

## Living the Vows: One Year On

Yangon, Myanmar  
Tuesday, 2-Apr-19



*By Sr Audrey fc.J,*

*first appeared in [Weaving One Heart](#), a blog of FCJ sisters who have joined the FCJ Society in recent years.*

It has been exactly a year since I made my first vows as a sister in the FCJ Society. I never thought that this day would find me in Yangon, Myanmar, having just been a part of the first vow ceremonies of two good friends, Maria and Cecilia, who have now become our first Myanmarese FCJs.

### Sacred Stories

It was such a privilege to witness this historic and joyful occasion. The peak of all the ceremonies was of course the mass at which they professed their vows. Friends, families and FCJs had come from near and far to support them, many dressed in colourful traditional “longyi”, making for a festive sight. As the entrance procession began and Cecilia and Maria made their way down the aisle of St. Augustine Church, they were each accompanied by two members of their families, to whom they bowed as they reached the front of the altar. Seeing that touched me deeply, reminding me of the long journeys they each had made to this point and the people who had loved and accompanied them as best they could.

At the midpoint of the mass they both said their vows in clear, bold voices. When they returned to their seats, they and the FCJ sisters present (ten of us altogether) stood to sing, acapella, the “Magnificat”, a song from the scriptures attributed to Mary, glorifying God for his blessings. “My soul does magnify the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour...” Our voices together seemed to rise up and fill the cathedral, an almost tangible expression of our joy and gratitude in that moment. Later some people were to comment that that singing touched them deeply, coming as it evidently did from the heart.



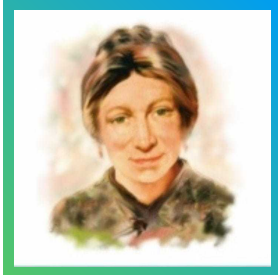
*FCJ sisters singing the Magnificat at a vow ceremony in Myanmar*

As I sang with my companions, I was suddenly aware of how we all were so different in our backgrounds, cultures, personalities, gifts; how we each had our own sacred stories. In the group was Barbara from Australia, who had been among the first FCJs to begin the Society’s mission in Asia. There were Agnes and Afra, the first two Asian FCJs from Indonesia who had made their vows almost 25 years ago. There was Clare from England, and Beta, Narni and Sisca from Indonesia, who had all left their own native lands to share God’s love in cultures not their own. There was me, the first (and hopefully not last!) FCJ from my own country

Singapore... and now Cecilia and Maria were becoming the first FCJs from a new land. By the mysterious grace of God we had all been drawn in our own ways to this little Society, and bound together in love for the sake of God and for the world. What an incredible blessing it is, to be called together as companions in a shared mission of love!

Continue reading this story in the [Weaving One Heart](#) blog

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“ Often recall that the Spirit of God resides in peace and never in trouble and discouragement nor in agitation. ”

*Marie Madeleine d'Houët*

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