

"You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love."(Galatians 5:13)

Dear beloved faithful,

Greetings in the name of love, compassion, and faith! It is with great joy and gratitude that I introduce myself to our beautiful community gathered here.

I am Sr. Roja Rani belongs to the Congregation of Catechist Sisters of St. Ann, Hyderabad, India. I hail from Nawabpet, Vijayawada Diocese, Andhra Pradesh, India. My parents are farmers and I have two brothers. My parents are very devoted and from childhood they taught us gospel values and nurtured us to grow in Christian faith. I completed my schooling in our institution at my native place. Since my parents are uneducated they were unable to give education for 3 of us but through the guidance and support of our sisters I could complete my schooling. Sisters sacrificial life, love towards the poor and needy and their witnessing life inspired me so much to join the Congregation.

My parents instilled in me the importance of seeking a higher purpose and connecting with a higher power. From a young age, I was exposed to various religious teachings, traditions, and practices, which allowed me to embrace the precious gift of Vocation into the Congregation of Catechist Sisters of St. Ann.

By the inspiration of the Holy Spirit after the 10th grade I decided to join the Congregation in the year 2005. Our pastor wanted me to send me to another Congregation but I firmly decided to join in our Society because it gave me life and I made my first vows in 2011 and Solome vows in 2018 with this I became a full fledged member in the Congregation . During these 12 years of formation I engaged in Spiritual life and actively participated in community and service-oriented activities. These experiences have brought me closer to my spiritual path and have helped me discern my purpose within the context of my faith.

My Congregation has given me ample opportunities to grow in Spiritual life and to develop the skills. I have completed a Master of Arts in English and have been working in the Education field for the past 4 years. I I loved to be with children. Teaching profession is a noble profession

and it is the supreme art to awaken joy in creating expression and knowledge . I loved to be a missionary like our founder, by God's grace today that dream was fulfilled.

God has brought me to the United States of America among you to extend my services to faithful and to children at St. Matthew Parish Elementary School. I dedicate myself with full commitment and dedication. I will teach Gospel values and form the students to grow in Christisan faith and guide, support and inspire them every step of their way.

I deem it as a privilege to express my deep gratitude to God Almighty and to his Lordship Most. Rev. Ronald Hicks, our pastor Rev. Fr. Gregor Garsic for inviting me to the Diocese of Joliet to work in the St. Matthew Parish Elementary School as a teacher. I thank our Superior General Rev. Sr. Japamala and Provincial Superiors for giving me a great opportunity to be a missionary.

Dear faithful I thank you for your special greetings and warm and prayerful wishes and special love, concern and affection. I feel we are not away from our motherland but we are in our family. I thank you for accepting and inviting us into the parish community of St. Matthew. Once again a big thanks to all.

God bless us all

