

“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart, I appointed you as a prophet”



I was born to Mr. Julius Azavedo and Mrs. Pascoela Azavedo. I am the youngest among their three daughters. I am originally from Goa but brought up in Mumbai. My father worked in the Printing Department of the Times of India and my mother was a housewife. We were from a middle-class family. My father died when I was 11 years old. I went to the Parish school which was co-ed school. After my schooling I went to College and completed my graduation in Mumbai. I had a wonderful childhood and a very carefree time. While I was in college, I started taking tuitions to finance my own education and later when I was in college, I did my Secretarial course and started working full time. I was a very independent and a mature girl from the beginning as I saw my mother and sisters struggle to keep up the finances of the family.

I had my dreams about my career and of getting married and having my own family as any other young girl would have. I worked for 4 years and I was at a good position as a Secretary to the Vice President of the company. I loved to dress well and was very independent too. But God had other plans for me. As it is written in Isaiah, **“Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart, I appointed you as a prophet”**. In the year 1996 one day I started feeling something missing in my life and I started wondering what it was. I was happy, independent, doing well in my career and yet something was missing. I was, really not happy from within.

After talking to my friends, I decided to go for a 3 day retreat for youth, under Sr. Manisha rscj. I attended it, felt good and went back home to my normal life. The next day as I woke up to get ready to go to the office, I heard a voice loud and clear ‘Why are you not coming when I am calling you’ and my instant answer was ‘I am coming’. As usual I went to work but these words kept on troubling me throughout the day. I was happy to go because God was calling me but I was also crying because I had my dream of having my own children and family which would then not be possible. Then I contacted Sr. Manisha and she guided me. As my mother was very ill at that time being a diabetic patient and I was the one who used to inject her daily twice a day insulin for her diabetes I had to wait for a year before I joined the Society of the Sacred Heart. In the year 1997 I joined as a Candidate in the Society of the Sacred Heart and from then on, I have never looked back. It has been a journey with smooth pathways and difficult roads but deep within me I knew that ‘If God has called me, HE will see me through’. I have continued to be happy and contented in my life as a Religious of the Sacred heart and for this I thank and Praise God.

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