



Greetings!

On March 4, 2017, two postulants, Marie-Pascaline Bakyono from Burkina Faso and Thérèse Dembélé from Mali, entered the International Novitiate in Lima, Peru. Prior to their official entry, both had prepared themselves spiritually. Liette Finnerty, Regional Animator, presided over the beautiful celebration. Some sisters from the Region accompanied them by their presence while others joined them through their prayers. Thanks to all of you, our dear sisters, for your supportive prayers. May God bless you and keep us united in Holy Cross.



Above:
The group of sisters
in attendance at the ceremony.

Below:
The novices with the
Formation Team.



Above:
The group of sisters
in attendance at the ceremony.

Below:
The novices



Introducing Marie-Pascaline Bakyono



I, Marie-Pascaline, am the second twin of a monogamous family of ten children, born on March 28, 1989, in the Republic of the Ivory Coast. I am the daughter of Boubie Claver and of KANDOLO Eya Jouventielle. I have four brothers and five sisters and after the birth of my twin sister and me came the youngest boy of our family. I met the Sisters of Holy Cross in 2014 at a vocation gathering. I spent some time with the sisters and was attracted to them because of their

welcome and simple lifestyle. I knew I was being invited by God to serve my brothers and sisters who hunger and thirst for God and who long to avoid the darkness. Thus, during my novitiate I want to live in God's presence to discover what is expected of me and to deepen my understanding of the Word. In order to do this, I place my trust in the help of my older sisters with whom I will live this special time in listening and in silence. I also want to deepen my understanding of what I have heard about religious life, for example, that it is a calling from God inviting us to live in celibacy, poverty and obedience.

At the same time, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the Congregation that brought me to Latin America for my novitiate formation. In advance, please accept my thanks to you, the entire team, for all that you will do for me during my stay with you.



Introducing Thérèse Dembélé

I am Thérèse Dembélé, daughter of Marcel and Antoinette DEMEBELE. We are a family of six children: five girls and one boy. I was the first born and I am 25 years old. I am Malian, born in Koutiala in the region of Sikasso. I met the Sisters of Holy Cross in 2012 through the vocation ministry when the sisters and I visited one another. I participated in the vocation camp in 2013 in my diocese



where I encountered a group of Holy Cross postulants. The manner in which they shared and connected with us energized me. The sisters attracted me through their spirit of service, their education of young women at the Center who were hoping to become pious and responsible through their spirit of caring and through their warm welcoming. And when I entered the Congregation, I discovered something even more important: the sisters' simplicity, their freedom of speech and of expression all of which makes them live responsibly and take charge of their lives.

I want to live this phase of my formation by allowing myself to be formed by listening, discovering my own personality, and by deepening my intimacy with this loving God who is calling me. I also hope that my sisters will be happy in this religious life that proclaims Jesus through their actions and being.

I am grateful for your presence at the beginning of this new stage and I count on your prayers.

Special thanks to the Congregation that accepted me at this stage of my formation and to the sisters of Latin America for their welcome.

My thanks also to the Formation Team that will accompany me during this stage of my formation.

Thanks to one and all!
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