

# First Professions

After thorough preparation and organization, we joyfully celebrated the First Profession of our three sisters—Vilma Soria, Carmelina Sipac, and Ana Jiménez—together with the parish community On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025. With hearts full of gratitude, they freely and generously responded to Jesus' call, committing themselves to collaborate in building His Kingdom.

During his homily, Father Manuel beautifully and simply explained the essence of religious life: to conform our lives to that of Jesus. He reminded us that we do not leave the world to forget it but to serve our brothers and sisters within it. By drawing closer to Jesus and shaping our lives according to His, we become one with Him in love and mission.

Fr. Manuel addressed the parents of our sisters, saying, "You are here to witness the consecration of your daughters to God and His people." He referred to the Gospel account of Joseph and Mary presenting the child Jesus in the temple, where Simeon and Anna recognized Him as the Savior. Both praised and thanked God for the fulfillment of His promises. "Like Joseph and Mary, you, as parents, are here in the temple to present your daughters to God and to witness their consecration," he said.

He then reminded the sisters that the essence of religious life is to conform their lives to that of Jesus and to be prophets—those who stand for truth, justice, and solidarity in the world, proclaiming the Kingdom of God while denouncing all that opposes it. As religious, we are called to be witnesses of God's love in the world.

He also emphasized that those who dedicate their lives to God, to communal life, and to serving His people may face slander and persecution, but the Lord will always be with them. "Prayer is like the oxygen we breathe," he said. "Without prayer, we cannot live, for it is the very breath that sustains us as we go out to work for God's Kingdom, serving the poor and the marginalized."

"Vilma, Carmelina, and Ana, God has called you, and you have responded to Him. Be assured that His merciful love and providence will never fail you. You need only to be patient, walk steadfastly, and pray for the grace of fidelity until the end," said Fr. Manuel.

A particularly joyful moment for everyone present, was when our three sisters received their obedience. First, Sister Milagros, a general councillor, acting on behalf of Sister Monika, the general superior, entrusted them with their obedience to remain in the Province of Latin America to continue their formation and integration within the province. Then, in a second moment, Sister Petronila, the provincial superior, assigned each sister to her respective community within the province.

After the Eucharist, we shared a moment of fraternity with the entire parish community. Many friends came to celebrate with the new sisters and their families, offering their joyful wishes.

As a province, we experienced deep gratitude for the consecration of our three new sisters, feeling God's love among us and renewing our commitment to His people. We thank God for His trust in us and for continuing to send "labourers into His harvest."





