion. Embedded to the Eucharist Lord she said, “My dear child, we must not remain as spiritual dwarfs. But through our active participation in the Holy Eucharist we must entrust ourselves to him”.

5. She Ignited the Light of the Lord

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” – Ps 119/105. In all our ministries the Word is our sword. It exudes the light, because He is the LIGHT. Let Him in. Give His Word entrance to our heart. Activate it. Ignite it. Ignite the LIGHT.

Endowed with these features of Religious Life Mother Eliswa could blend in the world like yeast to transform it into The Kingdom of God.

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